

A WONDERFUL MEMORIAL TO PETER DIMOND

- Steve Bourne



Steve Bourne (rear) substituting for the late Peter Dimond as lead ACKMA reveller, outside the Post Office Hotel in Chillagoe.

The delegates for the Fifteenth ACKMA conference had only been in Chillagoe for a short time when we learnt on the difficulties the local community were having in raising \$10,000 for an ECG unit for the local hospital. Fund raising methods had included a 100 kilometre walk and a special "Chillagoe Couples" nude calendar. While their efforts had been successful in raising the bulk of the required funds, the total was still \$600 short.

Enter ACKMA! A special presentation to delegates by Steve Bourne highlighted the issue, and he sought delegates help by purchasing a calendar. The "May couple" was actually conference convenor Lana Little and her husband! No wonder all the town calendars were all still showing April when we arrived! Cathie Plowman took up the challenge and a collection raised more funds, but still not enough.

In the meantime, ACKMA had been seeking a way to recognise late president Peter Dimond and the idea was hit upon to raise the rest of the money for the ECG unit, make a plaque for this and leave a permanent memorial for both ACKMA and Peter Dimond in Chillagoe. With this objective, the rest of the funds were quickly collected, enabling a presentation of the money to Kay, the local acting matron and chief fundraiser and publican Donna (also featuring as "December's couple" with husband John). What a fantastic way for Peter to be remembered and a wonderful legacy for ACKMA to leave. The special meeting of the ACKMA Executive later decided to again remember Peter Dimond with a fund raiser for an appropriate charity at the Sixteenth Conference on the West Coast of New Zealand in 2005.

Conference convenor Lana was a little bemused by the whole episode though and said "Bourne you bastard, how come you get more money pulling heart strings than I could wearing a G string??!!!".



Cathie Plowman (left) and Steve Bourne present the money raised to Kay and Donna.