

Memorial Wall Dedication Service – Grafton Truck Drivers Social Club. Mayor's speech 12th January 2008.

On this special occasion I bring you greetings and best wishes from Councillors and staff at Clarence Valley Council. Our thoughts and prayers are with all those who today pay tribute to and fondly remember loved ones in the trucking industry who have been tragically killed at their workplace on our roads.

On behalf of Council and the Clarence community I pay tribute to the Grafton Truck Drivers Social Club which has over the past 27 years raised very substantial amounts for worthy charities. We congratulate the club for conducting the annual June long weekend truck show which is a great fund raiser and an important event in the Valley's annual calendar.

Your club's recent construction of a memorial wall to deceased truck drivers is a wonderful gesture and tribute to your lost fellow workers and mates. The club's plans to embellish the memorial wall with an adjacent rotunda is also a very community spirited undertaking which will be valued by all our citizens.

We would all agree that it is a huge tragedy that this memorial wall is necessary. There are far too many memorial plaques placed on the wall and far too many lives wasted, many of them all too young.

Our hope must be that governments exercise the necessary political will to provide a dual carriageway pacific Highway at the earliest possible time and that much greater resources are applied to improving the safety of the Australian road network.

Many of our fellow citizens know very little of the tough life, long and lonely working hours, absences from family and the dedication of truck drivers to their employers.

Our businesses rely and depend on the trucking industry as do each of us who expect on time delivery of the vital products and services that you transport. Your industry is playing a pivotal role in the rapid economic development of our wonderful Clarence Valley.

On this solemn occasion let us remember your loved ones, your mates and all those people who have perished or been maimed on our roads. Let us remember them all in our thoughts and prayers.

Ian Tiley Mayor CVC 12 1 08.