

This week's Zoom meeting was attended by 15 member and guest Chris Walmsley (Ass. Area Gov.)

It was decided by consensus to resume our weekly meeting back at the NBBC, as most COVID restrictions for entry to the club premises have been waived and the tourist hordes have left town. Masks wearing, Social Distancing and QR Check-in with the Service NSW app still applies. Pres. Doug pointed out the Homelessness in our area has gone off-scale and the numbers have tripled in the last 12 mo. The PSFaNS have 20-50 applicants p/mo. currently 500 are seeking housing and they only have funding to assist families for about 350. Real Estate agents receive about 300 applications p/day for rental properties for 10 places on their books. The waiting time for social housing is +10years according to the Dept. of Com. & Justice. With many, even complete families living in tents and cars around the area. Many desperate employers are buying properties just that they can get employees. Doug suggested that something needs to be done. Suggestion by Warwick was to make the Tomarree Lodge into temporary emergency accommodation as it is now totally vacant.

Next meeting – 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb. back at the NBBC Dinner: mystery Menu Apologies/Extras to Club Phone by noon on Wednesday Ph.: 0401 450 239

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## Working Bee at the Yacaaba Centre

If you can spare a few hours, volunteers are required when: 7<sup>th</sup> Feb. @ 9:30 Please bring garden tools i.e. broom rake etc. Council kerb p/u is booked for 8<sup>th</sup> Feb. Bunnings has generously donated a new lawnmower for the centre. John's attempt to repair the old mower has only been a part success

Ass. AG Chris explained the RAWCS project of shelter bags.

The Rotary Club of Terrigal has sourced a batch of these bags from South Africa @ \$80 ea.

They roll up into a neat compact carry package

These are to be distributed to homeless persons living rough.

Chris gave a demonstration of the comfort of this bag.



Another pet project of Chris' is the 'Dignity Bag' for Children. Displaced children, often from domestic violence, arrive at foster homes or out of home care with nothing or only minimal items. The travel case of hope contains toys, clothing, sanitary items for girls, etc. appropriate to age.

Click <u>HERE</u> for a short video demonstrating such a travel case