



VOCATIONAL VISIT TO BROUGHTON ISLAND.

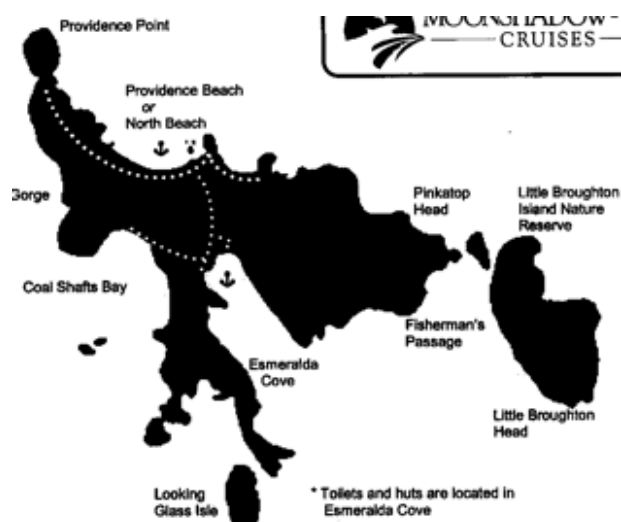
Following the presentation to our club by Suzanne Callahan from the National Parks and Wildlife Service 3 weeks ago Club Service Director Phill Smith arranged a trip to Broughton Island to check all the wonderful features Suzanne so graphically described. Phill planned the COVID safe arrangements aboard the spacious and comfortable Moonshadow Spirit of Port. Phill also arranged for our club friend John Clarke to accompany us. John passed on his vast knowledge of the history and ecology of the island during the all-day visit. We left d'Albora pier at 10am in a fairly heavy swell before reaching the island 90 minutes later. The skies cleared and we enjoyed a warm pleasant excursion. During the cruise we saw lots of dolphin and even some whales on the much smoother return trip.

Broughton Island is 16 Km east of Port Stephens. It is part of the Myall Lakes National Park and is managed by the Department of Environment and Climate Change (formerly NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service). The island is the top of a bedrock hill, on the inner side of the continental shelf, and is composed of volcanic rock that is 330million years old.

Broughton Island is 2.5km long from Providence Point to Pinkatop Head and 0.5km wide from Providence Beach to Esmeralda Cove. It is fairly flat with the highest point rising 89m above seal level. The island is covered with grasses, shrubs, ferns and very few trees.

Broughton Island had its first European recording by Captain Cook in 1770 and was named in honour of Captain William Broughton who chartered the island in 1795 during his exploration voyage of the Pacific. The local Worimi Aborigines frequented the island where they fished the surrounding waters. Middens and stone grinding sites indicate Aboriginal occupancy of the island for perhaps thousands of years. By the late 1890's Greek fishermen and their families built huts at Esmeralda Cove and hunted lobster and fish.

Rabbits were introduced in 1900's by scientists doing testing, and rats made it to the island by 1930s and had a devastating effect on the whole ecology. Rabbits, rats and mice have been eradicated from the island by NPWS in a program commencing in 2009. The natural heritage on the island is very rich with over 130 species of plants, skinks, snakes, frogs and of course the bird life for which the island is renowned. Wedge tailed shearwater and Gould's petrels have been breeding on Broughton and other islands nearby like Cabbage Tree island.



VALE BILL BROWN



Honorary member and long serving member Bill Brown died last Thursday after a long illness. Bill a former electrical engineer joined the Rotary Club of Newcastle North as a charter member of that club in 1973. Bill was a Past President and PHF of the Newcastle North Club.



On retirement Bill and Beryl moved to Salamander Bay and Bill was inducted into our club on 1 July 1991. Here he became a very active member and Bill and Beryl participated in every capacity in our club's service and social events. Bill was our bulletin editor in 1995/6 and 1996/7 and was the first editor to introduce electronic production to the bulletin. As club historian Bill was responsible for the editing and publication of the first editions of our club history. "Towards the Next Millennium" (club history from our charter in 1956 to 2000) was released in 2000. The next publication the "First 50 Years" was released at our club's 50th anniversary in 2006. Finally, he worked with Richard Turner to complete our third volume of club history titled "Three Score Years". Bill is pictured with Richard at the book launch.

Bill was made an honorary member of our club following his retirement from Rotary on 30 June 2011 and was awarded a PHF for his service to our club particularly in the role as historian. Bill and Beryl are pictured on the night Bill received his PHF. Our club presented some nice flowers to Beryl. Our sincerest sympathy is expressed to Beryl and family.

NEXT WEEK'S MEETING – At the Bowling Club – Guest speaker will be Ian Nowaki whose topic will be "My time in the pit with Peter Brock".

Option also to attend in a virtual sense via Zoom if you prefer.

Phill Smith has attendees recorded unless a change is necessary then please advise him.
Rotary Phone 0401 450 239.

Next weeks roster: Door Lesley Freeman & Peter Page. Introduce Speaker: Phill Smith. Thank speaker: John Stuhmcke. Bulletin: John Cropley. Binoculars: Lesley Freeman & Arja Levonpera.

Birthdays: 23 Sep: Julie Tolliday. 26 Sep: Peter Page. 27 Sep: Doug Melhuish. 29 Sep: Dieter Greiter.

Anniversary: 21 Sep: Ian & Phyllis McIver.

BROUGHTON ISLAND IN PHOTOS - Thank you to Henk Tobbe.









