

Bulletin 42— 21 May 2015

What a wonderful night of Rotary we enjoyed last night!

The meeting showcased several of our club members who provided outstanding presentations and community service programs that our club has conducted during recent weeks. The success of these programs is due to the hard work and efficiency of our President, the Board and dedicated club members and supporters. These are the hallmarks of a successful club and I believe we should be very pleased and proud of our achievements.

Vocational Service Director John deRidder made a Pride in Workmanship Award to Melissa Whiting for consistent performance and excellent work ethic as an outstanding employee of Nelson Bay Cinemas. Melissa was not able to be present at the recent Combined Pride of Workmanship Night where 10 awards were presented and over 100 people attended the joint meeting of the Salamander Bay and Nelson Bay clubs.



Club Historian Richard Turner devoted his regular



segment to an overview of the history and operation of the Police Boy's Club now Police and Citizen's Youth Club movement. In 1936 Rotarian William McKay on return from an overseas trip outlined the benefits of Police Boys Clubs in combatting juvenile delinquency. His club the Rotary Club of Sydney established the first 2 clubs known as Police Rotary Boys Clubs. This was later changed to Police Boys Club (PBC). Funds were raised by Rotary and many more clubs were established nationally. Today

151 clubs operate. In Nelson Bay in 1971/2 a program "Youth Clubs of the Bay" was established and operated for a time. It became increasingly obvious that a permanent community hall was needed and the Nelson Bay Police Commander Rick Cain identified the need for a PBC in Nelson Bay. Council was not able to fund the project and community organisations including the Rotary Club of Nelson Bay accepted the challenge of fund raising. A member of our club the late Gavin Hoey worked very hard to assist the cause. The Nelson Bay Club was formed in 1980 with the opening of the clubrooms at the current Austral Street site. Since then the club has provided a focus for youth activities. The hall has been used for many community events including balls, Blue Light Discos and as a voting centre. During the time Nelson Bay High School was located adjacent to the PBC the school and its students used the hall for physical education, assemblies and presentation evenings.

Inside:

Pages 2 & 3: Behind the Badge - Robert and Judy Mitchell
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Weekly winners:

Heads & Tails: Bart Richardson
 Raffle: Richard Harris

Congratulations:

Anniversaries

27 May – Hugh & Anne Randall

Club Duties:

Door- Bart Richardson & Peter Page
 Meet & Greet – Judy Mitchell & Judi Priestley
 Toast – Bart Richardson
 Grace – John Stuhmcke
 Intro Guest Speaker- Greg Flux
 Thank Guest Speaker- Richard Harris
 Bulletin- John Cropley
 Photographer- Henk Tobbe



Golf Day co-ordinators Greg Flux and Ian Faulkner presented Police Youth Club Manager Matt Brierley and President Diane Scobie with a cheque for \$20,000 from the proceeds of our recent golf day to assist with the restoration of the floor at the PYC. Greg thanked Matt and members of The PYC for their strong support of the Golf Day. He also acknowledged the contribution of the golf day founder Gavin Hoey for his contribution to the golf day

and the PYC. Matt in accepting the cheque indicated that the PYC has a current membership of 1900 members including 800 senior members involved in a wide range of activities during each week.

The Club's annual RYDA program was held last week and provided driver training and awareness to 215 year 11 students from our local high schools. Last week's bulletin editor, John Cropley provided a report and Richard Turner has prepared a paper reviewing the event. Any member who would like to contribute to the review should speak with Richard.

We next had the pleasure of hearing two very interesting life stories when Robert and Judy Mitchell gave their behind the badge presentations.

Robert Mitchell

I have had a great life, still continuing, very interesting, lots of fun, many people and many places all round the world.

I was born in Toronto in 1939, my father was a lawyer and my mother an artist and historian. She was the first female employee at the Hunter District Water Board! I have 2 sisters. My father moved the family to East Maitland at the end of the war—I can tell you a bit about floods!! We went through quite a few.

I went to East Maitland Primary and then to The Armidale School. I think The Armidale School let me stay on because I won the GPS rifle shoot most years.

After school I started an apprenticeship in wool classing with Grazcos, but all our Group was put off in the late fifties due to the collapse of the wool industry. I hitch hiked around Australia with a friend—some interesting stories there—then joined the NSW Department of Agriculture as a dairy herd recorder on the South Coast. After 3 years I ended up at Seaham running a dairy farm.

During those early years I spent 5 years in the CMF—also won the 13th battalion rifle shoot! I married in 1964 and in 1967 we moved to Lorn in Maitland. We had a small farm in Louth Park and I also did shift work at Courtaulds for 12 months. Judy worked in Newcastle, then Maitland, setting up her own business. I joined Apex, did my real-estate and stock and station agents course at Tighe's Hill Tech, now TAFE and then sold a few farms. We had 2 children, Stuart now 47, has lived in Asia for over 12 years but worked for the Hong Kong Jockey Club for 6 years—he now works mainly in Europe and Virginia now 46, lives west of Wagga Wagga on a grain/sheep farm and works as deputy head at Coolamon Central School

While in Lorn we had a couple of successful investments, we were all into equestrian sport in a big way and as it had no government support in any way, we decided, young and quite stupid that we would do something about it— hence, the start of the NSW Equestrian Centre—265 acres at Lochinvar where we moved. Our life had been very busy—suddenly it was absolutely frantic. That was 1982. The Equestrian Centre grew very well—a fully internationally accredited 3DE course (in the days of roads/ tracks/ steeplechase/cross country). We held the first international dressage competition in Australia—horses and riders from all over the world at our competitions. Huge indoor arena, grandstands, 70 stables, up to 25 students/staff, all live-in, 3 imported stallions, at one stage 250 horses. An enormous success horse wise, eg. all those gold medals at the Barcelona Olympics. I met some

amazing people, travelled the world buying horses, going to competitions, including the World Championships, will never forget some of those experiences—eg. a trip to Inner Mongolia as part of an Asia Pacific Showjumping week when I was Vice Chairman of the EFA. —but— one lesson learnt—the equestrian centre was great for horses and riders and Australia—personally a financial disaster.— Never buy a horse!!

I also spent lots of time travelling the world in cargo planes for my son who had a horse transport business at the time. I could talk all night on that topic.

We sold the Centre in 1996, I did viticulture and winemaking at Kurri TAFE. We grew grapes and olives and ran some cattle. Our farm was at Luskintyre, again on the Hunter River. We had some huge Rotary functions on the lawns, in our big marquee, in the stable shed etc. Plus a few other functions—hence my Paul Harris—Judy was the Rotarian. It was a beautiful place to live—we sold it last year and moved down here. Judy finally achieved her



goal which was to get me to join Rotary. I was lucky enough to have been brought up in a strong Rotary family—my father in Newcastle West and President. Also, my mother began the Maitland Art Gallery and the Maitland branch of the National Trust.

Even luckier, I have 4 beautiful grandchildren, 2 boys and 2 girls, ages 14 to 20.

Judy Mitchell

Robert has covered quite a bit so I will try not to duplicate. I must say I have been in many ways privileged—I don't mean money and the silver spoon etc, but being born into a stable family, a Christian family and who believed in education to the highest level of capability. I had 3 half sisters from my father's first marriage, all now deceased. My father was 51 when I was born, (my mother 19 years younger) in St Peters rectory at East Maitland—then moved to St Peters Hamilton.

My father, having been a chaplain in WW1, was Archdeacon of Newcastle—I am told on good

authority, about to become bishop, but he died suddenly— I was 10, my mother went back to teaching and I went to boarding school.

Newcastle Grammar School, my mother's old school. Then onto Sydney University, my mother's old university doing physiotherapy. She was a mathematician, loved calculus statistics, I have not one of those genes.

I graduated in 1961 and have worked as a physiotherapist ever since, Royal North Shore, then for a p/p and then my own business in Maitland for 42 years. I started on my own, gradually built up, built 2 purpose built clinics, the final one with pool, gym, 7 treatment areas and 7 p/t's. have been through all the rubbish about women not being able to borrow money in their own name etc. even women with their own business and proper business plans— I could tell you some stories!!

Though I retired when i was 72 I still go to lectures as I am still fascinated by the amazing advances in modern medicine.

I joined the rotary club of Maitland Sunrise as a charter member some 18 years ago—we had a great club, lots of fun and lots of work—Robert did more than his share in the background. We did some quite different projects, one being corporate membership. We worked for years on the Maitland Show committee, the Maitland Art Gallery and the national equestrian federation.

As you heard, Robert and I were married in 1964 and you have heard all about where we lived etc. and the highlights. i continued work all the way through those years but had quite a bit to do with the equestrian era. Our son is still in the industry—he is a showjumping coach in Europe.

Robert travelled the world for many years—loads of funny stories. One of the highlights of the equestrian days was the raft of gold medals at the Barcelona Olympics. The equestrian federation planned zero in celebrations so, with a 3 day opportunity we planned and staged a black tie, sit down dinner for 600 in our big indoor arena—

etc. great fun—the full equestrian team in all their glory.

We met some amazing people and made some wonderful friends but horses and equestrian competition are very expensive and as Robert said we lost all our money so we finally sold in 1996—Robert was 57, me 56, we sold, paid out the banks, borrowed a bucket load and started again. Here we are almost 20 years later.

Our son and daughter each have a son and daughter. Our eldest grand daughter is about to finish (30th October) her degree in journalism, her brother works in the office at McDonalds in Melbourne, youngest grandson in year 8, and the other grand daughter in year 10 has a goal to attend Sydney University—if she does, she will be the fourth generation of girls on my maternal side to go to Sydney Uni.

All families have some difficulties, and challenges, especially severe illness still ongoing so we are really proud of them all.

Mike Mobbs - THE SOPWITH CAMEL

Mike's interest in this very important WW2 aircraft began with his father in 1940. Mike's father joined the flight training school and trained as a pilot. Mike's father attended The Armidale School and met Bert Hinkler. The stories Mike heard about this amazing plane aroused his interest.



Mike provided a brief history of flight which began in 1903 when the Wright Brothers conducted 4 successful flights. In 1909 Louis Bleriot made an air flight across the English Channel. In 1914 the first course in flying instruction was given and the Avro 504 was used for reconnaissance and early bombing raids in WW1. By the mid 1916's speeds up to 120mph were being achieved and Rolls Royce engines were being manufactured. At the end of 1916 the Sopwith Camel was in production and placed in service in 1917.

The Sopwith Camel was a British First World War single-seat biplane fighter introduced on the Western Front in 1917. Manufactured by Sopwith Aviation Company, it had a short-coupled fuselage, heavy, powerful rotary engine, and concentrated fire from twin synchronized machine guns. Though difficult to handle, to an experienced pilot it provided unmatched manoeuvrability. A superlative fighter, the Camel was credited with shooting down 1,294 enemy aircraft, more than any other Allied fighter of the war. It was credited with 2759 total victories but suffered 1294 casualties in the process.



The camel was renowned for quick acceleration and take-off. Speed was controlled by the pilot cutting the motor in and out. It was a 9 cylinder rotating engine plane and could be turned off totally or 3 cylinders at a time. The pilot was responsible for air/fuel mixture and the plane had to exceed 70mph to prevent gyroscopic forces. It was of timber and wire brace construction. It was the most feared fighter plane of WW2. Its archenemy was the German

Fokker DR1 (Dreidecker) a tri wing plane. This was the legendary plane of the German flying ace Manfred von Richthofen (the Red Baron).

LETTER OF THANKS RECEIVED FROM JAHNAYAH ANISTON, OUR CLUB'S RYPEN REPRESENTATIVE.

I would just like to thank you for the experience I had while at the Rotary camp. I met a lot of very nice people who were understanding and caring, each person I met whether it was a male or female had a lot of positive qualities, each one had their own talents and hobbies. My experience at this camp was amazing as I learned so much about other people's interests and talents but I also learnt a lot about myself. I was pushed to my limits and achieved some many different outcomes and qualities I never knew I had. This camp is amazing it really lets every young adult shine to their full potential without being judged by their imperfections or mistakes. Since attending this once in a life time opportunity I have learnt so much and have changed how I think about things/handle things, I have also made some very good friends. People who I never thought existed till that weekend. This camp has done a lot for me and I appreciate you for letting me attend this camp.

Many thanks to everyone at Rotary, this experience will be a part of me for the rest of my life, along with the friends I made during the time there.

Thank you again, Jahnayah.

GUEST SPEAKER 28 MAY 2015.

Our guest speaker next week will be Ryan Palmer and his topic will be fraud. Don't miss this very topical presentation.

GUEST SPEAKER 4 JUNE 2015.

Leah Royle from Australian Wildlife Conservancy. AWC is an independent non-profit organisation dedicated to the conservation of Australia's threatened wildlife and habitats. Leah will tell us about the 23 properties, covering more than 3 million hectares, making it Australia's largest non-government organisation in terms of land managed for conservation, and notably more fox-and cat-free land than any other organisation in Australia.

ANNUAL ST DOMINIC'S DAY TUESDAY 26 MAY 2015. (Re-scheduled event)

A day on the Port Stephens waterways for the hearing impaired children of St Dominic's School hosted by the Rotary Club of Nelson Bay.

The children will go for a dolphin watch cruise on the Surprise. They depart at 10am from Nelson Bay foreshore at. Lunch to be provided in the normal manner after the cruise of approximately 1.5 hours.

COMBINED BOARD MEETING – 10 JUNE 2015

This will be a working Dinner Meeting to be held at Nelson Bay Bowling Club at 6.30pm on Wednesday 10 June 2015. Members of the current and new boards should attend.

PROJECT NEIGHBOUR.

This project will now be conducted entirely by our club without input by Integrated Living. Co-ordinator Peter McBean invites all Rotarians currently involved to continue to act as hosts to our guests. He is also seeking additional Rotarians to assist. Peter has also asked Rotarians to let him know of elderly citizens who may benefit by an outing with Project Neighbour. Please let him know ASAP.

BUNNINGS BBQ – SATURDAY 23 May 2015.

8.45am-12.30pm: Chris Bartlett, Judi Priestley, Richard Turner, Robert Mitchell.

12.30pm – 4pm: Don Whatham, Ella Clarke, Peter Page, Richard Harris.

ROTARY BOWELSCAN OPERATIING ALL THIS MONTH – KITS AVAILABLE FROM LOCAL PHARMACIES.

**Apologies/Extras To Ros Cribb by noon on Wednesday.
Phone or text: 0401 450 239**