

Bulletin # 5, 26th July 2018



Our speaker this week was Andrew Downey assisted by wife Deb. They gave us an insight into one of their interests – Dragon Boat Racing.

Not to be confused with “Outriggers”, Dragon Boats date back to China some 2500 years ago.

Each year the Dragon Boat Festival commemorates the death of Chinese poet Qu Yuan who committed suicide (as a protest against, and in despair of political corruption), by jumping into the river after tying himself to a big rock, on the 5th day of the 5th lunar month. Many fishermen tried to rescue him. They tried to scare fish away by splashing the water with their paddles and beating the drums on their long narrow boats.

Andrew and Deb have been involved with Dragon Boat Racing for some time commencing when they lived in (of all places) Bourke. Locally their Club has two boats and operate from Taylors Beach. The boats have a crew of twenty two – including a steersman and drummer.

Paddling technique is paramount and requires strength, balance and synchrony.

Andrew and Deb issued an invitation to members to join them for a “sampler” and suggested that a fund-raising day for Rotary could be a possibility.

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Birthdays this coming week: 27 Jul – 2 Aug
1 August Ian McIver

Heads and Tails:
Judy Mitchell

Member Duties
2nd August

Door:
Bill Michel/ Bob Mitchell

Meet/Greet:
Judy Mitchell /Peter Page

Loyal Toast:
Tricia Parnell

Grace:
Phill Smith

Intro Guest speaker:
President Kathy

Thank Guest Speaker:
President Kathy

Bulletin:
Dieter Greiter

Photos:
Henk Tobbe

Binoculars:
John Crump/Val Morris

Next meeting – District Governors Official Visit
Apologies/Extras to John Crump by noon on Wednesday!
Ph 0401 450 239



Visitors:

Joining us this week were visitors Leslie Freeman and Geoff Windsor.

Leslie has recently moved to the area and was previously a member of the Rotary Club of Kenthurst.

Geoff, from Canberra is visiting mum Liz Friend.



BUNNINGS:

Our first Bunnings BBQ for 2018/19 Rotary year was held last Saturday under the Leadership of Mr Bunnings Tony Todd. The AM shift were treated to a cold & early start and we were trading by 8 am. The morning shift cooked some 13 trays of sausages, with the PM shift carrying on the good work with another 10 trays. We grossed over \$1,300 with a nett result of **\$985.00**. Thank you to the volunteers on both shifts and the ever-reliable Doug Bairstow.

The Club have a Family night coming up on the last Thursday in August and Tony will be looking for Volunteers. It is hoped all members will have the opportunity to participate in a Family night at Bunnings.

Tradies Breakfast. We will be commencing a 3-month trial, once a month, on Monday August 27 2018 at 7 am.

Tony will be also assisting us on this project. More details later. Several members have indicated their willingness to be involved. Thank you Tony for handling this role so professionally & enthusiastically.

Also on Saturday: Seven members under the leadership of Geoff Diemar provided traffic control at the opening of Ingenia Lifestyle's "Latitude 1" over 55s village at Anna Bay.

Members placed approx. 200 vehicles and the Club will receive \$1,000 for the 5 ½ hours (around 40 man-hours). A great start to the year with close to \$2,000 earned to put back into community projects.



Back from Thailand.

Past President Judy Mitchell presents President Kathy with the club banner of the Rotary Club of Patong Beach.



PDG Don Whatham and Fiona are travelling again – this time South Africa. The following is a summary of their trip so far:

'We have just concluded our second day at Victoria Falls. Zimbabwe is certainly a country of contrasts. Very evident is the poverty of the country with roads, buildings and most facilities in a very run-down state, young people begging and trying to sell anything to make a dollar to survive. Tourist facilities on a world standard would be amongst the finest and most luxurious. Typical is the Victoria Falls Hotel which we visited this afternoon for high tea. The falls extend for about a kilometre in length and are the Seven Wonders of the World. On our cruise along the Zambezi river we saw many animals in their wild natural habitat including hippopotamus, elephants, crocodile, monkey and giraffe'. (Don's full letter is attached)

NEXT WEEK:

District Governor Brian Coffey and Carol have commenced their busy year and last week visited both Raymond Terrace and Salamander Bay Clubs.

The photo below shows DG Brian and Carol with Raymond Terrace President Steve Merritt, as well as Chris Bartlett (Zone 7 Asst Gov) and Judi Priestley.



Next week it will be our turn and members are encouraged to bring their partners along. (Don't forget to book in).

Members will recall that we held a "Long Lunch" back in October 2016 to raise funds for **Port Stephen's Women in Crisis**. \$35,000 was raised and donated towards the construction of three accommodation units in Nelson Bay. The units are almost completed and the Club has been invited to attend the official opening on August 9th.



Hon member Terry Fitzsimons has supplied these photos of our past **Youth Exchange Student** Balder Lingegard from Sweden.

Balder now in his 30s used to entertain us with his humorous stories. He quickly caught on to the Aussie tradition of stirring and became quite good at it. A very capable Cellist he occasionally brought his cello along to the meeting. Balder was with us in about 2002 and now works in computer software – most recently working on autonomous car technology. He is pictured here with his sister Nanna. The little bloke is his son Emil.

The editor is not sure if it was Balder who woke early one morning to see the sunrise. Unaccustomed to being awake so early he presumed it was the sunset and thought he had slept through the day!!



DROUGHT RELIEF

President Kathy announced that Past Presidents John Stumchke and Peter McBean would be heading up a “thinktank” on ways to assist our drought-stricken farmers.

The news was met enthusiastically by the meeting with many suggestions put forward. Anyone wishing to be involved in the thinktank should contact either John or Peter. In due course recommendations will be put to the Club for consideration.



**ROTARY CLUB OF NELSON BAY
27TH ANNUAL CHARITY GOLF DAY**



Discover the world
one piece at a time

is proud
sponsor of



**Friday, 12th October, 2018
Nelson Bay Golf Club**

**HOLE IN ONE
\$10,000
HOLIDAY PRIZE**

CHARITY GOLF DAY. CAN YOU ASSIST?

Our Annual Charity Golf Day will be held at Nelson Bay Bowling Club on 12 October 2018.

The golf committee led by Arja Levonpera has met on several occasions and plans are advancing well. Sponsorship support by local businesses is moving along nicely with sponsorship by Port Stephens Toyota, Holiday World Travel and many others already pledged.

Members have been requested to assist:

- In gaining sponsorship by approaching personal suppliers and contacts. See Arja for a list.
- Promoting the day to friends and visitors.
- Playing golf on the day either as an individual or organising a team.
- Volunteering to do one of the many jobs needed in the planning of the event.
- Volunteering for one of the many tasks which will need to be completed on the day.



“Dinner Ladies”

As well as the District Governors Official Visit, next Thursday is scheduled as the regular monthly dinner for partners, spouses and friends.

Following the dinner it is hoped that the ladies will join the meeting for the District Governor’s presentation at around 7:30.