

## Bulletin No 01 July 01 2017

### 2016-17 CLUB CHANGEOVER JULY 01 PRESIDENT KATHY LEADS US FORWARD



Our 2017/18 President Kathy Rimmer was handed the Club Presidents Chain by outgoing President Judy Mitchell at the combined Nelson Bay Rotary/ District 9670 Changeover held at Nelson Bay Bowling Club on Saturday night. Some 170 guests were present to witness this milestone event, including Kathy's parents, her husband Josh and Club members and partners. Kathy has been a member of our Club for just over 4 years, is our youngest member and our third lady President in a row. Her tireless work, including working in all facets of the Club were recognised with the presentation of a Paul Harris Fellow membership, immediately after her induction as President.

Kathy brings a very positive attitude to the Presidency and is looking forward to introducing some younger dynamic members to our club, while working in harmony with the senior members to ensure the delivery of a wide variety of Community projects. Congratulations Kathy on both your role as President and your PHF recognition.

Earlier in the evening, Immediate Past President Judy Mitchell presented the Club's Annual report, It was a truly outstanding year for our Club in so many areas, with all members going the extra mile to make this a stellar year, Rather than go through the whole report, PP Judy highlighted some of our achievements which included a total giving by our Club of **\$132,250 most of it to the local community**. The prime beneficiaries were the Women in Crisis Centre in Nelson Bay and the completion of the Nelson Bay Rotary Club Fitness and Exercise Trail, a great community asset, A host of other local community groups also benefitted from an outstanding year of giving, We also presented 5 Community Paul Harris Fellowship Awards in November and another to former member, Bill Brown for his contribution to the Club over many years and his assistance in producing the Club's History Books. Our Club also nominated District 9670's first Peace Scholar who is now studying at Duke University in the USA. The year was rounded off with some excellent vocational visits and a couple of special Club nights where fun and fellowship were the highlights. It certainly was a year which President Judy can be proud of. More photos and District Changeover report on following pages

#### In this Bulletin:

**Pages 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 -**  
More Club & District  
Changeover photos,  
news, and more....

#### Birthdays this coming

**week: July 08** Agnes  
Tobbe

**July 09** Murray Nicol  
**Anniversaries** None  
listed

**Heads and Tails:** No  
Tossing this week  
**Raffle** No Raffle

#### Member Duties July 08 2017

**Door** John Crump/Geoff  
Diemar

**Meet/Greet:** Richard  
Harris/Liz Friend

**Loyal Toast** Mike Jenkins

**Grace:** Arja Levonpera

**Intro Guest speaker:**  
N/A

**Thank Guest Speaker:**  
N/A

**Bulletin:** Phil Smith

**Photographer** Phil Smith

**Guest Speaker-** Club  
Night, Open Discussion  
Lead by President Kathy,  
Directors and others

**Apologies/Extras to John Crump by 12noon on Wednesday Ph 0401 450 239**

## CLUB CHANGEOVER 2017



Outgoing District 9670 District Governor Steve Jackson and Nelson Bay Rotary Club 23016/17 Judy Mitchell share a happy moment on Saturday night. PP Judy delivers her report to the 170 assembled guests, the highlights outlined on the front page of the Bulletin. All members are urged to read the Directors reports to fully understand the scope of the Club's achievements.



### 2017-18 BOARD

The Club's Board of Directors for the current Rotary year were inducted on Saturday night's Changeover. The Board is PP Judy Mitchell, Youth Director Arja Levonpera, Community Service Director and PR PP Chris Bartlett, Club Service/Administration PP Geoff Diemar, Vice President PP John Stuhmcke, Treasurer PP Ian Brigden and President Kathy Rimmer. Absent overseas were Secretary PP Don Whatham, Membership Director Dieter Greiter and International and Foundation Director PP John Cropley,



### NEW MEMBER INDUCTED

One of PP Judy Mitchell's last official duties was to induct a new member to our Club. We welcome David Clark, who has transferred from the Young Rotary Club. His experience and friendship will be appreciated by all members. Welcome David and Margaret, looking forward to Rotary with you.

APOLOGIES & EXTRAS TO JOHN CRUMP BY NOON WEDNESDAY'S  
PLEASE –PHONE OR SMS 0401 450 289- THANK YOU



## DISTRICT 9670 CHANGEOVER-2017



### HELEN RYAN DISTRICT 9670 GOVERNOR 2017-18

Nelson Bay Rotary member, Past President Helen Ryan was inducted as Rotary District 9670 Governor by outgoing Governor Steve Jackson at last Saturday's District Changeover Dinner held in conjunction with Nelson Bay Rotary Changeover. Over 170 Rotarians and guests were present to hear PDG Steve give an overview of his year, which several key governance issues were finalised. Steve and wife PDG Janette were very active in visiting Clubs during his year and achieving Rotary's aim of Rotary serving Humanity. District Governor Helen in a brief overview of her plans is very keen to expand on this year's theme of Rotary Making a Difference. She is also keen to explore avenues of raising awareness of children's literacy. We wish Helen every success in her year as District Governor. We are sure Mike will be in for a busy year too. Several Nelson Bay Club members have District Roles this year with Phil Smith acting as District Secretary to Helen, Chris Bartlett continuing his role as Assistant Governor Zone 7 and Australian Rotary Health representative, Warwick Mathieson and Ian Brigden as Co-Chairs of the District Conference Committee, and President Kathy a member of the RLI Facilitation team. Helen will commence her Club visits on July 17. Helen's son Leigh made the trip from Wagga to be MC for his Mum's big night doing an excellent job.



Former member Mike Mobbs is still a very proud supporter of Rotary and has become a member of the Paul Harris Society, where a \$1000 contribution annually assists the Rotary Foundation to Make a Difference. He is with District Rotary Foundation Chair Peter Raynor at Saturday night's changeover.



President Kathy with PDG Janette sharing some happy moments on Saturday night. Kathy is a Facilitator with the District RLI team, ably led by Janette.

## CHANGEOVER EVENING 2017



**TOP** Old friends Assistant Governor Chris McGrath and our very own Vice President John Stuhmcke and wife Yvonne catch up on Saturday night at Changeover.

**Middle** Carol Coffey, wife of DGE Brian, Margaret Raynor, District Foundation Chair Peter Raynor and PP President Judy Mitchell after the District Rotary Foundation Raffle draw. The main prizes was won by Dubbo West Rotary Club.

**Bottom** PDG Steve Jackson with Nelson Bay Rotary PP Judy Mitchell present President Kathy Rimmer with her PHF on Saturday night.

### THANK YOU

Our new District Secretary Phil Smith filled in very admirably for our Photographer Henk Tobbe on Saturday night. As Club Insurance Officer Phil also went the extra mile for the Club during the week to obtain our new Rotary Insurance Certificate which enabled the Club to conduct our very successful BBQ on Saturday at Bunnings. It is these behind the scenes contributions that help make our club the success it is.

Also thank you to John Cropley who filled as Bulletin editor, while a number of the Editorial team are overseas at the moment.

At a special thank you to Yvonne Stuhmcke to was at short notice able to drive our long serving member Bill Michel home after his health issue at Bunnings last Saturday, and assisting husband John get Bill's ute back home on Saturday afternoon, prior to the big changeover. Bill is OK and is at home, after receiving some treatment from the Ambos on Saturday. The support of members and partners is very much appreciated and acknowledged.



Richard Harris and Chris Bartlett manning the Bunnings BBQ last Saturday prior to attending Changeover. Photo courtesy of Lauren from Bunnings



Our new District Governor Helen "Bones" Ryan delivering her plans for the District for this Rotary year. Helen is sure to have a busy year.



**Subs are now due:**

**You should have received by now an invoice for the coming year's subs.**

Although not due until 1st July the Club must pay before that date. So, it would be appreciated if you could pay now rather than wait another week.

**Annual fee \$270.00, ½ year \$135.00**

If for some reason you have not received an invoice contact Treasurer Kathy. In the meantime you can still make your payment online by bank transfer.

Bank details are:

**BSB: 637000, Acct:781 017 418**

**Please quote your name and "subs"**

### The next Couple of Weeks....

Date	Speaker	Topic
July 06	Club Night	Planning
July 12	Board Meeting	Nelson Bay Bowling Club 5.30pm
July 13	Club Night	Directors reports/Planning
July 20	Club Night	Planning
July 27	Club night	Fellowship

## **SECRETARY DON'S OVERSEAS REPORT**

Dear All,

Following the convention we enjoyed the bus trips, firstly from Atlanta to Orlando and then on to Miami. The bus terminated at Miami Airport and we walked directly up to the metro train where after 7 stops we alighted at the Government Centre Station and walked the remaining 200m to our hotel in the Miami Port area. The hotel was an area popular with tourists and most at our hotel joined us next day on the transit to the port. There are 10 tour boat terminals in Miami our ship left from Terminal J.

We were able to board almost immediately and were welcomed on board with a champagne prior to our first wonderful meal aboard. After lunch we attended the compulsory safety drill before setting sail at 5pm.

It did not take long to settle into the routine where everything is inclusive. Our first day was a sea day and a welcome opportunity to relax after the hectic week's travel and convention. The ship is much smaller than those we have travelled on previously with only 490 passengers and a very friendly crew. There are a mixture of nationalities with about 40 Australians. We have open meal bookings so meet different people each time which we enjoy.

After spending the first day at sea in quite rough waters of the Caribbean we docked at Georgetown in the Grand Cayman Island. The main industry is tourism and banking. There are over 800 banks though the population is only 80,000. With the zero tax policy the country is regarded as a haven for overseas investors wishing to reduce the tax payable in their home country. This attracts a number of high profile people including several Australians. Our tour included a visit to the Botanical Gardens featuring the local tropical trees, plants, fruits and wildlife especially the colourful iguana. We visited the historic homestead of the original family inhabitants located on the rocky coastline near 7 mile beach. This had withstood hurricanes and a fire during its long history. The design allowed breezes to flow through the living areas to provide cooling. The Caymans were first sighted by Christopher Columbus in 1503. Francis Drake landed in 1586 and some settlement developed. The Cayman Islands were later captured by the Spanish and later ceded to England as part of the Treaty of Madrid. In 1962 the Caymans were declared a British Overseas Territory. The island was devastated by cyclone Ivan in 2004. However most of the islands infrastructure, buildings and way of life have been restored.

After another sea day we docked in Santa Marta Columbia. The city is located on a bay and is mainly a tourist location. The area is primarily agricultural with corn, pineapple and yucca the main products. The area is a major port where coal is a major export. The city is 992 km from Bogota Columbia's capital and a city of 8m. Our tour by coach included visits to the country house of Simon Bolivar an expansive home set in magnificent gardens, a traditional, cultural dance performance by young Columbians and finally visits to the museum and cathedral. It was interesting to walk through the busy city streets where these were located.

We sailed mid afternoon and overnight reached our next destination Cartagena in Columbia. This is known as the Queen of the Caribbean coast and it is easy to understand why. Cartagena's Old town is surrounded by 13 km of 15th century colonial stone walls. The old town is Unesco World Heritage listed and we had a 2 hour walking tour included in our city tour. We had an excellent local guide who helped us manoeuvre the ancient cobbled, narrow streets explaining the politics, history and cultural significance of the many old buildings. Columbia is rich in minerals and we saw how these are mined and processed. Outside the stone walls of the old city modern Cartagena is a thriving modern city with many sky scrapers and modern luxury hotels built along the waterfront known as Cartagena's Miami Beach. Coffee is a main export of Columbia and Cartagena has abundant coffee shops and coffee beans a popular purchase. Besides coffee, gold and emeralds are other major local products. Columbia is a very prosperous country but unfortunately corruption prevents wealth being used effectively or benefiting the majority of the population. There is a major effort being made to defeat the drug cartels which are very strong and operate from the jungle areas near Bogota. As one group is captured others replace it. Next day was the highlight of our cruise. The passage through the Panama Canal. We arose at 5.30am and went on deck to experience sailing through the breakwater towards the Canal. Construction of the canal was first considered in the 16th century when the Spaniards arrived in the isthmus but a practical attempt was not made till 1880 when Frenchman, Ferdinand de Lesseps builder of the Suez Canal attempted a direct route. Evidence of his attempt was observed near the beginning of the canal. This attempt failed due to lack of money, poor design and disease suffered by the workers. Later the United States began construction of the now complete canal but this was not without much difficulty and the head engineer changed several times before completion by the US Army in 1914 was achieved. Success was only achieved when the idea of a sea level canal was replaced by use of locks and the above sea level lake. During construction 100,000 labourers were employed and over 30,000 died of disease including malaria and typhoid. Currently the canal has a workforce of 9,000 and is operated by the Panamanian Government. Panama took over from USA in 1999.

The inter oceanic waterway uses a system of locks with two lanes that operate as water elevators and raises the ships from sea level to the level of Gatun Lake 26m above sea level, to allow the crossing through the Continental Divide and then lowers the ships via another system of locks on the other side of the isthmus. The water used to raise and lower the vessels in each set of locks is obtained from Gatun Lake by gravity and poured into the locks through the main culvert system that extends under the locks chambers from the sidewall and centre wall.

The entire trip through the canal takes 8 to 10 hours plus waiting time. Each ship pays a toll based on capacity. Our ship with 500 passengers paid \$200,000 for the trip. The canal is quite narrow with little space to spare for large ships and a qualified pilot captains each ship through. Whilst in the canal ships are propelled by locomotives attached to the ship by cables. The canal operates 24 hours, 365 days a year and brings much revenue to Panama.

Panama City on the Pacific side of the canal is a large city with many high rise buildings and massive ports. The one millionth ship to transit the canal did so in 2010. We stayed on deck for the total transit beginning with a small wait behind the breakwater in the Caribbean Sea at 5.30 am and reaching Pacific waters at 5pm.

## **BUNNINGS BBQ RESULT**

**We had a very successful BBQ at Bunnings on Saturday before the Changeover, gross result nearly \$1500 with a nett result of \$1200. Thank you to John Stuhmcke, Tony Todd, Phil Smith, Richard Harris, Bill Michel, Ed Parker and Chris Bartlett for an outstanding effort. Next Bunnings Saturday September 3 2017**