

Bulletin # 17 from 22nd of October 2020

Ray Clarke Discussing aspects of Climate Change



Ray Clarke was introduced by Phil Smith who outlined the past career of our speaker tonight, who has a background in I.T. and is now running a consultancy in risk management. Ray has a masters degree in risk management and looks at lots of disasters where climate change factors are an influence: including extreme weather patterns, changing geographical conditions and rising sea levels. In making some discussion of this topic it is good to start with a definition. Ray chose this definition from 1992 UNFCCC that, "Climate Change is those changes attributable to human activity either directly or indirectly which alters the composition of the global atmosphere, and which is additional to natural climate variability observed over comparable time periods." Without making too finer point of the matter this effect relates to pollution of the atmosphere.

The Earth's atmosphere is as temperate as it is, due to the Greenhouse Effect so it is not all bad. Gases in the atmosphere absorb and reflect heat back into our closed system. In fact without the heat being trapped within the upper atmosphere the surface temperature on Earth would be -30 C.

Ray tried not to bring in too many statistics but was able to list the various Greenhouse gases and their effect. Referencing back to CO₂ itself the newer emissions of Fluorocarbons and Sulphur hydrofluorates have greater effects and are significant even though the percentage of them in the atmosphere is lower. CO₂ emissions in some countries are now steady or declining but other Greenhouse gases are increasing. Ray then went on to reference the levels of emissions from countries around the world. China is the biggest producer but also is still classified as a developing nation and has a less strict protocols. Australia is a leading country in methane emissions.

The matter is complex but theoretically developed nations could assist emerging nations to meet targets, but this is unlikely when economic circumstances are tight, such as when a pandemic is gripping the world. Ray then encouraged people to provide their thoughts on the matter. The climate is changing so what should we do about this? Some great ideas were raised without one answer. Perhaps the small changes of individuals may lead to some bigger results.

In this Bulletin:

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Birthdays

Terry Fitzsimmons 23rd of October

Partners

Mary Michel 28th of October
Jenny Shaw 1st of November
Lynn Booth 4th

Anniversaries

None this week

Winners this week

H& T: Spinner Doug cleared out the players.
Raffle: Lucky Lesley after only one draw by the efficient barrel attendant Bob M.

Next weeks

Topic: No speaker
Fellowship night. Several videos to be presented.

Club Duties

Door Duty: Judi Priestley
PDG Helen Ryan

Grace: Peter Page

Introduce Speaker N/R
Thank Speaker N/R

Bulletin : Chris Bartlett

Binoculars Roster: Doug Craike and Chris Bartlett

Meeting is at the Bowling Club, Crows Nest Room Next week. The option to attend in via Zoom is available. Phil Smith has attendees recorded unless a change is necessary, then please advise him.

Hats on display for Australian Rotary Health



Tonight there were a few different head covers to view, some creative, and others taken from gardening duties

And the Winners are.....

John Stuhmcke for a very Australian hat
Judi Priestley for a very Rotary hat.
Phil Smith for a creative solar powered hat.
David Clarke for his bucket hat from Boorowa.

Prizes were distributed to winners but due to the nature of them, they did not receive approval from the dental association.

Some people were caught out wearing the same hat from last year. Others just forgot a hat altogether but were happy to pay a fine in support of the cause.

The judges tonight were Ray and Susan.

The fine money was donated to the Australian Rotary Health Lift the Lid on Mental Health Day contributions.

Some funds were already donated by members during the COVID period in lieu of meeting contributions.

Chris Bartlett is the District ARH representative and the club has long been a supporter of ARHF. The lockdown conditions experienced throughout the country and other isolating factors during COVID suggest this work is extremely vital at present.





Gan Gan Panorama

Friday evening I enjoyed a walk up to Gan Gan Lookout with my daughter. When we got there the view was magnificent in the late afternoon light. The gardens surrounding the lookout were in pristine condition. The picture is included. A large family had just arrived before us and asked if we might take a couple of pictures for them at the summit. They mentioned how great they thought the set up was there without any knowledge of my connection to Rotary.

Trip Adviser and other travel sites rate it as a must do when visiting the area. The Destination Port Stephens mentions, “at a height of 160m it offers spectacular views from Newcastle in the south, to the Myall Lakes in the north.” What a wonderful thing for Rotary in Nelson Bay to be associated with Gan Gan lookout its refurbishment and maintenance.



Stop Press, Last Minute item:

Well surprise, surprise, another Bunnings BBQ this morning. Sunday 25th
A wonderful effort to organise 2 teams for morning and afternoon with minimal notice.