

## Bulletin 1 - 30 June 2022

### CLUB CHANGEOVER.



A wonderful night of reflection and celebration was enjoyed by 40 Rotarians and guests to welcome incoming president Robert Mitchell and his board and to recognise the achievements of immediate past president Doug Craike and his board. Distinguished guests Area Governor Pam Wellham, Port Stephens Mayor Ryan Palmer and Rotarians from Salamander Bay, partners and community guests joined our members for the celebration.



PP Peter McBean proposed the toast to Rotary International with the response to the toast made by DG Amanda Roach's representative PGD Don Whatham. Don also read DG Amanda's message which highlighted the district and club achievements and progress with the amalgamation of our D9670 with D9650 to become D9660 from 1 July 2022.

President Doug reported on his year of service. The highlights included connections being formed with Tomaree Community Hospital Auxiliary, Country Women's Association, Karuah Progress Association & Karuah Mission, Koala Rescue Port Stephens, Yaccaba Women's Refuge Centre (including \$500 monthly donations totalling \$6000), Soldiers Point

Marina and the Dragon boat Club. Completed community projects were refurbishment of the community sign on Nelson Bay Road, Gan Gan lookout maintenance and gardening, binoculars – ongoing maintenance and repairs including collection of money, Yaccaba Centre maintenance, including gardening, yard maintenance electrical, carpentry, painting, Isaac Charles attendance at National Youth Science Forum, Roadwhyz program conducted





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for three local secondary schools, Anzac Day books presented to all local schools, books presentation “I am Awesome” to all local school libraries, citizenship award donation to local schools for Presentation Days. The program titled “Natalie needs the Lymelight” which provided support and help to Natalie Hain a Lyme disease sufferer was concluded. Donations were made by our club, members, Rotarians and members of the public and the proceeds used to assist Natalie’s treatment. The Centenary of Rotary in Australia commenced in the previous year was also concluded. This included the “End Trachoma” project and tree planting and landscaping at Tom O’Dwyer Oval. Donations totalling \$36,596 were made towards these projects and the Rotary Foundation, ShelterBox, Australian Rotary Health and \$10,000 to the Northern Rivers Flood relief. A new project commenced and funded (\$30,000) is the Reflective/Palliative care garden at Tomaree Hospital.



A highlight of the evening was the presentation by President Doug of a Paul Harris Fellowship to Youth Service Director Lesley Freeman. Lesley has been an outstanding member of our club after transferring to us from the Rotary Club of Kenthurst where she was a member for 4 years. Lesley is always one of the first to volunteer for service projects and rarely misses a Bunnings barbeque. She has organised very successful Roadwhyz projects for the local secondary schools, liaised closely with all schools and encouraged the involvement of local youth in all Rotary Youth programs. In addition to Rotary service Lesley provides service to Port Stephens koalas, is a member of Probus, and was instrumental in establishing the Port Stephens Dragon Boat Club. Lesley is a most worthy recipient of a PHF.

President Doug presented retiring secretary Chris Bartlett with a certificate of merit awarded to him by Australian Rotary Health for his years of service as District Representative for ARH. Doug commented on Chris’s many years of outstanding service to our club. Chris is having a break from Rotary for health reasons. Chris has been involved in almost every aspect of club service including his role as club president in 2014-15. A legacy of Chris’s service to our club is the exercise trail which was erected during his year as president. His work in fund raising particularly by coordinating our participation in Bunnings barbeques is much appreciated by all. Chris was also active at District level serving as Assistant Governor and on the D9670 management committee. We wish Chris all the best.



President Doug presented Emeritus Member Certificates on behalf of DG Amanda Roach to the members of our Club who have served 30 or more years of service in Rotary. Certificates were presented to Jim Booth (33 years), Ian Brigden (41 years), Peter Buckley (35 years), Geoff Diemar (33 years), Peter McBean (34 years), Bill Michel (35 years), Ian Rolfe (66 years), John Stuhmcke (45 years), Richard Turner (48 years) and Don Whatham (36 years).



Val Morris presented the Rip Van Winkle Cup on behalf of her late partner John Crump. The cup is awarded annually to a member who has participated significantly in providing fellowship and good will. John, who was awarded the cup last year shortly before his death, was most appreciative of all that President Doug had provided him and fellow members as a friend and colleague in Rotary.



President Doug’s last formal task was to thank members of his board for their support and service during the year. Doug thanked his wife Jenny for her wonderful support. President Doug thanked Jenny and Sue Williams for their

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work in decorating and setting up the room for such an enjoyable change over function. He closed the proceedings with his usual wish for kindness and peace in the world.

Incoming President Robert stated that he felt very honoured to be elected President of the Rotary Club of Nelson Bay. Robert's introduction to Rotary was through his father a former President of the Newcastle West Club. Later his own induction to Rotary followed his late wife Judy being charter president of the Maitland Sunrise Club. When Judy and Robert moved to Nelson Bay and Judy became president of our club Robert joined her as a member.

Robert acknowledged that our club faced challenges particularly with recruiting members and the need to raise funds to complete projects. He has some good ideas for fellowship starting with a visit to Luskintyre Airport and the Vineyards on 21 July. He plans to work closely with the Salamander Bay Club with joint projects and social events. Robert quoted the words of incoming International Rotary President Jennifer Jones, *"Imagine, a world that deserves our best, where we get up each day knowing that we can make a difference."*

Robert stated that at 83 years of age he had become the oldest president of our club.



### BOARD ROTARY CLUB OF NELSON BAY - 2022 – 2023

L to R: President Robert Mitchell, Vocational Service Ella Clarke, Youth Service Lesley Freeman, Vice President/International Service Don Whatham, Treasurer Geoff Diemar, Secretary Helen Ryan, Club Administration John Croyley, IPP/Special Projects Doug Craike.

### CLUB COMMITTEES - 2022 – 2023.

VOCATIONAL: Ella Clarke, Peter McBean, Brian Comley. INTERNATIONAL: Don Whatham, Richard Turner. YOUTH: Lesley Freeman, Ian Brigden, Jim Booth. COMMUNITY: Dieter Greiter, David Clark, Peter Page, Geoff Robinson. CLUB: John Croyley, Phill Smith, Ian Brigden. SPECIAL PROJECTS: Doug Craike, Warwick Mathieson, John Stuhmcke, Doug Bairstow. PHOTOS: Henk Tobbe, Phill Smith. SERGEANT: Warwick Mathieson

**NEXT MEETING** – Club Assembly - Apologies/ Extras to 0401 450 239 by 12 Noon Wednesday.

**Door:** Jim Booth. **Meet & Greet:** David Clark. **Grace:** Ian Brigden. **Photos:** Phill Smith. **Binoculars:** Dieter Greiter  
**Ladies Dinner** in the Club Bistro – Please contact Fiona - 0414 955 296.



### Rotary Club of Nelson Bay – as presented by Richard Turner.



The Rotary Club of Nelson Bay was sponsored by the Rotary Club of Raymond Terrace and the charter was presented to the club by then D.G. Dale Fayle on 8th March 1956. Two hundred and thirty-seven Rotarians, Rotaryannes and guests from throughout NSW were present at the charter dinner which was recorded at the time as one of the most memorable Rotary functions ever held in the then District 32. There were twenty charter members and their classifications included taxi services, pharmacy, hotels, drapery retailing, milk retailing, physician, radio service and motion pictures. The charter president Len Randall was the proprietor of the historic Shoal Bay Country Club where the club held its meetings for some twenty- nine years.

Foundation member Loftus Chalmers had the foresight to research and then record the club's history from 1956 up until 1981 following which the history is updated annually. The valued history books reveal the club was involved in the instigation and provision of many service and community projects, some continue to benefit

the community today. One of the clubs most notable service projects was instigated by charter president Len Randall on the 9 May 1956 being just nine weeks after the club's charter on the 8 March. President Len offered a fortnights accommodation, free of charge for twenty crippled children and their carers at his Country Club Hotel provided Nelson Bay Rotarians undertook to entertain the children during their visit. This project which epitomised the objectives of Rotary ran each and every year for an incredible twenty-nine years up until 1985. The clubs first community service project involved the construction of change rooms and facilities on the foreshore at Nelson Bay. Records show the club has, on an ongoing basis continued to enhance and maintain local facilities to the benefit of not only local residents but for the thousands of domestic and international tourists who visit Port Stephens each year.

Other early projects include the building of scouts and girl guides halls, assistance in the formation and development of surf clubs, marine rescue and the formation of the then Police Boys Club. In addition to this the club has assisted numerous charities, community groups and individuals on the peninsular over the last sixty-five years.

The club's identity as a casual club is graciously accepted as the club prides itself on fellowship and indeed over the years was on several occasions awarded the Reg Drayton Trophy for Fellowship. Coupled with the club's reputation for fellowship it also has a record of being actively involved in all five avenues of Rotary service. The annual golf day has over the years raised on average some \$25000.00 and combined with further fund-raising helps identify the club as a very progressive and productive club. During the last three years the club has provided \$30,000.00 through the HMRI to E.N.T Associate Professor Kelvin Kong for his research into providing E.N.T. Telehealth to children in remote areas of Australia. On the local scene the club is currently making a positive contribution to the Yacaaba Centre being a Women in Crisis Support Centre. On the international scene the club was in January 2021 again acknowledged for its considerable contribution to Rotary Foundation. In relation to Youth Service the club is now in its twenty second year of supplying driver training and advice to year eleven students from three local high schools and the R.I. Centenary Scholarship fund provides the opportunity for local students to advance their studies within their chosen field. The RCNB boasts three District Governors each of whom hosted their district conferences at Nelson Bay. As is the case with most club's membership has varied over the years with Nelson Bay fluctuating between 20 members at its charter in 1956 to 62 members in August 2014. Currently the club has 22 active members.

### COMING EVENTS.

Wednesday 6 July: Board Meeting at Robert Mitchell's home.

Thursday 7 July: Club Assembly & Ladies Dinner Bistro.

Tuesday 19 July: District Governor Neville Parsons Official Visit - this will be a combined meeting with the Rotary Club of Salamander Bay in the Crow's Nest Room.

Thursday 21 July: Luskintyre Airport and Vineyards Visit.

### CHECK YOUR ROTARY MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION.

District Technical Chair Colin Shanks sent an email to every district Rotarian on Tuesday 28 June 2022. You should refer to this email and follow the instructions to access your Rotary data. Please check this carefully. Our new district 9660 has changed its operating system from ClubRunner to DACdb. It is important that each members information is confirmed.



