



**Quote**

"Insanity is doing the same thing over and over and expecting different results." Einstein.

**Bruce's Banter**

**Last Monday.**

Robotics with Dr. Rex Di Bona from Macquarie University with students Lucas and Annie.

Over 30 of us were captivated by an engaging and enthralling presentation.

Toula has a report following but in my view it ranked in the top 10 presentations for member engagement in my 14 years.

Congratulations and thanks Rex, Annie and Lucas.



It was great to see Stefan, Olga, Geoff Saville and Trevor's grandson, Daniel attend.

Great to have Darcy Street CEO, John Cafferatte attended plus retired Medical Administrator, Jill Sternfeld and husband Roy. John and Jill are keen to join and a 7-day notice has been sent shortly.

**Dues.**

Fantastic response; thanks members for your prompt payment and to John for a diligent operation.

**Community Garden.**

Peter has been tireless in leading a team to make an Epping Community Garden at St. Albans a reality. We have a \$40,000 grant application with the Epping Community Bank and while there are a few hurdles remaining, we are confident this potential major community asset will become a reality. Thanks Peter.

**Cowra District Conference. March 17-19.**

It's not too late to join John, Ian and I at this wonderful event which showcases all that is inspirational and good about Rotary. It's not too late to register, please contact one of us if you'd like to come.

**Next Monday. Caving with Justin Wilkinson.**

This presentation with Justin and several members of his caving club should be on a similar scale as last Monday's presentation if the enthusiasm and passion exhibited by Justin is matched by the presentation which I'm confident it will.

Alister has a report following and will introduce Justin next Monday.

**Bruce****Last Monday**

Our speaker last Monday was Rex di Bona, who is a Lecturer in the School of Engineering at Macquarie University. Rex also leads the Australian Robotics Teams who participate annually at the International Robotics competition FIRST, which aims to inspire young students at high school to learn STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths) subjects. Rex and his team Annie and Lucas presented and explained how the teams are structured and how competition worked.

Competing from around the world, the teams have two goals each year. One is to conceive, design, build, program and operate a robot to complete a challenge. The second goal is to perform outreach, spreading STEM, creating opportunities, and encouraging others, especially youngster.

Thunder Down Under (TDU) was created in 2009 to encourage Australian youth to compete at an international forum. They expanded the competition to include local high schools like Barker, PLC. In 2015, with funding from the corporate world such as FORD, TDU ran workshops for remote and outback schools in NSW. Additional funding for the program was received from Google, Optus, BAE Systems and others.

COVID has been devastating to the program in Australia. Students were unable to compete for two years and since then, most of the funding has dried up. TDU are in dire need of sponsors and are also looking for Mentors and Judges for this worthwhile venture.

**Toula**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=95FWRVvmhc4&authuser=1>



**Club Calendar**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Speaker/Topic Mondays</b>	<b>Venue</b>
20 February	Justin Wikkinsin - Caving	Epping Club
27 February	George Souris OAM. Ex leader NSW National Party, Board of Racing NSW, President NSW State Library	Epping Club
6 March	TBA	
13 March	Gateway High School. Theresa Colignon.	Epping Club
20 March	CCA. Heather, Peter and Toula.	CCA office
27 March	Penny Wilkinson. CEO / Founder of The Overcomer's Place.	Epping Club
26 June	Changeover	Epping Club
<b>Date</b>	<b>Other Events</b>	<b>Venue</b>

5 March	Clean up Australia Day 9:00am	Terrys Creek
17 March	District Conference	Cowra
27 May	Rotary International Conference	Melbourne
3-4 June	MUNA	
16-18 June	RYPEN	

### **Turkiye – Earthquake appeal**

Earthquake in Turkiye and Syria Most devastating earthquakes taking 33 thousand lives to date with more expected! ShelterBox has hit the ground running with aid well on its way. Funds are urgently needed to continue to help these communities.

My job as an ambassador is to make contact with the Rotary Clubs in our district to make ShelterBox fundraiser at the forefront of their emergency donations

**Yours Kindly Johanna Johns District Representative ShelterBox Australia**



**Dear ROTARY CLUBS OF DISTRICT 9685**



Powerful earthquakes have ravaged southern Turkey and northern Syria, killing more than 3,500 people, and flattening buildings. Homes have been destroyed or left unsafe and people will have little choice but to sleep in the open in fear of more aftershocks.

**We're preparing to send an emergency response team to Turkey** in the coming days to find out what support is needed and if we're well placed to help. **A decision on sending the assessment team will be taken later today.**

We're speaking with our existing partners who we work with in Syria and Rotary contacts in Turkey to find out exactly what is needed and how we might get aid to where it is needed most if we respond.

**The first earthquake hit during the night under the cover of darkness and most people would have been at home asleep.** Another struck minutes later, with a third striking the same region hours later as the rescue effort was well under way.

Powerful aftershocks and poor winter weather are hampering rescue efforts. Temperatures can drop below freezing at this time of year in the affected areas and this will put lives at risk. **There was snowfall and heavy rain in the region before the earthquakes struck and this is likely to increase the humanitarian need in the region.**

To make matters worse, the region where the earthquakes struck is home to significant numbers of Syrian refugees and internally displaced people. They have already faced so much – many having to flee their homes because of conflict.

- ShelterBox has experience responding to earthquakes in Turkey before, most notably the 2011 Van earthquake. We also have an ongoing programme of work supporting people displaced by conflict in Syria, including the region affected by the earthquakes.

**Please donate today** to help ShelterBox provide lifesaving aid for families affected by disaster around the world. [Donate today to change lives](#)

Many thanks for your support

**Mike Greenslade**

*CEO ShelterBox Australia*

## **Clean up Australia Day - 5 March**

Help tackle Australia's litter problem and sign up for Clean Up Australia Day 2023.

"Australians tell us every day that they are concerned about the world we live in but often feel frustrated and unsure of how to make a positive impact. Clean Up Australia Day is a great opportunity to work together and take practical action. Together we can make a real difference."

- Pip Kiernan, Chair of Clean Up Australia

The Rotary Club of Epping has registered the reach of Terrys Creek between Blaxland Road and Epping Road as a CUAD site. The activity is scheduled between 9.00 am and 12.00 noon on Sunday 5th March. Meeting place is Forrester Park opposite 120 Essex St Epping

A sausage sizzle will be available from 10.30 until 12.00 noon.

PPE (gloves and hand sanitizer) and collection bags will be available on the day,

We are hoping that local bushcare groups will assist. This reach has not been subject to a clean up for several years and is well overdue.

Please inform your group members of this activity. Friends and family of group members are welcome to attend

We need to submit a register of volunteers to CUA prior to the day, Please advise names of volunteers before 6.00pm Sunday 26th of February

Regards

**Alister Maclean**

The Rotary Club of Epping Environmental Officer  
Stanley Road Bushcare Group Coordinator

## **RIM ARTICLES**

Please send RIM articles to Alan at [alan.baker.om@gmail.com](mailto:alan.baker.om@gmail.com) or [rob@tosswill.com](mailto:rob@tosswill.com)

Articles should be submitted by Thursday afternoon

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