

Gina Rinehart's message to Kingaroy

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Gina Rinehart with South Burnett mayor Keith Campbell.

MINING magnate and philanthropist Gina Rinehart paid a quick visit to Kingaroy on Monday night to meet with Volleyballer Taliqua Clancy and the winners of the South Burnett Christmas Lights competition, for which she is a sponsor.

Mrs Rinehart brought with her the Hancock Prospecting Perpetual Trophy, which is awarded to either an Australian or Chinese volleyball team whenever they play, which Ms Clancy and Mariafe Artacho del Solar won in November in Manly.

"I would like to wish everyone in the Kingaroy area a very happy and safe Christmas," Mrs Rinehart said.

"It's been lovely to visit you at Christmas time to see your wonderful Christmas decorations and I do hope to visit again.

"Thank you very much for the warm and friendly Kingaroy welcome and congratulations again to Taliqua Clancy."

Ms Clancy said it was a proud moment to bring the trophy to Kingaroy.

"I've met Mrs Rinehart a few times now, as she sponsors Volleyball Australia," Ms Clancy said.

"It's special to share that journey with her, that support makes it special.

"One of the first times we met we shared a connection of her relationship with the Bjelke-Petersen's, she has that strong love for Kingaroy already, so it's cool to be here with her."

Following a public presentation of the trophy, Mrs Rinehart privately visited family friend Lady Florence Bjelke-Petersen.

Mrs Rinehart's father, Lang Hancock, and Sir Joh Bjelke-Petersen were close friends, a friendship that has passed down the generations.

She then visited a number of Christmas light displays in the region, including second place winners David and Linda Marskell on Cowie Dr and Kingaroy Urban second place winners Geoff and Veronica Hartwig.

Mrs Rinehart earlier met with first place winner Kath Kennedy.

South Burnett Mayor Keith Campbell said Mrs Rinehart's support for the region meant a enormous amount.

"You can't place a value on it other than to say we are extremely fortunate to have that relationship with her," Cr Campbell said.

"She and the Bjelke-Petersen family and the very high regard her dad and Joh had, well those types of legacies you can't underestimate.

"She has a lot of good will and well being invested in this community."

Mrs Rinehart is also the primary financier of the Lady Bjelke-Petersen Community Hospital.

"It's what got the hospital off the ground and we're forever grateful for that," Cr Campbell said.

"Her coming forward with the Christmas lights competition was icing on the cake."

Ms Clancy said she was happy to be home for Christmas with her grandparents.

"I don't have much time to come home, so I'll refresh for next year and the upcoming season," she said.

Ms Clancy said she was looking forward to her family coming down to the Commonwealth Games.

"Home games are extremely special and they are few and far between," she said.

"For (them) to come down to the GC and see me compete in green and gold will be really special," she said.



Gina Rinehart embraces long-time family friend John Bjelke-Petersen.



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Gina Rinehart congratulates volleyball player Taliq Clancy.



Gina Rinehart at St John's School Kingaroy



Gina Rinehart congratulates South Burnett Christmas Lights competition winner Kath Kennedy



Gina Rinehart with South Burnett mayor Keith Campbell



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Gina Rinehart with South Burnett mayor Keith Campbell



Taliqa Clancy with her family



Taliqa Clancy with the volleyball cup



Taliqa Clancy with Gina Rinehart



Mayor Keith Campbell with Gina Rinehart and Marion Campbell



Gina Rinehart visited the home of Christmas Light competition runners up David and Linda Marskell



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