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Guest speaker this evening was Dr. Samuel Wills, Department of Economics, Oxford University and to take up a senior position at the University of Sydney later this year. Sam is currently enjoying a break visiting family in his hometown of Hawks Nest. Sam is a financial economist. He has worked for the World Bank on resource policy in Iraq and Libya, and for the

International Growth Centre on policy in Ghana. His topic "Avoiding the Resource Curse: The economics of managing natural resources" outlined the need for careful management when countries discover natural resources like oil, coal or gold. Initially many countries rejoice - as if they have won the lottery. However, natural resources are difficult to manage and can be a curse for countries that own them - much like winning the lottery. Dr. Wills cited Nauru (where he lived briefly as a schoolboy) as an example. Nauru years ago, rich in phosphate made every resident equivalent to a current day millionaire. Financial mismanagement and the denudation of the rich resource turned the tiny island into a bankrupt almost 3rd world country. Examples through the ages right up to the current situation in Australia with the iron ore and coal resources were cited as further examples. Sam used the examples of countries that have suffered from the "natural resource curse" to outline the most recent evidence on what causes it, and discuss how policy-makers should respond. Issues such as the implementation of mining taxes to ensure ongoing and sustained benefits of a resources boom were amongst the strategies proposed.

Sam's presentation was quite outstanding. The presentation was balanced and impartial and gained the interest of all members. His presentation provoked many well-phrased questions which Sam addressed with authority.

Lady Luck:

Raffle winners jointly due to there being two 90's Henk Tobbe and Don Whatham. Heads and Tails won by Judy Mitchell.

Congratulations:

Birthdays:

3 Jan: Ed Parker

5 Jan: Helen Ryan

Wedding

Anniversary:

20 Jan: John & Yvonne Stuhmcke.

21 January: Geoff & Denise Diemar.

Next Week:

Fellowship and mystery night.

Door: Bart Richardson, Richard Harris.

Meet & Greet: Geoffrey Basser, Trish Parnell

Toast: Tim Ireland

Grace: Warwick Mathieson.

Introduce Speaker:

Mike Mobbs

Thank Speaker: Arja Levonpera

Bulletin: Chris Bartlett

Photos: Henk Tobbe.

Apologies/Extras: to Ros Cribb by noon on Wednesday Phone or Text to: 0401 450 239

Future Meetings - Program

14 January 2016: Club night.
21 January 2016: Ray Davies
28 January: Eddie Bergsma – Fingal Bay Surf Club.
4 February: Sue Xenos – Principal Tomaree High School
11 February 2015 - Club night.
18 February 2015 – Nelson Bay Water Police.
25 February 2016 - Eddie Perrine
3 March 2016 – Cancer Research Foundation.



OBE FOR ED PARKER

Popular club member Ed Parker celebrated his 80th birthday with a gathering of family and friends at Fingal Bay last Sunday. Tales of Ed's colourful career in the Church were shared and his academic achievements recognised, with the OBE added to his impressive list. His youngest daughter, Kirsty a merchant banker in London was present to celebrate the occasion. His wife Glennys certainly made sure no one went home hungry with custard delights a real treat.

BARBEQUES BOOST CLUB FUNDS

Thank you to the many members who volunteered for the three Bunnings BBQ's held on Boxing Day, New Year's Day and Sunday 3 January. A total net result of **\$1800** was added to the Club's Service account from these events.

Catering/BBQ team organisers John Stuhmcke and Chris Bartlett thank all those who assisted over this busy period, with a special mention to Doug Bairstow for his efforts in procurement and onions, despite a bout of ill health prior to Christmas.

Our next big event is **Australia Day**, while we have a Saturday Bunnings BBQ on **6 February**.

Our Club has received many compliments for our efforts in catering over the past couple of months, the money raised increased our revenue and will assist our community service projects.



2016 Conference Bookings - NOW OPEN!

The District Conference committee are pleased to announce that you can now register for the Conference being held at Mudgee 4-6 March 2016.

To secure your booking go to: <http://www.trybooking.com/157059>

Conference Tickets

General Tickets - \$139.

Under 30 Years old - \$109.

Conference tickets include: *Saturday conference, morning tea and lunch; Saturday night Conference dinner; Sunday conference, morning tea.*

Optional Extras - of course, all are recommended!

Thursday night BBQ - \$15.00 for the early arrivers!

Friday night Welcome - \$20.00 A casual night to meet friends, includes country style spit roast.

Saturday Night Dinner & Entertainment ONLY - \$50. For those NOT attending the conference, but the dinner only

Saturday Breakfast & Speaker - \$15.00

Sunday Breakfast & Speaker - \$15.00

Sunday - Takeaway Lunch (pre-order only) - \$16.00



**ROTARY CATERING AT WORK-
100.9FM XMAS PARTY**

Sunday 6 December our Club provided the manpower to cook a very nice lunch for 80 staff and guests at the Port Stephens 100.9FM Christmas Party. Ham, kebabs, sausages were the main fare cooked and served by Chris Bartlett, Doug Craike, Judi Priestley and John Stuhmcke, whilst President Ann mingled with guests. PSFM Chairman George Anderson presented President Ann with a \$200 donation which will be put towards an upcoming community project. Special thank you to Jenny Craike for her behind the scenes efforts. Rotary at work in our community.

HALF YEARLY SUBS NOW DUE – PLEASE PAY TO TREASURER RICHARD OR DIRECT TO CLUB ACCOUNT.



VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED.

This annual community event is conducted by the Rotary Club of Newcastle with the assistance of other clubs on the Newcastle Foreshore.

Rotary volunteers are required to act as marshalls (or other duties). Can you help? Please see Secretary Don. Or direct to PDG Tony McKenzie President RC of Newcastle (4929 1310). Help needed Saturday 13 Feb 2016 4pm to 9.30pm.

BARBEQUE DATES. (Please see Chris Bartlett or John Stuhmcke to volunteer)

SATURDAY 6 FEBRUARY

SATURDAY 26 March (Easter)

SUNDAY 25 APRIL (Anzac Day)

SUNDAY 12 JUNE



A published article from the Saturday 26 December 2015 edition of the Sydney Morning Herald by our guest speaker Dr. Sam Wills. The article demonstrated the wider spectrum of Sam's interests. This scanned copy may be difficult to read but magnifying your screen will make it easier to see. Editor Don.

