



BULLETIN 30 - 24 February 2022

BEHIND THE BADGE – ERIN BRINKLEY



Erin was born in the small town of Galien Michigan USA. She is the eldest of three sisters born into a very family orientated farming community in the small town of 600 residents. Galien, nestled in the corner of South-West Michigan is a rural community built on heritage, industry and community spirit. Michigan is a state of major industry in the USA and is the home state of Henry Ford and John Deere. The inland lakes system of which Lake Michigan is part contains 20% of the World's fresh water. The annual temperature range of Galien is -20 to 40 degrees Celsius. Erin spent her early life on a small farm where her parents had bees, grew corn, vegetables and fruit which she sold from a street side stall. Her father also raised hedgehogs

and llama. Erin and her sisters were encouraged to participate in community service from a young age and she was involved with scouts and guides gaining many life skills and a desire to assist others. Her first contact with Rotary was during middle school when she participated in the Rotary sponsored 5km charity fun run.

Erin completed a Physical Therapy Masters degree and travelled in the USA in 2005 completing locum work in her chosen field. During this time she met many like minded people and gained a desire to travel and serve others. She explored the opportunity to travel and work overseas including to London, Australia and New Zealand.

Her first overseas mission work was in Nigeria in 2008. Here she worked with other overseas volunteers and local Nigerians.

Erin's volunteer and humanitarian work includes Nigeria in 2008, Hope Summer Camp in China in 2012, the Dominican Republic in 2017 and Lebanon in 2019. She worked in her vocation of physiotherapy in Alaska for two years before working in New Zealand and then coming to Australia in 2020. Erin's first trip to Australia was a working holiday on a work visa in 2009. Erin joined us here in Port Stephens in 2020 and was inducted into our Rotary Club in 2021. Since joining Erin has been a very active worker in many of our projects and enjoyed Rotary fellowship with fellow members. Erin is

a member of Hash House harriers and sails with Port Stephens Yacht Club. She has participated in the Port Stephens Sister Cities Program and works at Hunter Physio. Erin has travelled to 62 countries and her next prospective volunteer project is planned for Palau.



LUCKY WINNERS:

H&T: Francoise Lescoffit

RAFFLE: Don Whatham

BIRTHDAYS:

2 March: Christine Smith

ANNIVERSARIES:

None this week.

DUTIES 3 March:

Speakers: Vocational visit to Geoff Diemar's Oyster lease.

Door and dinner fee: Warwick Mathieson

Speaker: Geoff Diemar

Thank Speaker: John Stuhmcke

Bulletin: John Cropley.

Photos: Phill Smith

Binoculars: Dieter Greiter

VISITING ROTARIAN – FRANCOISE LESCOFFIT.

We were pleased to welcome Francoise to our meeting. Francoise is a member of the Rotary Club of Paris



France. The club, the oldest in France is celebrating its 101st year is Rotary service this year. Meetings are held weekly at the Cercle De L'Union Interalliee with an average weekly attendance of 80 members. The club has 180 members and Francoise is the club secretary. Each of the weekly lunchtime meetings features a guest speaker. The Centenary celebrations of the club held last year had over 400 Rotarians, partners and guests celebrate the important event.

The Rotary Club of Paris has a heavy focus on health and youth programs. During COVID the club did a lot of work assisting health services and much work with youth.

Francoise is a former teacher and has been a Rotarian for 20 years. She has a son living in Corlette and working in Newcastle whom she is currently visiting. She has two grand

children living in Corlette. We hope Francoise will be able to visit our club on future occasions during her stay in Port Stephens.

COMING EVENTS.

Saturday 26 Feb: Catering PSYC 5am to 7am Milton & Chris.

Sunday 27 Feb: Catering PSYC Milton & Phill. Bunnings BBQ – AM: John, Don, Judi, Geoff, Phill. PM: Lesley, Erin, Milton, Chris.

Thursday 3 March: Vocational visit to Geoff Diemar's Oyster Lease. Bring a chair, eating utensils, plate and own drinks. Dinner supplied at usual meeting cost of \$25.

Thursday 3 March: Dinner Ladies in the Bistro at Nelson Bay Bowling Club. As this is the first Dinner Ladies event in some time we look for a large attendance. Please advise Fiona (0414 955 296).

Wednesday 9 March: Board meeting

Thursday 10 March: Mel Turner - President Business Port Stephens

Thursday 17 March: David Creenaune - Port Stephens Suicide Prevention Group

April – Date to be confirmed: Prof Kelvin Kong – A special night when Professor Kong updates his project.