



Bulletin 20 – 16th Nov. 2023

Ruth Wilson: for the Love of Adventure



The speaker this week was Ruth Wilson on her love of adventure and extreme ballooning. Her fight to survive a marlin fishing accident in the waters near Byron Bay and that a pod of dolphins contributed to her rescue is the reason she is alive today. In NZ 1975 she found her destiny – hot air ballooning and became one of the early pioneers of hot air and gas (hydrogen) ballooning. She quickly established herself as a pioneer in this sport in Australia.

Since then, she achieved several firsts.

In 1976, she became the first female balloon pilot in Australia to establish her own commercial ballooning company. In 1979, she was crowned the first national female ballooning champion in Australia and won the championship again in 1982 and 1984.

In 1985 on a trip to Switzerland she encountered gas ballooning, this was not yet practiced in Australia at the time and became one of the few pilots in the world to master the art of gas ballooning. Ruth's love for extreme ballooning led her to compete in the prestigious Gordon Bennett Gas Balloon Race, considered the most challenging ballooning event globally.

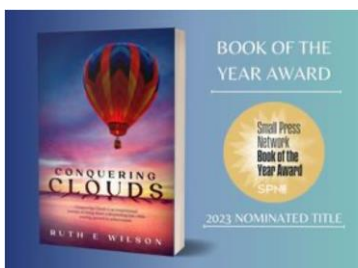
In 1999, she represented her country as a pilot in that race, launching from Albuquerque, USA.

Her passion for ballooning continued, and in 2018, piloted her gas balloon, 'Bernadette,' in the Gordon Bennett Gas Balloon race from Bern, Switzerland, alongside her co-pilot, on a gruelling 33-hour journey, battling the elements and navigating the treacherous Alpine mountainous terrain. After enduring a sleepless night with limited food and water, they successfully landed their balloon in an Italian vineyard, demonstrating their exceptional skill and determination.

Her life story is an inspiration of resilience, courage, and unwavering passion for exploring the skies.

Beyond her accomplishments in ballooning, Ruth is an accomplished author and has shared her story through her memoir "[Conquering Clouds](#)". ([click link](#))

and watch her fly video clip [HERE](#)



COMING EVENTS:

23rd Nov. E. Clarke trip to India

2nd Dec. BBQ (*check list*)

BIRTHDAYS:

30th Nov. D. Craike

ANNIVERSARIES:

18th Nov. Ella & John (53 years)

21st Nov. P & M McBean (59 years)

WINNERS:

H/T: P. Page (spinner)

RAFFLE: E. Clarke

MEMBER DUTIES

Door: L. Freeman

Grace: P. McBean

Toast: G. Robinson

Bulletin: J. Cropley

Photos: D. Greiter

Binoculars: Geoff

Coming Events

Bunnings BBQ, 2nd Dec. roster

Co-ordinator for the day John Stuhmke.
AM SHIFT 8.45am to 12.15pm
Peter Page, Lesley Freeman, John Stuhmke, Chris Bartlett

PM SHIFT 12.15pm to 4pm
Ian Brigden, Peter McBean, Judi Priestly, Geoff Diemar
Transport Geoff Diemar

As always, we thank in advance the above volunteers. We trust it will be another busy day.

23rd Nov. Stinker's book launch
Fingal Bay Sports Club @ 12:00pm
23rd Nov. Pres. Ella's trip to India
25th Nov. CWA BBQ
30th Nov. Dr. Emery Kertesz (asbestos disease expert)
2nd Nov. BBBQ see roster
7th Dec. AGM
14th Dec. Christmas Party
21st Dec. Informal BYO BBQ @ Dutchies
1st Jan. BBBQ
6th Jan. BBBQ
Club in recess (no meetings) 22nd Dec. – 18th Jan.

Visitors at the meeting:

Susan & Phil Horsfall from Anna Bay
(prospective new members)



Warwick participated again in this year's 10th annual charity "Postie Bike Dash" where they collectively raised \$385,000.

He will have more to say about this adventure at some other day in the future.



Thursday 14th Dec. @ 6:00pm

cost \$65.00 for 3 courses.

drinks extra.

Partners and guests are welcome

Please advise Lesley of your attendance (if not already done)
Please pay the dinner fee by EFT to our Club Acct.:

BSB: 637-000 Acc.: 78-101-7418



The Buoys Restaurant, Donald St. Nelson Bay with Modern European cuisine showcases the produce of Port Stephens, with seafood being the dominant feature on the menu.

Chef Navin Poon, born from humble beginnings in Nepal has become an internationally renowned Chef.

He spent part of his life working at various hotels internationally, including the world's most luxurious, the 7-star rating Burj Al Arab in Dubai. During his time in Dubai Navin won several competitions, including Young Chef of the Year Award in 2013 where he was a memorable 1st Runner Up. Throughout his career he has produced impeccable quality food for thousands of delighted guests and has now opened his own restaurant, bringing all his expertise and talent to Port Stephens.



The Rotary Club needs **YOU**

Thursday 7th Dec.

Club AGM

The President position is still open
Please consider any board position