



## Bulletin 43 of 25th of May 2023

### Richard Turner- Tourism Development in the Hunter



*Richard Turner addresses the club tonight, and at his desk whilst in the Tourism industry at Batterhams Travel in Cessnock. Notice it was back in the days when men wore a tie to work. The article in which the photo is included mentions Richard is working on his favourite subject. -Tourism.*

There would be surely none more qualified to speak on the development of the Hunter tourism industry than Richard Turner who was there from the earliest days of its promotion. Coal was first discovered in 1886 by professor Sir Edgeworth David. The mines were actively working by the 1900s leading to a peak in 1927 when over 10 thousand men worked in the area. These underground mines became too expensive to operate when larger open cut mines commenced in the upper Hunter. The closure of all Cessnock mines led to tremendous unemployment in the 1960s and 70s. The first vineyards in the area established by the Tyrell and Wilkinson Families way back to 1858 were becoming of interest to tourists. Cessnock region had a few features making it an ideal destination for tourists, its natural geography, vineyards and the fact that it was in close proximity to both Sydney and Newcastle.

Richard returned to live in Cessnock in 1964 to work in his father's pharmacy business. His father was a strong figure in the local community, and Richard followed his lead into Council, Rotary and community directed activities.

In the early 60's a group was formed called the City of Greater Cessnock Promotion Panel but it had no support from Council and eventually folded. In 1972 Richard, an alderman of the council, attempted to reform the promotion panel but again it failed, as the council and community failed to understand the benefits that tourism would bring to the area. Richard illustrated this point with a couple of stories he remembered from the day, including being berated by an old councillor that we needed to fix the road for a senior citizen to get into town once a week, rather than concern ourselves with roads and facilities for tourists. This long road to success finally came to fruition in September 1983 when the council sanctioned and formed a Tourism Board and it received a \$20,000 grant.

In 1985 Richard was appointed by NSW Tourism Commission as a Hunter coordinator. During this time projects such as the William IVth Steam Ship and FighterWorld were started. Richard held a position as a director for Regional Tourist Authority for 22 years in total. The council allowed the use of a house it ultimately had bought for road development, to be the first tourist information centre. It was moved later to Turner Park, and again to its current location.

Richard finished his talk with a few words about Regional tourism for the Hunter Region. The problem became that people did not see the Hunter region as a whole of nine local government areas including Lake Macquarie, Port Stephens, Upper Hunter, Merriwa and Murrurundi, focusing on 10 square kilometres at Polkolbin. Whilst the Hunter Tourism association returned in 1994 it eventually ceased to operate, and regions now make their own promotion.

### In this Bulletin:

1. Development of Tourism in the Hunter Region
2. Hospital Garden & Bunnings BBQS
3. Events- Changeover

### Details for week following our next weeks meeting

#### Birthdays

Richard Turner on June 1st

#### Anniversaries

Helga and Dieter Grieter on 29th of May

### Heads and Tails

Erin Brinkley

A return visit

#### Raffle Winner:

David Clark who was unable to draw the joker allowing the jackpot to increase again.

### Next meeting

#### Guest Speaker

**Nigel Dique will speak about the Sister Cities Program.**

**Door: Lesley**

**Grace: John Stuhmcke**

**Toast: Peter Page**

**Introduce Speaker: Ian Brigden**

**Thank Speaker: Ella Clarke**

**Bulletin: Don Whatham**

**3 minutes: David Clark**

### Club Changeover

**This night will be held on Thursday 29th of June. See menu included in the Bulletin. Please order and pay soon.**

**Meals to be ordered in Bistro prior to meeting commencement.  
Meeting fee is \$5 to be paid at the door.**

Photos from work this week at the Tomaree Hospital Reflective Garden. Supplied by Chris Bartlett



## Hospital Garden report

The concrete was now set and cured, so the next work stages commenced. On Monday, project leader Doug Craike purchased supplies needed for garden bed construction. On Tuesday Geoff Diemar and Chris Bartlett went to Bunnings to collect pallets of timber for the garden site. This required several trips and a few hours of labour. The brick layers have also completed their work in building the bases for the seats, with input from Warwick Mathieson. The actual seats are being made by Warwick and will be ready to insert once other work is complete. The pergola is being installed next Wednesday. Lesley Freeman is going to take delivery of a first batch of plants in the next week as well. These plants may not be planted until closer to spring. The club has had input from Megan who is a landscape designer as to what plants should work well. Don W. was meeting with a Pt Stephens Councillor on Friday to discuss the progress, and ask for permission to use council refuse facilities for any waste materials from the project.

### Significant Donation

The Soldiers Point Breast Cancer Auxillary Group have donated \$4951 being the cost of all the furniture required at the site. This fabulous donation has been processed and is going directly to the next part of the project.

## Bunnings BBQs

The Next Bunnings BBQ is going to be on Saturday the 3rd of June  
Coordinator; Don

AM Shift: Peter Page, Chris B, Richard T

PM Shift: David C, Geoff R, Peter Mc B.? Ella?

In the next 6 months

The club has been allocated the first Saturday of every month from July to December.



Don will organise a roster, which works best, but this is able to be changed by individual members if dates don't suit by them arranging a replacement.

## Changeover Dinner

Date: Thursday 29th of June

Where: Landmark restaurant.

Time: 6.00 for 6.30 as normal

Cost: \$45 a head

Below is a list of meal choices. Please pick your selection and advise Lesley F. by indicating the number on this sheet. Please make payment to the club account with name, number of persons attending and item for which you are paying. [lfreeman@internode.on.net](mailto:lfreeman@internode.on.net)

### Menu Choices

#### Main Course

- 1 Grilled Barramundi - served with chips, salad and house made garlic butter sauce
- 2 Coconut Prawn Curry – served with rice, salad, papadums
- 3 Slow cooked Lamb Shank – served with seasonal roasted vegetables & red wine jus
- 4 Chicken Boscailla – served with Seasonal roasted vegetables, bacon mushroom and creamy white wine sauce

#### Dessert

- 1 Sticky Date Pudding with Vanilla Gelato
- 2 Chocolate Pudding with Vanilla Gelato

Please insert name and the number of your option for each course

Name	Main Course Option	Dessert Option

### Meeting for 8th of June

Venue: Fingal Bay Cellars. This meeting celebrates the 161st anniversary of the first lighthouse in Port Stephens.

There will be a Presentation by John Clarke. Casual meal of pizza, salad and garlic bread. Cost \$25 to be paid in advance to Club Account. Please advise you details and what it is for when paying.

A final sad note was to mention that the club observed a minutes silence to remember PP and Honorary member Peter Buckley whose Funeral was on Friday 26th. A number of our membership attended the service at the All Saints Church. No flowers were requested but donations could be made to the prostate cancer foundation.