

12 October 2020

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 All and welcome to another In The Loop.

Before I get into my spiel for this week, I would just like to say a big thank you to Katrina for doing such a great job putting this newsletter together. It really is a very professional effort every two weeks (and sometimes weekly).

This newsletter piece is all about asking all of you to (metaphorically) put your hand up to get involved in some of the things that are going on, both in the near future and in the slightly longer term. To maintain momentum, we really do need everyone to be getting involved in something.

So first up, we are getting pretty close to our **AGM which will be held on 23rd November**, which means nominations for the new board are due by the meeting on 9th November. If you would like to nominate someone for a board position please ask them first and then fill out the form (attached to this ITL), but please, please don't feel shy about self nominating either. Even if you don't mind taking on one of a range of roles, just let Katrina know, so that we can find the right role for you. For those of you who are already on the board, please let us know if you are prepared to stand again, in the same or a different position. If you

are on the current board, but do not want to stand in your current position again, please do your best to persuade someone else to be nominated for the position you are vacating.

We are now at the point in developing the **Autumn Fete (1st May 2021)**, where I need people to volunteer to take on stalls. This means taking responsibility for putting together a stall and running it on the day, or developing a challenge or event and running it on the day. As the main instigator of this multiple Rotary club project, I think we need to take a lead by running at least 3 or 4 items. *So hands up please!* Have a look at the list in this edition of *In the Loop*.

From memory at the last meeting we had a couple of volunteers (including me) to submit a poem to the **Zoom Leckie Poetry night on the 19th**. Can I please have a volunteer to liaise with Cardiff to coordinate our entries.

We have agreed to run a sausage sizzle (or maybe, if we choose, a bit more than that at the **Memory Walk on 21 March 2021**). Can I please have a volunteer to coordinate that?

As we enter the pointy end of the **Christmas Trailer Raffle** we still need more volunteers to help man the stall particularly when we are at *Lake Macquarie Fair every day during November and December*.

So please volunteer whenever you can. This will be our main fundraiser now this year.

I have rather let **"5 minutes of fame"** slip over the last few weeks. I think it is a great idea for introducing our members to each other. Would someone like to take on the job of producing a schedule to coincide with our meetings and organising members to speak?

I think that is all the hand raising required for now. Thank you in advance.

I have been asked to make clear what the arrangements are for our meals at Club Macquarie. We charge \$30 for a meal. The club charges us \$25. The extra \$5 goes towards meals for the speakers and the books we give to schools on their behalf, and if there is anything over after that, you can consider it helps with the donations we make to the speakers charities. I hope that is Ok with everyone.

Finally **Hat Night** is our next meeting on **26th October**. Please try to get along to Club Macquarie if you can, so that we can experience your hat! And bring a bit of spare cash! I am sure there will be opportunities to **raise money for Mental Health research**.

Keep well, keep active, keep coming.

Notice of the Annual General Meeting

for the Rotary Club of Warners Bay Inc
to be held **Monday 23 November 2020**
at Club Macquarie, and via Zoom link.

Board positions up for Nomination, to be filled:

Secretary
In The Loop Editor
Treasurer
Rotary Foundation

Membership
Welfare
Child Protection
Club Service

Community Service
Vocational Service
Youth Service
Public Officer

Rotary Club of Warners Bay
invite you to their
END POLIO
Virtual Dinner Party
6:30pm Friday 23 October



Dress up! Wear something red

Enjoy a yummy home-cooked meal and glass, or three, of your favourite beverage, chat and have fun over zoom, with friends...



*Help us to raise much needed funds for
END POLIO*

...all in the comfort and convenience of your own home!

Invite your family and friends – it's a great way to introduce them to us fun-loving Rotarians!

- 😊 **Delicious Meal**
– you get to choose your menu
- 😊 **Open Bar** – bring your own
- 😊 **Groups** can get together in COVID safe numbers
- 😊 **Lucky door prize**



Hope to see you there!

\$25 per Family

Funds raised will go to the Rotary Foundation's **END POLIO** program.

Every \$25 we raise becomes \$75 with the generous 2-for-1 dollar matching by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

Payment details: Please make payment to:
Rotary Club of Warners Bay account...

BSB 646000
Acc: 100067993

Please include your name and "POLIO" on your deposit for Treasurer Christine to ID the payment, thank you.

RSVP: Kerry
kezzac1@bigpond.com
0417 485 293

Zoom details:
Meeting ID: 891 0461 5859
Password: 807174

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Community Service – Kerry

Survivors R Us BBQ breakfasts continue, thank you to members who are assisting with this valued community project. Updated roster included below. Please let me know if you are unable to do your rostered day/s.

Kerry • 0417485293
kezzac1@bigpond.com

**Roster for assisting at
“Survivors R Us” breakfast – 2020**
8:00am to 10:00am

1/3 Ranton Street Cardiff.

Wear your Club shirt.

Bring a hat and sunscreen.

Mental Health Hat Night is planned for **26th October**. Ross has organised and sent info on this.

Kerry Hayes, Community Chair & District RF Polio Chair

15 October	Helen Kerry	Ross Glenys	Steve
29 October	Helen Kerry	Ross Jenny	Glenys Steve
12 November	Helen Jacqui (tbc)	Lyn Craig (tbc)	Jenny Katrina
26 November	Helen Jacqui (tbc)	Gail (tbc) Kerry	Jenny Lyn
10 December	Helen Jacqui (tbc)	Lyn Craig (tbc)	Katrina Jenny
24 December	Helen Jacqui (tbc)	Gail (tbc) Kerry	Jenny Lyn

What’s happening on the POLIO front?

Saturday 24th October is World Polio Day.

Our **‘Virtual Dinner Party’** is on Friday 23rd October. You will have received an invitation. Hope you can join in. A great way to raise funds for END POLIO and have a fun night.



Raising awareness and funds for END POLIO remains one of Rotary’s primary goals.

What can YOU do to help with END POLIO?

- support our virtual dinner party and other events which raise much needed funds.
- talk to your friends, who may not be Rotarians. Talk about the Polio story, and the importance of immunising all children against terrible but totally preventable diseases, including polio.

Invitation to our 2020 Hat Night

On **26 October**, our Club is hosting a **Hat Night** to raise money for the **Australian Rotary Mental Health Research Fund** and **you’re invited to join us!**

Hat Night is part of the **“Lift the Lid on Mental Illness”** campaign by Rotary.



When: Monday 26 October 2020 • 6pm for 6:15pm

Where: Club Macquarie, Argenton

What to Wear: A hat, of course!

Prizes for the best hats and a raffle prize to win

Our guest speaker will be **Karissa Lewis**. Karissa has worked in our area, for Camp Quality. She is a survivor, has a passion for helping people, and has a very special story to tell about mental illness.

DON'T FORGET YOUR HAT!

Rotary 
Districts of Australia



#LiftTheLid

www.hatday.com.au

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Welfare – Vina

Firstly condolences to Katrina and Les who lost love ones last week. Katrina her Step Dad and Les his mother. Our thoughts are with you both.

Two of our members are facing serious health challenges at the moment. Peter is in Lake Macquarie Private hospital feeling very unwell with a build up of fluid.

Ian, after being to Sydney to see his specialist, will be starting chemo this week as well as taking part in a trial treatment.

Our thoughts are with them, as well as with Margaret and Judy, and wishing them positive outcomes.

Thanks to all those members who have been volunteering this past fortnight at *Survivor'sUs* and at the *Speers Markets* on Saturday.

The Christmas Trailer sale of tickets at the markets have been successful.

Mini Bike rides are now starting at 5.30 pm at Speers Point Park on Thursdays and Barry, Ian and Steve have been regular riders, together with a few locals.

John and Chris will be away until late next week enjoying the Southern Highlands and the beautiful South Coast in their van.

Jacqui is teaching her grand children the joys of camping and Kerry is having

a weekend away at the central coast, celebrating her daughter-in-law's 40th.

Others have had precious time with their grand children during the school holidays and we are all, hopefully, enjoying this glorious Spring weather.

Remember to stay safe and well and we hope to see you on Monday evening in person or on Zoom as we have some amazing guest speakers from "**Got Your Back Sister**" – Peree Watson and Mel Histion.

Remember our fund raiser for End Polio by joining our virtual dinner the following Friday evening.

English Autumn/Spring Fayre – *ideas for Activities run by RC Warners Bay...*

Stalls	Exhibits	Musical items
Catch the rat (Cloth "rat" in a pipe)	Rotary stall (recruitment)	Dance displays
Floating duck fishing - numbers on the bottom	Sheltabox, Mherv, Polio trailer	Celebrity Autographs
Coconut Shy (Knock off the Pollie)	Council Display: Lake Mac projects	Family ride - start at 10am - answer 10 questions on the way. Warners bay and back. \$10 entry per child. Prize for completed entries.
Apple bobbing	Vintage Cars (Les?)	Boat rides on the lake
Balloon darts	Model boats?	Drone Demonstration (over the lake)
Chocolate wheel	Fire Engine (firefighting demo?)	Food and Drink
Skittles	Commercial Attractions	Barbecue and soft drinks
Pin the tail on the donkey	Radio Station on site - music, event announcements, spruiking, MC	Coffee van
Quoits. Prize on the pin.	Bouncy Castle	Professional Food vans
Helium Balloons (send your name far and wide)	Kiddie rides?	Licensed Bar
Handicraft for sale	Pony rides	Financial Matters
Steam train rides	Animal display, petting zoo	Tickets - \$2 per activity/event or buy tickets 12 for \$10, 25 for \$20?
Raffle	Remote cars on a track	Budget
Books and DVDs stall	Races and events	Club contribution/reward
Face Painting	Egg and spoon race	Exhibit manning
Fortune Teller	Tug-o-war	Race and event finances/prizes
Under 6's Kids bike course (\$2 to enter \$1 prize for doing n laps)	Sack race	
	Three-legged race?	



Club Meeting Minutes – Monday 14 September – DG Visit

Blended-mode meeting: On Site & via Zoom

Attendance: President Barry; Treasurer Christine; Secretary Katrina; AG Craig; Vina (Foundation; Welfare); Toni G (Public Officer; Compliance); Ian (Vocational); Glenda (Membership); Erin (PR); Glenys (Club Service); Julie; Jenny; Jacqui; John; Bernie; Brian; Toni Mc; Adrian; Helen; Michael.

Guest Speaker: Erica Henley, Operation Hope Australia Ltd, and her husband Kim.

Welcome: President Barry welcomed everyone, with a special welcome to Special Guests Erica and Kim Henley.

Business Arising: No business arising from reports sent out via “In the Loop”.

Project Updates:

Lake Mac Autumn Fayre: Pres Barry reported that planning is moving ahead well. Gary (RC Cardiff) has accepted the position of Chair of the Project, overseeing the 7 Committees. A budget is being developed. Glenys has been preparing a powerpoint presentation to take to other local Clubs to encourage them to get involved, Have applied to Lake Mac Council for sponsorship funding.

Christmas Trailer Raffle: Christine reported that, although ticket sales started off a little slowly, they are now starting to gain speed – with a few books completely sold already. The trailer will be at Speers Point Markets on 10 October – she is looking for volunteers to help with set up, running the stall and pack up – see her email sent late last week.

Twilight Mini Cycle Rides: Pres Barry reported that the community interest and participation is slowly growing. Glenys put a roster in the last “In the Loop”. It is looking to become a great opportunity for safe social interaction alongside getting Rotary seen in our community.

Leckie Poetry Night: Pres Barry reminded everyone that the inter-club poetry competition, known as the Leckie Poetry Night, is to be held on Monday 19 October – as a Zoom-only event. Barry called for writers of rhyme to step up to the challenge – volunteers, at the moment, are Barry, Ian, Toni Mc, and Craig. The theme for the evening is “Hats” – so bonus points for poems that have that theme. This night is not one of the Club’s usual meeting nights – so Pres Barry encouraged everyone to zoom in and participate.

End Polio Virtual Dinner Party: Pres Barry reiterated Kerry’s item from “In the Loop” about our Club celebrating World Polio Day, and raising funds for Rotary Foundation End Polio Now program, by holding a virtual dinner party. Read Kerry’s article – and more news will come in the next edition of “In the Loop”.

Guest Speaker introduction: Glenda introduced the guest speaker, Erica Henley, and her husband, Kim. Erica is the CEO of Operation Hope Australia Ltd – Supporting Refugees in Northern Iraq. Erica, a Rotarian with the Rotary Club of Toronto, was the joint recipient of the **2020 Zone 8 Rotarian of the Year Award**.

Erica single-handedly raises funds, sources medical equipment and other resources from donors, and organises the activities of ‘Operation Hope’. Her humanitarian volunteer journey began in Greece in 2016. She supports refugees and internally displaced persons who have experienced trauma and tragedy through war and genocide.

Guest Speaker: Erica gave a little of her history as a volunteer working with refugee children. It started when they were living in Brisbane. In 2016, she had the opportunity to volunteer in refugee camps in Greece. From there, Operation Hope Australia Ltd started growing. Erica’s husband, Kim, ensured that all the paperwork to register the humanitarian aid organisation and comply with all the legal requirements were met.

In 2017, Erica travelled to Kurdistan in Northern Iraq to help set up a Women and Children’s Ward in the Emergency Field Hospital, only 20km east of Mosel (which was under siege by ISIS). Erica & Kim’s son set up the facility for women & children, whilst Erica raised funds for 25 medical treatments and surgeries throughout 2017 & 2018.

In 2018, Erica travelled to a refugee area in western Kurdistan (20km west of Syria). The camps are spread across an area that has a major thoroughfare dividing it from the markets and the schools. Every year, many refugees are killed or seriously injured by oil tankers making their way through. When Erica visited this region, only available by connecting with a local NGO, she worked with volunteers teaching English and running Women’s Health Clinics, as well as distributing women’s health kits.

Erica shared the story of the first shipping container sent to Northern Iraq. Erica and her small team filled a 40foot shipping container

with donated medical & hospital equipment, 2200 Days for Girls women’s health kits, hundreds of blankets & wraps made by *Wrapped with Love*, clothes and knitted teddy bears. Because of the “mix”, this actually ended up causing a lot of bureaucratic customs red tape at the other end. So Erica decided that collecting “mixed offerings” would not happen again.

In October 2019, Toronto Private Hospital offered thousands of dollars worth of anaesthetic machines and other medical equipment. On contact with other hospitals, many offered to donate their superceded equipment as their own was upgraded. So, another shipping container was filled – with only medical equipment & medical training manuals, to make the customs clearance much easier – and shipped on 2 August 2020, arriving 27 September. ISIS had targeted schools, libraries, and hospitals destroying all educational materials. This shipment will go a long way to support medical training in the region. To facilitate the customs process, and the ability to use the equipment at the other end, Kim replaced every power cord and recorded all the information required for shipping & customs. A huge effort.

Erica’s vision for 2021 is to take a team of medical professionals to Kurdistan, once the COVID travel restrictions are eased. There are training sessions, prior to departure, for any doctors or nurses who are interested in volunteering for this mission.

Vote of Thanks: Club Service Director, Glenys thanked Erica, and presented a book that will be given to a local school on her behalf. Erica loved the idea and was thrilled at the topic of the book “*Stories from around the World*”.

Meeting Close: President Barry closed the meeting at 8:05pm. There was a short time of fellowship before leaving, as the Club venue closed at 8:30pm.



Next Meetings:

**Mondays 12 October,
26 October (Hat Night)
Club Macquarie**

- Dinner 6:00pm for 6:15pm
- Meeting 7:00pm

The Club staff commence serving dinner at 6:15pm...

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

Thanks!

Plus Zoom link (from 6:45pm):

If using a computer or Mac, click on the following link at the scheduled time to open the Zoom software and join the meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/964844402>

For this method, you will need a microphone and speakers.

If using an iPhone, iPad or Android phone or tablet: click on the following link to open the Zoom software:

<https://zoom.us/j/964844402>

For this method, you will need to install the free Zoom app from your app store. This only needs to be done once, but click the link or connect to it ahead of time to install the app and click the link or connect again when you're ready to join the meeting.

Alternatively, you can open the Zoom app and enter the meeting ID; 964 844 402

When asked for the passcode, enter: 2282



**Supporting
Refugees in
Northern Iraq**



Operation Hope: is a small group of Australians who volunteer overseas helping Refugees and Internally Displaced People. We fundraise for specific projects in Kurdistan, Northern Iraq. Our recent projects are with the much traumatised and tortured Yazidi people. 350,000+ Yazidi's are displaced and remain in camps in Kurdistan, after fleeing ISIS in 2014, unable to return to their villages that were destroyed.

Operation Hope Completed Projects:

2017 - Raised \$28,000 to fund a women's ward & a children's ward in a new emergency field hospital + an office for mental health care in a medical complex in the Hassan Sham U2 camp for internally displaced people, 25km east of Mosul.

2017/2018 - Over a period of 6 mths to 31 May, 2018 we raised \$17,181 to fund over 25 medical treatments & surgeries for children and women who fled Mosul to the relative safety of the camps.

2018 - Bought & filled a 40ft shipping container with \$A300,000+ donated hospital and medical equipment, 600+ blankets, new and handmade clothes, new school clothes, 2,200 x Women's Health kits, sewing machines and fabric, toys, educational resources, toys.

2019 - Distribution of the medical equipment occurred to 12 hospitals in Syria and Northern Iraq and the aid to 7 camps in Kurdistan. The women's health kits were delivered to NGO "The Lotus Flower" who train & pay refugee women to present the workshops. 70+ workshops commenced in Dec to distribute the 2,200 kits we supplied.

2020 Projects in Kurdistan, Iraq:

1. 40ft Shipping Container No 2: Packing medical equipment and women's health kits to ship to Kurdistan.
2. Medical Mission trip to Dohok and Erbil hospitals - medical volunteer team will include medical specialists, Allied Health Professionals, nurses and biomedical technicians to run workshops for staff from Dohok, Erbil and Mosul.
3. Humanitarian volunteer trip to assist with distribution of the contents of the shipping container and volunteer in refugee camps documenting the history of the Yazidi people and providing humanitarian support.

Donations: To support the ongoing projects of Operation Hope donations can be made via:

1. Internet Banking or deposit at a Westpac Bank:
Account Name: Operation Hope Australia Ltd
BSB: 034 087 Westpac Sherwood, Qld
Account Number: 045791

2. Post a cheque to "Operation Hope Australia Ltd",
47 Coal Point Rd, Coal Point NSW 2283

3. Donate online using credit card via our Website: operationhopeaustralia.com

Contact Information/Follow our story:

Website: operationhopeaustralia.com
FB Page: Operation Hope - Northern Iraq Project
Email: operationhopeaustr@bigpond.com
Phone: Ph 0409 505 945

Contact: Erica Henley, Founder & Chairwoman, for information or to request a presentation in churches, women's groups, community clubs & schools.

*Operation Hope Australia Ltd is a registered Australian charity and public benevolent institution.
NSW Registered Fundraising Number 25011.
Donations greater than \$2 are tax deductible
100% of donations go to the projects initiated and/or supported by Operation Hope.
All Volunteers are fully self funded.*



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 NOON on **Sunday 25 October** • Thanks!