

## Bulletin 43 of 28 April 2016

### Hunter River - Lifeblood of the Region



Our speaker for the night was Arthur Burns, introduced by his old schoolmate Don Whatham - both from way back in Singleton. Arthur is the past President of the Hunter Valley Water users Association and presented very interesting facts, figures and inside knowledge of the Hunter river.

Some facts: the Hunter rises in the Barrington Tops as three small springs and meanders for about 470 km, joined by tributaries. The total catchment area is 22,000 square kilometers.

Water management and the fair distribution of available water between various users is a problem although maximum usage is only 20 - 30% of the total water flow averaging over 1 million Mega Litres. There are four water sharing plans in place for various regions, like upper Hunter, Paterson and the tidal pool area.

The Hunter River faces some serious threats of which increased salinity is a major one with mining as one of its major contributors. Other threats are aquifer damage, pollution, over extraction and loss of base flows and

vegetation.

The Hunter has a long history of flooding with major floods in 1820, 1893, 1930, 1949, 1952, 1955, 1971, 1977 and 2007 of which the 1955 one was the most memorable of all. Apart from loss of life and damage to property these floods cause also environmental damage. To mitigate the impact over the years a lot of money has been spent (Lower Hunter Scheme worth \$ 750 million) on improving levies and riverbank protection and restoration. So far the floods were mainly caused by heavy rainfall in one or two of the three main catchments of the rivers that flow in the Hunter: either only the Hunter itself or the Goulburn or the Wollombi Brook. Arthur thinks it will be disastrous when it would rain heavily in all three areas.... No idea what would be the consequences.

Guest speaker Arthur Burns was thanked by Arja Levonpera for a very interesting presentation about a subject so close by but of which we don't know much and should know more.

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#### Congratulations

##### Members birthdays

29-04 Ian Faulkner  
01-05 Greg Flux

##### Partners birthdays

none

##### Anniversaries

06-05 Kathy & Josh Rimmer  
09-05 Ed & Glennys Parker  
10-05 Paula & Greg Flux

#### Lady Luck

John Cropley was the lucky winner of the raffle and the Head & tails was won by Don Whatham.

#### Next Week

**Dr Peta Tehan**  
**"Your Feet"**

##### Door

Ed Parker, Bart Richardson

##### Meet and Greet

Chris Bartlett

##### Loyal Toast

Judy Priestly

##### Grace

John Cropley

##### Introduce speaker

Greg Flux

##### Thank speaker

Warwick Mathieson

##### Bulletin editor

Phill Smith



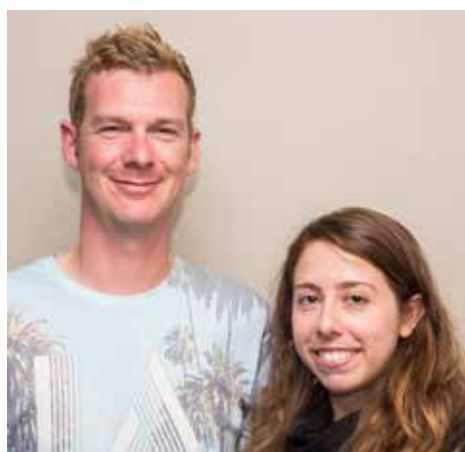
## ***The Big Five Oh.....***

***One of our members had her 50th birthday this week and invited the club members to celebrate this with her. Quite a few members and partners enjoyed a sunny afternoon and good company. Thank you, Tricia Parnell for the invitation and your hospitality. Many happy returns of the day!***

## **Announcements**

- This weekend (30th April and 1st May) is the President Elect Training Seminar and District Assembly in Singleton. Highly recommended not only for Presidents Elect but also for other (incoming) club officials that haven't been there before. Heaps of quality Rotary information to know more about and do more with your club membership.
- President Ann asked for donations of prizes for the big raffle on the 60th Anniversary night.
- RYDA (Rotary Young Drivers Awareness) is coming closer: Tuesday 10th May. Coordinator is Cathy Rimmer and if you haven't been allocated a job yet, please contact Cathy. She needs you!
- Judy Mitchell has still books available with raffle tickets for the Rotary Foundation District lottery. Many tickets have sold but the more the better. Try to out do Ros Cribb who sold for \$300 worth already!
- Treasurer Richard was not quite sure - although he had counted the money - how much we made at the last Bunning BBQ but it was a lot (\$996 ???).
- Next week - first Thursday of the month - is "Dinner Ladies" - for info contact Lorraine Nicol.

## ***Welcome to our visitors!***



***We were able to welcome a number of guests this night. From left to right: Peter Crawford was a guest of Jim Booth. Brad Robinson and Alyce Cassettai moved to the Bay from Perth last year. Brad is with the RAAF in Williamstown and Alyce is a solicitor - guests of Helen Ryan. Our speaker for the night, Arthur Burns was accompanied by his wife Carole (left) and had brought his neighbours and friends Nada and Boris Satara. The Sataras have a holiday house in Corlette but live in Bringelly where Boris has a farm. He is a member of the Rotary Club of Cabramatta.***

## Council of Legislation - 2016 Greater flexibility in meeting and membership



Council member Dominique Dubois holds up a green card to indicate support of a motion while Sandeep Nurang ponders his response during the 2016 Council on Legislation. Photo Credit: Monika Lozinska.

The 2016 Council on Legislation may well be remembered as one of the most progressive in Rotary history.

Not only did this Council grant clubs more freedom in determining their meeting schedule and membership, it also approved an increase in per capita dues of \$4 a year for three years. The increase will be used to enhance Rotary's website, improve online tools, and add programs and services to help clubs increase membership.

The Council is an essential element of Rotary's governance. Every three years, members from around the world gather in Chicago to consider proposed changes to the policies that govern the organization and its member clubs. Measures that are adopted take effect 1 July.

The tone for this year was set early, when the RI Board put forth two proposals that increase flexibility. The first measure allows clubs to decide to vary their meeting times, whether to meet online or in person, and when to cancel a meeting, as long as they meet at least twice a month. The second allows clubs flexibility in choosing their membership rules and requirements. Both passed.

Representatives also approved removing six membership criteria from the RI Constitution and replacing them with a simple requirement that a member be a person of good character who has a good reputation in their business or community and is willing to serve the community.

The \$4 per year dues increase was based on a five-year financial forecast that predicted that if Rotary didn't either raise dues or make drastic cuts, its reserves would dip below mandated levels by 2020. The yearly per capita dues that clubs pay to RI will be \$60 in 2017-18, \$64 in 2018-19, and \$68 in 2019-20. The next council will establish the rate after that. "We are at a moment in time when we must think beyond the status quo," said RI Vice President Greg E. Podd. "We must think about our future."

Podd said the dues increase will allow RI to improve My Rotary, develop resources so clubs can offer a better membership experience, simplify club and district reporting, improve website access for Rotaractors, and update systems to keep Rotary in compliance with changing global regulations.

Also because of this Council's decisions:

- A Council on Resolutions will meet annually online to consider resolutions — recommendations to the RI Board. Council members will be selected for three-year terms. They'll participate in the Council on Resolutions for three years and the Council on Legislation in their final year only. The Council on Resolutions will free the Council on Legislation to concentrate on enactments — changes to Rotary's governing documents. Proponents predict that the Council on Legislation can then be shortened by a day, saving \$300,000.
- Rotaractors will be allowed to become members of Rotary clubs while they are still in Rotaract. Proponents argued that too few Rotaractors (around 5 percent) join Rotary. Sometimes it's because they don't want to leave their Rotaract clubs before they have to, upon reaching age 30. It's hoped that giving them more options will boost the numbers of qualified young leaders in Rotary.
- The distinction between e-clubs and traditional clubs will be eliminated. The Council recognized that clubs have been meeting in a number of ways, and given this flexibility, the distinction was no longer meaningful. Clubs that have "e-club" in their names can keep it, however.
- The reference to admission fees will be removed from the bylaws. Proponents argued that the mention of admission fees does not advance a modern image of Rotary.
- A standing committee on membership was established, in recognition that membership is a top priority of the organization, and polio eradication was also reaffirmed to be a goal of the highest order

Source: Rotary News (RI website), by Arnold Grahl

**Pay your dues and special dinner fees by EFT:**  
Account name: Rotary Club of Nelson Bay Inc. - BSB: 637000 Account #: 781017418  
(please, mention your name and what you are paying for.)