

Bulletin 24 January 9 2020- the first of a new decade

A NEW DECADE BEGINS....

PRESIDENTS UPDATE

Our first meeting of the new decade was held at on Thursday night, with a small and enthusiastic number of members attending and welcomed by our hard working President Arja Levonpera, The fellowship enjoyed by members was good as was our meal. A number of announcement were made and are reported in this Bulletin, before Arja gave us an update for the last 4 weeks.

The Club has received a letter from Motor Neurone Research Institute thanking the Club for our donation of \$27,200 raised at the Judy Mitchell Memorial lunch held in November. The letter outlined how the money invested into Motor Neurone Disease research would be of great assistance as there is currently no known cure. Included in the letter was a note of thanks from the Executive Director Kathy Thomas congratulating the Club on their efforts in bringing hope to many MND patients. David Clark and his team did a fantastic job in organising this event, as previously acknowledged.

Arja reported Salamander Bay Rotary President, Gary Stanton had contacted her, with regards to working together if the Bushfires breakout in the local area.

The response to the District's request to provide short term accommodation for fire fighters was not strong, however members can advise the District coordinator if they wish to participate

A visit from the Men's Health Education Rural Van (MHERV) in March was highlighted. (See story Page 3 of this Issue)

President Arja provided members with an update on our 29th Annual Charity Golf day to be held in April. The major sponsors have been secured while 3 additional sponsors have also been gained. However there is much to be done, and in response to a request from Arja for additional assistance from members, only 2 club members have offered to help, which is rather poor. Some of the tasks are not difficult and would suit all members.



PRESIDENT BUSY

President Arja has been kept very busy with Club and fund raising matters over the past few months, showing excellent leadership skills and great participation in club events. With Bush fires and Drought appeals, regular fund raisers, plus all the preliminary work for our annual Charity Golf Day, it has been full on. In order to complete this Rotary year, it is hoped all members will support Arja and her hard working Board of Directors, to enable Arja to complete another successful year for the Club.

Peter McBean, organiser of the Club's Bush Fire Appeal Collection at Salamander Bay shopping centre earlier this week announced the results at our Club meeting. Full story, photo on Page 3 of this issue.



In this Bulletin:

Pg 2: Upcoming events, Bunnings update, photos

Pg3 Bushfire Appeal, other news

Pg 4: Charity Golf Day, Town Clock final wrap up

Birthdays this coming week: Jan 18 David Clark
Nov 19 Lesley Freeman
Anniversaries Jan 14
David & Vicki Clark

Heads and Tails: Our favourite coin Tosser, Doug Bairstow

Raffle – President Arja

Member Duties Jan16

Door: Kathy & Katrina

Meet/Greet: Helen Ryan

Loyal Toast: Phil Smith

Grace: John Stuhmcke

Intro Guest speaker:

Doug Melhuish

Thank Guest Speaker:

Narelle Melhuish

Bulletin: Don Whatham

Photos: Phil Smith/Chris B

Binos: DieterG and Doug C

Guest Speaker Debs

Carling, Helicopter pilot

sharing her experiences

particularly in the

Kimberleys WA. Partners

most welcome, please

advise John Crump

Next meeting – January 16th 2020

Apologies/Extras to John Crump by noon on Wednesday!

Ph 0401 450 239

UP COMING EVENTS

Wed Jan 15 Honorary & members morning tea at Evviva at 10am

Thursday Jan 16 Deb Carney- Helicopter pilot

Thurs Jan 23 John Turner

Saturday Jan 25 Bunnings BBQ

Thurs Jan 30 Club meeting

Sat Feb 1 and Sun Feb 2 Touch Football Tournament Nelson Bay



We had a first at Bunnings Boxing Day, our first all women team in charge at Bunnings. With Katrina, Lesley, Helen I and Kathy breaking new ground.

Our newer members Katrina, Helen and Doug Melhuish were introduced to Bunnings BBQ's over the Xmas/New Year period and did a fine job, with both Katrina and Doug showing their skills on the BBQ. President Arja and President elect Liz, preparing to serve Doug's delights on New Year's Day



David Clark cooking up a storm at last year's Touch Football fund raising weekend, which netted the Club in excess of \$6000.



BUNNINGS

warehouse

UPDATE

RECENT BUNNINGS

Family night Bunnings kindly donated their surplus stock of soft drinks, water, and bread, which reduced our costs over the Xmas/New Year period.

WE grossed over \$1100 from the Boxing Day/ New Year's Day BBQ's, plus \$90 from the Nelson donation "kennel".

The weather conditions were trying and so a big thank you to all the Volunteers who assisted. It was good to some of our newer members present, with Katrina, Helen I and Doug Melhuish. Katrina and Doug showed hidden talents on the BBQ. Thanks to who helped with the preparation and trailer pick up and return to shed. A good team effort. And of course the great job Doug Bairstow is doing. And a special thanks to Taylor Rimmer for helping out.

UP COMING EVENTS

Our next BBQ is Saturday January 25th, just before Australia Day. Our Friday BBQ in February has been transferred to a Sunday. More details next week. Volunteers will be required for both BBQ's, particularly the January 25 event

TOUCH FOOTBALL WEEKEND

This big weekend is just around the corner, the first weekend in February (1 and 2). As this is a two day event, we trust all available members will be able to assist. It's a financially strong weekend for the Club and the working conditions and friendly nature of the clients make this an enjoyable experience. Assistance will be also required on Friday morning in setting up the canteen. Milton is putting a small team together next week to finalise the organising of this event.



OUTSTANDING EFFORT RAISING FUNDS FOR BUSHFIRE VICTIMS

Peter McBean and his team of club members and honorary members completed an outstanding 3 day project of collecting money for victims of the recent bushfires. Peter announced at our Club meeting on Thursday night a total of **\$10,620.15** was raised for the Rotary Bushfire appeal through RAWCS.

Peter thanked the volunteers from the Club including Chelsea for her assistance with photos for the stand (above). He also personally thanked the Manager of Salamander Bay shopping for their generous support. Peter praised the efforts of the local community and the many visitors to the area, who were generous with their donations. One of the stall holders in the centre kindly donated his leftover stock which provided good leverage tool for the final shift of Peter and Don. A great effort Peter and all those members who assisted in this project. A PR release will be prepared in the next few days and sent to the local newspapers, recognising the Salamander Bay Shopping Centre, the community and visitors to our area. **WELL DONE PETER AND TEAM - OUTSTANDING EFFORT**

MHERV VAN TO VISIT NELSON BAY

District 9670's MHERV Van will be visiting Nelson Bay in March this year, following our Board approving the visit. MHERV (Men's Health Education Rural Van). Admin Director Liz friend will coordinate the visit. The Van has successfully visited Dungog and Raymond Terrace in recent months and will give local men the opportunity to have free health checks. The other visits have been very successful. District coordinator Adrian Payne sent the following information by Director Liz.

We would like to offer your club an opportunity to host the MHERV van in Nelson Bay on the 28th and 29th of March. Apart from providing a great service by giving local blokes a free check up, it also offers your club a great opportunity to wave the Rotary flag (see the attached schedule). The project has at 7th of December probably saved 262 lives. We know this because they were the ones who didn't know they had dangerously high blood pressure and were lucky they hadn't already suffered a serious heart attack. High blood pressure doesn't have any apparent symptoms!

I have attached a fair bit of information, but it isn't a huge job to be a host club, in a few places just one person has done all that's necessary, although many hands

More information will be published in future issues of the Bulletin. Thanks to Liz for her organisation

SHELTERBOX AND THE BUSHFIRES

Shelterbox Australia have been asked by many Rotary Clubs, with regards to providing Shelterboxes to bushfire victims. Shelterbox International cannot operate in any country in the world unless asked by the Government of that country. Below is an extract from an email from Shelterbox to their volunteers, received earlier in the week.

Hi everyone, I'm hoping anyone near to fires is keeping safe. I've been on to HQ in the last few days to find out if there was an updated response from ShelterBox regarding the bushfire situation in Australia. Although we are in a state of emergency in some areas, the Australian government has not called for international assistance and this is one of the main criteria in our decision to respond. Here's a bit more info from HQ below and I can assure they are watching the situation closely.

ShelterBox looked at responding in December and at that point decided a response wouldn't be appropriate due to the following factors:

- the extensive national response
- the context and high temperatures which would make our aid items particularly unsuitable
- the lack of request for international humanitarian assistance

The above has not changed despite the state of emergency in NSW, so it is unlikely that we would respond at this point in time, however we will continue to carefully monitor and understand whether there may be a place for ShelterBox aid.

DISTRICT CONFERENCE FAST APPROACHING, BOOKINGS STILL AVAILABLE, INCLUDING ACCOMODATION MARCH 18-19 BELMONT SALING CLUB. CHECK OUT THE DISTRICT WEBSITE FOR MORE

NEXT WEEK'S SPEAKER- DEBS CARLING

Debs Carling lives in Nelson Bay. She is a commercial helicopter pilot with endorsements to fly 5 different helicopters. Her various flying hats have included: Charter work, Shark Surveys, Firefighting, Flood Relief, Police Work, and Search and Rescue, as well as flying solo all around Australia delivering multiple helicopters to all sorts of weird and wonderful locations.

The most captivating time was when she was the senior pilot for a large helicopter company, up the top end of Australia. She refers to the vast, untouched landscape of Western Australia's Kimberley Region as 'quite literally a step back in time'.

Experiencing the most sensational parts of remote Australia through the freedom of weightless flight inspired her to write and publish two books of poetry: 'BLISS' and 'BLISS 2'. Both books probe and explore the power held within stillness.





29th Charity Golf Day

Friday 3rd April 2020

**NELSON BAY**
GOLF CLUB

4 PERSON AMBROSE EVENT

Great Prizes for winning & placed teams

PROCEEDS TOWARDS
HMRI: Assoc. Prof. Kelvin Kong for
more efficient Indigenous Ear Disease Diagnosis
PLUS DROUGHT & BUSHFIRE RELIEF

2 X HOLE-IN-ONES PROUDLY SPONSORED BY

**TOYOTA**
Maitland and Port Stephens Toyota

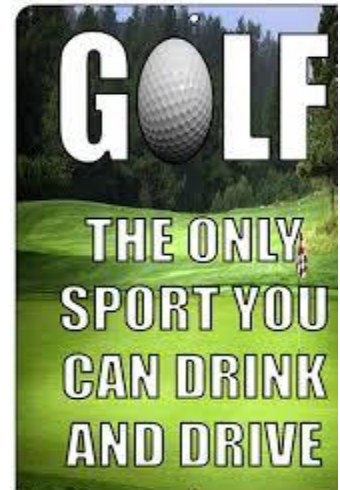
**HolidayWorld**
Discover the world one piece at a time



Registration: 9:00 am
Final Briefing: 10:00 am
Shot-Gun Start: 10:30 am
Prize, Presentation,
Raffle Draw and Silent
Auction: Approx. 3:30 pm



Registrations: www.nelsonbayrotary.org.au
Contact: Arja Levonpera
M: 0412 373 050 E: arja.levonpera@gmail.com



ASSISTANCE NEEDED

President Arja needs some assistance in organising this event. Despite a recent request only 2 members have volunteered to assist. This is our Club's annual fundraiser, any assistance makes a difference. Many of the tasks are simple, so please help make this event very successful

TOWN CLOCK/INFORMATION BOARD WRAP UP

A club milestone was reached on Wednesday afternoon, when the Nelson Bay Rotary Town Clock/Information Board was officially unveiled by Port Stephens Mayor Ryan Palmer.

The dedication was organised at short notice by Council, with a small enthusiastic group present to watch Mayor Ryan Palmer and Club President Arja officially unveil the Rotary Clock, after a project lasting seven years.

Among those present were representatives from Probus, Legacy, Nelson Bay Beautification Committee, the Chamber of Commerce and previous Club Presidents, Peter Clough, Chris Bartlett, Ann Evans, Kathy Rimmer and Arja Levonpera. Special guests were Bart Richardson's granddaughter Louise Ross and his great granddaughter Avanhna (3 years old and his great grandson Harrison 8 weeks old) and Louise's partner.

Port Stephens Council issued a press release last Thursday and included below is an extract from that media release

"The Rotary Club of Nelson Bay commenced negotiations with Port Stephens Council in 2012 after a suggestion from long serving Rotarian Bart Richardson, that Nelson Bay should have a town clock.

Several locations and various designs were discussed over the ensuing years, while funds were raised by Nelson Bay Rotary for this project, culminating in the current information board and digital clock being installed. Long serving member Richard Turner has liaised with Council over the past two years to ensure the completion of the Information Board and Clock.

2019/20 Nelson Bay Rotary Club President Arja Levonpera said it is great to see the completion of the Town Clock project. She said it was another example with Nelson Bay Rotary and the Port Stephens Council working together to provide the Community and the many visitors to Nelson Bay with a wonderful information source.

Ms Levonpera stated that while the Information Board was dedicated to Bart Richardson, who sadly passed away 3 years ago, she added the commitment to our local community by all those who have been members of Nelson Bay Rotary Club in the past 63 years is also recognised by this project.

There a few minor touches to be added to the Clock, however we are confident that Richard Turner will ensure these will happen. Thank you to those members who were able to attend at short notice, as a Project Neighbour was being held on the same afternoon. **NOTE This article was going to be published in the last Bulletin,(2019) however a technical glitch occurred. The PS Council PR article has been published in both local newspapers.**