



# ROTARY CLUB OF ASCOT

Chartered 26 February 1969

District 9465

We meet at **Belmont Tavern**

174 Wright Street, **Cloverdale**, Western Australia, 6105

On 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> **Tuesday's at 7:00 am for 7:30 am start** and finished by 8:30 am.



## BOARD MEMBERS 2018-19

**President:** Aidan Wood  
**Vice Pres.:** Ron Alexander  
**Pres. Elect:**  
**Secretary:** Roma Gehringer  
**Treasurer:** Joanna Kendall  
**Foundation:** Hugh Langridge  
**Exec Secretary:** Hugh Langridge

**Membership:** Aidan Wood  
**Club Service:** Rosslyn McLernon  
**International:** Christine Goss  
**Youth:** Dianne Reed  
**Vocational:** Dianne Reed  
**Community:** Stephen Kendall  
**Bulletin Editor:** Michelle Kendall  
**Attendance:** Gren Courtland

## WEB LINKS:

**Club website:** [www.ascotrotary.org.au](http://www.ascotrotary.org.au)

**Club Facebook page:**  
[www.facebook.com/AscotRotary](https://www.facebook.com/AscotRotary)

**Bricktober website:**  
[www.bricktober.info](http://www.bricktober.info)

**Bricktober Facebook:**  
[www.facebook.com/Bricktober.Perth](https://www.facebook.com/Bricktober.Perth)

**District 9465:** <http://rotary9465.org.au>

**Rotary International:**  
<https://www.rotary.org>

## BULLETIN 2018 – 19

Volume 50 – 14 30 October 2018

What's happening at Ascot:



Past President Mike Bermann in President Aidan absence welcomed members and four guests to the meeting on Tuesday 30 October.

Guests included our Guest Speaker Elizabeth Edmondson, Haidee Dodd, her mother Sarah and Jeanine Vella from the Joondalup – Autism Association of Western Australia.

Haidee was another of the club's attendee at the Rotary Youth Program of Enrichment (RYPEN).

Continued on page 3.....

# PROGRAM 2018-2019 - CLUB ROSTER

Please note the following dates and advice Michelle Kendall of details of your Guest Speaker and Topic or advice promptly if the dates are unsuitable.

Date	Welcoming	Type of Meeting	Venue	Host Chair	Speaker and Topic
6 Nov 18		Social	Crown Atrium	Club Service	Joint meeting with South Perth – Burswood Melbourne Cup LEGO Races
13 Nov 18		Club	Belmont Tavern	Di Reed	Steve Chia 'Life on Christmas Island'
20 Nov 18		No Meeting			
27 Nov 18		Club	Belmont Tavern	Peter Richardson	
4 Dec 2018		No Meeting			
11 Dec 18		Club	Belmont Tavern	Mike Bermann	
18 Dec 18		Christmas	Belmont Tavern	President Aidan	

## MORE DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

15-November 2018	Closing date for Rotary Youth Leadership Awards 2019 (RYLA)
14-20 January 2019	International Assembly, San Diego, California, USA
12-18 March 2019	World Rotaract Week

## MEMBERS IN FOCUS

### + BIRTHDAYS:

Bev Poor	3 October
Colin Peacock	17 October
Karon Langridge	24 October



### WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Hugh and Karon Langridge	9 October
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### ROTARY ANNIVERSARIES:

Michelle Kendall	12 Years	22 October
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### CLUB BANK ACCOUNT:

BSB: 036-078 ACCOUNT NO: 494404

### COMMUNITY BANK ACCOUNT:

BSB: 036-078 ACCOUNT NO: 494420

### CHARITABLE TRUST ACCOUNT:

BSB: 036-046 ACCOUNT NO: 156996

### DISTRICT GOVERNORS

WHO HAVE	Norm Bell	1970 – 1971
COME FROM	Hugh Langridge	2004 – 2005
ASCOT ROTARY CLUB:	Paul Gianatti	2006 – 2007
	Jodie Sparks	2011 – 2012

### What's on this coming next Week:

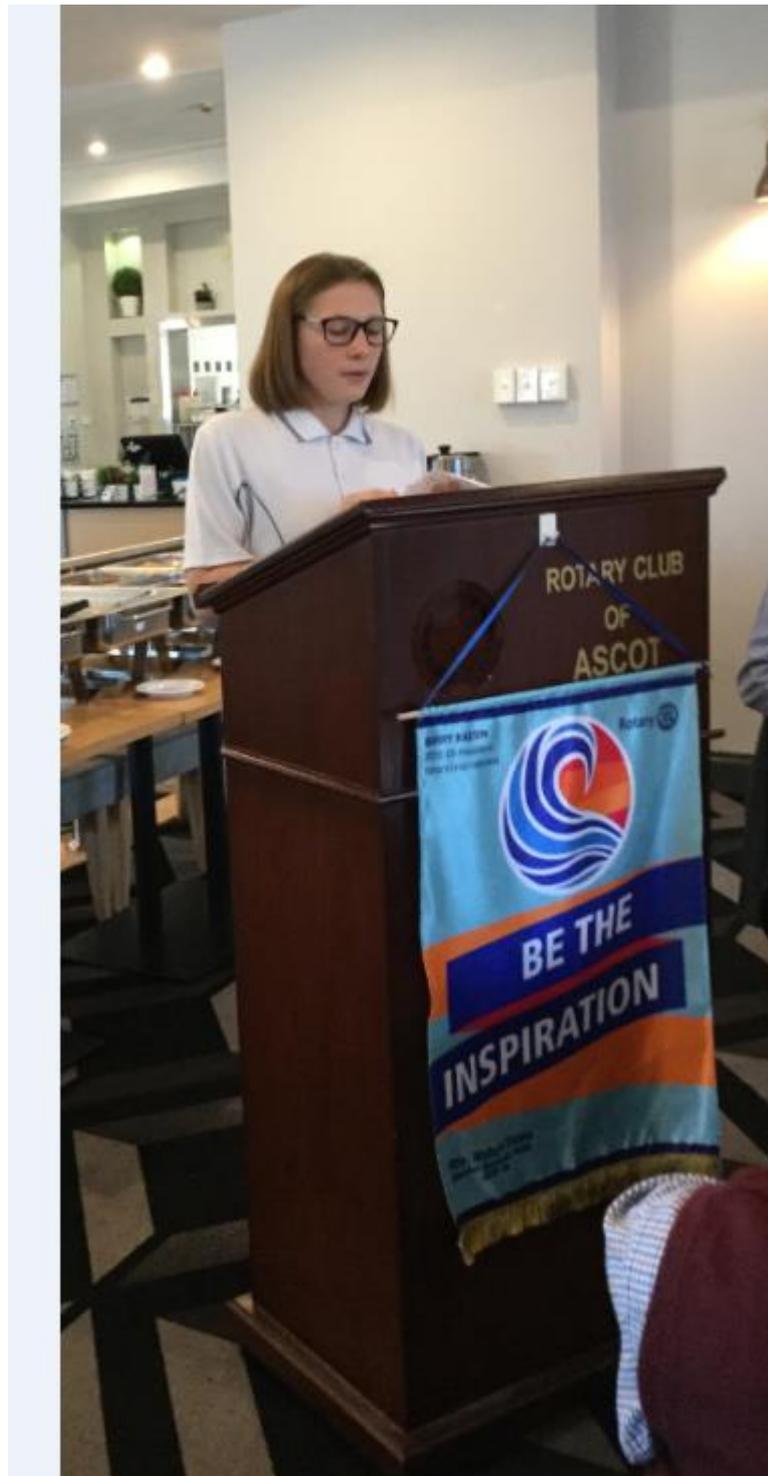
On Tuesday 6 November will be the Melbourne Cup Celebration:

Location: Crown Atrium Buffet  
 Date: 6 November 2018  
 Time: 7.00am for 7.20.am  
 Cost: \$25/head  
 Prizes: Best Hat, tie or bad shirt.  
 Fun: LEGO Horse Race

**Note:** Gren will have some sweep tickets for sale at \$5 each and with a guaranteed horse. Please bring cash for breakfast and sweep tickets.

What's happening at Ascot continued from page 1:

Haidee gave members a short overview of some of the activities she participated in at RYPEN and how much she enjoyed it. Haidee thanked the club for sponsoring and giving her the opportunity to attend RYPEN.



Community Director Presenting Brick Play Tub to Jeanine Vella from the Joondalup – Autism Association of Western Australia.



## GUEST SPEAKER – ELIZABETH EDMONDSON – PARALYMPIAN – POLIO SURVIVOR PRESENTATION

I would like to thank you for inviting me to speak to you about my life as a polio survivor. I would also like to thank my family and friends for help in formatting and editing my talk. Special thanks to my daughter Ruth for resizing photos so my head was not cut off!

I am also grateful that my mother, kept diaries for many years and especially her year 1964 diary, so I could piece together my journey to Tokyo. She kept all my press cuttings, and all my letters and cards of congratulations. She also kept the memorabilia that was handed out at the games, that I bought back home with me.

My mother Julie was born in Bunyip Victoria in 1921, and my father Frank was born in Kalgoorlie in 1920. They met at Perth airport on 3 January 1946 when Mum came over to help set up the Social Work Department for the Red Cross.

They married on 11<sup>th</sup> April 1947, and my sister Jo was born a year later.

I would now like to read a few entries from mum's diaries.

Saturday, July 1<sup>st</sup> 1950.

Arrived at King Edward Memorial Hospital 4 a.m. Elizabeth Mary born 11:40 AM approximately.

Frank came in evening

15 months later: Sunday the 23<sup>th</sup> of September 1951

All day spent at tennis club picnic at Darlington

Monday, 24<sup>th</sup> September

Elizabeth in bed most of day

Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> of September

Doctor Burns here and made arrangements to take Elizabeth to the Children's Hospital for lumbar puncture. Confirmed diagnosis of polio and took her to infectious disease hospital.

Friday 28<sup>th</sup> of September (Mum turned 30 that day)

Worst birthday ever with Frank in bed and very worried about Elizabeth.

It was nearly a month later before mum was able to write:

Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> October

Visited Elizabeth for first time very upset by her condition

My parents did not own a car, so my grandparents bought them a car, so they could visit me in hospital. They were only allowed to visit me twice a week, while I spent the next 14 months in hospital, coming home occasionally until my discharge on 28<sup>th</sup> November 1952.

When I came home, aged 2½ years, my father made me parallel bars, so I could learn to walk. I walked with the aid of a caliper on my right leg. I was given a jellybean for every length I walked.



For several years after leaving hospital, I slept with my legs in plaster and with my back tied down onto the bed. Each night mum would have to wind bandages around my legs into the plaster casts and my job was to wind the bandages up every morning.

One night, I lifted up my legs vertically and then laid them back down onto the bed. As a result, all my blankets ended up under my legs, so, since it was during winter, I never did this again, as I was cold for the rest of the night.

Because my feet were different sizes, I needed to have two pairs of shoes bought for me - from Cecil Brothers. I would wear one shoe from each size! As the shoes were expensive, when my feet got too big, the toes were cut out of the shoes to get a bit more wear out of them. When my own daughter Ruth was born, and she was old enough to wear shoes, I bought her many pairs of shoes.

In those days, my calliper did not bend at the knee. At about the age of ten, I finally had a calliper that would bend. I was so happy going to school on the bus that day, wanting to show off this wonderful new calliper that bent at the knee. My friends weren't impressed at all as their knees bent all the time!

While I was at primary school, I would go to the Golden Age Hospital, for physiotherapy lessons, as physical therapy is beneficial for building and maintaining muscle strength. There was a large, warm bath, probably about 3 meters square. Several children would sit in the bath doing their exercises. Mum also helped me do exercises at night, on the kitchen table, done while we used to listen to Jason and the Argonauts on the ABC radio.

I started swimming when I was about 5, learning to swim at the Crawley Baths in the Swan River. My coach Mr. Hughes walked backwards, with his hand under my head, while I swam backstroke. For dog paddle and freestyle, he used a piece of wood on a rope, which I would hold onto, while he towed me up and down the pool. I had to be quick, so that I didn't let go of the wooden stick completely. If I did let go, I had to swim by myself! My first success in swimming was coming 3<sup>rd</sup> in the dog paddle race in Year 1 at the school sports. I never used my legs for swimming, they floated along behind!

In January 1964, when my younger sister Pam was nearly eight, Mum took her to Tony Howson to learn to swim. I said I would like to go too, as it was one sport I could do. Tony lived in a Commonwealth Games house in City Beach that had a small pool in the back yard. After the 2-week course, Tony suggested I joined his Swimming Squad at Beatty Park, which I did at age 13 ½.

On 5<sup>th</sup> July, after a freestyle race, Tony came up to me and said, "You have just broken a world record". On 28<sup>th</sup> July I was selected for the team to Adelaide- but it was not announced on the news till the next day.

From my mum's diary dated 9<sup>th</sup> September 1964 she wrote: - Took Elizabeth to airport & saw her off on the 8 am plane to Adelaide.

I was competing in the Adelaide selection trials for the Paralympics to be held in Tokyo. Can you recognize Perth Airport?

How different for my parents back then to get any news – no mobile phones or Facebook to instantly get results.

From mum's diary

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> September no news

Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> September still no news

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> September Elizabeth featured in the newspaper – many phone calls.

## Girl (14) Wins Tokyo Trip

By CAROLYN O'KEEFE

A 14-year-old school-girl has won a place in the Australian team to compete at the Paralympic Games in Tokyo after only seven months of serious swimming training.

Miss Elizabeth Edmondson, of Floreat Park, broke a world record and a Commonwealth record at the third Australian Paralympic Games in Adelaide last week.

With the other members of the W.A. team she returned to Perth on Sunday.

Miss Edmondson won a gold medal for the class E, 55 yards backstroke, which she swam in 51.8 seconds, beating the Commonwealth record by 15.2 seconds.

In the class E, 55 yards freestyle, she came second to Miss Daphne Ceeney, of N.S.W. Miss Ceeney broke the world record by five seconds. Miss Edmondson, only a fraction behind, broke



Miss Elizabeth Edmondson

married with a three-month-old daughter.

Before she settled in Narrogin about 19 years ago, Mrs. White was a keen ice-skater in Sydney.

"I thought it was the

are becoming interested in the sport.

Several Narrogin players are in their 20's.

Like most newcomers, Mrs White said, they are surprised to find that

ner-up on several occasions.

A part-time clerical assistant at the Narrogin High School, Mrs White plays bowls twice a week during the six-month season which begins in October.

She plans to defend her State title during the coming season.

She was a member of the State team which competed against South Australia this year but she does not expect to be able to take part in the next Australian carnival which will be held in Adelaide.

### Life Member

The captain of the State team which competed at the Australian Women's Softball Carnival in Hobart earlier this year, Miss Flo Ireland, of Alfred Cove, has been made a life member of the W.A. Women's Softball Association.

She was nominated at the association's annual general meeting.

Sir George Bedbrook, OBE was an Australian medical doctor and surgeon, who was the driving force in creating the Australian Paralympic movement and the Commonwealth Paraplegic Games. In 1964, Dr Bedbrook served as the Australian team leader at the Paralympics. He was also my doctor. When the team was announced Dr Bedbrook, came to my house and told my parents he would look after me, if they let me go to Tokyo. In those days, family did not travel with the team.

At the age of 14 years and 4 months, I became the youngest person to represent Australia in swimming, and the youngest competitor at the Tokyo Paralympic Games in 1964. In Tokyo, on November 9, I won three gold medals and broke three world records in the 50m freestyle, breaststroke and backstroke. I only received 2 medals at the games, and the Englishman who presented me one of them said "Congratulations you flaming drongo" Dad wrote many letters and I finally received my third medal. Jo had heard that the more gold there was in a medal, the softer it is- so she bit it and I now have a tooth mark in one of the medals.

Doctor Bedbrook sent my parents a telegram which arrived the next day at 11.45 am to tell them of my success in the pool - so different from today's Games where they are televised, and as soon as a race finishes, everyone can see the result. My mum then rang St Hilda's and when the teachers told Pam's class, everyone wanted to sit next to her as she had a famous sister.

Doctor Bedbrook kindly took me to a Japanese tea tasting ceremony. I did not like the taste of the tea, so when asked if I would like a second cup, I replied, "No thank you, it was very nice, but I only ever drink one cup of tea." On the last day, a guide took me to the bank; half way there he tapped me on the shoulder and pointed to Mount Fuji. I was very surprised to see it, as it is such a large mountain and couldn't believe the smog had hidden it from view.

I went to Israel in 1968, and again swimming on November 9, I won two gold medals in the 50m and 100 m freestyle, breaking two world records. I also swam in 50m backstroke and came second in the final in a time of 52.3 seconds. I set the world record in the heats with a time of 49.9 seconds but Verschoor from Netherlands broke it in the final with a time of 49.8 seconds.

In Israel, I received a copy of World Records Held and was surprised to find that "Edmonson of Austria" had three world records in swimming. It has only been in the last 15 years, with the advent of computers, that I was able to email the International Paralympic Committee to ask them to change the record book to read "Edmondson from Australia".

Following my success in the pool, I was lucky enough to be invited to several garden parties held at Government House and at one I met the Queen Mother.



I am proud of the fact that for 48 years I was the youngest Paralympic swimmer to win a gold medal for Australia. Madison Elliott, who won 2 bronze medals, 1 silver medal for individual races, and won 1 gold medal as part of the 4x100m freestyle relay team at the 2012 London Paralympics, passed my record. She was 13 years and 11 months old. After 54 years, I am still the youngest swimmer to win an individual gold medal for Australia.

I retired at 18, to go to work, as there was no support for Paralympians in those days. I met my husband Ken through work and we have one daughter Ruth, who lives in Canberra.

In September 2006, while shopping at Innaloo Shopping Centre, I saw a display by the Stadium Masters Swimming Club. As a result, I joined the club and started training and swimming again.

In April 2008, I swam in the 800m freestyle event in the World Masters Games held in Perth. I then helped marshal the swimmers for the rest of the competition. Competitors came from all parts of the world. One French competitor asked me what lane he was in. Counting on my fingers, I was able to say in my best school girl French “un, deux, trois, quatre, quatre.” I think he appreciated my effort.

In June 2008, I was an inaugural inductee into the WA Swimming Hall of Fame

In December 2008, I was diagnosed with breast cancer and underwent a lumpectomy. After surgery, I wrote to my friends and told them I now had one concave and one convex breast. One friend then asked, “Does that mean you will swim round in circles?” Luckily, when I resumed swimming in early 2009, I was still able to swim in a straight line!

In 2009, I was inducted into the Wheelchair Sports WA Hall of Fame.

I had shoulder surgery in February 2012, and after 3 weeks in hospital, I was sent home with an electric wheelchair as I used to walk with the aid of crutches and could not use my arm for 6 weeks. I find it much easier to get out and about on public transport, and as a result, am actively involved in 3 clubs – swimming, scrabble and this year have joined Perth Lego Users Group. I have volunteered at Bricktober for the last 3 years.

I sit on 6 government and corporate advisory committees, where I campaign for better access for people with disabilities. I also approach councils, to improve footpaths and ramps, and Transperth to upgrade bus stops to accessible ones.

After playing scrabble at the Anglican Hall opposite the Floreat Forum, I went over a bump in the footpath and got a flat tyre. I rang the RAC who changed the tube for me (I carry spares with me). He advised me to replace the whole tyre as soon as possible as the walls of the tyre had been damaged. Next week, I took a photo of the raised footpath, and sent to the Cambridge Council, requesting a refund of my taxi fare of \$13.00 that I had paid when I went Glide to replace the damaged tyre. A few weeks later I did receive \$13.00 and was told the footpath had been fixed.

On 26<sup>th</sup> May 2018, I was invited to attend WA Swimming Swimmer of the Year Awards. Imagine my surprise when Karen Tighe announced that I was the first inductee into the newly created Hall of Legends in Swimming. Lyn McKenzie was the second inductee.

I have only cried twice over a swimming related event, Brisbane 2009 was the first time at the Masters Swimming National Championships. I swam the backstroke leg of the 4 x 50 medley relay and swam a PB. I cried when they gave me the medal, as I hadn't realized we had come third - my first medal in Masters Swimming.

And the second time I cried over swimming.

Before I left for Tokyo, my father had bought me a camera. I had taken one roll of film, and had them developed in black and white.)

In August this year, I was lucky to be invited to Cairns as the Guest Speaker for the Para Pan Pacs. My sister Pam came over to help me sort through my Paralympic box in preparation for writing my speech. We came across an envelope of negatives and as neither of us was wearing our reading glasses at the time, we couldn't tell what the photos were. As they were in the Paralympic box, I decided to see if I could get them printed. Late on Monday I took them to be developed, where it was suggested I have them scanned and stored onto a USB stick. This was a much better idea, as I might be able to use some of the photos for my talk, and I knew that I should be able to transfer from USB Stick to PowerPoint – hopefully and fingers crossed!

Peering over the counter at the camera shop, and onto her screen, I could tell that they were indeed my photos that I had taken while in Tokyo.

Tuesday morning, I thought I had better check the photos and opened the first photo. I stared at it and thought the trees are green; the people are in colour too, have they tinted the photo? And then it dawned on me, the whole photo was in colour. I then looked at the next photo and sure enough it was in colour too. This is when I started crying as I realized what a find this was. Not just for me, but for the Australian Paralympic Community as well. Previously these photos had only been printed in black and white as it cost too much to print in colour.

I would like to share with you some of these photos, to give you a brief look at Tokyo in November 1964.

**Bulletin Editors Note: I could fit all the photographs Elizabeth mentions in her presentation if you would like to see** more click on the link below.

Reference

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elizabeth\\_Edmondson](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elizabeth_Edmondson)



Host Chair Ron Alexander and Guest Speaker Elizabeth Edmondson

Spotted in Bridgetown:

Di and Art Reed caught up with Julia and Denise Temby for lunch in Bridgetown recently. Di reports they are they are very happily settled in to their home there.



Note: Julia still wearing her thongs

Invitation:

## Rotary District 9465 Mix and Mingle

Ascot-Como-Mill Point-Rotaract South Perth South Perth Burswood-  
Victoria Park

**Monday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2018**

6:00 for 6:30pm to 8:00pm Royal Perth Golf Club Labouchere Road, South  
Perth

AG Marielle Sloss would like to invite you to meet and mingle with  
members from our surrounding Rotary and Rotaract Clubs.

Each Club will give a 10 minute presentation on what they are up to, an  
interesting innovation in their club or a specific project (you might like to  
Highlight a few). The night is designed to mix, mingle, share ideas and get  
to meet your fellow Rotarians. I hope you can make it.

Tickets:

<https://www.trybooking.com/book/event?embed&eid=432466>

RSVP- by Friday 9<sup>th</sup> November 4pm (No LATE bookings)

\$30 per person

Drinks available for purchase at the bar

Enquiries:

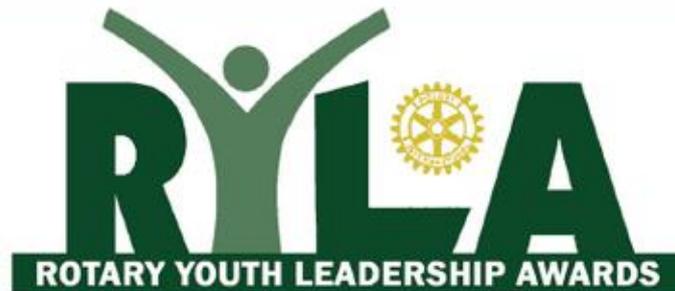
**Marielle 0412 285 896**



Reminder RYLA and Handicamp is fast approaching, members if you know of any suitable applicants please let Di Reed know.

## RYLA 2019

12<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> January 2019



## HANDICAMP

Contact: Julie Ninnis

20  
Jan  
2019

 Jan 20, 2019 9:00 AM – Jan 26, 2019 4:00 PM  
 Point Walter Recreation Centre  
1 Stock Road  
Bicton, WA 6168  
Australia

HANDICAMP Dinner will be held on Tuesday 22 January 2019

**Last Word**

**Don't forget to book your tickets for the End Polio Now Movie Night on Thursday 1 November 2018.**

**Movie: Bohemian Rhapsody – all proceeds support Rotary's End Polio Now Program.**

**For further details a copy of the flyer is attached with the bulletin email.**

