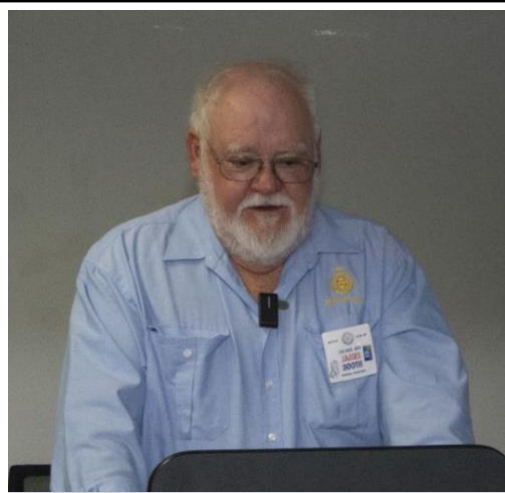




**Bulletin 23 – 1<sup>st</sup> Dec. 2022**

**Jim Booth's behind the badge**



**Our long-standing member Jim gave us an insight into his larrikin years.**

Shortly after being born on the 31/3/1945 his family moved to Rotorua/NZ. At the back of their house was a stream where he claims to have learned his fishing skills as a child. Some time later they returned to Oz and settled in Stockton which he regards as the best place to grow up, with surfing swimming, fishing and rugby sports, and the occasional gunpowder experiment. Several rugby sports injuries still plague him today. Newcastle Tech. High School was for his formal years. After the parental divorce, mother and siblings moved to Cessnock where he found employment in Electrical & Electronics as repairer in all kinds of domestic equipment including valve

TVs. As sole income earner he then landed a well-paid job in BHP and bought his first new Honda sports car at the age 19 years. As ambitious racing car driver he crashed it 3 days later, a write-off. He purchased another one and later won his first race as licensed racing car driver. After professional Honda tuning the car revved to 36,000rpm (from normal 10,000rpm) which gave it a top speed of 123Mph (200kmph), His physic (tall and stocky) was not ideal for a professional racing car driver, so his career ended shortly thereafter. A trip around Australia was planned with 3 mates in a 1960 VW with a trailer and 3 motorbikes. On their trip to Melbourne, they almost came to grief on downhill road when brakes failed due to overheating of break hubs, but his driving skills prevented a disaster in a switchback turn.

After he passed his Matriculation Cert. he decided against a University study. He met some French girls that joined him on the trip around Australia.

A sail from Melb. to NZ in a 23' yacht with tiller steering also nearly ended in disaster when they didn't see the sun for days and the only means of navigation was a compass, to the great amazement of the locals they found land after 9 days.

Following that, the European adventure began as a bus driver on a 15seater Transit Van with 14 passengers on very successful trips to North Africa which provided him with very interesting history lessons. After many bus trips around Europe, Scandinavia, Austria etc. he embarked on the last bus journey from London to South Africa.

Due to the various wars in these countries a route planning was difficult and ended up in Sudan to cross the Congo River on 17 canoes and eventually made it to South Africa.

Back in Australia he managed the Halifax Kiosk and ran the very successful Fishing Charter Kunara for many years until in 2017 the boat was destroyed by fire.

He was a privileged torch bearer in the 2000 Summer Olympics torch relay where he acquired a copy of the Olympic Torch he later donated to Bart Richardson as he felt that he was more entitled than him.

Jim's latest project is a steam driven boat he is building from a modified Japanese rescue boat.

**In this Bulletin:**

**Pg 2:** MHERV, BBQ, Rotary shed, Lesley's 3 min of fame  
**Pg 3:** AGM agenda

**Birthdays:**

09<sup>th</sup> Dec. P. Rolfe  
12<sup>th</sup> Dec. H. Comley

**Anniversaries:**

None

**Heads & Tails:**

D. Greiter

**Raffle/Joker poker:**

E. Brinkley

**Member Duties 8<sup>th</sup> Dec.**

**Door:**

Dieter Greiter

**Meet/Greet:**

Jim Booth

**Grace:**

Richard Turner

**Intro Guest speaker:**

n/a

**Thank Guest Speaker:**

n/a

**Bulletin:**

John Cropley

**Photos:**

Phill Smith

**Binos:**

Dieter Greiter



## Bunnings BBQ 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec. 2022



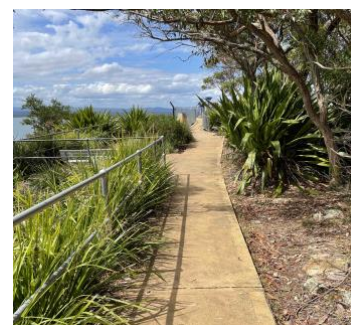
Again, a very successful Saturday's BBQ with beneficiary the **Central West NSW RAWKS flood Appeal**. The money raised from the Appeal will go directly and quickly to support those impacted, providing essential items and financial support where Disaster relief and insurance claims won't stretch or are delayed. With fine weather and plenty of satisfied customers, we realized a net profit of \$1,468.00 (incl. \$122.00 donations). The board will decide to top-up the amount at the next meeting. Members may wish to make a personal donation by informing Treasurer Geoff prior to Thursday. A few minor hick-ups, such as, out of gas just before peak hour were ably handled by coordinator Geoff. Extended thanks go to Peter Mc, Richard, Geoff and Dieter, Lesley, Erin, Ella and Chris for manning the barbeque and to Geoff for transport there and back and after the morning shift assisted the afternoon shift. Thanks also to Don, Doug C and John S for assistance with preparation etc. in the background.

### Rotary Shed & Gan Gan Lookout



The **carport** donated by Lesley has now been completed with roofing sheets fitted by Warwick & Geoff under the careful supervision of John Stuhmcke. The BBQ trailer now has a new home, freeing up space inside the shed.

**Gan-Gan Lookout** had a bit of a clean-up by the 4 Ds: Doug, David, Don & Dieter that gave the new Aldi Whipper-Snipper a good workout. More cleaning needs to be done at another day and a damaged fence panel now defaced with graffiti needs to be replaced



The **MHERV** van located at Bunnings carpark is proving to be a big success with a steady stream of people using the facility. Yesterday from 22 people (16 males 6 females) 17 tested OK *no problem*. 4 tested with cholesterol problem - *see your GP asap*. 1 tested with excessive Blood Pressure - *see your GP immediately, or the nearest Emergency Dep.*

Rotarians Bill (nurse) and partner Deb travel the state from Feb. – Dec. performing these often vital tests with men & women, their next stop Medowie

**Lesley's 3 min talk** Where I came from, am I now, I'm going. Born in Windsor hospital, lived in Richmond airbase Officer's barracks until tragic struck and her father was killed in aircraft accident. In Five Dock (a working-class suburb then) was their next home. For her 21<sup>st</sup> Birthday she bought a block of land, in what is now Canada Bay and built her 1<sup>st</sup> house in 1972. With profits from the sale, she invested in a house & land in West Pennant Hills, followed by acreage in Dural where she establish a cattery that turned out to be a 365day operation. Subsequently a move to Salt Ash was decided and a new project was commenced. All the homes she contracted and/or constructed by herself. Her final resting place is to be in Port Stephens with her latest purchase of 2 plots in Anna Bay Lawn Cemetery.

### AGM agenda for Thursday

1. Election of club officers for 2023 - 2024,
2. Presentation of the audited financial report for 2021-22.
3. Discussion of auditor role and appointment of auditor if this is the desired wish of the members.

Unfortunately, we will not be able to proceed with the adoption of the new constitution and by-laws as this process requires 21 day's notice of the meeting. A special meeting will need to be held at a date to be announced early next year. This is unfortunate and, of course, additional work. However, it is unavoidable as RI only made the new documents available this week instead of by October as in previous years. The AGM must be held prior to 31 December and requires a quorum of 33% of our membership, so please come along on Thursday if you are able. Thank you to Henk for advice in relation to the rules associated with these meetings.