



Bulletin 30 of 16th of February 2023



Guest speaker: Gerry Mohan

Closure of Bill King Aged Care Facility and issues facing the Aged Care Sector

Gerry has been a resident of Pt Stephens for 40 years and has been involved with Harbourside for 28 years . He is currently the board chairman.

Gerry gave an account of the issues which led to the closure of the Bill King Nursing Home Facility in Fingal. A number of factors had lead to this event, and in future if circumstances change the facility could be restored, the infrastructure is available to use as is required.

The Aged Care sector has been unstable for some time. Things changed when governments allowed “for profit” organisations to get into this industry. Organisations such as Regis, and BUPA now take 60% of the funding available from the Government. They provide facilities, but also must also answer to companies on the basis of profit.

A few issues that have impacted the industry were discussed. Negative press as the result of a few incidents occurring at aged care facilities but not necessarily indicative of all, created a feeling that there was better care elsewhere. A Royal Commission into aged care led to yet more accreditation standards being applied to already strict standards. COVID caused tremendous strain on all health care facilities and further resentment at restrictions to access. NDIS has provided tremendous amounts of money to allow services to be provided at home. Volunteers often lifted some of the burden on permanent staff but volunteer numbers have declined dramatically. Generally workers left the area, possibly due to the low morale created by constant negative talk, increasing regulations, and having to do more and more with less staff. Due to fewer permanent staff, the use of agency staff was increasingly needed, and the costs associated with this created a tremendous drain on funds.

The Bill King Facility is built on crown land. Going back, it was considered how this site might be developed, but with height restrictions in place, most options were not cost effective. It was decided to develop it as a nursing home and later it became specialised for used of dementia clients.

Aged Care funding relies on the beds filled and due to the combination of the difficulties mentioned, the numbers of clients fell. There were 20 vacant beds at Fingal, and 30 vacant beds at Harbourside. The way to move forward was to make a consolidation of the overall situation by closing Bill King Nursing Home and bringing all the available staff back to Harbourside. The staff have more flexibility in their working situation and the vacancy rate is low.

The whole Aged Care/ Medical situation is “complex” but needs sorting.....

In this Bulletin:

1. Closure of Bill King Nursing Home
2. Five minute talk, and announcements.

Details from 23rd of February to 2nd of March

Birthdays

John Shaw on Feb 23rd.
Jenny Craike on Feb 28th.

Anniversaries
None this week.

Heads and Tails

Peter Page won as spinner

Raffle Winner:

Gerry Mohan did not find the joker in the pack of cards. He deputised Jim Booth to talk for him for 3 minutes next week.

Next meeting

Last Meeting with Phil Smith and some final words from him.

Door Duty: Ella Clarke
Grace: Ian Brigden
Intro speaker ; Doug Craike
Thank speaker; Lesley Freeman
Bulletin: Don Whatham
Photos/Notes : John Cropley
Binoculars: Dieter G.

2nd of March.

BBQ meeting at Bobs Farm Hall
Presentation on Tomaree Museum and display of artefacts from Carroll collection.
BBQ meal \$25 a head. Numbers by next week 23rd Feb.
Partners welcome.

5 minute talk by Warwick

Mathieson

Warwick gave us some information about his father Fredrick Gordon Mathieson. Fred joined the army in August 1940, and in September 1940 was on his way to the Middle East on a troop ship. On the 14th of October he arrived at Pt Suez, and from there he worked as a truck driver transporting army equipment all over Palestine.

He went to Tobruk, then Greece and Crete. He came back to Australia via Fremantle, and from there to Adelaide, Victoria, NSW and up to Mt Isa. Through to the end of the war he worked in military transport in Australia. He married in 1944 and Warwick was born in 1949. He later was involved as a local leader in the CMF, Citizens Military Force. Warwick went as a child on some of the training exercises for this group which he said was great fun.

Warwick's father never knew his own father, but due to some research and making a few connections, he has been able to determine his grandfather was Harry Rigby who had worked at Stockton Hospital as a plumber in 1919.

Ironically Harry Rigby is buried only a couple of 100m away from where we the Club meets in the Nelson Bay Cemetery.



Rotary Club of Salamander Bay
invites you to our
International Women's Day Luncheon
Wednesday 8th March 2023
11.30am - 2.30pm
Guest Speaker Anne McDowell
As The Positivity and Transformation Specialist, Anne is a transformational mindset and attitude shifter, who coaches entrepreneurs, corporates and motivated individuals all over the world who are struggling with mindset, leadership, and bouncing back from life's challenges.
Soldiers Point Bowling Club
\$65 per person 2 course lunch 12 per table
Dress smart casual
<https://www.trybooking.com/1016250>
Raffle and all net proceeds donated to local charities
Performance by Hunter Women of Note Chorus
International Women's Day
#EmbraceEquity
RSVP Monday 27th February 2023
Any queries, please contact Rifa Murray 0414 663 801
Rotary Club of Salamander Bay

Announcements

1. The Next Bunnings BBQ is Saturday 4th of March. Please check the roster and make your own alternative arrangements if necessary. Don W. is the coordinator on that day.
2. Salamander Bay International Woman's Day is on Wednesday 8th of March. Lesley is coordinating a table, but bookings have to be made through the TRY Booking site associated with the day. Google it and book for "table 8" to be with other Nelson Bay members and partners.
3. Meeting 2nd of March. It is away from club at Bobs Farm Hall. Presentation on Tomaree Museum. Partners welcome. BBQ style meal. We need to know if you are coming by next weeks meeting.

Thought of the week:

People waste their time pondering whether the glass is half full, or half empty, others just drink what's in the glass.