

10 May 2021

President: Barry Knowles – barry.c.knowles@gmail.com • Treasurer: Christine Johnson-Evans – christineje@bigpond.com
• Secretary: warnersbay@outlook.com • Editor: Katrina Henningham – hello@katrinahenningham.com

From the President's Pen – Barry

Hi Warners Bay members and friends,

What a great day we had last Saturday! The weather turned on a real beaut for us and the people came in their hundreds, if not thousands! Most of the issues we had (and there were a few) were born of their being more people than we dared hope for. I have to put my hand up and say I didn't check we had the number of tickets we had matched the number we wanted, and as the printing of them was kindly donated by a friend of Toronto Sunrise there was no invoice to check. The subsequent need to recycle tickets previously sold, made the counting more difficult and kept me pretty busy the whole day. Ho hum. What with that and worrying about lost park keys and prize vouchers, I didn't get to circulate in quite the same way as I would have liked, but I did get a good overall impression that everyone was having a good time.

I want to give a huge 'thank you' to all our club members and friends who helped on the day. You all did a tremendous job and worked extremely hard. Clearly the day would not have been possible without your efforts, so well done everyone and thank you again.

There are a few members I need to single out for thanks particularly, who helped through the whole process. Glenys, for her amazing organisation and attention to detail; Toni McLean for an amazing effort, booking acts, radio marketing, organising the stage, sound, VIP handling and running order and coordinating the entertainment on the day. What fantastic energy and organisation!!; Adrian for stepping in wherever he was needed, especially on art work and marketing materials and also whose concept the whole thing originally was; Craig who made a lot of the initial contacts and set up 2NUR and did a lot of the work to ensure 'Rotary alley' was suitably impressive, and Phil Bailey who stepped up mid-way through to help out when I was beginning to drown in names and numbers. We have Phil's persistence to thank for the Classic Car aspect of the fair, which was a great success, but wasn't really even on the ideas list when we started. Finally a big thank you to Christine, our hard working treasurer, who has been trying to keep up with all the invoices and payments coming in and going out.

Thanks heaps to you all.

There are quite a few more people to thank from the Rotary Clubs of Cardiff, Toronto Sunrise, and Toronto, all of whom did a lot of work one way and another, but I'll save the details to our final committee wash-up meeting on Tuesday.

I know people are interested in how much money the event brought in, but until we meet to allocate the final funds across the clubs, I can't give a definitive answer. We took over \$15,000 in ticket money, but over half of that has been returned to non-Rotary participants like the commercial operators. Cardiff will have done well with their bbq, but most of that money was non-ticket. The petting zoo, pony rides and train, all of which we paid to be there returned a profit. So we will definitely be putting money in the bank.

Having said that, the event will not net as much for our club as (say) the Christmas trailer raffle, but we need to consider the objectives and the wider benefits. It was a great community event, bringing the community, local services, local performers and charities together. Several charities we support were given a platform to showcase their services and make some always needed cash (Got Your Back Sista for example sold 60 t-shirts), Rotary in the Lake Macquarie area got a lot of exposure and we raised the Rotary profile quite a bit, I am sure, and we put down a marker for a similar event in future years, when by learning from our mistakes and what worked and what didn't we can do even better next time!

I am looking forward to our meeting on Monday, when as usual we will have a very full agenda. We have Ian Robinson from the SES coming to talk to us. We have the fair wash-up. Erin is coming along to talk about an exciting training opportunity she is offering, and we will touch on the upcoming do-goodery conference, and the memory walk at the end of the month.

I hope to see most of you then, for the rest of you, I hope you are enjoying whatever else you are doing. *Keep active!*

Kind Regards
Barry Knowles
President

Next Meetings:

6:15pm for 6:30pm

Monday 10 May

Guest Speaker: Ian Robinson, SES

•

Monday 24 May

Guest Speaker:
Sue Bell, End Polio

•

Club Macquarie

The meal and meeting will be held in the one room
Rec Lounge

•

The Club staff commence serving dinner at 6:30pm...

Please ensure you have arrived, paid for your meal and found your seat by this time.

Thanks!

Links to
Google docs



[Dinner Meeting Roster](#)

[Survivors R Us](#)

[Club Program](#)

[Memory Walk](#)

Click on the underlined words to open the link in Google Docs – remember to check regularly and to put your name down to help out in one of the spots.

Because...

*Many Hands Make
Light Work...* 

President: Barry Knowles – barry.c.knowles@gmail.com • Treasurer: Christine Johnson-Evans – christineje@bigpond.com
 • Secretary: warnersbay@outlook.com • Editor: Katrina Henningham – hello@katrinahenningham.com

A message from President-elect Glenys

District 9670 Conference: Saturday 22nd May; 10.00am – 4.00pm

Make sure this date is on your calendar!

For our newer members, District Conference is always a very inspiring day full of inspiring speakers and lots of time to meet new and old friends.

Have you seen the **Chin Wag?** – A newsletter about the Conference with details of the many inspiring speakers as well as information about silent auctions, lucky prizes and the fun that's planned.

This year it is a conference with a difference. It is a virtual conference.

1. Cost to register is \$10.00 – all funds go to **End Polio**. Go to District 9670 website or follow this link <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing?eid=616023&>

2. Our club is organizing to hold a **Conference Get Together** at Club

*Many Hands Make
Light Work...*



Macquarie. Cost will be \$15.00 per person.

You will be able to purchase your lunch from the Club's Bistro.

Lake Mac Autumn Fair: 1st May

What an amazing day!

There were smiles everywhere you looked. Such an awesome community day.

Thank you for everyone's help on the day and for the feedback we have already received.

Its now time to reflect on what was good, what could be better, what we could do differently, and new ideas as we begin thinking about, and planning for, next year.

Looking forward to sharing this with you.

Rotary Theme • May – Youth Service Month

Rotary clubs of the world give special emphasis to the many Rotary-sponsored programs which serve children and young people. This could include:

- Sponsor a new Interact or Rotaract Club
- Organise Drawing/Painting/Elocution competition in schools – RCWB has their Public Speaking Competition in place!
- Awareness campaign about problems & need for survival of Future Generations



Links To Google Docs Program And Rosters.

Each of these links will take you to the relevant document. You will [hopefully] be able to Click on each to open the document. Sometimes you will need to press the Ctrl key + click (Windows) to open the document.

RC Warners Bay Program	https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1WfRDoddQ5_freuXYItJT1YxBLuN7i90ipQiX5NikW5o/edit#gid=0
Dinner Meeting Roster	https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1pmis_vzJ6FI8hp4n414EO-PRDJfPMikV4FKeye-ol6c/edit#gid=0
Survivors R Us BBQ	https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/10I8MrdneT5C_g-rAUho790Y0yw25xshZPVBOgPPPqBc/edit#gid=0
Memory Walk for Dementia May 30th	https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1jNi8YiQnsQ0aL6K6xWsqUoYc9h2_zEMOimY3Pz78Yul/edit#gid=0

Welfare– Vina

Firstly let our thoughts be with the people of India at this moment. Graphic pictures on tellie only tell part of the suffering.

How great it was to see Michael at The Autumn Fair last Saturday. Thank you Michael for making the effort to attend.

We hope you continue to regain your strength.

Also great to see Glenda and Bernie after their health challenges “manning” their book stall.

Ian is still in Sydney receiving monitoring from his transplant doctors and they are pleased with his progress.

He is still restricted in his activities but hopes to be home by the end of the month.

Some of us have already had our Covid19 vaccine with no reactions. That is great news. The ‘flu vaccine is also available

Rotary Foundation – Vina

Rotary International is responding to the impact of global COVID19 crisis . It is closely monitoring updates and recommendations.

From the World Health Organisation and the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention to ensure the safest and most appropriate actions are taken by and for its members and communities they serve.

Third world countries are very challenged and our thoughts are with India at the moment and those countries that we hear little about.

A mass, worldwide vaccination effort is crucial to defeating COVID19 pandemic, but the logistics of getting it done are incredibly complex. Two most complicating factors are storage and transportation. For more than 30 years, Rotary members have been supporting the safe transport of

polio vaccines to every corner of the globe. Vaccines can only protect against disease if they are delivered safely. Overexposure to heat, cold and light can compromise vaccine quality. Not only does it diminish the vaccines effectiveness but also leads to wasted vaccine supply and financial cost.

The Autumn Fair

Congratulations to the Fair Team especially Barry, Glenys and Toni McLean for their magnificent organisational skills and self belief. It is the biggest crowd I have ever seen at any event at Speers Point Park.

What a magical, sunny, memorable day.

(Lots of photos following!)



Take Aim...



Fire!...



Missed!...



President: Barry Knowles – barry.c.knowles@gmail.com • Treasurer: Christine Johnson-Evans – christineje@bigpond.com
• Secretary: warnersbay@outlook.com • Editor: Katrina Henningham – hello@katrinahenningham.com

Membership Report – Glenda:

Membership Promotion

We have two more Markets until the end of the Rotary Year. I have not organised a theme or promotion. It was decided at the last Warners Bay Board meeting to use these two markets to promote Rotary and in particular Warners Bay and the great work we do and have done in the past.

To make this happen I am asking for some assistance to form a small working group to do some leg work, phone calls and printing etc. If you are interested call me on 0419 416 599 or email me at geebeekay02@gmail.com or let me know at the next Club meeting.

Information Meeting

To follow up on the Markets, we will be holding an information evening prior to the fortnightly Club meeting on 24 May. These meetings have been very successful in other clubs and it will be a good opportunity for the club to carry on from the success from the Autumn Fair.

I have created a letter that club members can give or send to people they would like to invite to the Information meeting. This will be made available at the Club meeting.

Car Boot Sale

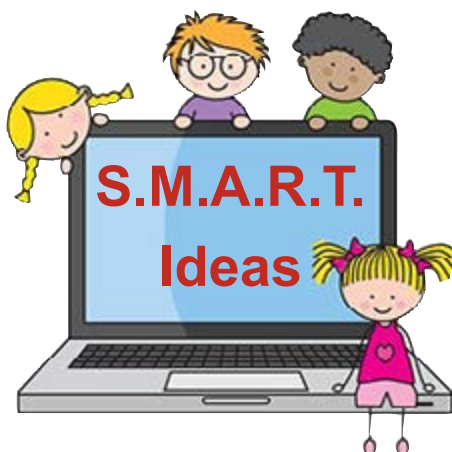
I was approached by Warners Bay Markets several months ago to determine if Rotary Warners Bay would be interested in running

a Car Boot Sale in conjunction with the Markets once a month. This was discussed at the board and agreed, with some extra information, to go ahead.

Lake Macquarie Council held back on the approval due to COVID and has now agreed for the Car Boot Sale to go ahead. The first Car Boot Sale will be at the Markets on 18 September.

I would like to set up a working group to make this happen. If you are interested call me on 0419 416 599 or email me at geebeekay02@gmail.com or let me know at the next Club meeting.

Thank you!



Social Media And Rotary Talk

Following the introduction of Google Docs for sharing Programs, Rosters and relevant Club news, we are looking further into the future with technology.

Erin will be coordinating and facilitating some training sessions to help Club Members to develop an greater understanding of the technology available to us.

Topics covered will cover topics such as Facebook, Club Runner and our Club's website.

There will be basic and more in-depth sessions – Erin will be speaking at Monday's club meeting so think about what would help you.

Glenys



Memory Walk and Jog

Sunday 30 May • 7 am till 11 am

At Speers Point Park

The Memory Walk and Jog is a charity event to raise money for dementia research. We have committed to cook food for the volunteers running the event and to sell food to the walkers and joggers participating. The proceeds from the sales come back to our Club.

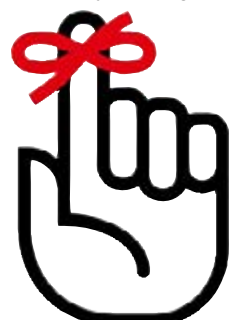
We will need club members and friends to come and help with a BBQ that our club will be running at this charity event.

You could help with setting up, cooking, serving food and drinks, or cleaning up. Some items will need to be transported to and from the site, too.

Please check the Roster (link on first page of "In the Loop") and confirm your original commitment – or add your name to the roster if you haven't already done so and are available to help out on the day.

Thanks,

Ross



Rotary



Rotary Club of Warners Bay

would like to invite you to join us for the
“Do Goodery” Virtual District Conference

When: Saturday 22 May • 10:00am – 4:00pm

Where: Club Macquarie, 458 Lake Road, Argenton



Program for the Day:

- 10:00am Welcome, Registration and time for a chat
- 10:30am Conference – Session 1
- 12:30pm Lunch (You can purchase your lunch at the Club’s Bistro)
- 2:00pm Conference – Session 2
- 4:00pm Close

How to Register:

- Step 1:** **Register for the Conference – Cost \$10** (proceeds to **End Polio**)
Google – District 9670 and follow the links to Conference Booking
OR: <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing?eid=616023&>
- Step 2:** **Register for attendance at Club Macquarie – Cost \$15**
Payment to RCWB: BSB 646000 A/C 100067991
Your payment description to include “Conf” followed by your surname
Email your receipt of payment to: glenystomkins@gmail.com
- Step 3:** Come along, be inspired, and join in the fun.
We will also have FUNdraising activities – proceeds to **End Polio**

RSVP 14 May Glenys Tomkins, President-Elect & Club Service Director
Phone: 0416 059 655 • Email glenystomkins@gmail.com

Community Service – Kerry

Survivors R Us BBQ breakfasts: continue every second Thursday. Volunteers are needed for second half o year. If you can help, add name on Google doc spreadsheet (click on site in newsletter), or email me. Vina and myself have been invited to attend regular networking meetings at Survivors, our first meeting will be this Tuesday 11th May. I hope this will give us a glimpse at areas of need in our community.

Oz Harvest: members continue to attend PCYC Windale on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays to assist Oz Harvest pack hampers for needy families. The funding for this project will cease in June, but I have advised Oz Harvest our club would like to continue our support in some way. This has been a really enjoyable and fun activity for our members, getting to know other amazing people helping their community.

Peter Raynor Award

This award, in honour of PDG Peter Raynor, is to be presented at club changeover event in June. Closing date for nominations is this Monday, May 10th. Fill in as much info as you can on the nomination form, and submit/email to President Barry or myself, or hand in at meeting on Monday.

Polio Report – Kerry

Total reported cases of wild polio so far in 2021 = **remains at TWO** (1 Afghanistan, 1 Pakistan).

Numbers so far this year are looking promising, but we'll not rest until the number is ZERO!

Sir Clem Renouf Club: Sir Clem Renouf (1921-2020) was a member of Nambour Rotary Club, and Rotary Int President 1978-79. Sir Clem made significant contribution to the worldwide eradication of Polio.

All Rotarians around the world are being invited to join this club. For a personal donation of \$10 you can become a member. You can make your donation at any dinner meeting.

Where's Polly?

Polly made a guest appearance at the Autumn Fair on 1st May, as part of the impressive 'Avenue of Rotary'.

There were many questions about our 'iron lung', and many folk shared their own personal stories about this terrible disease called Polio.

A number of clubs showed an interest in having Polly visit their club for a club project/activity.

Donations were collected for END POLIO. She will head up to Raymond Terrace soon, to be part of their Heritage Festival.

Polly has received invitations from other Sydney clubs, and has also been invited to visit (new) District 9560, which covers far north Queensland and Northern Territory.

Virtual World Water Summit 13

This year's World Water Summit will focus on the crisis on water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) in healthcare facilities (HCFs).

It is reported that in least developed countries that 22% of health care facilities have no water service and 21% lack sanitation service.

Confirmed speakers are:

Joanne McGriff, Emory University, a leading authority on WASH in HealthCare

John Oldfield, Global Water 2020

Register now... [Thurs. June 3, 7 pm EDT \(18 h UTC +5\)](#)
[Fri. June 4, 11 am EDT \(10 h UTC +5\)](#)



May:
11th – Bernie K

Position Vacant

The position of Editor of *in the Loop* 

will be available from **Changeover (28th June 2021)**

Relevant image and graphic files will be handed over to the wonderful volunteer who takes up this position – *the newsletter is ready for a new Editor and a new Design – how about rekindling your creative talents?*

Please contact: President Barry, Secretary Katrina or President-Elect/Club Service Director Glenys
with your expression of interest

Rotary Club of Warners Bay – Dinner Meeting – 26 April 2021

Attendees: Barry K (President); Katrina H (Secretary); Christine J-E (Treasurer); Glenys T (Club Service; Pres-Elect); Vina C (Foundation; Welfare); Kerry H (Community; End Polio); Glenda K (Membership); Toni G (Compliance); Craig H (Area Governor); Philip B; Paul B; Julie B; John E; Bernie K; Brian Mc; Erin M; Toni Mc; Ross Mc; Adrian P; Steve T.

Apologies: Les C (Imm Past Pres); Kate B (International); Jenny C; Gail C; Kevin C; Jacqui D; Ian K; Helen P; Michael W.

Welcome: President Barry welcomed everyone, with the service of dinner at 6:30pm.

Peter Raynor Award: Kerry reminded the members of our presentation of the original award to PDG Peter in late 2020. The perpetual award is to be presented at the Club Changeover dinner (28 June). This award is to recognise a member who has exemplified the ideals of Rotary. Kerry has asked that members make a nomination, using the form supplied in a previous “In the Loop” distribution, and to send it to either

Kerry or President Barry by Monday 10 May. The Board will review all nominations at the June Board Meeting to select the recipient. President Barry encouraged everyone to submit a nomination, even if they are unable to fill in every question.

Time to Shine – Vina: Vina shared her experiences of a significant time during her career in education. Her full presentation is included as a stand-alone item in this issue of “In the Loop”.

District 9670 Virtual Conference: Glenys reminded everyone to register for the District Conference, with the \$10 fee going directly to End Polio. There is also a \$15 fee for those attending the event at Club Macquarie, to cover the room charges and a “tombola” on the day. Glenda reminded everyone that the DG has a prize for the Club who has the highest percentage of members register for the Conference. At the moment, our Club sits at 20% registered. Craig commented that, in previous years, when the Conference was at a venue that we had to travel to, pay for accommodation

and pay the much higher conference registration, our Club would often have the highest percentage of attendees. So encouraged everyone to register. Lunch will be at our own expense, available from the Club Bistro.

Lake Macquarie Autumn Fair – Roles & Responsibilities: Glenys went through the plans for the day, explaining the roles and responsibilities of section co-ordinators as well as for all Club members. It will be a busy day for everyone, but the planning committee also hope that everyone will have the chance to enjoy the day as well. We are encouraged to wear “old English country fair” style clothing – or our Rotary gear and comfortable shoes. The rosters and responsibilities were handed out and discussions were held in small groups to ascertain any other information required or tasks to occur prior the event. A reminder that the gazebos will be going up from 6:30am with all our stalls being set up from 7:00am – and that we need as many people as possible there early to help.

Meeting Close: President Barry closed the meeting at 8:30pm.

Time to Shine – Vina:

Wow! Putting 83 years into 10 minutes is a challenge! Some people heard my story some years ago, so I thought I would talk about a special part of my 39 years in Education – my role as an Aboriginal Resource teacher over a period of 7 years.

Before I commence, I would like to pay my respects to the Awabakal People as the custodians of the land on which we meet tonight. I pay respects to the elders past and present and to our local Aboriginal community.

Just imagine... just over 250 years’ ago, the Awabakal people were living on the banks of Cockle Creek, just here, where we meet tonight.

So, how does a white fella become an Aboriginal Resource teacher? My interest goes back to my childhood while scoring for my father’s cricket team at Karuah. It was customary that both teams have a quick beer at the pub across the road from the cricket ground before heading home. While sitting on the bank of the river waiting, I noticed my father appear from the pub, holding two middies in his hand, and wander over to the bank, where two of the Karuah cricketers were sitting next to the cricket ground, and he gave the drinks to them.

On the way home, I said to dad, “Why didn’t those men go with you into the pub?” He replied, “Aboriginal men are not allowed in pubs to have a drink”. This was about 1949 – before

the 1967 Referendum (Constitution Alteration (Aboriginals) Bill 1967). ([https://www.aph.gov.au/About_Parliament/Parliamentary_Departments/Parliamentary_Library/FlagPost/2017/May/The_1967_Referendum#:~:text=The%20proposed%20law%20\(Constitution%20Alteration.Aboriginal%20people%20in%20national%20censuses.\)](https://www.aph.gov.au/About_Parliament/Parliamentary_Departments/Parliamentary_Library/FlagPost/2017/May/The_1967_Referendum#:~:text=The%20proposed%20law%20(Constitution%20Alteration.Aboriginal%20people%20in%20national%20censuses.)))

Rolling forward, when teaching in Sydney many years later, I taught Aboriginal students in Redfern and Darlington schools. There, a Principal once said to the staff, “I just had an Aboriginal student wanting to enrol here and, you know what, I can refuse to accept him.” “Really?!” I thought. This, of course, was prior to the Referendum, giving recognition to Aboriginal People.

So, at the age of 31, I was still single, had travelled overseas and taught in London for 2 years and was now Deputy Principal at a school called Guise in Sydney’s west. I decided, why not follow my dream, and teach in an all-Aboriginal school. So, I applied for a deputy’s position with the Queensland Government, to a school on Mornington Island, up in the Gulf of Carpentaria.

Just before I took up the position, I met my future husband, so I declined and chose marriage instead.

After living in Sydney for 7 years, as a family we relocated to Taree to be near our ageing parents.

The position of an Aboriginal Resource teacher

was vacant at Taree Public School. This was in 1980 and, remember, it had only been 12 years since the new legislation, following the 1967 Referendum. Prior to 1968, at Taree Public School there was a line drawn across the school playground to separate the white kids from the Aboriginal kids. At the local theatre, there was a roped off area at the front, where the Aboriginal people could sit, segregated from the audience. At the local hospital, Aboriginal women had their babies in a small room away from the maternity ward. Taree has an Aboriginal community living on the fringe of town, which was once a mission called Purfleet. Aboriginal people had a curfew and people had to have a pass to come into town, before the 1968 Legislation. So, out at “the mission” these things were all still fresh in people’s minds, as this had been a lived experience. Some Aboriginal families did leave the mission eventually, and lived in town, and some were fortunate enough to find employment.

So, I applied for the position as Aboriginal Resource teacher and landed the job. The District Inspector told me I had full reign to provide positive outcomes for the 100 Aboriginal students in Taree Public School, which had an enrolment of 700 students.

My main challenge was to gain the trust of the students, community and staff. The students mainly lived in Purfleet, which was on the edge of town (still very common in other country towns). The students were bussed into town

to attend the “big school”, as it was referred to by the kids. At the mission, there was a pre-school and a newly formed kindergarten class – the idea was to make the transition into the big school more positive. Apart from skills, this taught routines that would be expected at the big school. During my time in this role, I visited the Purfleet community once a week to keep in touch with the community, the pre-school and the kindergarten class.

In my role, my aim was to achieve: improved communication with the Purfleet community; increased attendance of the students; improved reading standards; address health issues; development of Aboriginal Studies units of work by supporting the staff; and involvement of the community in the school activities.

I knew that teaching these students to read at the big school, K-6, was a first priority. Reading material at the time had no Aboriginal characters and didn't relate to these kids' life experiences. So, I was able to research and gather some published Dreamtime stories (not many at that time) and the students and I also set about writing our own books with stories about the students' adventures and experiences out on the mission. The students did the illustrations. They soon became engaged and were proud of their achievements in producing these books. Of course, they also read mainstream material. Methods I found that suited their learning style were: phonic patterns, repetition, rote learning and a method called NIM (Neurological Impress Method) – which simply means reading along with the student. This way, they didn't have to stop and get frustrated when they didn't know a word. This gave them confidence and a feeling of success. I used to withdraw students from class sometimes individually and other times in small groups. Most of these students did not see written material at home and it has been documented in research that this delays a student's educational progress by 2-3 years.

Expanding their vocabulary was another priority. These kids rarely shopped in town, so they were not exposed to identifying things at the supermarket – eg the wide range of fruit and vegetables that were available. So, brief excursions were arranged to do just that – expand their vocabulary and experience. Once, when we arrived at the supermarket, someone said, “Make sure those kids don't touch anything!” ...as people used to think that, if an Aboriginal kid was ever in a shop, that they were there to pinch stuff! I experienced those feelings with the kids.

The Medical Clinic at Purfleet employed members from the community. To address some of the health issues, the Principal and I arranged for the Doctor at Purfleet to run a clinic at the school once a week, assisted by my Aboriginal aide. Housing conditions at the mission were sub-standard, small and overcrowded at that time and many children had lice and scabies. Eventually, those houses were replaced. Some

of the able young men at the mission were trained in the building industries through the apprenticeship scheme, and helped build the new larger homes, accommodating family needs. The doctor used to tell me, when he first visited anyone of a night time, he would find youngsters asleep in the hall or on the front steps, still in their day clothes. The new housing, with better facilities, helped to address this.

Involving the Aboriginal community was my next challenge. My beautiful Aboriginal Aide, Faith, who was a mother of 10 children, was a great source of information and support. For example, one of her sons was a fishman, working with his dad in the local area. He was also a talented artist and potter. After arranging an exhibition of his work in the school library, through some DSF (Disadvantaged Schools Funding), I was able to invite him to give Art and Pottery lessons with all the students in the school. Fortunately, we had a school pottery kiln and, soon, students excitedly were able to take home a native animal made of clay or a piece of artwork they had made with Uncle Russell. He as an absolute hit with all the students and Russell's self-esteem exploded. His achievements soon became well known and he was employed by other schools up the coast. I caught up with Russel again, many years later, at a Rotary conference in Forster, as he did the Welcome to Country and, apart from an Art Gallery business with his daughter, he is now the pastor out at Purfleet.

Through Russell and his mum, Faith, and through my weekly visits to the Purfleet community, I eventually found the elders and community members who were willing to come to the school to celebrate and entertain the whole school on NAIDOC week, and lead school excursions in the local area. These activities were held in conjunction with the Aboriginal Studies units of work we had developed. An ancient midden near the shoreline of Crowdy Head, made of pippi and oyster shells, was an example of a local treasure. Building lean-to's in the bush, and identifying bush tucker, at Wallaby Point was also a great hit with all the school students. Developing the Aboriginal Studies units of work for the whole school, and collecting resources, was another way I found to engage the whole school and support the staff.

The positives were that the Aboriginal students were now more involved in school activities, such as our School Camping program, and attendance had improved.

The teaching staff soon came on board, especially after several staff development days, learning about the Aboriginal culture in the local area. I was able to source material so we could write units of work be engaged with the Aboriginal community in excursions and even at our annual concert some classes re-enacted Dreamtime stories as their concert item. Eventually, my role was expanded to another primary school and the local High School. Linda Burney MP, who is now in Federal Parliament, was the State Aboriginal

Education consultant at that time and we shared many thoughts and ideas during her regular visits to the area. A few years ago, I caught up with Linda in person again, while she was visiting Newcastle, for a trip down memory lane as we hadn't seen each other for 30 years.

Unfortunately, after 7 years in this role, I became burnt out and developed diabetes at the same time and ended up in hospital. Sadly, I decided to give up the position and return to the classroom and executive staff of Taree Public school, which was less demanding. Of course, I was at the same school where the Purfleet students attended so my connection was still there.

This role, out of all those I had during my career, was very special and a great privilege.

What did I learn from the experience? ...much about humanity, discrimination and the power of education and reaching out. I strongly believe Aboriginal people need to be empowered to make decisions about their lives and the policies that affect them. I saw, through my own experience, how that can successfully happen.

In fact, years later, it was a little Aboriginal girl who jumped up onto my lap one afternoon, pinched the skin on my neck, and said “Mrs Chubb, you have old skin!” I knew then it was time to think about retiring – which I eventually did, after 39 years teaching in a job I simply loved.

During the past 18 months, Andrew Saunders, now an Australian comedian who often appears at the annual Melbourne Comedy Festival, has befriended me on FaceBook. He was the young lad who, during NAIDOC celebrations at Taree Public School, entertained the audience with his comedy acts. He is still based in Taree with his young family. There are so many stories I could tell, some sad and others inspiring. I will always be grateful for that very special experience during my career in education and I am still learning about this amazing culture.

There is a local Aboriginal lady who teaches students from Toronto High School how to drive, a program funded and run by the Rotary Club of Toronto Sunrise. Some years ago, our own Club had an association with the Awabakal pre-school on Main Road, Cardiff, and we were able to allocate some “Loop the Lake” funds to purchase educational equipment and furniture for the school.

If you haven't met an Aboriginal person, try and do so, as there are many living here in our local communities. Thank you for listening.

● ● ● ● ● ● ● ●
If you want your news, report, items, articles or photos to get into the next edition of “In the Loop” newsletter, please send them directly to the Editor, Katrina, at

 hello@katrinahenningham.com
by **Saturday 22 May**
Thanks!

DINNER MEETING ROSTER

DATE	Guest Speaker	Greeter		Assistant Treasurer	Introduce speaker	Thank Speaker	Rotary Education	Time to Shine
	<i>Coordinator: Katrina</i>	<i>Coordinator:</i>		<i>Coordinator: Christine</i>	<i>Coordinator: Glenys</i>		<i>Coordinator: Vina</i>	<i>Coordinator:</i>
8th Feb	Syann Williams Rotary Peace Fellow	Kerry	Vina	John	Katrina	Toni G		
22nd Feb	Neil Patterson Author	Jenny	Katrina	Toni G	Craig	Adrian	What is a Club	Glenys
8th Mar	Damon McDonald Author/Winner of Trailer Raffle	Ross	Toni Mc	Kerry	Christine	Helen	Areas of Service	Kate
22nd Mar	Club Assembly - Autumn Fair	Brian		Ross				
12th Apr	Pam Dean-Jones District Environment, Chair	Steve		Paul	Phil	Julie		Ross
26th Apr	Autum Fair – last minute preparations	Jenny	Vina	Helen				Vina
10th May	Ian Robinson – Local SES Area Commander for Natural and Other Disasters	John	Craig	Kerry	Toni G	Katrina		Jenny
24th May	Sue Bell + End Polio update	Glenda	Brian	Julie	Kerry	Ross		Philip
14th Jun	TBA	Katrina	Helen	Steve	Glenda	Toni Mc		Les
28th Jun	Changeover Dinner	Gail	Philip	Julie	Barry	Vina		N/A

GREETER

- Welcome members as they arrive
- Welcome new members
- introduce to President
- introduce to Treasurer

ASSISTANT TREASURER

- Sit with treasurer to assist with collecting fees, selling raffle tickets or assisting new members

INTRODUCE GUEST SPEAKER

- Find out a little about the guest speaker - perhaps sit near them and have a conversation with them.
- Introduce guest speaker to the Club

THANK THE GUEST SPEAKER

- Present Thank you card to speaker.
- Explain our Book donations to schools on their behalf, show the book
- Organise for the guest to sign the book

10 MINUTES OF FAME

This is your opportunity to tell your story. It may be some interesting facts or anecdotes about:

- your life and family
- your vocation or work life
- your aspirations
- a Rotary experience
- a funny story

It's up to you - it's a chance to get