

Bulletin # 4th May 2017



With this week's meeting clashing with the local Mental Health Forum (see report page 2), the meeting was attended by just a handful of members. – So few in fact that after the meal we all sat around the one table for a chat. No-one escaped Sergeant Warwick's net and President Elect Kathy Rimmer had a soft introduction to her up- coming duties.



Last week-end (29/30 April) District Governor Elect Helen Ryan conducted her "President Elect's Training Seminar" (PETS) at Singleton. Members of our Board for next year attended with the aim of explaining and ensuring they will be successful their roles next year The event was extremely well run and the enthusiasm in the room was obvious.

Next week's Meeting: CLUB NIGHT.

A brief report from directors and the opportunity for members to express their thoughts on how the Club is going, as well as the opportunity for discussion for future ventures/ fund raisers/ causes.

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District Conference

Birthdays this coming week:

None this week

Anniversaries this coming week:

9 May Ed & Glynns Parker

10 May Greg & Paula Flux

Heads and Tails:

Richard Turner

Raffle:

Katy Rimmer

Next week's Member Duties

Door:

Whatham/Bairstow

Meet/Greet:

Bartlett/Booth

Loyal Toast:

Brigden

Grace:

Clarke

Intro Guest speaker:

N/A

Thank Guest Speaker:

N/A

Bulletin

John de Ridder



LIFTING THE LID ON MENTAL HEALTH FORUM

by Chris Bartlett

This evening held on Thursday was very well supported with some 500 attending at West Diggers. A dozen club members either attended or assisted in some way. Included in the audience was Federal MP Meryl Swanson and State MP Kate Washington.

Local resident Don MacDonald certainly created the interest and ABC radio personality Craig Hamilton did an excellent job as facilitator of the Q&A forum. One of the panel members was local GP Tony Plummer who gave excellent insight into some of the mental health issues in our area. Visitors came from Maitland, Newcastle, the Central Coast and Sydney to attend.

As our District Australian Rotary Health Representative, I had a stand at the Forum. There was much public interest in ARH and I was far busier than I was at the recent District Conference in Dubbo. I distributed hundreds of information leaflets and DVDs on Mental Health issues.

As members may be aware Australian Rotary Health has been active in Health Research for over 30 years and for the past decade has focussed on Mental Health Research, with some \$2.45 million committed this year. Our District (9670) is leading the way so far this Rotary year as the number one fund contributor to ARH.

Members should be aware of couple of other facts including our Club's long association with ARH where our Secretary PP Don Whatham served both on the Board and was VP President of ARH. He is a Life Member and current ARH Ambassador.

It is also interesting to note that one of the keynote speakers Professor Cindy Weikert was partially funded by Australian Rotary Health when studying for her PHD.

Australia Rotary Health and Neura still have very close links, with funding provided for Mental Health Research to Neura by ARH. There have been and will be many more break throughs in both treating and understanding Mental Health issues, partially due to funding provided by Australian Rotary Health.

Our Bunnings BBQ proceeds from Saturday's BBQ will be topped up to \$1000 and be forwarded to Australia Rotary Health to further mental health research. As a Club we should be quietly proud of our support to ARH.



Bunnings BBQ

This Saturday saw one of the busiest sessions yet at Bunnings. As mentioned in the previous item the proceeds will go to Australian Rotary Health.

BONUS BUNNINGS BBQ SATURDAY MAY 13 2017

We have been gifted an additional Bunnings BBQ by our friends at Salamander Bay Rotary for next Saturday May 13. We ask for Volunteers for both AM and PM shifts. It is appreciated that we had great assistance on Saturday's BBQ and it would be nice to see a few different faces at next Saturday's event.

Please contact Chris or VP John if you can spare a few hours, it would be greatly appreciated.



Q. WHAT'S THE WORST JOB IN THE CLUB?

A. Trying to calculate just how many will turn up for dinner.

With our meeting this week clashing with the Mental Health Forum the job was even harder than usual. Despite 17 members saying they would be attending only 12 turned up. Understandably the caterers were not happy that they had prepared 17 meals and we had to pay for meals that were wasted. The extra meals were offered to the members present but in the main they were wasted. The Board appeals to members to take seriously their responsibility to advise of their non-attendance.

2018 District Conference

The Conference Committee have been working steadily for more than twelve months now and speakers have been locked in. The quality speakers now locked in coupled with planned entertainment and the natural beauty of our waterways will assure one of the best conferences ever. Work continues with procuring sponsorships and tying in other.

Confirmed Speakers:

Gill Hicks – Australian London Bombing Survivor
Markus Akuhata-Brown, – New Zealand
Motivational and Inspirational speaker.

Annette Bissett – Literacy and Rotary
Jennifer Devlin – World Peace Fellow

Dr Peter Davies – Eye Surgeon
Prof Kelvin Kong – ENT Surgeon

Sam Willis – International Economist

Presentations will also be given by Rotarians:

Lyn Thorp – ROMAC and

Wendy Stein OAM – Water to PNG

