



Bulletin 40 April 29 2021

**POWERFUL PRESENTATION BY GUEST SPEAKER
AN INSPIRATIONAL MESSAGE**



Members and our guests were treated to an extremely powerful presentation by Upper Northern Beaches Rotarian Tamara Siper-Harding OAM. A number of her Club travelled to the Bay to share the evening with Nelson Bay rotary members. Tamara told her life story as a member of Australian Navy serving in Timor Leste and the Middle East. She has started the Pittwater friends of Soibada to help a village ravaged by war, with numerous atrocities were committed by guerrilla forces. She joined the navy in the 1980's, is still in the navy reserve, however her rotary work and the road to friendship program in Soibada takes up the major of her free time. Like many of our veterans, Tamara explained how she has been affected by Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and witnessing events in a country ravaged by war. She explained that the bonds of friendship established within the armed forces has been of great assistance to her. While in Timor Leste she spent her free time visiting the village of Soibada, which had experienced much violence. This experience changed the course of her life, and she has vowed not to forget the people suffered and become a part of their community. She received notice of her posting to Timor Leste on her wedding day.

On the completion of her military service she started working with local organisations on the Northern Beaches to commence the Road to Friendship with Soibada. The project blossomed and an agreement has been signed between Soibada and the Upper Northern Beaches Council to continue along the Friendship Road. Rotary plays a pivotal role in her life and sharing her story assists her with the pain of her experiences. One of the most valuable points to come from the presentation, is that Rotary and other organisations visited Soibada and discussed with the villagers what their requirements were. The aim is to actually train the villagers to help themselves, making all the Australian volunteers feel the sense of achievement, as well. They have established a number of sustainable projects including Education and Tourism, where centres have been constructed. A health Clinic has been built and other programs, including Day for girls, Baby health programs, which has reduced infant death to zero, first Aid training and a raft of other projects. When Covid restrictions are eased it is hoped that children from the Northern beaches will be able to visit Soibada. A short powerful video followed Tamara's presentation and the link is attached

https://chuffed.org/project/soibada-families-futures?fbclid=IwAR0DmJURYJdbZSHuEgYiwMZbx52CRoSv619H_yvs2wjKoZJ4oWGqP-8hL60.

This week's Editor was fortunate in thanking Tamara, in several ways. He thanked her for a very powerful presentation, her military service in keeping us safe, for being a wonderful Rotarian while remaining the humble person she is. It should be noted that Tamara made no reference to her order of Australia Medal (OAM) at any stage during the evening. The whole meeting was one to remember for a very long time. There are more photos on Page 4 of the Bulletin, Thank you Phill Smith.

**This week's Issue
Page 2**

From the Board, Up coming events

Page 3 Danny Carroll's passing
Page 4 More photos from Thursday night and Charity Golf Day report

**Birthdays
May 5 Peter Arena**

**Anniversaries
May 6 Kathy and Josh Rimmer, 20 years**

Heads & Tails Visitor
Erin
Raffle Visitor
Heather Comley

Duties
Door David Clark
Meet & Greet Jim Booth
Grace Lesley Freeman
Welcome Speaker
Bob Mitchell
Thank Guest Speaker
Warwick Mathieson
Bulletin Editor
Don Whatham
Photos Phill Smith
Binos John Stuhmcke, Dieter G
Guest Speaker – Nigel Waters-Environmental Warrior

Next meeting – Thursday May 6 Guest speaker Nigel Waters

Apologies/Extras to noon on Wednesday!

Ph 0401 450 239

COMING EVENTS

Wed May 5 Rotary Centenary Tree planting at Dixon (next to PCYC from 11.30am)
Thurs May 6 Club meeting, guest speaker Nigel Waters, Ladies dinner night
Sy May 9 Bunnings BBQ
Wed May 12 Board Meeting
Thurs May 12 Club meeting
Sat May 22 Bunnings BBQ
Sat May 22 District Conference- via Video

4 **BUNNINGS ROSTER FOR SUNDAY AM SHIFT** John Stuhmcke, Lesley Freeman, Bob Mitchell, Chris B Transport John S



PM Shift Don Whatham, Peter Page, Dieter Greiter and Erin. Transport Don Supplies Doug Craike.

Centenary Celebration Club Co-ordinator Helen Ryan has asked me to forward the following information to members.

"The Centenary Tree planting is happening on May 5 and as I think I have said previously we have the 3 schools attending and helping with the planting.

The Council will have the holes prepared and obviously the trees there to be planted but we do need help from the members please; mainly to help with supervision for the children. There will be some teachers present and I have asked if any parents can come but not sure about that. The Mayor and local media will be present

Could you please put a message out to all the members asking if they would be happy to help on the day; the time is 11.30am -1:30p.m.

Good shoes, hats and water would be recommended and a small shovel/spade." Helen.

Members and friends, please let Helen know if you are able to assist on this important occasion.

CLUB AWARDS SCHOLARSHIP

Club Scholarship Chair Ian Brigden announced at this week meeting, the club had awarded a \$3,000 scholarship to Louise Simpson from the Yacaaba Centre. Louise is furthering her studies in Counselling and will be a guest at a Club meeting in the near future. She is our first scholarship recipient in a number of years, and will strengthen our relationship with the Yacaaba Centre, who do such a great job, with limited resources.



President Liz, announced on behalf of the Board that our Club will supply \$1,000 to our local branch of the SES to buy heaters for their hardworking volunteers, who do such an outstanding job. The recent flooding saw much activity with the SES volunteers often returning to their base at Corlette soaking wet and no means of drying out. Club Community Service Director Milton Williams, an SES volunteer was working up to 12 hours a day in poor conditions. Milton's wife Sue and President Liz, were able to offer assistance in preparing meals for the volunteers and saw first hand some of the issues these volunteers face, doing their work to assist those who have been affected by natural disasters.

ROTARY READING RESTARTS

After a lengthy break due to Covid 19 Rotary reading has restarted at Shoal Bay Public School. It is hoped Nelson Bay Public and Anna Bay Public school will follow suit in the near future. This is an enjoyable experience for all the volunteers, who give an hour of their time, once a week.

\$500 TO KULA BABIES

The Club also approved \$500 to the Kula babies program which has been active in Papua New Guinea since 2006. Kula babies is run by Rotarian Wendy Stein.

LADIES DINNER NIGHT

The next ladies Dinner night will be held this Thursday May 6 at the Bowling Club Restaurant. Any further information and advise of your attendance please contact Fiona Whatham on 0414955296 or email fionawhatham@gmail.com. These are good nights and all partners are welcome to attend

A TRIBUTE TO DANNY CARROLL, ROTARIAN FOR 32 YEARS



Former Nelson Bay Rotary Rotarian Danny Carroll's funeral was held on Wednesday, with a number of Club Rotarians present among the large gathering of family and friends. Our longest serving Nelson Bay Rotarian, John Stuhmcke represented the Club, and gave a history of Danny's 32 year tenure with Nelson Bay Rotary. Danny was a member from 1963 to 1995, and awarded a Paul Harris Fellow in 1987. Danny was extremely community minded and did a lot for many people over the years. John had known Danny for 50 years and mentioned his participation in Youth Exchange programmes, the Crippled children's visits and helping his father clear Neil Carroll Rotary Park at Fly Point, among his many achievements. Danny's son Ross presented a comprehensive overview of Danny's life at the funeral. This week's Editor sought approval for access from Port Stephens Examiner journalist Charlie Elias obituary for Danny in this week's Examiner, and approval was given to republish the article below.

Well known Port Stephens identity Daniel Carroll passed away peacefully on April 16 after a lengthy illness. He was 84.

The son of Neil Carroll, who has a reserve named in his honour at Nelson Bay's Fly Point, Danny made a name for himself as an earthmover, who helped build many roads in the bay and cleared the land for many landmarks, including the Nelson Bay golf, bowls and tennis clubs.

"He removed many trees but he replaced many of them as well. He planted many trees along the bay foreshore over the years," said [son Ross Carroll](#) in paying tribute to the lasting legacy left by the Carroll father-and-son team of Neil and Daniel.

"In fact, back in the day dad was quite a significant character, he was known by many people and did a lot in the community as the only local earthmoving contractor for more than 30 years from the late 1950s," he said "In addition to building many roads and donating the land now occupied by the bowling club to the council for provided it was used for sporting facilities, he cleared the old migrant camp to help design what is today known as Neil Carroll Park.

"I remember when he retired in 1987 the *Examiner* published a frontpage story on him with the headline 'Bulldozing greenie retires'." Ross said that his father had been well known as an honest and forthright man. "If he said something wasn't right or ill advised about an issue clearing some land you could take it to the bank. He was old school in the best possible way."

The Carrolls owned a number of properties in the Bay and built Louisa Court on the corner of Donald and Stockton streets. The family moved into their Magnus Street home when Danny was about 12 years of age.

Danny married Anna Bay girl Atholene (nee Bull) in 1960 and the couple had two children. They opened the area's first museum underneath their home in Donald Street.

"We would collect a lot of the items from people we knew ... there's Captain Cromarty's canon, a penny farthing, pianos, lots of machinery, tools, crockery and cutlery," Atholene said.

After moving to Anna Bay in 1988, many of the historic artefacts were placed in storage, some were donated to the Port Stephens Historical Society and some went to the Inner Lighthouse.

More recently the Carrolls have donated some of their collectables to the Tomaree Museum Association.

In later life Danny and Atholene enjoyed travelling, mostly camping trips around Australia.

"He was a very generous man, generous with both his time and money," Atholene added.

Special thanks to Charlie Elias of the Port Stephens Examiner for granting us approval to republish this article.

THIS WEEK'S PICTORIAL



GOLF DAY ROUND UP- A GREAT SUCCESS

Our Charity Golf held last Friday was an outstanding success. Over 124 players took part and thoroughly enjoyed the day. Credit must go to Club Director and Golf Day coordinator who with partner Laurie Wilson did the majority of the work in making this day a huge success, with around \$20,000 raised, including our final \$10,000 to HRMI for the Kelvin Kong project. All our volunteers handled their tasks extremely well. President Liz, Secretary Don and Chris B spent time delivering banners, certificates and letter of thanks to our sponsors during the week, with the majority asking to be included in next year's event, which augers well for another very successful day in 2022. Well done to everyone who helped make the day such a success.