

Bulletin # 29 – 17th February 2022



Although only 14 members were in attendance this week, the meeting was full of information on and discussion about current projects.

President Doug updated members on work done at the Yacaaba Centre, and answered questions regarding the proposed “Reflection Garden” at the Tomaree Hospital – see separate articles.

He also advised members of the death of Rosemary Toscano – a volunteer and one of the founders of the Port Stephens Palliative Care Fundraising Committee. Rosemary was recognised in 2015 as a “Local Hero” by the Rotary Clubs of Nelson Bay and Salamander Bay for her continuous service to Palliative Care.

We also received news of the death of Jerry Dragejovic who will be known to some members as a Nelson Bay Rotarian in the late 1990s.

Phill Smith advised that with the easing of Covid restrictions he has now been able to re-commence booking speakers for our meetings.

In this Bulletin:

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Pg.4 Tomaree Hospital Reflective Garden – update

Pg.5 Damage at Gan Gan; Tom O’Dwyer Oval trees; A little timely humour.

Birthdays 19/2 -24/2

Feb 18 Debbie Brigden

Feb 18 John Stumchke

Anniversaries

None this week

Heads and Tails: Peter Page

Raffle: Chris Bartlett



Yacaaba Centre

On Wednesday Warwick, Doug, Phill and Chris (behind the camera) successfully removed a cupboard at the Yacaaba Centre. Easy enough one would think but the three sliding doors were full sheets of MDF – very dense , very heavy. No injuries were reported.

Next meeting

24 February

Door: Richard Turner

Grace: Milton Williams

Intro Speaker: BTB Erin Brinkley

Thank Speaker: Doug Bairstow

Bulletin: Don Whatham

Photos: Phill Smith

Next meeting – Club meeting with Erin Brinkley – Behind the Badge

Apologies/Extras by noon on Wednesday to

Ph 0401 450 239



Rosemary Toscano – Local Hero

Pictured in 2015 with Presidents Chris Bartlett and Leah Anderson receiving her acknowledgement as a Local Hero.

Rosemary was a committee member from 1993 and President for many years. Their first project was to fund the installation of two care rooms at Tomaree Hospital and over the years Rosemary helped raise more than \$250,000 to support these rooms and provide training for carers and nurses.

Invitation

In conjunction with Port Stephens Council, Port Stephens Women in Business, Business Port Stephens, and the NSW Government members are invited to attend this free presentation featuring Rotarian Michael McQueen at Medowie Golf Club on Wed 10th Mar. 11:30 to 1:30 Lunch included. RSVP by 28th February

For more information and to register go to:

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/change-is-the-new-normal-presented-by-michael-mcqueen-tickets-257682353857>

Small Business Month

Change is the new normal

WITH KEYNOTE SPEAKER MICHAEL MCQUEEN



A word from Warwick

In March I will be taking my favourite bow tie, suit and trusty postie bike on my 5th annual Variety Club Postie Bike Dash. This will be a week-long adventure around NSW to raise funds for Variety Club Children's Charity.

The Variety Club supports kids who are sick, disadvantaged or have special needs. In NSW, there are almost 200,000 kids who are facing financial hardship or are living with a disability. During our adventure we will visit 5 regional schools along the route to grant a range of much needed equipment and resources.

This year the ride starts at Mudgee. We then ride to Parkes, Yass, Tumut, Goulburn, Bathurst and back to Mudgee, about 1500km.

My ride is only made possible by the amazing support provided by sponsors. I ask that you consider sponsoring me on this ride.

If you feel you would like to assist me by becoming a sponsor, please go to my donation page:

<https://fundraise.varietynswact.org.au/fundraisers/warwickmathieson>

and for more about Variety go to:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CEzJMI9Swhk>



Gardeners Wanted

We have been asked through the Yacaaba Centre to assist with the clean-up and upkeep of the Women's Refuge Centre gardens. Given the circumstances, it is understandable that a group of ladies is preferred, and Erin Brinkley has agreed to lead the group. If you would like to join the team contact Erin on 0474 433109.

Wheelchair finds a new owner.

The electric wheelchair recently advertised has been given to a local man who suffered a stroke last year. Donated to Rotary several years ago it was used for several years by our late member Terry Fitzsimons. Surprisingly it took some time to find someone else with the need for it.



Upcoming meetings:

Feb 24 Erin Brinkley - Behind the Badge

Mar 3 Vocational to Geoff Diemar's Oyster Lease

Mar 10 Mel Turner Pres Business Port Stephens

Mar 17 David Creenaune - Port Stephens Suicide Prevention Group

April – Date to be confirmed. Prof Kelvin Kong – A special night when Professor Kong will fill us in on what has been achieved through the grant, we made to him for the treatment of indigenous children.

BBQ Rosters

Port Stephens Yacht Club

Sat 26th Feb **5AM to 7AM** Chris Bartlett, Milton Williams reserve Doug Craike

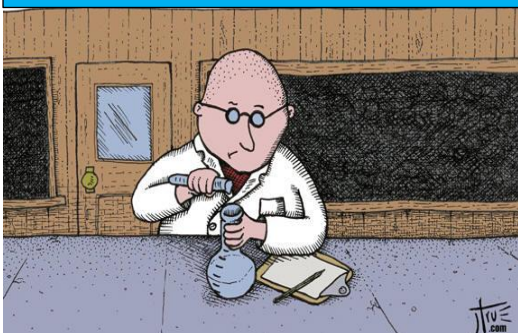
Sun 27th Feb **5AM to 7AM** Milton Williams, Phill Smith, reserve Chris Bartlett

Bunnings

Sun 27th Feb

AM Judi Priestley, Geoff Diemar, Don Whatham, Phill Smith

PM Lesley Freeman, Erin Brinkley, Milton Williams, Chris Bartlett



Science and Engineering Challenge 2022

28th March to 1st April.

Members are invited to assist with this event which is a very rewarding project to be involved in.

For further info see Lesley Freeman.

Tomaree Hospital Reflective Garden

Background:

NB Rotary members initiated a meeting with the Tomaree Hospital Auxiliary and asked them for their wish list - what they were looking/planning for the hospital. On the list was the garden. They were looking at transforming an area of land that adjoins the Palliative care rooms at the hospital. The area at present is dusty, overgrown, uneven and very uninviting. A meeting was held with the service manager of the hospital who is quite enthusiastic of the project and has obtained approval from NSW Health for the project to proceed.

The vision is to provide a quiet, peaceful area where patients, visitors and hospital staff can go to enjoy and reflect with the benefits of fresh air also.

The design of the garden would be subject to the final approval of Hunter Health with their recommendations (fit for purpose) and to that end professional landscaping plans including engineer's specifications and are to be provided to Hunter Health.

The cost of the project is presently being calculated and it is envisaged that we will allocate funds from this year's Golf Day towards the project.

We are also applying for various grants which if approved will cover the bulk of the cost.

The 4 stages are:

Stage 1: Initial planning and design

Stage 2: Final Approval of design by NSW Health, N Bay Rotary Board

Stage 3: Detailed Costing & Planning.

Stage 4: Construction to completion of garden

Payments so far:

Dream Design Scapes, to prepare drawings
\$850 (total cost \$4250)

Engineer Nick Diemar \$110

We have also received a quote (verbal) with written quote to follow from Johnson Earth-moving for earthworks retaining wall \$2500

Concrete blocks approx. 1M³, will provide the retaining wall and will be provided at a better than commercial cost by Geoff Diemar.

No work will commence until the whole job is costed, with appropriate approvals in place. It is intended to present the final plans to the club initially, then a presentation to other interested parties for funding.





The week of bad news continued with the discovery of vandal damage at Gan Gan Lookout. Protective railing looks to have been damaged by a vehicle and signs have been defaced and/or removed and thrown into the bush. Some damage may be recouped through insurance.

In more positive news, David Clark reports that the (Koala) Gum Trees planted at Tom O'Dwyer Oval alongside the PCYC are thriving. The trees were planted last year as part of the Club's contribution in celebrating 100 years of Rotary in Australia.



And finally, with the science and Engineering Challenge coming up.....



**WHY SCIENCE TEACHERS
SHOULD NOT BE GIVEN
PLAYGROUND DUTY**

