

Bulletin 44 – 1 June 2023

NIGEL DIQUE – PORT STEPHENS SISTER CITIES.

Nigel's presentation outlined the history and operation of Port Stephens Sister City relationship with several international cities. The program was established in 1988 by then mayor and later local member of Parliament the late John Bartlett. It aims to promote communication between cities leading to friendships, understanding between nations and worldwide peace. The relationship began with Bellingham USA and has since extended to agreements with Kushiro, Yugawara and Tateyama Japan as well as friendship relationships with Victoria Canada, Tauranga New Zealand and Nahodka Russia.

In addition to cultural exchanges there have been sporting, dance, visual arts, choral and student visits between the cities. In 1990 Bellingham hosted the first Pacific Rim Yachting Challenge. PacRim is now held every second year and is normally attended by some 120 sailors and supporters from Bellingham USA, Victoria Canada, Tateyama Japan, Tauranga NZ, Nahodka Russia and Port Stephens. It takes place over a week and all visitors are home hosted. Hosting is rotated.



Recent highlights include a visit to Japan by the local Seaside Singers and reciprocal visit to Port Stephens by Tateyama Choir which performed at Apex Park and Soldiers Point and post Covid the visit to Kushiro and Tateyama by Hunter Bird Observers Club.

In 2024 a 30-year Anniversary Celebration will be held with a goal of involving community members and school students in understanding the importance of maintaining habitat and gaining a knowledge of the amazing flights of our migratory birds.

The Sister Cities Committee meets at Nelson Bay Bowling Club on the last Wednesday of every second month. Nigel would be happy to welcome new members to the group. Membership is free.



The Late John Bartlett.

Members enjoying Nigel's presentation.

COMING EVENTS.

3 June – Bunnings barbeque

8 June: John Clarke – 161 years of Fingal Bay lighthouse. Pizza night at Fingal Bay Cellars.

14 June - Combined Board Meeting.

15 June – Club assembly

17 June – Barbeque at CWA fete

22 June – Heather Noonan – Forgotten Fingal

29 June: Changeover

31 Aug - Science Discovery Day - Tomaree HS.

WINNERS

H/T: David Clark

Raffle: Lesley Freeman (3 Minute talk 15 June)

BIRTHDAYS:

1 June: Richard Turner

10 June: Henk Tobbe

MEMBER DUTIES – (8 June).

Door: Geoff Diemar

Introduce Speaker:

Richard Turner

Thank Speaker:

Warwick Mathieson

Bulletin: John Cropley

Photos: Don Whatham

Binoculars: Geoff Diemar

COMING EVENT:

Changeover Thursday 29 June at the Nelson Way, Landmark Resort. Cost \$45. Please make payment to club account and make menu choice (see last bulletin) known to Lesley.

NEXT MEETING: 8 June – John Clarke – Fingal Lighthouse 161 years old – Fingal Cellars.

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THREE MINUTE TALK.

This segment of our meetings continues to be very popular and the previous week's raffle winner spends considerable time preparing an interesting presentation for the following week. This week, David Clark spoke about his brother Robert whose son Fred and 14 school friends and parents attended an educational excursion to China. One of the boys, Tyson Morris who happened to be Fred's best friend's father owned a catering company. The company was engaged to cater for 29,000 troops in Somalia in 1994. During the civil uprising Tyson Morris was killed even before the catering operation began.

David's brother Robert travelled to Somalia from his farm in Yass to support his friend David following the death of his son. Robert oversaw the growing of vegetables and managed the transportation of vegetables 3 times per week to the catering centres. The conditions were continuously surrounded by danger with workers frequently assassinated and kidnapped. Robert was involved in the rescue of two kidnapped staff members at a ransom of \$800K and \$1M respectively.

CLUB NEWS.

BUNNINGS BARBEQUE ROSTER SATURDAY 3 JUNE.

Sat 3 Jun am	D Whatham	P Page	R Turner	C Bartlett	H Tobbe	
Sat 3 Jun pm		D Clark	E Clarke	P McBean	L Freeman	D Whatham

BUNNINGS PLANNING JULY TO DECEMBER.

Our club has been allocated a barbeque on the first Saturday in each month July to December. Dates: 1 July, 5 Aug, 2 Sept, 7 Oct, 4 Nov, 2 Dec. The roster for the six months has been completed and was forwarded to members during the past week. Please check the roster to ensure you can complete your rostered duty. If you are unable to do so, please arrange a swap and notify the co-ordinator and Don. Each member has been allocated three duties during the six months.

COMMUNITY HOSPITAL PALLIATIVE GARDEN PROGRESS.

Report courtesy Chris Bartlett: This week saw the covered pergola erected at the Reflective Garden. The team from local firm Suncoast Enterprises after a final briefing from Warwick spent Thursday and Friday morning preparing materials and erecting the pergola. President Don had a site visit on Thursday to view the progress. Warwick continued to work on the seats, while Geoff Diemar spent many hours working on materials in preparation for both the raised and normal garden beds, work is to commence on the garden beds early next week. President Don has been advised that our Federal Government grant supported by MP Meryl Swanson will be in our bank account in the next few weeks. We were also advised that our application for a \$6K Community grant from Port



Stephens Council was successful. Don has completed the acceptance paperwork for both grants. We were also provided waste tipping passes by Port Stephens Council.

Warwick has now completed the construction of seating in his work shed and the seats were loaded to his trailer by Geoff, Warwick, David, John and Don this morning ready for transportation to the site. We are making real progress.

This Friday afternoon photo from Chris shows the pergola almost complete. The guttering and finishing touches will be added on Tuesday. At that stage the seating will be installed, and work will commence to build the garden beds.

Plants for the garden have been purchased and these are currently being cared for by Lesley at Doug's home. Planting will take place as the weather warms towards spring.