

Bulletin No 32- March 2 2017

THE FORGOTTEN FLOTILLA

Dr Michael Bendon holds post-graduate qualifications in Archaeology, History, Maritime Archaeology, Education and Cultural Heritage.

He has worked for a great number of years as an archaeologist on numerous sites around the Mediterranean and Europe, including Israel, Portugal, Germany and Greece, with extended survey in Turkey, Syria and Jordan. Michael first started as a field archaeologist in Israel before moving briefly to Portugal, and then on to directing a Medieval church and cemetery excavation in Northern Germany.



More recently, he has been assisting a colleague with investigations on Phalasarna, a large Classical/Hellenistic maritime city in Western Crete, as well as working on the excavation of the first Minoan shipwreck to be discovered. His most recent research has revolved around two British WWII wrecks located off shore from the ancient Phalasarna site.

This is not a story of the big ships or those with names, but rather of some smaller ships allocated only numbers. This is the tale of a group of “minor war vessels” and their crews that it seems history has overlooked, the *Forgotten Flotilla*.

The Tank Landing Craft, the TLC Mk1 (“A” lighter), at the time of its development, was a new type of craft. Their real, and often unexpected, battle capabilities had yet to be tested. A Sub-Lieutenant from the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve (RNVR), or perhaps only a Royal Navy (RN) Boatswain, skippered these ‘experimental’ vessels into the struggle in the Middle East.

Without the TLCs’ participation, a great number of Allied operations of World War Two would not have proved as successful. One such operation was *Demon*, the evacuation of British and ANZAC troops from mainland Greece in 1941.

Most exploits of the TLC Mk1s and their crews rated only a short and generally unspecific, mention in reports. At times though, designation numbers were included within a reference in the Admiralty documents or the War Diaries. This has enabled tracking of a certain vessel’s involvement in a particular event. Although there are a number of gaps that cannot yet, and may never, be filled in for the vessels, their ‘life history’ is reconstructed here. **Continued Page 2**

In this Bulletin:

Pages 2, 3, 4, 5 - More news, photos, Peace Scholar update Bart story, new fridge, “Monet” Mitchell, District Conference Brief.

Birthdays this coming week: Mar 02

Christine Smith

08 Jenny Turner

Anniversaries Nil

Heads and Tails: Ella Clarke

Raffle: Larry McGrath

Member Duties 19th January 2017

Door: Richard Harris/Mike Jenkins

Meet/Greet: Arja Levonpera, Warwick Mathieson

Loyal Toast: Larry McGrath

Grace: Ian McIver

Intro Guest speaker: N/A

Thank Guest Speaker: N/A

Bulletin: Chris Bartlett

Photographer Henk Tobbe

Guest Speaker Club

Meeting- Directors Reports

FORGOTTEN FLOTILLA CONTINUED

PEACE SCHOLAR UPDATE

Our Club and the District received an update from our Peace Scholar, Shannon Longhurst, which is printed below. Shannon is District 9670's first ever Peace Scholar and of course was nominated by Nelson Bay Rotary Club, in 2016. We look forward to hearing more.



Just wanted to email with a quick update to let you know that I have now received my formal acceptance to enrol in a M.A. in Global Studies at the University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill (<http://globalstudies.unc.edu/masters/>)

I am really looking forward to meeting the other Peace Fellows and commencing my studies in August 2017. It is a 21 month program, which runs until May 2019.

Thanks again for all of your personal support throughout this process, as well as the broader support of the Rotary District and the Nelson Bay Rotary Club. I have really appreciated all of your assistance.

Kind Regards,
Shannon

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This book presents a more detailed approach to these first Tank Landing Craft and their heroic crews than has been previously published. Michael's extended presentation was interesting and he was thanked by Dieter Greiter.



To have the opportunity to study abroad is a life-changing experience. The Rotary Youth Exchange Program provides this opportunity.

If you are in year 9, 10 or 11 an opportunity for a Rotary Youth Exchange in 2018 is possible. Secondary school placements are available in many countries of the world.

An Information Session will be held at Nelson Bay Bowling Club, Stockton Street, Nelson Bay on **Tuesday 14th March 2017 starting at 6:30pm.** In conjunction with The Rotary Club of Nelson Bay.

Further information is available from:

The Chairman YEP
Denise Parkes
464 Fords Road
Limeburners Creek. NSW 2324
mob: 0417 263 303
www.youthexchange.net.au



Very Welcome Guests at this week's meeting were East Maitland Rotary Club members Wolf Sturmer, Joan Latter, Carol Coffey and DGN Brian Coffey. Wolf was one of the major prize winner of our Long Lunch Raffle, where they secured a weeklong stay in God's Country. Apart from his role as DGN, Brian is District Chair of RAWCS. Good to see you all.

APOLGOAPOLOGIES & EXTRAS TO JOHN CRUMP BY NOON
WEDNESDAY'S PLEASE –PHONE OR SMS 0401 450 289- THANK YOU

ROTARY VOLUNTEERS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

New addition to "the Shed" Fridge/freezer makes a difference



We have a new addition to the shed, with a very flash 2 door fridge freezer (second hand) delivered last week. A big thank you to President Judy and Director Bob Mitchell for organising this kind donation from one of their Shoal Bay neighbours, who had a new fridge/freezer delivered last week. Well spotted and Thank YOU.



BART PUTS THE BOOKS AWAY AT 97.

Members may have read in 1st week's Examiner that our very own Bart has put the books away after many years as a Volunteer Rotary reader at Shoal Bay Primary School. Both Bart and the kids enjoyed this weekly visit and proved you are never too old to Volunteer. However Bart's hearing is not up to his high standards so, reluctantly he gracefully stepped down.

Our Club provides members and community volunteers at three Primary schools, Shoal Bay, Tomaree and Anna Bay and we are always looking for additional Volunteers. It's only an hour per week during school terms and is a most rewarding experience.

If you or someone you know can spare an hour please advise DGE Helen in the first instance. And Well Done Bart. As members know Bart hasn't been 100% of late and we all wish him well.



Larry McGrath and Sgt Warwick do their thing at this night's meeting. Larry won the raffle, with luck on his side.

The next Couple of Weeks....

Date Speaker Topic

8 March Club Board Meeting

9 March "Club Meeting"

16 March "Kurt Purkiss" "Superannuation"

17-19 District Conference –Dubbo

17 March Bunnings BBQ- Leukaemia Foundation

23 March "Neil Flowers" "Windmills"

30 March "Maitland Art Gallery

6 April Sean Mahoney -Chiropractor



‘MONET’ MITCHELL’S HIDDEN TALENT

Our Club Membership Director, Robert “Monet” Mitchell displayed a hidden talent over the last week or so. Following a request from DGE Helen, about the state of the Rotary sign in Rotary Park, Fly Point a number of members took this project on Board. Secretary Don and VP John trimmed the trees and prepared the sign for painting. “Monet” then showed his talent with a paint brush give the sign a much need coat of paint, in the approved Rotary colour of course.



This small project is another example of the “unsung Hero role” that our members perform from time to time. It was a job well done and the improvements have been noticed by members of the public already. Thank you Monet, Don and VP John

FRIDAY FUNNIES

A lady goes to the bar on a cruise and orders a Scotch with two drops of water.

As the bartender gives her the drink she says 'I'm on this cruise to celebrate my 80th birthday and it's today.'

The bartender says 'Well, since it's your birthday, I'll buy you a drink. In fact, this one is on me.'

As the woman finishes her drink the woman to her right says 'I would like to buy you a drink, too.' The old woman says 'Thank you. Bartender, I want a Scotch with two drops of water.' 'Coming up' says the bartender

As she finishes that drink, the man to her left says 'I would like to buy you one, too.'

The old woman says 'Thank you. Bartender, I want another Scotch with two drops of water.'

'Coming right up' the bartender says. As he gives her the drink, he says 'Ma'am, I'm dying of curiosity. Why the Scotch with only two drops of water?'

The old woman replies 'Sonny, when you're my age, You've learned how to hold your liquor... Holding your water, however, is a completely different issue!

In a recent poll, 60 percent of Rotarians believe their Rotary meeting is louder now than it was five years ago. The other 40 percent didn't hear the question.

[They told me I was gullible and I believed them.](#)

Statistically, 6 out of 7 dwarfs are not Happy.

My neighbour knocked on my door at 2:30am this morning, can you believe that 2:30am?! Luckily for him I was still up playing my Bagpipes.

D9760 District Conference – DUBBO 17-19 March 2017

Just over two weeks to go! The program has been finalised and posted on our website and the committee is now putting together the finishing touches to ensure that this conference will be a memorable one. The emphasis this year has been concentrated on two key areas of the conference – **inspirational speakers** and **quality entertainment**. We would love as many Rotarians as possible to at least experience the best that Dubbo has to offer in terms of entertainment.

6.30pm on Friday 17 March is the official start of the conference at the **Old Dubbo Gaol** – a walk back in time as you are greeted by a warden in period costume at the imposing entrance gates to the gaol. You will be consumed by this iconic part of Dubbo's history as you nibble on hors d'oeuvres on the expansive gaol lawn. Tim Billiards and his five piece jazz band will soon have you foot tapping in anticipation of the tour that awaits those brave enough to take part. Some may be too engrossed in Rotary conversation and the mood of the evening and may miss out! Whatever your choice you will look forward to the formal part of the conference the following morning.

Saturday will be an engrossing day of Rotary information and inspirational key note speakers. There will be time for relaxation in the afternoon before the highlight of the conference, the **District Governor's Dinner**. This will be DG Steve's opportunity to play host to the finest musical entertainment Dubbo has to offer. Starting with a stirring rendition of one of the hits from Phantom of the Opera, **Allyn Smith, Billie Palin** and **Nathan Bryon**, backed by Dubbo's own Mighty Big Band, will enthral us all with their enchanting voices. Billie and Nathan left school in 2015 and we believe have tremendous musical careers ahead of them. Nathan is an exciting young tenor and is studying at the Conservatorium of Music. Billie is in the course of her Bachelor of Music (music theatre) at the Australian Institute of music. Allyn is a doyen of Dubbo's theatrical and musical scene and his Peter Allan medley will tug at the heartstrings!

After the resolutions session at breakfast on **Sunday** morning we will pay our respects to those Rotarians who are no longer with us. We will have further speakers on new and different topics. We'll get an inkling of what the Conference next year will look like. And we'll all go away having renewed friendships, made new ones, and gained a greater appreciation of how Rotary is Serving Humanity in District 9670!

So please do not miss out. **Still plenty of time to register for those who say "we are definitely going" but whose names do not yet appear on our registration list.** In keeping with the more relaxed format of the conference, delegates are encouraged to have breakfast at one of our two café sponsors, **Alchemy** (featuring local art works) at 200 Fitzroy Street and at the thriving **Church Street Café** in the CBD.

Golfers and cyclists, remember to bring your golf sticks and bikes and of course please either send your registration form back to Don Stevens (golf) (donjstephens@bigpond.com), or let Sandy Dunshea (sdunshea@fortnumdubbo.com.au) know if you wish to participate in an early morning ride on Saturday or Sunday.

Of course it is my role to encourage as many of you as possible to attend the District Conference. **However in the spirit of the ongoing prosperity of Rotary in District 9670, in supporting our District Governor Steve Jackson, and most of all, in being thoroughly entertained and inspired, don't put yourself in the position of saying "I wish I had gone!"**