



Bulletin 7 – 17 August 2023

TIM McHARG – WORLD EVENTS AFFECT EVERYONE

Tonight's speaker Tim McHarg presented part 1 of a four-part series on his own family and his own history. A novel and original approach to a presentation at our club. At the conclusion of the presentation Tim offered to return with another episode. Members enthusiastically responded to the offer.

This talk featured events leading up to his birth and really was a talk about his parents. His mother and father were wartime celebrities in England for their contributions during WW2. Both technically born in Britain because before 1921 the division of Northern Ireland/ Southern Ireland had not occurred.

Grandfather Charles O'Brien Ryan was a doctor who worked on the HMS Glory which was stationed south of the ANZAC area and casualties from the battlefield were transferred down to the ship for treatment.

His mother nee Ryan born in 1920 worked in communications and intelligence field. She was taken into the famous Bletchley Park where the enigma code was finally broken. Bletchley Park was for undercover operatives (spies) who operated through the war. He says her vow to remain secret about anything which transpired was never broken, she refused to talk about anything which happened there. She went on to work with General Montgomery in Northern Africa. She was the only female on his staff and spoke directly to pilots during raids and updated them with intelligence information.

His Father was born in 1917 in Dublin and joined the RAAF in 1937 falsifying his age. His first posting took him to Palestine where he flew missions making reconnaissance photos during the great Palestinian revolution. Some of his photos would be some of the earliest record of the towns in this area. Places such as Aman, now the capital of Jordan, and Bethlehem were tiny in 1938.

He went to the North Africa Campaign which was from 10 June 1940 to May 1943. Planes used in North Africa were ferried across from western Africa at Takoradi Harbour in the State called Gold Coast, now known as Ghana. His father was tasked with setting up the route across Africa which was 6 days of flying in those days. By 1942 he reached rank of wing commander and married in Cairo in 1942 to his mother who was already stationed there.

A raid was organized to sink German shipping convoy in the Mediterranean. His father lead the raid toward the heavily fortified convoy and was shot down. All assumed he has perished including his mother who was privy to the telegrams going back describing the aircraft lost. In fact he and the crew escaped the burning fuselage and got into a small dingy which was floating in the area. Later they were picked up by a German Arado water plane and taken to Crete.

Being a senior officer, he was sent to Stalag 3 in Germany as a POW. Tunnels to escape were dug from the various Stalags and although he never escaped, they tried to dig a few tunnels at his location as well. A character based on his experiences featured in a Hollywood movie. As the final stages of the war approached food became scarce in Germany and long marches were organised for the POWS. The plan was to reduce the POW numbers, and many died. The guards themselves were starving.

When he came back he was made the Squadron CO. His career as a pilot continued. He flew aircraft into Berlin during the period of Berlin's isolation. He received the Queens Medal as he lead a guardsman group at the Queen's coronation. He still flew in 1961 when the Kuwait Crisis erupted. The plan was to get Iraq to retreat which they did after show

COMING EVENTS.

- 24 Aug** – Ash Prasher – Latest in Audiology
31 Aug - Science Discovery Day & Bunnings family Night (Meeting Transferred)
7 Sep: Christian Hernandes -Pharmacist
9 Sep: Bunnings Barbeque & Barbeque for Suicide Prevention Group
23 Sept – Hospital Garden opening.
BIRTHDAYS:
23 Aug: Yvonne Stuhmcke
27 Aug: Margaret Bairstow
ANNIVERSARIES:
 None this month
WINNERS:
H/T: Ella Clarke
RAFFLE: Chris Bartlett
Three Minute Talk:
 Chris Bartlett
MEMBER DUTIES –
Door: Doug Craike
Grace – Chris Bartlett
Toast – Peter McBean
Introduce Speaker:
 David Clark
Thank Speaker: Geoff Robinson
Bulletin: John Cropley
Photos: John Cropley
Binoculars: Geoff Diemar

COMING EVENT
THURSDAY 31
AUGUST
Club meeting
transferred to Bunnings.
Members will enjoy the
family night with a
sausage sizzle, drinks
and entertainment



Picture shows guest speaker Tim McHarg, President Ella and Peter Page.

This week's bulletin was edited remotely by Don. Thank you to John Cropley for general notes and guest speaker report.

Thank you to Chris Bartlett for the regular garden report and to Chris and Lesley for the report on Roadwhyz.

Hopefully Don will be fit enough to resume regular attendance shortly. Dieter will return from leave at the end of August so our regular bulletin team will be back in action. Thank you to John Cropley for carrying the editor's load and to Chris for helping out during Don and Dieter's leave.

GARDEN REPORT (CHRIS BARTLETT)

We had our first hospital patient and family visitors to the garden today. Doug and Chris removed the security fence on the Hospital ward side this afternoon, and the staff allowed an elderly lady from Fingal Bay and her son who had travelled down from Queensland to enjoy a seat in the garden. They were delighted to have sun on their backs, loved all the bird noises and were very complimentary of everything in the garden. They also enjoyed naming the plants in the garden and recognised the Circle of Hope.

Doug and Warwick installed a fence along the top of the retaining wall today. The materials were purchased by Hunter Health who requested the fence be installed to enhance patient safety. Some of the plants are already blooming, while the newly planted lawn is looking really good.

We received many compliments today from families of patients and staff at the hospital.

President Ella, Secretary Don, Doug and Jenny met to plan the official opening program. Invitations have been prepared by Don and will be sent out next week. Jenny has arranged entertainment by the PCYC band and morning tea to be provided by the Hospital Auxiliary.

Many Rotary volunteers will be required for the official opening to welcome guests, set up the venue, transport shade covers, tables and other equipment from the shed and manage parking.

Please place Saturday 23 September 2023 in your diary. We hope that every member and partner will be able to attend the official opening of the garden at 10.30am.



ROADWHYZ REPORT.



220 Year 11 students from St Phillips , Tomaree High and Medowie Christian College attended this year’s Roadwhyz Driver safety program at St Phillips Christian College.

The day was well received by all in attendance, with Roadwhyz founder Michelle Davis conducting a hard-hitting program that hopefully will help save lives.

Club Youth Director Lesley Freeman, Chris Bartlett and Denise Diemar were present to serve a museli bar and juice for morning tea with our friends from our local CWA serving scones with jam and cream for the volunteers and assisting staff.

Photo shows Michelle Davis, Lesley and St Phillips year 11 co-ordinator Kate O’Conner. The Principal from St Phillips Christian College was thanked by Lesley Freeman for the school’s ongoing commitment to the Roadwhyz program going back many years. Their hosting of the program has allowed Tomaree High School and Medowie Christian School to share the benefits of this program.

As the program is very popular, we have already booked in Roadwhyz for our local schools on 23 August 2024 to ensure that next year’s Year Elevens will not miss out.



THREE MINUTE TALK.

Chris talked about his time living in London as a young man. He stayed in Brixton which was a very tough neighborhood in London. He met some young guys who offered him a job to drive them around London and wait while they did various errands. The pay was very good at 20 pounds per trip. Chris eventually was curious to ask what the trips were all about. They said we worked for our uncles. Seemed harmless enough, but the uncles were the Creigh Brothers notorious criminals who used some rough tactics in getting what they wanted.

It worked well for Chris and they even took care of his car for him which was a camper van. One morning he found the boys had rounded up all the local kids and they presented on Chris’s doorstep. They said have a look at that car. Make sure no-one touches it, and every week you will clean this car for Chris and he will pay you 1 pound. You know who we are, so make sure there is no trouble. There never was, and Chris’s car remained untouched during plenty of car theft in the area.

SCIENCE DISCOVERY DAY 31 August ROSTER:

TASK	TIME & DATE	VOLUNTEER	WWC Number/ Exp
EQUIPMENT UNLOAD	Thurs 31 Aug 2023 @ 7:00am	Warwick Mathieson John Stuhmcke John Clark Michael Jenkins	
SUPERVISING ASSISTANTS	Thurs 31 Aug 2023 @8:00am	Ella Clarke Doug Crake Earl Heckman Geoff Diemar Chris Bartlett John Stuhmcke Richard Turner Richard (Williamtown-Medowie) Lesley Freeman (Supervisor all Day)	
PACK/LOAD UP	Thurs 31 Aug 2023 @ 2:00pm	All assistants pack up & clean area Richard Turner John Stuhmcke Doug Crake Geoff Diemar	

PARKING at the swimming Centre, walk the short distance to MPC.
Wear Rotary blue & yellow work shirt
Lunch and morning tea provided

SUICIDE PREVENTION GROUP BARBEQUE

Saturday 9th September at Iluka Reserve Boat Harbour from 9am to 1 pm. John Stuhmcke I/C needs 2 volunteers.

BUNNINGS ROSTER FOR 9 SEPTEMBER 2023

DATE	COORDINATOR Transport up & Back	Cook	Serve	Sauce	Money	COORDINATOR Transport back
Sat 9 Sep am	L Freeman	D Clark	E Clarke	J Booth	D Greiter	
Sat 9 Sep pm		W Mathieson	I Brigden	J Priestley	G Diemar	L Freeman