

New shed for Noonga Hall

Motorists driving past the Noonga Hall on the Jackson-Wandoan Road recently, may have noticed a major construction project taking place adjacent to the tennis courts. Many would have seen that the familiar old wooden shed with dirt floor, cracked floorboards, tongue and groove walls, push out wooden windows and the impenetrable cement slab and wooden bench, have been replaced with a modern structure.

Using funds raised from Noonga's New Years Eve fair and other functions run by the Noonga Community Association and Tennis Club, a new functional and lockable tennis shed has been erected.

The Association has also received financial support from Maranoa Regional Council under their community grant and ongoing assistance program and the "in kind" assistance from the council.

The shed was christened with tennis fixtures on June 20 and all proceeds from the day went to the Queensland Cancer Council's Biggest Morning Tea.

It was fitting that cancer survivor, Jeremy Austin, was named the winner of the raffle and presented with a \$50 note by Mary Leahy.

The Association is planning a Trivia Night on the August 28 to help raise funds to assist with outfitting the new improvement to Noonga's facilities.



Locals enjoy the new facilities at the Noonga Hall.



Jeremy Austin happily receives his \$50 prize from Mary Leahy at the Noonga Hall.

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Rural debt increases 27%

The 2009 Rural Debt Survey released earlier this month has revealed Queensland's rural debt has increased more 27% to \$15 billion since 2007.

The survey shows that, as of December 2009, rural debt within the West, South West and Central South Queensland ABARE regions has increased by \$331 million (31%) since 2007, to reach \$1.38 billion.

QRAA Chief Executive Officer, Colin Holden, says activity within the beef industry has largely contributed to the West, South West and Central South regions increase in debt over the past two years, accounting for 8.6% of Queensland's total debt.

"The beef industry debt in these regions total \$1.3 billion. The drought has forced many beef producers to de-stock and bare the brunt of rising costs of production and feed," Mr Holden said.