

# Special Sunday of fun and fundraising



SOMETHING for everyone ... clockwise from left, fighting is fun when members of the Society for Creative Anachronism recreate times of old; wildlife is not to be feared either, as Martin Fingland raises awareness of the environment during his talk in the Pavilion; while plenty of people snap up Harrisville Lions burgers; and Michelle Dennis has the crowd entranced with her show. Pictures: Ed Corrigan



SINGING up a storm ... Neil Duddy at Sunday in the Country.

**T**HE richness and diversity of the region was on show at Ivory's Rock Conference Centre's Sunday in the Country open day on July 17, which drew a record crowd of more than 1400.

There was plenty to see and do – and lots to learn as well. Visitors had the choice to wander round the produce, craft and special interest stalls, be intrigued by the many displays, enjoy a glass of wine from handpicked grapes at the Normanby Wines stand, or simply relax under the big dome in the Pavilion with a cool drink or coffee.

Many chose to while away the afternoon listening to popular Peak Crossing recording artist Neil Duddy and other musicians, including Kalbar Peak Crossing State School Concert Band and the Boonah State School All Saints Primary School Band.

Others used the beautiful, sunny day to take bushwalks to Ivory's Rock, relax on horse and buggy tours of the property, courtesy of Colonial Carriages and their two hardworking steeds Bobby and Jack, or marvel at the skills of Michelle Dennis's 10 horses and a donkey in her fascinating show.

The children especially wanted to get up close and personal to some fearsome looking snakes and a crocodile at Geckoes Wildlife Presentations. Martin Fingland has been an open day regular with his wildlife show, and says there has been a general attitude shift in people to more acceptance of animals

## Plenty of support for community organisations

**FLINDERS Peak Rural Fire Brigade, Peak Crossing State School Parents and Citizens Association and the Harrisville Lions Club all reported successful fundraising efforts at Sunday in the Country.**

"It was a beautiful day," the P&C's Kathy Mollenhauer said.

About \$1100 had been raised, she said. A big contributor was Matt's Coffee Limo, which sold about 250 coffees, and donated 50 cents a cup to the P&C.

such as the crocodile and snakes he had bought along – and, intrigued, the kids crowded round to touch them.

"All the work is not in vain – the message is getting through," he said. "In previous years, I would hear people say, 'the only good snake is a dead one'. I have probably only heard that once or twice this time."

The smaller kids were drawn to the farmyard animals at Old Macdonald's Farm, where Katie Birtles-Smith ushered them into the enclosure. It was an opportunity for children who

"It was a good day, real good," said Frank Klan of the Harrisville Lions, which raised about \$900 from the sale of about 250 hamburgers, 18 kilograms of chips and 50 kebabs.

"Your open days are always good – it was really good," said Fire Brigade secretary Robyn Outen-Scott, reporting that \$1066 was raised and 400 sausages sold.

"It is the most we have ever raised at the open day."

never got a chance to interact with animals, she said. "Most people love them. A small number of them are scared of germs, but there's no danger," she said.

Another group – the Society for Creative Anachronism – had a very different message. Their passion is to re-enact ancient history.

"It's far safer than playing footy," said Melvyn Fildes, of the Ipswich group, after fascinated onlookers had witnessed an enthusiastic display of medieval war craft.

The worst that can happen? "Soft tissue bruising, the occasional concussion and fractures."

There were plenty of reminders of the amazing diversity of the district – including the Ipswich Spinners and Weavers, the Ipswich Woodcrafts Club, both of which demonstrated their skills – and a marital arts demonstration organised by Sgt Brendan O'Neil of Harrisville police.

The unwavering devotion to wildlife by the Orphaned Native Animals Rear and Release (ONARR) and Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation (ARROW) organisations also drew plenty of people who marvelled at the tiny, rescued animals that carers had brought along.

The ONARR stand offered a timely reminder of how hard the drought has bitten in the bush.

"To pull them through and then to see them in the wild is just magnificent," said Beverley Clarke of Barellan Point, north of Ipswich, as she nursed a tiny squirrel glider she has to feed every four hours. When you mention that is a big commitment, she says simply, "That's life."

And for those who doubt there's gratitude out there in the wild, she says, "The birds come back with their babies in tow."

Confirming next year's Sunday in the Country, Conference Centre general manager George Laver said, "It just gets better and better each year."