



President's Message



White Ribbon Day was held on Friday the 24th of November. For those of you who are not familiar with the White Ribbon campaign, it is a campaign to end Violence Against Women - be it emotional, physical, sexual or physiological - all of which are unacceptable in any civilised society and should not be tolerated. The incidence of domestic violence on the Central Coast, including the Peninsula, is at an alarming rate. The ramifications of living with domestic violence has a huge impact on young people with such things as school absenteeism, lack of ability to learn effectively and damage to emotional growth and development. As you can see the

ramifications are enormous. It is because of these circumstances that schools on the Central Coast are encouraged to participate in any program which addresses these issues. One such program for schools is "White Ribbon - Breaking the Silence". More details of this program will be provided in a future President's Message.

Rotary and Rotarians are well placed as a respected group in the community to lead with support for such programs. They can also lead by example in their own lives and relationships. The Rotary Club of Woy Woy on the 6th of December sponsored 4 teachers and 8 students from Brisbane Water Secondary College (both campuses) to attend a White Ribbon Breakfast at Mingara to hear a motivational speaker on the issue of domestic violence.

As a White Ribbon Ambassador, on Friday the 1st of December I was asked to address a group of school leaders on the subject of domestic violence at a workshop organised and facilitated by our own Liesl Tesch, MP. They were an engaged and receptive group of young people. If the scourge of Domestic Violence is to be defeated, if not brought under control, it is the attitudes and behaviour of young people which needs to be addressed so that generational change can occur. Wouldn't you agree that Rotary has a role to play in this process - and hopefully our Woy Woy club can become involved and lead the way?

YIR

Russell

[Russell Grove](#) | President 2017-18

Christmas Tree Sales

Historically the biggest demand occurs on the first Saturday that we have trees. So, if you are rostered for this Saturday the 9th please turn up early ready for action. Then Sunday 10 December - also from 6:30am
Sat 16 and Sun 17 December - from 7am
Funds raised support the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Program and many other local and international projects.

Christmas Party Cruise - 15th December

Final call and reminder for the Club Christmas Party cruise on Friday the 15th departing at 6pm from the wharf at Woy Woy adjacent to Brisbane Water Drive. Drinks can be purchased but substantial finger food will be included in the \$30 fare. This cruise of our own waterways will provide a fitting conclusion to the first half of this Rotary year.

Bring your friends or relatives. Plenty of places available.

If you haven't booked let Sue Tee know now. 0419 983 998

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT TO COUNTRY

We acknowledge the Darkinjung and Guringai people who are the traditional custodians of this land and pay our respects to Elders both past and present.

THE FOUR-WAY TEST

Of the things we think, say or do ...
Is it the TRUTH?
Is it FAIR to all concerned?
Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

MISSION

The mission of Rotary International is to provide service to others, promote integrity, and advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace through its fellowship of business, professional, and community leaders.

Last Week – Chris Masters



Pictured l/r Ian Butler, Vic Brown, Chris Masters and President Russell Grove

Russell introduced our guest speaker who was well known to club members. Coming from a family famed for their journalism skills Chris was educated at Macquarie Boys School at Parramatta getting his leaving certificate in 1965. Going almost straight into the Australian Broadcasting Corporation where in 1983 he joined the Four Corners program as an investigative journalist and on his departure left as the longest serving reporter. A record that still stands. He then changed his style by writing books on a range of sometimes controversial topics. Crime, corruption, religion – Chris lived on the edge.

Chris was warmly welcomed by the members.

Chris spoke about his new book about the Australian Special forces in Afghanistan. He found this to be the hardest subject he could have chosen as it would have been easier to write about the Taliban because of the secretive nature of the special services. Writing the book was a ten year effort.

He stated that there is something special about Australian soldiers who come from an open society that believes in the fair go. He said the Timorese saw our soldiers, through their behaviour, as more a peace force that protected the local inhabitants rather than an aggressive attack force or one that takes advantage of the locals.

Internationally there is a gradual change from conflict to peace keeping. Fighting wars dominated the scenario of the last century but peace keeping will be the mantra for the current century. We have a dilemma – will we put our young soldiers at risk or will we find another way to keep the peace?

Chris became interested in the war in Afghanistan which has become our longest war. He has been there three times starting in 2007. The humanitarian side of the conflict attracted his attention and by 2010 this had changed to a mentoring and training issue so that the locals could gain their own control of their country. He also wrote the book because he felt that the current generation knew more about the first and second world wars than their grandfathers had fought in than the one that their children were occupied in today.

He was impressed with the bravery of the young troops who were going out to the villages with the mantra of

“Courageous restraint” with their fingers off the trigger. For it is said that “the shot that is not fired is more important than the one that is”.

He saw for himself how in 2010 an IED caused the death of some of his young compatriots in the army camp and that reinforced his determination to write about what was going on in Afghanistan. He thought that as the defence force was so small; that very few of our population would have gained first hand knowledge.

He was fortunate in 2011 to meet some of the special forces at Whyalla, where in the desert, mud brick fortresses such as those in Afghanistan were built for training purposes. Afghan immigrants to this country were used to give authenticity to the experience and even dwarfs were used to mimic kids. Goats were not used as it was feared they would go feral. Our special forces troops spent several months training in this environment.

Chris found that it was hard not to be impressed by these soldiers. They had an average age approaching 30.

There are essentially three groups of special forces: the SASR (Special Air Services Regiment), the Commandos and the Special Operations Engineer Regiment who defuse the bombs.

One of the characters who feature in the book is Albert Trinh, a boat person and a son of a boat person. He grew up in Melbourne and decided to join the Army as a way of giving back to Australia. He survived four near death experiences in Afghanistan. In combat, on one occasion he found himself surrounded by red smoke which had come from a canister in the front of his chest armour that had been hit by a bullet. Another time he stepped on a detonator which exploded but did not set off the main charge. Later he was supported in combat by a US Apache helicopter that unfortunately fired its guns too close to his team and he was the only one not injured. The final time was during the biggest mission the Australians were engaged in. Here he was hit in the chest and invalided out but again he survived.

He said it was interesting to see the way that ordinary people step up in extraordinary circumstances.

Special forces is not just about fighting well; it is about thinking well. To combat the income from drugs it was important not to interfere with the livelihood of the average farmer but to somehow stop the income being used by the Taliban for combat. The key was to attack the drugs distribution after the farmers had been paid. They therefore had to take on the drug lords who had their own defence force to prevent loss of their drugs which were worth hundreds of millions of dollars.

Chris could clearly have spoken for much longer but deferred to question time.

Arthur asked about the problems of poor behaviour that been happening recently.

Chris replied that having a war without a clear finishing line contributed to a de-humanising of our special forces. It is important for our troops to maintain a strong moral position, but it is difficult to decide quickly, when a woman is approaching, whether they are on a suicide mission or just a woman on the way to hospital. To shoot or not to shoot. War is ugly but we do bring our people up the best we can. The enemy had no rules at all. It was a moral ambiguity.

CALENDAR

Tue 12 Club AGM

DECEMBER

- Sat 9 Xmas tree sales at Woy Woy Station Carpark
Mon 11, Tue 12 and Mon 18 Gift wrapping at
Deepwater Plaza
Tue 12 AGM
Fri 15 Club Christmas Cruise on Brisbane Water
Tue 19 Matt Cooper, PCYC
Tue 26 NO MEETING

JANUARY 2018

- Tue 2 NO MEETING
Tue 9 Club New Year Gathering, Prawn and Oyster
Night, Umina Beach Surf Lifesaving Club
Tue 9 RYLA formal dinner at Miramare Gardens
Tue 16 Gabby Greyem, Jasmine Greens Park Kiosk
Tue 23 Dave Byrnes, Hiking the Pacific Crest Trail
from Mexico to Canada
Tue 30 Bobby Redman

FEBRUARY 2018

- Sat 3 8pm Woy Woy Little Theatre "Australia Day"
Tue 6 TBC
Tue 13 TBC
Tue 20 TBC



SERGEANTS

- Dec 12 No Sergeant
Dec 19 Peter Mote

JOIN US

We meet on Tuesday 6.00 for 6.30pm at Everglades
Country Club, Dunban Road, Woy Woy.

MEMBERSHIP

Enquiries to Peter Mote | M: 0400 001 205

ATTENDANCE

MEMBERS - Advise Sue Tee of non-attendance
VISITORS - If you would like to attend a meeting, please
contact Sue Tee by 10am Monday

T: 0428 438 535 / 4369 7496
E: suedon6@bigpond.com

FACEBOOK

<https://web.facebook.com/Rotary-Club-of-Woy-Woy-378382585634923/>

WEBSITE

<http://www.woywoyrotary.org.au>

THIS 'N' THAT NEWS

The formal dinner concluding RYLA will be held on the 9th of January at Miramare Gardens, Terrey Hills. Starting at 6:30pm and finishing at approximately 10:30pm it has a cost of \$50 per person. To book contact Raylene Jarvis at raylene2@iprimus.com.au

Fiona is organising a social visit to the Aboriginal Dance Academy in June at the Wyong Arthouse Theatre.

Annette tells us that the Interact club have closed for the year and have decided to donate from the funds they raised the sum of \$500 to our school project in Uganda. Thank you Annette for your ongoing support for this group of young people. It is a great benefit both to them and to our community.

Our sponsored boy, Dale, wrote us a letter which was circulated around the club at the last meeting.

Our exchange student from Sweden, Sara Ferndahl, will be visiting our area on the 22nd while the club is in the Christmas break. Annette is organising a drop in session on the Ettalong foreshore on the 22nd where club members can meet up with Sara. Check with Annette for details closer to the date.

Joan brought to the club meeting many bags and other items created by the Pure Joy group in Uganda. They were eagerly purchased by several members and their partners.

Sue O'Neill confirmed that we now have a sister club in Njeru, Uganda. They are mainly young professional people and can significantly assist our work in their local area. Our club strongly supports this initiative. Thank you Sue.

The security issues in the Umina Precinct Area are to be discussed on the 24th of January at a meeting arranged by Regional Youth Support Services. We have been asked to attend and run a BBQ.

Volunteers are sought for the Kids TRYathlon being run on the 18th February. We receive \$27 per volunteer as a bonus. If you are free to assist on this day please contact either Bobby Redman (0416 022 050 redman_100@bigpond.com) or Di Schwarzl (0408 616 351 littledi2@bigpond.com) who have offered to co-co-ordinate this activity.

The Pinion is sponsored by Peninsular
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