

Bulletin 46 of 8 June 2017

Always short of money.....



Our speaker for the night was Neil Hansford, deputy commander of Marine Rescue Port Stephens. Neil represents the largest volunteer organisation on the Tomaree Peninsula with its 220 members. They are also a "Registered Training Organisation" (RTO) and are able to issue Certificates level III and IV for various skills connected with marine rescue operations, like radio communications, First Aid, off shore navigation and the like.

That training and these skills are absolutely necessary as Marine Rescue is serious business that exposes the actual boat crews to very real dangers

where they have to rely on a professional support from the base. It can take over a year of training and learning before a volunteer is fully qualified, either to operate in the communications centre or one of the rescue vessels.

Marine Rescue PS is part of Marine Rescue NSW with a head office in Cronulla and - as a non government Emergency Service organisation - operates within the framework provided by the State Emergency and Rescue management Act 1989. That means that the communications centre at the Inner Light not only handles marine assistance and distress calls but also operates



as control centre for the Lower Hunter RFS and takes calls from "triple zero" operators and pages RFS crews.

Apart from managing the "Inner Light" grounds and museum (the only historical museum on the Tomaree Peninsula), Marine Rescue PS operates an official weather station that contributes to the BOM network and provides reliable local weather information - not only for the private boaties and fishermen but also for the local cruise operators and other commercial enterprises.

All these activities cost over \$140,000 a year and the government contributes only 16% of that. The rest of the cost has to be scraped together with donations, the gift shop, fund raisers and other activities like scattering ashes. On the other hand: the government requires that Marine Rescue operates up to date and well maintained boats, like the recently bought PS31 "John Thompson" (\$ 850,000). Less than half of the owners of rescued vessels make

a donation to cover the cost of their rescue operation. Marine Rescue needs more community awareness about their funding problems. Their volunteers do a professional job and deserve - like RFS and SES - more financial recognition. Thanks, Neil for a great presentation; we'll spread the word and keep it in mind.



Contents:

1. Marine Rescue PS
2. Announcements.
3. Invitation.

Congratulations

Members birthdays

10 June - Henk Tobbe

Partners birthdays

none

Anniversaries

none

A bad week for the Sergeant.....

Lady Luck

Arja Levonpera had the lucky raffle ticket while Henk Tobbe was the last one standing with Head & Tails.

Next Week

Club Discussion

Door

Hugh Randall

Helen Ryan

Meet and Greet

Phill Smith

Tony Todd

Grace

Gordon Treble

Loyal Toast

John Stuhmcke

Introduce speaker

n/a

Thank speaker

n/a

Bulletin editor

John Cropley

Coming Events

- 15 June Club Night: "Moving Forward" - Discussion Forum about the Club's Future.
- 26 June Rotary Club of Raymond Terrace Changeover.
- 27 June Rotary Club of Salamander bay Changeover.
- 28 June Rotary Club of Williamtown Changeover (details see below).
- 1 July Bunning's BBQ - please contact Chris Bartlett if you can assist.
- 1 July District 9670 and Rotary Club of Nelson Bay Changeover - see page 3

Gan Gan Lookout



Community Service Director Chris Bartlett reported on recent discussions with Port Stephens Council and was happy to be able to tell the Club that Council has now officially allocated the Gan Gan Lookout as a project to be looked after by the Rotary Club of Nelson Bay. It has taken a while and a lot of discussion but we'll be able to start in July or August with improvements and maintenance for this major tourist icon in our community.

State Rotary Awards

Paramedic Jeroen Leenders from Glendale is nominated as a finalist in the Rotary Emergency Services Community Awards, which are designed to celebrate emergency service workers who go above and beyond the call of duty in keeping with Rotary's motto "Service above Self".

Outside of being a paramedic, Mr. Leenders can be found helping out at his second passion: Special Olympics. He recently returned from Austria where he coached the Australian Snow Team in the Special Olympics.

The Rotary Awards will be announced on the 4th August during a special ceremony to be held in Sydney.






Be an "Early Bird"

The 2018 Rotary District 9670 Conference will be held from 16 - 18 March 2018
Main Venue: Wests Diggers - Nelson Bay
Early Bird bookings will be available from 1st July!

Foundation Raffle.

Stubs of sold tickets and unsold books should be returned before 15th June 2017
!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

**ROTARY:
MAKING A
DIFFERENCE**


*The Rotary Club of Williamtown Inc.
Invites*

*To their 2017
Changeover Dinner*


On Wednesday 28th June

*At the Union Hall
Sandeman Street
Williamtown*

*Fellowship starts at 6.00 pm
Dinner at 7.00 pm
\$25.00 per person*



*Geoffrey Hamilton
2016-2017*



*Richard Byrne
2017-2018*

RSVP by 21st June 2017 to
Secretary Robert Fogg 4982 8044
Email: williamtownrotary@gmail.com



District 9670

INVITATION

2017 - 2018

Rotary Club of Nelson Bay and District 9670

Change Over

When: Saturday, 1st July 2017 - 6:30 pm for 7 pm

Where: Nelson Bay Bowling & Recreation Club
Stockton Street - Nelson Bay 2315

Cost: \$ 30 pp. (Two course meal)

Bookings: www.trybooking.com/276366 or

email: grapes28@bigpond.com

phone: 0408 659 605



RSVP by 20-6-2017



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ROTARY:
MAKING A
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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.)