



## Bulletin 21 of 23rd of November 2023

### Ella Clarke on 3 weeks in India



Ella had 3 weeks travelling in India and really enjoyed the experience despite the confronting scenes that greet you there. Ella was able to visit many splendid temples on the trip, but surveyed streets in which the houses were so rundown, it looked as if an earthquake had just hit them. Despite the condition of the houses, people lived amongst it, pitching tarpaulins with poles, and making patchwork repairs to keep things going.

In terms of loading vehicles, certain standards that we might assume would apply universally, don't apply in India. The loads were piled so high they were just below where they might fall or break.

New Buildings were scaffolded with bamboo sticks, while the workers hung off at alarming heights.

Despite the poverty everyone had a mobile phone. Companies supply them to everyone over 18, but the user must pay for service. Indians love a good festival it would seem, with many events over the time Ella was there, but sometimes even the guides were not sure what the celebration was about.

Ella travelled to Varanasi on the banks of the holy Ganges River.

Here she saw the practice in which bodies were cremated on funeral pyres and then the ashes spread into the sacred river. Bodies in some cases were openly displayed.

Cows and dogs were present in large numbers in India but most looked underweight. It was recommended not to pat the dogs because of the potential they carry rabies. Elephants and camels were also present but generally were owned by wealthier folk who could afford to feed them. An elephant will eat between 53 and 56 kgs of sugar cane per day. Women are gaining more status in India but around 80 % of marriages are still arranged marriages. Ella also saw a massive kitchen which feeds the local population and serves 100,000 meals per day for free.

Ella says she would like to go back to experience more of this country's incredible contrasts. She and her travel companion Dawn were both interested in textiles but found the factory tours were also combined with a fair bit of salesmanship.



### In this Bulletin:

1. President Ella's time in India
2. 3 minute talk and club information.

### Details for the week following our next weeks meeting Birthdays in November

Doug Craike on the 30th.

### Anniversary

Peter & Marianne Mc Bean on the 21st.

Heads & Tails: Lesley won this for a change and does not have to a 3 minute talk next week.

Raffle Winner: Jim Booth. No cards to be drawn until the new year

### Next meeting

30th of November  
Guest Speaker Dr Emery Kertez on Witanoom W.A. The town which was closed down due to Asbestos contamination.

Door: Doug Craike  
Grace: Peter Page  
Toast: David Clarke  
Intro Speaker; Richard Turner  
Thank Speaker: Ian Brigden  
Bulletin : Don Whatham  
Binoculars Geoff D.

### Important Dates

Bunnings BBQ on Saturday 2nd of December

AGM 7th OF December

### Christmas Party

This will be held on Thursday 14th of December at The Buoys Restaurant in Nelson Bay from 6pm.

Informal BBQ  
December 21st

### Christmas Party

Partners and Guests are welcome but please make payment to our club account BSB 637-000 Acc 78-101-7418. Cost is \$65 per head. If you have not already done so please advise Lesley of your attendance.

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## Report from The Meeting

Lesley gave us another 3 minute talk on the reason behind becoming seriously interested in bushwalking. It goes back to her days when she was a high school teacher in Sydney. The school she worked at provided the chance for students to do the Duke of Edinburgh Award, which involved hiking trips and overnight camping. Part of this course was training in map reading, and the use of a compass to head across country. The trips increased in duration and difficulty the more senior the students, and by year 11, a 4-5 day trip, averaging 18 km walking per day was completed. Her trips these days are not quite as arduous, but she still enjoys these bush excursions.

## Bunnings BBQ Update

Our BBQ coordinating team had a meeting with Bunnings this week to provide some feedback and also confirm some upcoming events.

We have our next Bunnings BBQ on Saturday December 2, with the Roster shown below. Lesley is the Coordinator for this BBQ not JS as shown.

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

On Thursday night December 7, Doug, Chris and Lesley have volunteered for the Bunnings Xmas Family function. Also thank you for others who offered assistance.

We then 2 BBQs in early January, New Year's Day and Saturday January 6th.

We have 4 volunteers for New Year's Day in Chris, Lesley, Geoff Robinson and Geoff Diemar.

The Roster for the 6th was published, however Coordinator Chris will confirm by email and phone.

The rest of The Roster will be released before Xmas.

We also agreed to a change with the Soldiers Point Lions, who have a special day Saturday March 2, therefore our scheduled BBQ has been transferred to Saturday March 9

We can now confirm Saturday June 1 2024 is our day to complete our 2023/24 BBQ programme.

## Rotary Supports CWA Fete

The CWA held a fete at their meeting hall in Gowrie Street in Nelson Bay on Saturday. Lesley, Chris and Doug provided a fine sausage sandwich, or bacon and egg roll, as an alternative to scones in the hall. A great chance for Rotary to be seen out in the community. The sales were busy early but then slowed down, but overall a profit was recorded. Thanks also to Ella who was on hand to lend some assistance.



## AGM- Positions Vacant

We need interest for our board committee, and for the role of president and secretary for 23-24. There will be support available for those who can take on the job. Otherwise we need to consider a different approach to running the club, or how we can sustain our meetings.