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**NEWSLETTER: 11th December 2014**



**ROTARY CLUB OF CESSNOCK**  
**DISTRICT 9670**  
**SPOKE**

## **PRESIDENTS REPORT**

A holiday is always something special, my daughter Tammy and I travelled to Europe for some R & R and some time out together. We travelled some 1700 miles through England, Wales and Cornwall before taking the train to Paris from where we toured Bruges and Mont Saint Michelle. From there it was on to Barcelona for 3 days before returning to Paris for the Christmas Markets along the Champs Elysees, what a glorious site with all the brilliant white lights. I don't think there was any favourite place but the small English towns are where I think I could just sit and get lost in the day, they are so old worldly and peaceful. At the end of the day it is always great to be home, we certainly have the best country in the world. Although I wasn't too sure about that stepping off the plane into 40+ temperatures, there is something to be said for good clean cold air where you can breathe easily. So after all I guess each place is special to everyone for a reason.

It has been a fast pace the last 2 weeks and with only 21 sleeps until Christmas it will be another year before we know it. Members, friends and relatives as well as Rotaracters have been kept busy this week filling the roster for the HVG Christmas lights, a big thank you to all taking part. The weather has not been terribly kind with some rather fierce lighting and thunder storms, although keen photographers were thrilled with the display. Please keep in mind that we have 2 weeks at the end of January to fill rosters so please check you diaries and keep some nights free.

It was a small informal meeting this week with Peter Carver saying that he thinks it was the smallest group he can remember in 77 years our club has been meeting. With other commitments taking up our members a motion was moved to post pone the AGM to our next meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2014, this was seconded by Greg Bevan and carried by all present. President Elect Robyn Drayton will address the club and nominate the new board next week at the AGM. It would be appreciated if all members could be present for this important meeting.

Tomorrow night (Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December) at 6pm is the Wheeling and Abled Christmas party and I would encourage any member not involved in the HVG Christmas Lights to please try and attend this function. It is a delight to see these children having fun and the joy on their faces when Santa arrives.

Saturday is the first Saturday of the month when we usually do the roadside clean up but with other commitments this week end we will hold the clean up next Saturday the 13<sup>th</sup> December, it has been a couple of months since the last clean up and with members away in January we would like to have a clean entry to Cessnock for Christmas for visitors to the area.



Iver once again had us entertained with his regaling of his week's events. Iver seems very proud of the fact that he is attending school on a regular basis, almost every day, shame the holidays are almost here and he has such a long break, it will be hard to get back into a regular pattern again. Margaret Maley has been broadening Iver's sporting outlook, teaching him to play golf, I believe he has quite a natural aptitude to the game and is looking for other players to practice with when Margaret has some time off for an operation on her knee.

Our Christmas Party and last meeting for the year will be the 18<sup>th</sup> December so hope you can all come along for some fun and a sing along with Peter and Kaye Carver, a great thanks to Peter and Kaye for giving up their time to make this night special. Please let me know next Thursday if you are attending so we can arrange catering.  
Your President, Vicki

**President Vicki with President Elect Robyn Drayton. Come along to see Robyn's new board.**



# Hunter Valley Garden Lights Spectacular 2014



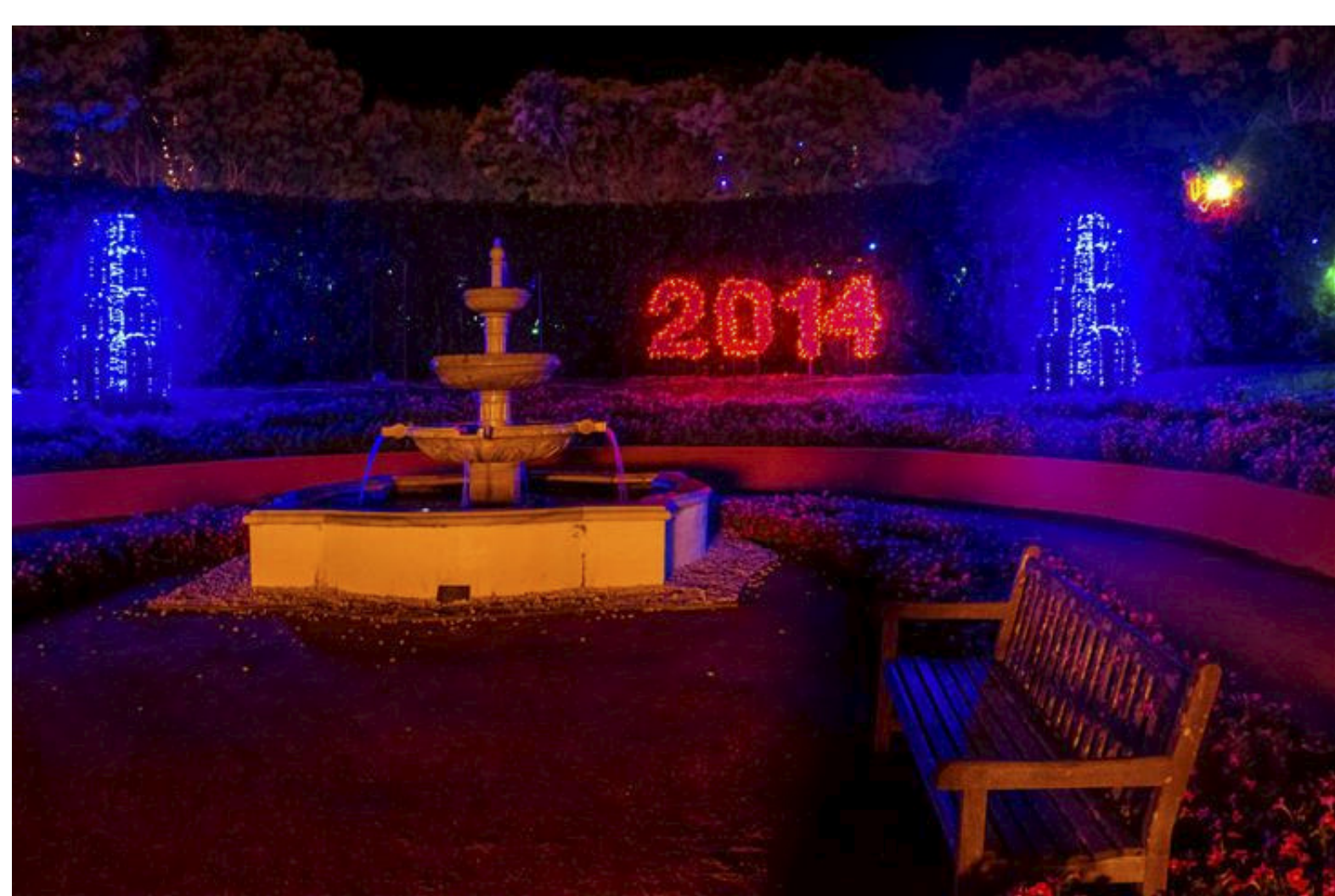
This years involvement in the Lights Spectacular is over for this year. But a reminder that the next session is 13th - 26th January 2015. We all have a lot of fun as well as being the guide tours for the nightly sessions, plus we get paid for our efforts. We also have some wonderful collectors at the end of the tour. Our past President Gail does such a great job at collecting and chats up all the people that go through. With Gail's efforts we multiply our donations considerably, we really appreciate your fantastic people's skills Gail. Just look at the donation bucket, Gail can hardly carry it.

ROSTER 11th Dec 2014		18th Dec 2014
INTERNATIONAL TOAST	Vicki Steep	Maley/Alison Crane
TELLER:	Maley/Thomas	Louise Selmes
WELCOME TO GUESTS:	Peter Carver	N/A
INTRODUCE SPEAKER:	N/A	N/A
GUEST SPEAKER	N/A	N/A
VOTE OF THANKS:	N/A	N/A
FINE SESSION:	Peter carver	Peter Carver
STEWARDS:	All members	All members

FUTURE EVENTS
5th Dec - Wheeling & Able Christmas Party Church Street Cessnock 6pm
11th Dec - AGM
18th Dec - Christmas Party (final night)
26th Dec - Bunnings BarBQ

Meeting time is 6 for 6.33pm  
 Apologies to Graham Lidbury by 11am on Thursday on phone **0419 682 573**  
 or Email: [lids@westnet.com.au](mailto:lids@westnet.com.au)  
**REMEMBER: you will be charged for your meal if you are absent and do not apologize.**





We are really lucky and we as a club should be grateful for the efforts of those members who go along nearly every night to donate their time. We are also lucky to have family members and friends to help out on certain nights. It makes this task a possibility with all that help, otherwise we simply couldn't provide that many man hours as we do. There are two more weekly sessions next January, so start lining up your friends now.



## DISTRICT 9670 YEP Tocal Briefing Weekend



Iver gave us a short outline on the Tocal weekend which he attended with all the other Inbound and Outbound students. Iver agreed that it is a very worthwhile weekend especially for our students going overseas in February. One of the best parts according to Iver is the input from our current Inbounds in advising of what the Outbounds are probably going to experience in their chosen countries. This year for the first time in many years, there is hardly any photos of the students enjoying themselves on these YEP Tocal weekends. I managed to re copy Iver's group photo and found a selfie of some of the girls at the weekend. That's all I could find on Facebook, which is very interesting and sad at the same time.





Claudia (our little cake maker) is making a Gingerbread House for our Christmas party, which she would like to donate towards a raffle on the night. The Jowett's ended up with Matt's one last year, so who will end up with one this year?.





# **PRESIDENT VICKI'S EUROTOUR**







Well isn't President Vicki the best photographer of the year. (With just a tiny bit of a help from yours truly) The first photo is at Mon Saint Michelle in France and the second is the moat around the Tower of London filled with ceramic poppies for Remembrance Day, one for every soldier of the Commonwealth who did not return. The top photo on this page is the skyline of Barcelona from a very old fun park and cathedral.

"The Black Madonna" Monsurat Barcelona and you can't go on holidays without going shopping, a snapshot of Harrods showing their famous Christmas Bear, they produce a different one each year. Last but not least, President Vicki was thinking of us after all on her trip. Well one person came to mind in this shop anyway, One for Louise – part of the shoe department at Harrods, these shoes are worth thousands of dollars – "each" not for the lot.

Thanks for the photos Vicki, its good to show all our members what is possible if you put your mind and just a little time into it.

