

Bulletin 42 of 13th of May 2021

Behind The Badge Peter Arena



Peter Arena says he arrived in Pt Stephens at the time of 9/11 in 2001. He was expecting it might be a relatively short stay to look after his mother. He had lived his whole life in Sydney going to school there, and then staying to work in business. Peter did school at Marist brothers where discipline was very strict, and this was the case in his own family home too.

He was one of 4 boys.

The family of Italian background had arrived in Australia in 1890s so was well settled here during his child hood days. Peter's Father Nicholas Arena worked in the A.I.F as an instrumenting technician and later in commercial aviation. The family is a large one now, and they meet normally once per year in Sydney. The large gathering is around 300 people. The function had to be postponed in 2020 due to COVID.

Peter did a plumbing apprenticeship after leaving school. He worked in this area and built up a business in which he was the principal for 15 years. After coming to Pt Stephens he looked for a change of direction and he moved into real estate. Peter is a licensed agent and auctioneer. His office is run with his wife Elena from home which he has done since 2003.

Peter has enjoyed sport all his life ; football ,athletics ,boxing, martial arts and swimming. He is a regular church goer and has been a part time pastor. He has run as a candidate for the Christian Democrat Party twice. He now enjoys Biblical research and has done some singing of light music and jazz. It is always interesting to hear peoples stories. We welcome Peter and Elena to the Rotary Club of Nelson Bay.



In this Bulletin:

Pg1:Behind the Badge
Pg 2:Information from Board
Pg 3 Tree Planting
Pg 4 Yacaaba Project

Birthdays in May

None this week

Partners

None this week

Anniversaries

Hugh and Ann Randall on 27th of May

Heads & Tails

Jim Booth

Raffle

Varella Hobbs

Next week

Guest Speaker TBA

Club Duties

Door Phil Smith

Welcome Richard Turner

Toast Peter Arena

Introduce speaker

Jim Booth

Thank Speaker

Ian Brigden

Bulletin: Dieter Grieter

Binoculars:Chris Bartlett

Apologies or Extra Attendees
please notify by Wednesday afternoon
to 0401450239

Information from Board Meeting

Candidate for Centenary Scholarship

It is a pleasure to announce that Louise Simpson who is a Counsellor at the Yacaaba Centre has been granted a scholarship to pursue her further studies in counselling. We are hoping Louise will be able to attend a club meeting to speak with us in the near future.

Rotary Australia Benevolent Society Project (RABS)

After a recent address to the club the Board became aware of the difficult situation faced by a member of the community Natalie Hain who suffers from Lyme's disease. Lyme disease is not recognised as a medical condition in Australia, and hence is unable to attract funding via Medicare. Whilst the condition is debilitating, the costs are often significant and ongoing, they must be met from personal funds. Once the project is established a donation of \$2000 will be made by our club to get things running. We would then hope to encourage other groups to donate.

\$10,000 Donation to HMRI

The great success from the Golf day has allowed the club to make a substantial \$10,000 donation to HMRI for the work of Dr Kelvin Kong. His work is looking in improving hearing of indigenous children.

Connection with Probus

A previous member of our club Mike Mobbs who is now the President of Nelson Bay Mens Probus has suggested we have a stronger link with them. We will aim to invite the Probus Presidents to our club changeover, and pass information about our activities to them.

Virtual District Conference

The Virtual district conference will occur on Saturday 22nd of May from 10.30 until 4 pm. Previously there was discussion as to perhaps holding a combined session at the club to log in as a group. Due to only a small number wanting this option to go ahead, there will not be any formal arrangement made.

Nominations For Paul Harris Fellowship

Members may wish to consider nominating either a member, or someone in the community for this significant acknowledgement. All nominations will be given due consideration. In order to make the award the club contributes \$US 1000 to the Rotary Foundation. The Rotary Foundation has many humanitarian and educational programs of note throughout the world.

Club Equipment

The board has recently reviewed requests to use club equipment. Any requests must be approved by the Community Service director. We also now have a policy when we help other groups with Bunnings BBQs. The method is on the basis of having 2 rotarians present during the day, Rotary purchasing necessary goods, and then having a split of 40:60 with the group. This will often get a group started as they may be hesitant to volunteer when unsure of how it all works.

Upcoming Events

Virtual District Conference

Saturday 22nd 10.30 to 4 pm

BBQ at Bunnings

Sunday 23rd (See Roster)

Changeover Thursday 24th of June

Plans are underway for the Changeover Night. Graeme Hooper will attend as DG representative as well as Christine Walmsley our area governor.

Tree Planting to Commemorate 100 years of Rotary

The club was involved with a great project to replant trees and vegetation at Tom O'Dwyer Oval adjacent the PCYC.

The result already looks a great improvement, but will be a wonderful legacy in years to come. There was a wonderful turnout of the our club membership. The Coordinator was Elise Budden who is a volunteer from the Pt. Stephens Council and the mayor Ryan Palmer also came to lend a hand and worked steadily during the day.

The 10 children from Shoal Bay School and their teacher Jacqui Perry proved the highlight of the proceedings and were really enthusiastic about the whole job. We hope they can return in years to come to show their own children the trees they planted with Rotary .

Thanks to the members who attended: David Clark, Richard Turner, PeterPage, Peter McBean, Peter North, Helen Ryan, Jim Booth, Doug Craike, Dieter Grieter, Phil Smith, Arja Levonpera, Liz Friend, Geoff Diemar, Craig Paroissen And Henk Tobbe. Henk has taken some great photos but I include only a couple in the Bulletin. If you want to see more go to Flickr.

The link to them is here in case you did not get it.

<https://flickr.com/photos/vk2gwk/albums/72157719153968928>

*******FINISHING the JOB*******

This Wednesday 19th of May

Please volunteer to assist in finalising work. Bring same equipment as last week.

Start from 8:30 am



Handy Men @ the Yacaaba Centre

The driveway at the Yaccaba centre had become slippery due to recent rains, One of the clients had actually slipped on the surface. Three volunteers from the club; Doug Craike, Don Whatham and Chris Bartlett attended to the problem with equipment provided by Doug including brooms, a gerni, and power cables. Doug will provide an update on other projects we could be involved with to help the centre soon.



Bunnings BBQ 23rd of May Roster

Transport Down: W Mathieson

AM: Cook W Mathieson, Serve Phil Smith, Sauce K Rimmer, Money L Friend.

PM: Cook G Diemar, Serve P Arena, Sauce E Arena, Money C Paroissien

Transport Back: G Diemar



A New Tradition?

New members are provided with a hat to use at outdoor activities.