



Rotary Opens Opportunities

September is basic education and literacy month. Rotary's goal is to empower communities to support basic education, reduce gender disparity in education, and increase adult literacy.



THIS ISSUE

Roadtripping with the DG

Laurie Easter PFH

Shane Fitzsimmons

RYLA reflections

CALENDAR

September 21-24 - RYAG Dairy Wingham

September 21 - DG visit Glen Innes

September 22 - DG visit to Guyra

September 28 - RANZSE briefing

September 29 - DG visit to Gloucester

September 30 - DG visit to Taree North

October 2-11 - South West Rocks Art Show

October 3-11 - RC Port Macquarie Book Sale

October 8 - DG visit South West Rocks

October 24 - World Polio Day

MUSINGS FROM THE DG

First club I visited this week was Laurieton. Always good fun here. Thank you to my host President Noel Hiffernam and members for making my visit special. This club has a father and son combination in the membership, so in the board meeting when a member was referred to as dad, it was a chance for a bit of fun and ask, was he referring to PDG Phil Hafey. ☺ Laurieton club is involved with many local community projects and has fundraised large sums of money in recent years to support the drought relief programs in our district. You may remember the sheep that were so popular amongst our clubs and the public. Laurieton is not a large club, but they can surely stand equal among many when they raise \$60K for our local communities. Laurieton have always been involved with regular book sales and sure enough another is due to start to coincide with the school holidays. Not so long ago I was told that books would be a thing of the past and that E Books would take the market by storm. This has not eventuated, and the good old read is still as popular as ever. I have a few books and I would not get rid of them, they are like friends, and there is something wonderful and comforting about a library full of them. The club is involved in many projects in the local schools including the re establishment of gardens and veggie plots, seating for the students so that the classes can be facilitated outside in the shade. Members of the club have been involved in projects overseas, and given financial support to Vanuatu, and Nepal. They support many Rotary Youth programs and President Elect Nicholas Hafey, teacher, and photographer, is part of the NYSF committee. Theo Hazelgrove has been involved in supporting the homeless for a long time and is actively involved in supporting people who feel they have no option left but to end their lives. At this point I would like to remind everyone that we are supporting Lifeline this year because, mental ill health has not, and will not go away. Since COVID Lifeline has been inundated with calls for help. Please consider supporting this district project if you can.

Lifeline Project - Rotary International District 9650 Inc. BSB: 932 000 Account: 100453820

Tuesday night I travelled to Tuncurry to meet with the Rotary Club of Lower Midcoast and President Lance Fletcher. This was a trip down memory lane for me as I have not been down to the Sporties Club since the footy days and Wauchope vs Forster Tuncurry. Many a Saturday has been spent at the grounds there. Lower Midcoast is the newly created joining of Old Bar and Tuncurry Forster. Obviously, a happy combination as the evening was filled with a comfortable camaraderie and not lacking in jokes. AG Laurie Easter was in attendance. I had the privilege of inducting a new member. Welcome to Rotary Glen Singleton! This night was particularly special as I represented PDG Phil Hafey in presenting to AG Laurie and Paul Harris Sapphire. It was not lost on anyone that Laurie was somewhat a taken back and rendered speechless for a couple of minutes. Laurie is held in such high regards by the District and the clubs he is a part of, please read the special attachment about Laurie and some of his achievements. Lance's vision for this year is to look at the club's projects around town and update the branding. The Club is committed to supporting the centurion program for Foundation, and to growing the membership. One of the club's projects is the Rotary Walk at Bennett's Head, which is a piece of crown land that Rotary is involved in improving. They are partnering with the local Council on this project. Another project is the maintenance and painting at the Tuncurry Memorial Hall Trust.



E-NEWS CONTACT

If you have something for the E-news please email editor Laura Telford at laura.telford@rotaract.org.au before 5pm on Friday to make sure it will appear in the next edition!

MUSINGS FROM DG DEBBIE CONT.

The club supports Shelterbox, Chris O'Brien Lifehouse and the Harrold Letts Scholarship amongst many others.

Thursday, I called in to see my friends at the Narrabri club on my way to Lightning Ridge. It was my pleasure, on behalf of PDG Phil Hafey, to present Past President Julie Herbert a certificate signed by PRIP Mark Maloney for the club's success in attaining a Rotary citation last year. President Graham Herbert showed me some photographs of the newly finished BBQ trailer and its first outing. The club applied for grants to support the purchase of the trailer. John Barrilaro was the first recipient of a sausage sanga from club members at that BBQ. I was pleased to catch up with legend Pat Carbery and Mike at that meeting. I missed Pats 92 birthday recently, but we had a drink to celebrate. Pat might be 92 but still sharp as a tack. Our friendship got off to a rocky start when I visited the club with a bus full of Rotarians during the drought to support local businesses. At that meeting Pat was giving me a bit of GBH of the ear. A normally polite person, I endured this for a while before standing up for myself. Pat called me a "feisty ol' tart, to which I replied he was a "bloody rude ol' bugger!" We have been the best of friends since.

Friday, we travelled to Lightning Ridge to join the club for their weekly meeting. The evening was hosted by President Rory Treweeke. Jacqui Emery from Royal Far West joined the meeting via zoom and gave us some insight into the work of this great organisation. There are so many children in our district needing specialist help. The assessments and diagnosis can only be determined in Manly so this is a financial burden of which many of our rural families cannot afford. They have endured drought, fire, flood and now pandemic, so a child that needs support is another stressful event in their lives. For \$3045 a child can be assessed. If anyone is interested in this worthwhile cause I will attach some information about Royal Far West program "Growing Up Bush" in this newsletter.

Lightning ridge has been at the forefront of drought relief for several years before it was declared a national emergency. They sent out fliers to engage community support. Dog biscuits for the farmers to ensure their working dogs survived was essential. A visiting Rotarian from WA went home when he saw the disaster out there and donated \$5000 to the cause. They also added laundry powder to the dog biscuits as these were things that people did not buy due to lack of funds. Funds being used for animal feed and food for themselves. One of the projects that was successful was a shopping trolley run. The club enlisted the support of local independents to put together food parcels for needy people and got five key locals to deliver them to the farms on the way around the district. The club put together pamper packs and were recipients of the RAWCS drought relief cards. \$200K was distributed to support the relief effort. President Rory hosted a farmers Xmas party at his residence which catered for 80 farmers. They support SALT (Supporting and Linking tradeswomen) Amongst all this turmoil they still found time to apply for an RACG grant to supply a hoist for the swimming pool so that disabled persons could utilise the local baths. They participate in a driver awareness program and have engaged with the local hospital in providing an exercise area for patients undergoing rehab. My list of information for this clubs' projects went to several pages.

A big thank you to Chris for donating beautiful baby packs for Dr Ray to take to Nepal, and for the premature baby clothing.

Most of you will know John Bevan, a giant of a man with a heart to match. Can I now introduce JOHN BEVAN AFSM

A fire captain's 32-year commitment to protecting people and mentoring firefighters in Lightning Ridge has been recognised in today's Australia Day honours. Lightning Ridge Fire Station Captain John Bevan has been awarded an Australian Fire Service Medal (AFSM) - the highest honour an Australian firefighter can receive - for outstanding service to Fire and Rescue NSW over the past 32 years. John and Neroli travelled to Government house for the investiture ceremony where John was presented with his medal. Will see if Neroli will give us a photograph of the day, for everyone to see and be proud of what John has achieved. Well done John!

During our visit out here, we were treated to an amazing tour of the town by Michael Taylor. This is a tour to end all tours. We visited the mining sites and gained knowledge in the process, machinery and tools required. There is some diverse architecture in the town from castles to camps. No one knows what the population is here and if you take the time to visit you will understand why. There are some interesting characters past and present residing here also. We took a drive around "Crims Hill" and Mike regaled us in stories about the area. We saw a burnt-out structure of someone who had come to grief with the mafia! The town has over 60 different nationalities residing here and can really be said to be multi-cultural. Cosmopolitan would aptly describe the food. When someone suggests lunch at the Thai restaurant and then pulls up at the back end of a caravan and parks, it can be a little confusing. I was looking for a shop front and sign. No nothing of the sort. The caravan was set up as the kitchen and one dined alfresco or in the case for us, in the nearby shed because the heavens opened. The shed was equipped with tables and chairs, comfy lounges and even a mattress for an afternoon siesta. Food was amazing! Saturday afternoon we were treated to afternoon tea t the home of President Rory and Joan at their beautiful oasis of a home in Angledool. Thanks to them for a wonderful afternoon complete with scones and cream and lovely china. I felt very much at home in what felt like an English country home. Rory was very knowledgeable about the surrounding countryside and geology. After that we drove on towards Hebel where the Qld border post is. We had our photographs taken under the 'Welcome to Queensland" sign on the roadside. I cannot thank Mike and Chris for giving up their time all day Saturday to give us an enlightening and exciting trip to Ridge. Take care, stay safe and remember...

Opportunities are like sunrises, if you wait too long you will miss them.



DISTRICT CONFERENCE SPEAKER 2 ANNOUNCED!

Shane Fitzsimmons is officially being announced as a keynote speaker at the 2021 District Conference.

Shane is the Commissioner of Resilience NSW, a new disaster preparedness and recovery agency. Shane will also be the Deputy Secretary of Emergency Management in NSW. Commissioner Fitzsimmons said he was honoured to have the opportunity to continue to serve the people of NSW in this vital new role, and to work alongside the leadership of the state's combat agencies

“Resilience NSW will lead the whole-of-government prevention, preparedness and recovery effort. It will oversee and coordinate emergency management policy, service delivery and all aspects of disaster recovery at a state, national and international level,” Commissioner Fitzsimmons said.

“There was never a more important time to make sure that communities devastated by drought, bushfires and now COVID-19 are getting the help they need to rebuild and recover.”

Over Australia's Black Summer, Shane Fitzsimmons led the fight against the bushfires that burned all over New South Wales. As the Rural Fire Service (RFS) Commissioner, he was on the front line as families grieved the loss of firefighters and those unable to escape the ferocity of the blazes.

There's "no way", he says, anyone could come out unscathed. "I wish we had the ability to put out every fire before they became a large fire," he says.

"I wish we had the ability to save every home before it was damaged or destroyed. I wish we had the ability to save every person before their life was taken. I don't think you can think that way given the enormity of what unfolded. You've got to take some solace, that everyone did their very best to save and protect as many and as much as they possibly could."

More than 6 per cent of the state or 5.5 million hectares and 2,448 homes were razed during the fires. At the height of the crisis, there were about 2,500 firefighters at work during each shift.



ROTARACT PODCAST

In her role as Rotaract Australia Communications Director, District Rotaract Representative Laura Telford has created a Rotaract podcast.

The podcast is called Chats by Rotaract Australia.

She is interviewing Rotaractors and Rotarians around the country sharing exciting stories about how Rotaractors are continuing to contribute to the world.

The first four full episodes launch today and she would love for you to all listen. The episodes are available on Apple Podcast, Spotify iHeartRadio and everywhere you would listen to a podcast.

[OR you can click here and listen!](#)

PAT CARBERY FROM NARRABRI 92 YEARS YOUNG ON A TRACTOR



CONGRATULATION AG LAURIE EASTER ON PHF



On behalf of PDG Phil Hafey, DG Debbie Loveday presented AG Cluster 4 Laurie Easter with a Paul Harris Fellow Sapphire on the night. His is a Rotarian, AG for Cluster 4 and has been at the forefront of bushfire relief since the fires started. He personally visits people, listens to their need and provides financial and emotional support to them from the bushfire relief fund in Taree. So whether it is property or fencing that people need a hand with, Laurie is there to assist.

Coordinator of Rotary Youth Driver Awareness Program for Manning Great Lakes area. This 6 session program is delivered to Year 11 High School students annually to raise awareness amongst young persons seeking to obtain a Learners Permit or have achieved Provisional licence status. Aim is to reduce the incidence of accidents and injuries amongst young drivers with approximately 600 plus students progressing through this program annually.

Project member of Taree CBD CCTV Committee which was established in 2012 to review crime statistics and liaise with local council, business and community stakeholders in the Taree Central Business District. Following consultation a grant was sourced through local federal member under the Safer Streets Program to purchase and install CCTV in strategic locations within the Taree CBD on a trial program. This program is currently completed and providing valuable assistance to local police.

Involved with the Clontarf Academy at Chatham High School which is designed to provide Aboriginal male student from Year 7 to 12 positive role models via coaching and mentoring.

Member of Rotary Australia World Community Service team from District 9650, building new Nurses accommodation at Kokoda Hospital in Oro Province, PNG.

Management of Squadron providing a Defence based (Air Force) youth training experience to cadets ranging in age from 13 years to 20 years. Primary objectives are to encourage and develop teamwork and leadership skills within a formalised Defence based structure and to encourage self-reliance and discipline as part of the learning process. As an aviation orientated youth training organisation we are actively involved in and promote powered flying and gliding training as well as many other field based activities. We also promote Defence as a positive career path and assist with recruitment.

Laurie is a retired Inspector of Police 16 years general duties metro & country policing experience and 16 years specialist policing experience including Education & Training, Project Management, WH&S Training, Performance Management Training, Interview & Selection Panel Member, Scarce Resource Management and providing operational advice & assistance to police & other associated stakeholders, Critical Incident Management and operational advising to Police Executive on a 24/7 basis.

HAT DAY IS ALMOST HERE

Hat Day, Australian Rotary Health's annual national mental health research fundraising event is now less than 4 weeks away.

Even though COVID-19 may have disrupted many events this year, there are still some ways you can get involved in Hat Day this October to help #Liftheidontmentalillness

If you would like to get involved, visit the Hat Day website for some COVID-safe ideas and promotional material.

Make sure you register too! If you have any enquiries, email: news@arh.org.au

RYLA Rotary Youth Leadership Awards Lake Keepit 1st – 8th May 2021 (Applications will be available soon on D9650 webpage)

Introducing our RYLA Program Coordinator

JOHN CARROLL

John has given freely of his time to RYLA in District 9650 for over a decade...



John is a revolutionary business leader, an inspiring speaker, an author and a workshop presenter. He blends his knowledge and experience in business leadership, brand marketing and advertising across three continents with a deep passion for personal and organisational development. He has been speaking and facilitating workshops professionally for over 15 years. John holds degrees in Business Administration and Psychology and is a qualified trainer and workshop facilitator. He is the author of "Purposeful: A Step-by-Step Guide to Finding Clear Direction in a Chaotic World" and writes for a number of magazines and online journals. He is an independent keynote speaker, workshop presenter, coach and consultant.

The Rotary Open of Tamworth 2020



"The Rotary Open of Tamworth" is on again by popular demand and being organised by Rotary Club of Tamworth First Light.

- Be in the running to win the "STUNNING Gold & Blue Jacket"
- Friday 16th October 2020 – 1 tee starting from 10:30am
- Tamworth Golf Club
- Includes a Barbeque lunch on the way around
- \$40 per person
- Individual Stableford in conjunction with 2 person Irish 4 ball
- Book and pay at the Pro Shop with Brock Sampson, individually or as a team of 2 or 4 phone 6765 9980
- Sponsor a hole for \$100 or you may like to donate a prize
- Lots of prizes and fun, BBQ lunch included
- Presentation and drinks to follow the golf
- PROCEEDS donated to LOCAL TAMWORTH CHARITIES

Further information:

Michael Smith – 0408 230 211

Dennis Maund – 0428 456 017

Deb Barnes – 0411 770 552

David Hinwood – 0418 667 768

RYLA 2020 BY ELIZABETH ARGUE

RYLA has given me so much personally and professionally that has equipped me for the coming years and provided me with some incredible insights I will carry with me long into the future.

I sincerely thank the Nambucca /Macksville Rotary Club for their support that allowed me to attend RYLA and also the Rotary District 9560 for facilitating our amazing 2020 RYLA program. Beginning the week a little unsure of what to expect, one of our mentors PDG Rob Anderson described RYLA in a way that really resounded with me.

From his description I came to understand that everyone has a toolkit they carry with them through life, some people are great at knowing what their tools are and how to use them and others not so much. The experience of RYLA is one that teaches us all about the unique tools we carry in our toolkit and just how to best use them to build the best future for ourselves and the people around us.

Over the week with guidance from knowledgeable mentors and inspiration from the other 31 Rylarians, I learnt some very valuable lessons centred upon the three principles of purposeful leadership. Over the week discovering what lies at the core of my true self showed me that being a servant leader and positively contributing to a community is at the heart of my values.

This revelation has encouraged me to approach the future in a manner that places the importance not so much on what you do, but how you do everything and who you share your life experiences with.

Following RYLA, my understanding of Rob's toolbox analogy has developed and I could now also add; that the best way I hope to use my toolbox is to build bridges bettering communication and relationships, to build foundations of resilient communities and to build ladders to help people reach their dreams. Thank you so much for this experience (Particular thanks to PDG Rob Anderson for his analogy).

SAVE THE DATE: THE ROTARY CLUB OF URALLA, ANTIQUES AND COLLECTABLES FAIR

The Fair will be held Saturday 10th October (9am - 5pm) and Sunday 11th October (9am - 2:30pm) in the RSL Memorial Hall, Salisbury St, Uralla. There will be restrictions on visitor numbers at any one time, and the committee will monitor & implement NSW Dept of Health COVID19 safety guidelines.

The 7th annual Antiques and Collectables Fair is a community themed weekend of stall holders showcasing and offering their treasures. We have a good mix of exhibitors including Japanese antiques, furniture, statues, clocks & timepieces, books, vinyl records & players, military collectables, bric a brac, glassware, crockery and more.

An experienced appraiser can advise people about their special items, it will cost \$5 for 1 item and \$10 for 3 items, limited to 6 items per person so everyone gets a turn.

The entry fee is kept to a minimum by only asking for a gold coin donation & there is a Guess the Mystery Item Competition.

There will also be a display of Antique Machinery and Classic Cars in the Attwood & McMillan carpark to add further interest to the Fair.

For further information contact Leanne 0488 559 928



RYLA 2020 participant Elizabeth Argue.

INTERESTING GUEST

RC Gloucester is hosting Twin V owner Ashley Beaton as a guest speaker at their meeting this week. Ashley will be taking people on a Virtual tour of his new Motorcycle store in Coffs Harbour NSW.

To join:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4562350443?pwd=OWk4WVlILzAvb2tMdXpSMDBTVE9WZz09>

Meeting ID: 456 235 0443

Passcode: Bees

WORKING DOG TRAINING

Coonabarabran RC IS presenting a Working Dog Training day at Rotarian Marie Knight's property Berrumbuckle on Sat 24 Oct.

Places are limited but filling fast .. trainer is Robert Cox from Nyngan area .. it's free thanks to Red cross. If your farm dog needs to be settled or taught to work please book in .. CRC will provide morning tea and lunch.

Funded by Red Cross as part of the drought initiative.

Book by contacting Marie Knight 6842 2703



District 9650 Conference

Rotary an

International Affair

March 12-14th 2021



Panthers Bay St, Port Macquarie

ROTARY 9650.ORG.AU/DISTRICT-CONFERENCE

[HTTPS://WWW.ROTARY9650.ORG.AU/DISTRICT-CONFERENCE](https://www.rotary9650.org.au/district-conference)

