



## BULLETIN 37 – 8 APRIL 2021



### FIRE RESCUE IN NELSON BAY.

Guest speaker Deputy Captain Glen Blanch and fellow retained fireman Ben Freund gave us a comprehensive and informative overview of the history and current operation of fire and rescue facilities operating from the Salamander Bay Fire Station. Members were brought up to date with the latest in fire fighting strategies.



Local firefighters moved from the original fire station in Yacaaba Street Nelson Bay to the modern Salamander Bay station in 2014. The Station is staffed by permanent crew Monday to Friday 8am to 4.30pm and on call retained staff around the clock. Glen and Ben are two of the 21 retained fire staff who all have other primary employment. Glen is a paramedic and Ben a Port Stephens Council employee. Retained fire officers bring broad and local knowledge to the job. Mobile technology ensures immediate response and once at the station each situation is assessed to provide suitable equipment and manpower to the job. Two fully equipped vehicles can be instantly mobilised and a full range of backup equipment is available at neighbouring stations.

The modern fire station provides fire, rescue and HAZMAT facilities. In addition the PlusPlan includes prevention, education and pre incident planning. Support is also provided to other services for accident rescue, police, counter terrorism, flood rescue and medical response is under development.

Response to automatic fire alarms is a major responsibility with up to 130 calls per year. Many are false alarms, but safety is always the priority. Service is provided with home smoke alarms and advice given including home assessment and safety awareness. The presentation included demonstration in the correct use of a fire blanket.

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### LUCKY WINNERS.

H&T: Robert Mitchell

RAFFLE: Jim Booth

### CELEBRATIONS: BIRTHDAYS:

14 Apr: Josh Rimmer

15 Apr: Denise Diemar

17 Apr: Sue Williams

20 Apr: Andrew Downey

### ANNIVERSARIES:

13 Apr: Milton & Sue Williams

14 Apr: Doug & Jenny Craike

1 Apr: Ian Brigden celebrated 40 years in Rotary.

### DUTIES 15 APRIL:

Vocational visit to Tomaree Community College to view facilities and learn about its current operation. To follow a gourmet barbeque has been arranged by Warwick Mathieson. Door: Lesley Freeman Bulletin: John Cropley. Photos: Phill Smith Binoculars: Doug Craike.

**Next meeting – Vocational visit to Tomaree Community College**

**Apologies/Extras to noon on Wednesday!**

**Ph 0401 450 239**



### CENTENARY OF ROTARY IN AUSTRALIA CELEBRATION. RAFFLE

To celebrate 100 years of Rotary in Australia our club has planned and conducted several events to mark the occasion. All clubs Australia wide were invited to participate in the “End Trachoma” project. Past RI President Ian Risely proposed this project during his year as International President having observed closely the effect that trachoma has on the health and wellbeing of many people living in remote communities.

**Trachoma** is an infectious disease caused by bacterium *Chlamydia trachomatis*. The infection causes a roughening of the inner surface of the eyelids. This roughening can lead to pain in the eyes, breakdown of the outer surface or cornea of the eyes, and eventual blindness. Trachoma is the leading preventable cause of blindness worldwide. It is very contagious.

Trachoma almost always affects both eyes. Symptoms begin with mild itching and irritation of the eyes and eyelids. They may progress to blurred vision and eye pain.

Antibiotics treat early-stage trachoma. Surgery is required in later stages. Access to clean water and improved sanitation are key to prevention. The project includes supply of packages of hygiene products and educational programs to families living in remote areas of Australia.

Our club’s Centenary Committee led by Helen Ryan conducted a raffle for a wheelbarrow of goods donated by local business houses. Tickets in the barrow of goods valued at \$2,700 were sold at several venues over a three week period. The raffle was drawn at our Centenary Lunch on Saturday by PDG Greg Bevan. The lucky winner was David Fisher a member of the Medowie Williamtown Club. Helen reported that proceeds of the raffle were approximately \$3900.

### TREE PLANTING

Our second project was the planting of 100 trees. The committee consulted Port Stephens Council to determine a suitable site. The boundary (north and south) of Tom O’Dwyer Oval adjacent to the PCYC was selected as an ideal location.





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Club members under the supervision of PSC Environment officer, Elise Budden set about preparing the site. This involved the clearing of extensive thorny bracken, lantana and bitou bush. Geoff Diemar, David Clark and our Rotary teams all worked tirelessly over 3 days. Geoff arranged disposal of the two large trailer loads of rubbish using his and David's packed trailers. Tip fees were waived thanks to honorary member Mayor Ryan Palmer. We must commend the work of community volunteer Mark McEvoy who worked with us in removal and loading the undergrowth.



One hundred suitable native trees were donated by the council and these will be planted on Wednesday 5 May by students from Tomaree, Anna Bay and Shoal Bay Primary



Schools who eagerly accepted our invitation to be involved.

### CENTENARY LUNCH.



Sixty Rotarians and friends from the Rotary Clubs of Salamander Bay, Medowie Williamtown and Raymond Terrace joined us to celebrate the 100 years since the first Australian Rotary Club was chartered in Melbourne on 21 April 1921. The Rotary Club of Sydney was chartered on 1 May 1921 followed closely by Wellington and Auckland (New Zealand) on 7 and 13 June 1921 respectively. The Rotary Club of Newcastle, the fourth to be established in Australia was chartered on 19 December 1923. Welcome

guests were PDG Greg Bevan (D9670 End Trachoma Chair) and Lorraine, DG David Roach and DGE Amanda, AG Christine Walmsley. Excellent Murrays food and beverages, wonderful Rotary fellowship and a beautiful autumn day provided the ideal atmosphere for members to celebrate Rotary's beginning in Australia.

### COMING EVENTS.

**Wednesday 14 April** – Board meeting.

**Thursday 15 April** - Vocational visit to Tomaree Community College followed by BBQ.

**Thursday 22 April** – No meeting as **Friday 23 April** – Charity Golf day (Members snack to follow \$20).

**Thursday 29 April** – Tamara Sloper-Harding OAM - PTSD – Tamara served in East Timor peace keeping to 1999.

### COMMUNITY SUPPORT.

Our club assisted the Port Stephens Koala Group conduct their fund raising barbeque at Bunnings last weekend. We provided our Rotary trailer, ordered and delivered supplies, set up the facility and provided advice and assistance throughout the day. Thanks to Lesley Freeman, Chris Bartlett and Milton Williams for providing transport and being on hand all day. Thanks to Doug Bairstow for ordering and delivering supplies.

