

Bunnings Fund Raiser - 28 July and 'Father's Day' - 30 August



What a year it's been with our association with Bunnings! It all started last year in November after our review of the publication options for our Newsletter; Jim Bowen had suggested a Bunnings BBQ Fundraiser to subsidise printing costs in order to retain our hard copy format. The Kirrawee store was suggested but there was no response to our request. A follow-up request was made to Kirrawee in April, and another to the large Rydalmere store. Then the club had an insurance scare which led to a cost blowout in the budget. "We're short of funds!" was Treasurer Ann Thompson's reaction.

The next obvious move was to get our hands on some money (legally)... "We really need that Bunnings BBQ", was the first reaction. However, our enquiries discovered this could take a year before we might get an invite because of the waiting list for the popular fund-raiser.

Too much fun at a BBQ? (l to r) Stuart Treuer, Brian Condon, David Nunn and Sue Gould



Then Bunnings Rydalmere responded: "Your postal address says 'Campbelltown' so you have to hold it there". That setback was our biggest break. Catherine, the Activities Organiser at Campbelltown, used to work at Mittagong Bunnings and had very positive experiences with Ray Selby and our Southern Tablelands Region, so we were fast tracked into an early opening. We couldn't believe our luck!

Five of us attended the evening BBQ briefing on Thursday 7 June at Campbelltown. The list of BBQ requests from organisations was enormous! At the end we were shaking our heads, not believing our luck at getting a BBQ slot so quickly. Given this break, Graeme said "Right, we're not going to stuff this up." A meeting to organise was set for 7 July at Mt Lewis.

The cooking starts: Bob Gilliland, Graeme Gould, David Nunn





Bob Gilliland with customer #1

Stuart Treuer, our resident James Bond, did some covert observations watching other community groups with the BBQ at Campbelltown, to see how the job should be done, and came to the meeting armed with invaluable advice. The planning was of military-grade precision, nothing was left to chance.



Bunnings customers loved the line-up of Morris!

Ingredients? 50kg of sausages from Marc's Butcher at Raby; 500 soft rolls from Raby Bakery; four different sauces, hundreds of drinks, serviettes, table cloths, raffle tickets; nothing was left to chance. One of us even borrowed/stole his wife's cooking oil. From idea to execution, the whole experience was a real whirlwind of organisation and logistics.

And so it came to pass that at 7:00am on Saturday 28 July, the early shift rolled up at Bunnings

Campbelltown. To be honest, we had no idea of how the day would progress. Les Whale had produced a roster with everyone's shifts, so we would all get a break or two, or so we thought...

The food was unpacked. Are you kidding? Why did we buy so much? At least we'll all get sausages and rolls to take home because there will be so much left over, or so we thought...

Who was there? Graeme and Sue Gould, Terry and Fay Cullen, Les Whale, Jim Bowen, David Nunn, Bob Gilliland, Brian Condon, Stuart Treuer, Keith Cosgrove, Owen Sinden – a cast of thousands. Cooking onions, sausages on the sizzle, cutting rolls, organising the raffle, all the time with an eye on WH&S... Did we enjoy our shift breaks? Not a chance! We were, in the Aussie vernacular, flat out like a lizard drinking, all day!

H e c t i c , manic, crazy, it was all 'go' right from the start. Everyone had a job to do, we filled in for each other for toilet breaks, the turn-over of workers for those



who had to leave was seamless. Some customers just wanted breakfast, only to return for seconds (and thirds!). The repeat business was extremely encouraging. Even more encouraging were the constant compliments: "This is the best BBQ Bunnings has had" and "These are top quality!" and "Can you guys do this every weekend?"

They say time flies when you are having fun; yes, we had lots of fun and, yes, time did fly (not sure about the onion cutters though). It was a great day. Jim now has a lifetime job running the 'combo raffle'.

As for all that leftover food – we had to make two special trips to the supermarket to buy more supplies! It was enormous - and we certainly made a handsome profit, to the tune of about \$1300. Importantly, the feedback by Bunnings staff to management was extremely positive.

A call from Catherine in the week after the BBQ, during which we indicated a desire to run another BBQ fundraiser next year, resulted in a special invitation from Bunnings. So our pay-it-back to Bunnings for their faith in us running the BBQ, was to provide some cars for their Father's Day



Fay Cullen deserves a medal, selling raffle tickets for MMCCNSW all night at the Bunnings Father's Day promotion. Thank you Fay!

Promo special BBQ on Thursday 30 August, from 5:00 to 8:00pm. We had a good roll-up of 12 Morris covering all varieties (except convertible). Bunnings were generous in supplying a couple of gift vouchers so we could run a raffle – and we had time to wander around. Many thanks to Fay Cullen for selling the raffle tickets (another \$85 in profits).

The Morris Minor Car Club of NSW and Bunnings; this could be the start of a beautiful friendship.

Story: Owen Sinden
Photos: Les Whale





Bunnings photos
(Les Whale and Owen Sinden)



Indra Sinden with friend...





**Bunnings staff Activities
Organiser Catherine Fardell (l)
and Tia Le Maitre (r) with the
'Peoples Choice' winners:
Graeme Gould, Gary Weeding
and Terry Cullen**



Would you mess with these guys?

