

Bulletin 33 of 4th of March 2020

Pt Stephens Community Arts Centre

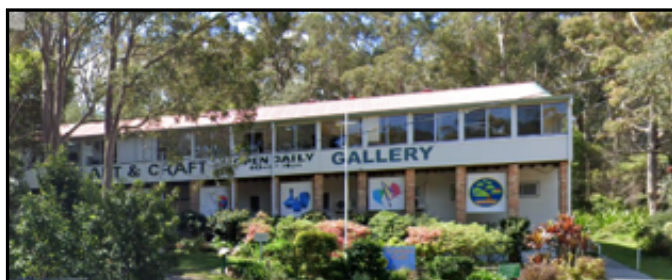


Carolyn Vergona spoke about the Pt Stephens Community Arts Centre activities, and then provided a chronological history of the site.

The current site at Fly Point is one of the oldest building in use in the Pt Stephens area and has been the home of community arts since 1981.

The motto of the group is to "Cultivate creativity and friendship through community arts and crafts." The Gallery at the centre is open 7 days from 10 am to 4 pm. A cafe is open on Saturdays each week. Classes run weekly over days Monday to Saturday. The Pt Stephens Community Wood working Group is also on the site but is a separate entity opening 6 days 7am to 1pm. The area has a garden which is maintained by volunteers. There is about 380 members currently involved in 16 different crafts. These include: pottery, painting in different media, creative textiles, bonsai, patchwork, tapestry, knitting, spinning weaving, quilling, papercraft, mosaics and printing. There is also a Tai Chi group which meet at various locations.

The site is also historic with the buildings origins going back to WW II, built as part of HMAS Assault. There was never a strong emphasis on stylish architecture but the building is functional, and still stands thanks to regular maintenance. A sick bay was established during the war and remained afterwards. At the time the population of the area was about 200, mainly fisherman. In 1949-52 the building was used a migrant hostel with a large influx of new workers to the area. In 1955 the major flood caused the peninsula to be cut off, and this pressed the point that a permanent medical facility was needed. A doctors practice was now permanently located in the Bay, Cnr Tomaree and Nelson Bay Road from 1952. The Health Department approved the site as a hospital after 3 years of negotiations in 1956. (Interestingly the same year the Rotary Club Of Nelson Bay was Chartered) The Community Health Centre opened in Kerrigan Street in 1975. The hospital site was closed and handed over to the Society of the Arts by August 1981. In May 1987 the crown land was gazetted to be managed by the Pt Stephens Community Arts Centre. The buildings are maintained through the group but are not owned by them. The Polyclinic Facility opened in 1988 as an improvement on the existing Kerrigan Street centre.



Address: Cultural close , Shoal Bay Road, Nelson Bay
Open 10-4 daily
www.artscentrenelsonbay.org.au

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Birthdays in March

Don Whatham on 12th

Peter Mc Bean on 18th

Partners

None this week

Anniversaries

Ian Rolfe 65 years as a Rotarian from 8th of March 1956

Winners this week

H& T: **Bob Mitchel**

Raffle: **Peter Page** (1st number drawn from the barrel was the winner this week)

Next week

Club Meeting

Speaker : Area Governor
Christine Walmsley

Club Duties

Door Duty:**Doug Craike & John Crump**

Grace: **John Cropley**
Intro Speaker: **Geoff Diemar**

Thank Speaker:**Lesley Freeman**

Bulletin: **Dieter Grieter**

Binoculars: **Chris Bartlett**

Meeting is at the Bowling Club Crows Nest Room.
Rotary Phone 0401 450239.

You will either be listed as attending normally, reply when you are not attending , or as an infrequent attender to reply when planning to attend.
Please respond appropriately so numbers can be accurately taken.

MHERV Van Attendance in Salamander Bay

The Van to promote Men Health visited our area and was manned by volunteers from Nelson Bay and Salamander Clubs. The van offers a free health check. There were around 25 people per day took up the opportunity to learn more about their health. Not all participants were men, and woman were invited as well. The time at Salamander shops was deemed a success and they hope to return next year.

Thanks to Bob Mitchell for being the coordinator for this visit in our area. Bob also organised a BBQ for all the Volunteers.



Upcoming Events

Meeting at Tomaree Community College

Thursday 18th of March. Our club meeting will be at the Tomaree Community College, Government Road in Nelson Bay. It has been some time since our club has had the opportunity to visit the site and see all the improvements which have been made. The centre now has child care facilities and has a community garden. The meeting will provide a BBQ dinner. Please advise your attendance by next meeting 11th of March.

Saturday 20th of March The club will assist SES with Bunnings BBQ

Friday 26th of March Golf Day. No meeting on the 25th.

Combined Social meeting with Salamander Rotary Club

Sunday 10th of April A lunch at Murrays Brewery is planned to allow interaction between local Rotary members. Please advise Warwick Mathieson if you are planning to attend to allow numbers to be advised accurately.



Left: The Dinner Ladies met this week being the first meeting of the month.

Right: Bob Mitchel shows his Heads and Tails winning style.



Charter Month for our Rotary Club - March 1956

This photo was taken at the District Conference in Forster 2019. Included is an article prepared by Richard Turner which appeared in the District newsletter, "Roach Rattlings". A number of our members have already seen this but we include it again for other readers who may not have access to the District Newsletter.



Rotary Club of Nelson Bay

The Rotary Club of Nelson Bay was sponsored by the Rotary Club of Raymond Terrace and the charter was presented to the club by then D.G. Dale Fayle on 8th March 1956. Two hundred and thirty-seven Rotarians, Rotary Annes and guests from throughout NSW were present at the charter dinner which was recorded at the time as one of the most memorable Rotary functions ever held in the then District 267. There were twenty charter members and their classifications included taxi services, pharmacy, hotels, drapery retailing, milk retailing, physician, radio service and motion pictures. The charter president Len Randall was the proprietor of the historic Shoal Bay Country Club where the club held its meetings (tie and coat) for some twenty-nine years. The club currently meets at the Nelson Bay Bowling Club which provides a spectacular view of Port Stephens to the ever-increasing number of visiting Rotarians from around the world.

Foundation member Loftus Chalmers had the foresight to research and then record the club's history from 1956 up until 1981 following which the history is updated annually. The valued history books reveal the club was involved in the instigation and provision of many service and community projects, a number of which continue to benefit the community today. One of the club's most notable service projects was instigated by charter president Len Randall on the 9th May 1956 being just nine weeks after the club's charter on the 8th March. President Len offered a fortnight's accommodation, free of charge, for twenty crippled children and their carers at his Country Club Hotel provided Nelson Bay Rotarians undertook to entertain the children during their visit. This project which epitomised the objectives of Rotary ran each and every year for an incredible twenty-nine years up until 1985. The club's first community service project involved the construction of change rooms and facilities on the foreshore at Nelson Bay. Records show the club has, on an ongoing basis, continued to enhance and maintain local facilities to the benefit of not only to local residents, but for the thousands of domestic and international tourists who visit Port Stephens each year. Other early projects include the building of scouts and girl guides halls, assistance in the formation and development of surf clubs, marine rescue and the formation of the then Police Boys Club.

The club's identity as a casual club is graciously accepted as the club prides itself on fellowship and indeed over the years was on several occasions awarded the Reg Drayton Trophy for Fellowship. Coupled with the club's reputation for fellowship it also has a record of being actively involved in all five avenues of Rotary service. The annual golf day raises on average \$25,000.00 and combined with further fund raising helps identify the club as a very progressive and productive club. The club has recently announced a \$30,000.00 contribution to Ear Nose and Throat specialist Associate Professor Kelvin Kong towards his research into providing E.N.T. tele health to children in remote areas of Australia. On the local scene the club is currently making a positive contribution to the Yacaaba Centre - Women in Crisis Support Centre. On the international scene the club was in January 2021 again acknowledged for its considerable contribution to Rotary Foundation. In relation to Youth Service the club is now in its twentieth year of supplying driver training and advice to year eleven students from three local high schools and the R.I. Centenary Scholarship fund provides the opportunity for local students to advance their studies within their chosen field. The club boasts three District Governors each of whom hosted their district conferences at Nelson Bay. As is the case with most clubs, membership has varied over the years with Nelson Bay fluctuating between twenty and sixty members since its charter in 1956. Currently the club has thirty-four active members and seven honorary members. *(Article prepared by Richard Turner)*