

Rotary

Club of Epping



**22 August
2022**

Quote

“You get out of something what you put in.” Old cliché. True to Rotary?

.

Bruce's Banter

Congratulations John and Eszter for hosting a great Then and Now evening last Monday. 24 attended and all had a wonderful time. John and Eszter did a lot of preparation, had a great structure and were excellent on night hosts. The winner was Rotary friendship and fun.

A further report is below

.

Great to welcome Nervin Kaur to our Club for the first time. Thanks, Nervin for being a judge with John and Eszter and getting involved immediately.

Nervin emailed me saying: “Thanks for having me over. I am very keen in contributing. See you on Monday.”

This theme was similar to our lovely weekend away at Wisemans Ferry where 17 had a great time. The combination of some good walks for those interested, good food at a diverse range of eateries, excellent hospitality wherever we went, some good drinks and most importantly a lot of fun and social interaction made for a special weekend. Following on our successful visit to Leura last year all said it should become an annual fixture of our year. See report below for more.

Our Foundation Chair, Monica, has been successful in obtaining a District Grant for the Girl Guides Hall renovations if we are able to attain its lease. We are working very hard to make the lease in our name but a few hurdles remain; however there are positive signs and our excellent relationship with Parramatta Council, who own the land, hopefully bears fruit. Thanks Monica.

Our Club Directories have arrived and distribution will begin next Monday. Thanks Monica and especially Deretta for the many hours of preparation for our Directories.

Thanks to our walks and history guru, Trevor, who lead 14 of us to Cockatoo Island last Thursday. Trevor will have information on our walk to Balmain shortly.

There has been an emphasis on fun and social interaction recently. This is very important; however, it is very important to be involved in community and international projects. COVID was an obvious dampener but very soon details will be available of our many youth and community and international projects and programs.

Bruce

Last Monday – Guess the Toddler

Thank you, John, and Eszter for putting together a fun evening. A lot of effort went in, to make a professional presentation.

Seventeen members contributed “before and after” pictures. Our challenge was to identify who is who by matching a toddler picture to a name. Not as easy as it sounds. Most of us only got a few correct (even getting the sex right was difficult). The only hint we got – *the baby with the PHF pin was probably Monica*. All was revealed when to “after” pictures were matched.

Julian easily beat the field with an impressive 10/17 – outstanding

Alan



Next Monday – Donna Doyle



Mayor of Parramatta, Donna Doyle, will be our special guest next Monday. Donna is a past Rotary exchange student and became Mayor at the end of last year. She is super busy, so we are very fortunate to have her attend.

Club Calendar

Date	Speaker/Topic Mondays	Venue
29 August	Donna Davis – Mayor of Paramatta	Epping Club
5 September	Club Forum – Decision on Regionalisation	Epping Club
12 September	D.G .visit	Epping Club
19 September	Theresa Collignon. CEO Macquarie College and Chair Gateway Community College. PG	Epping Club
26 September	Justin Kang	Epping Club
3 October	Holiday	
10 October	John Booth - TWT	
17 October	International Night	Epping Club
24 October	Primary Schools Debate	Epping Club
31 October	Epping Community Bank (BB) Community Awards	Epping Club
7 November	Langston Awards	Epping Club
14 November	Pride of Workmanship	Epping Club
21 November	Trevor – Book Launch Monica – Foundation	
Date	Other events	Venue
24 October	Polio train ride in Sydney	Epping Station
4 November	Carlingford 50 th Anniversary	
12 November	Golden Oldies Ferry Cruise ???	Meadowbank
13 November	Mito Walk	

17 March	District Conference	Cowra
27 May	Rotary International Conference	Melbourne

Some Reflections on a Fabulous Weekend

It is always interesting to observe those who live at the fringes of society. Living off the grid, an hour's drive from the nearest Woolworths or Coles or building a house or a business that is in a flood zone takes a certain type of human. There is a big price to pay for this kind of lifestyle as those of us who travelled into one such area this past weekend found out. With the legacy of July's disastrous floods to greet you every time you exit your front door, the struggle to live has climbed to new dimensions for these people. Filthy sand is mixed with mud, plastic garbage and rotting wood. The debris has been scooped from the road and people's front yards. It lies in great piles beside the road and on what was once a picnic ground and a golf course. A mangled doll is half submerged in the mud. One can wonder what child may be mourning this special toy. A hundred shards of blue plastic are caught in the branches of a tree two metres above the road. Broken, waterlogged, once loved furniture is putrefying in heaps. There are damaged houses behind this garbage and damaged lives as well. But life is going on and there are cafes and inns that are doing whatever it takes to restore their businesses.

The lady who takes our orders at The Pickled Wombat – or was it The Fickle Wombat, points to a spot on the wall behind my head. It is a metre and a half above the floor and 40 metres above the Macdonald River. She smiles and tells me this is where the water was on 5th July. She says the volunteers did a wonderful job cleaning up. She and her staff are efficient. They bring us our coffees and our food. Both are excellent. Many of her tables are occupied. I get the feeling this is her first successful trading day in nearly two months. There is an air of optimism. Maybe we Rotarians can feel we have contributed something to that optimism. Maybe we are doing good by being there.

Bruce, Chris, Sue, Sharon and Jason walk up the steps to where we are sitting. Their shirts are wet. Their knees wobble. Nobody says much for the first few minutes. They are breathing deeply and gulping from bottles of Bundaberg Ginger Beer. Their leader is not with them. She has fled to the comparative tranquillity of a grandchild's birthday party. There should have been a party for Sharon but there was nobody available to butter the fairy bread and light the candles.

The police station and courthouse at St Albans are now boutique accommodation. St Josephs Church is a guesthouse and function centre. There are a number of similar beautiful little sandstone churches in this area. Religion had been important in those early days; once the land had been cleared of its Aboriginals. Today the past is preserved out of reach of the floods and for the moment, the hands of the developers.

It had been a remarkable drive. The first sniff of spring was in the air. It was one of those clear, early spring mornings that just glitter. The sky was vivid and cloudless and everything was in high contrast and sharp focus. Ancient sandstone cliffs and eucalypts rose above a sparkling river. We had sat at breakfast drinking in all this splendour along with our cappuccinos. And as if this was not enough, there was food and hospitality that almost equalled the scenery that was laid out before us.

On Saturday we had met at another wombat. This one was the Wombat *Inn*. There seemed to be a shortage of names in these parts. Many names are in celebration of the first European settlers. Wiseman after whom another Inn is named, also lends his name to the town and the ferry. Together with his first wife, Jane he lies safely tucked up in the cemetery. According to the story, Jane is a restless sleeper occasionally emerging to spook the patrons back at her husband's Inn. She has a three kilometre walk each way in order to do this. It is a hard life being a ghost.

Despite being early, nearly everyone had arrived at the Wombat Inn by the time we turned up. John had embarked on a Rotary recruitment drive. He was in jovial conversation with a group of bikies. They told him they were nice people and did not participate in drugs and other obnoxious lifestyle practices. John therefore saw them as being perfect membership material for our Club. Numerous 'selfies' were taken and John was on a roll. Tragically John did not own a Harley and so in the end they just agreed to be 'good friends'. Membership with Epping Rotary Club was not going to happen.

It was obvious that everyone who participated had a great time. These occasions are tremendously useful in building friendships and the strength of the Club. But they do not just happen. Bruce worked hard to pull this off and he deserves our full support should this sort of thing happen again in the future. So I would urge anyone reading this, to make it a priority to do just this if the opportunity of a Rotary Weekend Away should be offered again. Thank you Bruce for a fabulous time.

Trevor





A Short Walk Around Balmain

This is being planned for Thursday 1st September. Meet outside Wharf 5 Circular Quay at 8.30am in order to catch the 8.41am ferry to Birchgrove. From there we will walk past a few of the highlights of this interesting suburb and finish at Balmain East Wharf. We will be in time to catch the 11.24am ferry back to Circular Quay that arrives at 11.41am. The walk is less than 6km and can be completed in about 90 minutes. This leaves plenty of time for a coffee in Darling Street. It is all pavement walking but there are two moderately steep hills to be negotiated. So come along and check out the widows walks, the tiny workers' cottages and the spiritual birthplace of rugby league. All are welcome. And I would appreciate you letting me know of your intention to come along just in case there should be any last minute changes because of covid or strikes.

Trevor

Epping Boys High School Concert

On Tuesday night I had the pleasure of representing President Bruce and our club at Epping Boys High School's "Evening of Music". It was their annual showcase of musical talent and included ensembles, soloists, choirs, a symphony orchestra and an award winning jazz band.

One of the highlights of the evening was the Year 7 choir. This year there are ten Year 7 classes so it was a challenge to fit 250 boys into the performance space!

During the evening I chatted with Epping North PS's Assistant Principal who expressed the school's delight at having the community garden built by our club. She said they have grown a plentiful supply of lettuce, parsley etc. and her Kindergarten / Year 1 class have just planted seed potatoes.

The photo shows a segment of the Year 7 Choir.

Monica Saville



Becky, Clem and Linea

My daughter, Becky, is on a trip around Europe for several months. As part of her schedule she's been able to meet up with two past exchange students that Epping Rotary sponsored several years ago.

These photos show Becky with Clem from Belgium and Linea from Denmark. We've been very fortunate that Veera, Linea and Clem of recent times have been wonderful people and made our contributions rewards experiences.

Bruce



City of Parramatta Citizen of the Year Awards: Nominate your local hero today!

Do you know a local hero who deserves to be celebrated? Nominations are open for the City of Parramatta Citizen of the Year Awards.

These awards are part of Council's Australia Day program and there are many reasons to nominate an individual or group to receive an award, including achievement in education, sports, environmental care, community engagement, business, welfare, arts and culture, leadership, civic responsibility, volunteering, offering acts of kindness, or a noteworthy contribution to the Parramatta community.

To submit a nomination visit: cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au/citizen-of-the-year-awards

We encourage you to share this throughout your networks.

Nominations close, 17 November 2022.

See Bruce if you would like to be involved



Nominations
close
17 November
2022

Citizen of the Year Awards

Do you know a local hero who deserves to be celebrated?
Nominate them today!

These awards are part of Council's Australia Day program, and provide a great opportunity to celebrate local heroes for the contribution they deliver to our community.

The award categories include:

- Young Citizen of the Year *in honour of David Shakespeare OAM* (16-30 yrs)
- Citizen of the Year (31-64 yrs)
- Senior Citizen of the Year (65 yrs and over)
- Community Group Award



**CITY OF
PARRAMATTA**



Scan to submit your
nomination or call
9806 5000.

RIM ARTICLES

Please send RIM articles to Alan at alan.baker.om@gmail.com or rob@tosswill.com

Articles should be submitted by Thursday afternoon

Unsubscribe

If you wish to unsubscribe, please press the link [Unsubscribe](#)