



The Waratah

July 2018



Monday 2 July 2018 – Guest Speaker New Member Alan Palmer

What a special opportunity we had to get to know our newest member Alan Palmer as our guest speaker. Alan's credentials in Pastoral care and Rotary are outstanding.

Alan gave us a background of his family history, with his mother being born in Waratah. He spoke of his time growing up in Sydney and Wagga Wagga, his dad joining the Army then accepted into the RAAF and being posted to Darwin just after the WW2 bombing began.



In year 5 at Earlwood Primary, Alan remembers a year 6 student, John Howard who attended the same church. I expect that is a story for another night.

Alan relayed the story of working on a family dairy farm each January as a young teenager and how he loved the country. This experience would serve him well in his career as it progressed over the years. In 1957 when Alan was only 17 years old, his father passed at the very young age of 47.

In 1958 he joined the Bank of NSW, and after four years in Sydney was transferred to Charlestown for 2 ½ years, then spent a further 12 months at Newcastle West Branch in the Bank. He found the job very restrictive as he loved and missed country life.

Alan was called to the ministry and attended Bible College for two years in Karuah where he met his now wife Judy. Alan was an only child, so he was pleased to learn Judy was one of eight siblings. He moved to the Methodist Church in Toukley for 18 months while Judy went to Darwin for two years nursing, then four years of Theological College with Alan and Judy marrying one year into the term at college. They have four children, Stephen, Merrin, Raymond and Bronwen. Merrin was a Rotary Exchange student to Sweden in 1990 and Bronwen was a RYLA graduate.

Ordained in 1971, life became one move after another with Alan and Judy living in 23 houses. Their first stop in the ministry was the Parish of Wauchope/Taree (with Alan first being asked to join Rotary), the lower Manning, followed by Bowral, Dungog/Bulahdelah, Concord, The Entrance/Tumbi Umbi/Ourimbah and Parkes.

Alan joined Rotary in 1981 in Bowral and was President of Dungog, The Entrance (twice) and Parkes Rotary clubs. He was President-elect at Concord before they moved. Partner Judy has been a nurse in Palliative care and Nursing Homes before she retired a few years ago. Alan "retired" in 2005 but has been relieving in parishes in NSW since that time. For the past three years Alan and Judy have lived in West Wallsend.

We welcome Alan and Judy into our Rotary club and look forward to sharing many more Rotary moments with them over the coming years.

Saturday 7 July 2018 – District 9670 Changeover Dinner

Our club was represented by PDG Brian Atkins and Madeleine, and AG Chris McGrath in support of DG Brian Coffey and Carol taking on their commitments over the coming Rotary year.

It was a well-attended evening with a little formality and a lot of fun. It included the changeover for the Rotary Club of East Maitland, the home of the District Governor.

We look forward to “being the inspiration” under DG Brian’s guidance.



Sunday 8 July 2018 – District College of Governors Meeting and Luncheon

PDG Brian Atkins and Madeleine attended the first official event for DG Brian and Carol at Maitland City Club Rutherford. It was a relaxed enjoyable day giving the Past District Governors the opportunity to share their knowledge and experiences with the new leadership team.



Monday 9 July 2018 – Board Meeting and Club Assembly

Our monthly Board meeting and club assembly was held with the new Board. Some major items discussed were:

Fathers’ Day Raffle. Bob has the roster with a few vacancies so please contact him if you can assist a little more. A huge thank you to Doug Tudor for arranging the prize valued at \$2,000 (a Ryobi 9-piece tool kit and a very impressive multi-purpose Tool Kit donated by Baker and Farrow. Tickets will be sold at \$2 each or 6 for \$10.

Tickets will be sold on the following dates and venues.

Thursday 23, Friday 24 August (Aldi Hamilton)

Saturday 25, Sunday 26 August (Waratah Village)

Thursday 30, Friday 31 August (Aldi Hamilton)

Saturday 1 September (Waratah Village) with the raffle draw at 3:00pm



Science and Engineering Dinner and Presentation night and Challenge roster has been available for all members. At 2:00pm Thursday 26 July the event will be set-up at The Forum at Newcastle University. Volunteers to contact Secretary Bob.

Annual Trivia Night. Chair Bob Cherry attended the meeting to set arrangements in place for our major fund raiser for the year on Friday 26 October. A meeting of the committee will be held at 5:00pm on Monday 30 July prior to our dinner meeting.

The members were delighted to welcome back Gerry Davies after his stay in hospital. We are thrilled Gerry is recovering so well. The members were also concerned that Eva Grant was in hospital and wish her a very speedy recovery with Michael “in charge at home”.



Monday 16 July 2018 – Guest Speaker Jason Scriven from Hunter Multicultural Communities Centre

We were pleased to welcome back Jason Scriven and Annette Gebhardt from Hunter Multicultural Communities to our club. This time Jason was asked to speak about his interesting career and Annette will be our guest speaker in August when we learn about “life with the royals in England”.

Jason commenced his talk about his early life in Nottingham, fancying himself as a musician, not feeling as if he fitted in at the Council Estate before travelling to the USA when he was 17 years old to spend time in Florida. Married at 21, Jason decided it was time to go home to support his family so became a guard on the British Railway. After 12 months he saw an ad for Prison Officers, and after 20 weeks training found his vocation.

He spent 16 years in the English prison system. He particularly like to work with young people and in the mothers and babies’ unit even though it was extremely challenging. Jason spoke of the statistics with young people entering the penal system and how well the British handle their jails. He is not keen on publicly run jails for several reasons. He worked closely with serial killers and gained a vast array of skills in training other officers and setting up new system for the Government.



Jason first met Annette when she was the Human Resource Manager at one of the jails. As Jason climbed the ladder of his successful career he became more unsettled as the job took him away from face-to-face work and more into administration. Jason gave a very comprehensive talk about his father’s retirement from the family security business, Jason had the opportunity to take over and strengthen and extend the business with his sister. Now licensed and accredited, Jason was a “body guard” to political diplomats with a staff of 12 personnel looking after one client. Jason and his team spent six months in Iraq working in a hostile environment until it became too dangerous for his crew and he struggled to obtain insurance for the team. He told us with pride that he had never drawn a weapon but had successfully taken care of business without the need. He spoke of the large majority of nice people in Iraq. On returning home, business had changed with the global financial crisis, so he sold the business and worked in the nuclear industry, gaining a Master’s Degree in Anti-Terrorism.



He then met up with Annette again when she was working for the Duke of Cornwall and she needed a training officer. Jason shared a very funny story about his first visit to Buckingham Palace, the chewing gum and the Prince’s new carpet All on the way to the training room with Annette.

Jason said he always wanted to come to Australia and is now happy his visa has been approved and he is working with Annette again as the Business Development Manager at the Hunter Multicultural Communities Centre at Waratah. He spoke glowingly about the abilities of our anti-terrorism agents and police officers. His extensive skills have already been put to use since his first arrival in Australia. We are indeed fortunate to have an outstanding person like Jason in our local community working with our young people as he has the skills to identify issues at a very early stage.

Jason was introduced by Kevin Goodwin and thanked by Michael Grant.

President Howard brought to the attention of the members that the Mherv Van (Mens Health Education Rural Van) have two District positions available. Please see Howard for more details. We also revisited the Fathers’ Day raffle and Science and Engineering Challenge dinner and event.

Tuesday 24 July 2018 – Science and Engineering Challenge Annual Presentation Night

Almost 70 guests enjoyed the annual Science and Engineering Dinner and Presentation night at Wests Mayfield hosted by the Rotary Club of Newcastle Enterprise. Ten of our members attended and enjoyed the table experiment. Not surprisingly, three sponsors (all engineers) won the box of chocolates.

It was a great opportunity to hear about the future of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) from the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) Professor Darrell Evans, University of Newcastle who was an inspiring keynote speaker.

District Governor Brian Coffey thanked the dedicated Rotarians who have supported the Challenge in the District over the past 18 years.



The 2017 National Champion school, All Saints College St Peter's Campus Maitland, was represented by Head of Campus Bernard Burgess and teachers Vicki Grogan and Ken Jordan. The four students



representing the team of 40 addressed the guests about their experience of the Challenge in Newcastle, the NSW State Final and winning the competition in Dubbo last October. A great night of Rotary in action.

Friday 27 to Tuesday 31 July 2018 – Newcastle Science and Engineering Challenge – Day 1 to Day 3

The beginning of the six-day Challenge. Many thanks to Brian Atkins, Bob Main, David Winkelmann, Bob Cherry, Neville Chant and Howard Mole for covering the roster on these days. There were 24 high schools competing with a maximum of 768 students and staff attending, all enjoying the hands-on experience of the Challenge.



Monday 30 July 2018 – Guest Speakers Teacher Matt Shultz and students Bobby Carter and Ashley Harrison

School Vice-Captain Bobby Carter and Youth Parliamentarian and passionate Year 12 student Ashley Harrison were our special guest speakers for the evening. The students are from St Philip's Christian College Waratah and recent winners of the Model United Nations Assembly (MUNA) event held in Muswellbrook in May. The students were accompanied by teacher Matt Schultz. Matt is also a Rotarian from Warners Bay club.

The students expressed an interest in foreign affairs having taken Legal Studies for their HSC and attending mock trials in the past to prepare themselves for MUNA. The skills taken from the experience included team work and learning to embrace each other's strengths. Bobby and Ashley were very impressed with a presentation from Sergeant Thomas from North California during the briefing sessions about the "power of change".

They represented Israel with their debate and learned much on the Friday evening when teams strategized in blocs before the main debate on the Saturday.

Bobby and Ashley said the outstanding impression from the other young people involved was the tone of peace accepted by all, the empathy, cooperation, the principles and being principled throughout the event. The lessons from MUNA they will take into everyday life.

They also had the opportunity to observe the other teams and work out areas of improvement they can make leading into the finals being held in Canberra in two weeks' time. Highly commended certificates were given to Warners Bay High School, Merewether High (also supported by Waratah Club) and St Philip's Port Stephens.

The Chair of MUNA David Thomas and his partner Gladys also attended the meeting. Dave has been involved with MUNA for four years and was converted to the program as soon as he attended his first debate. District 9670 will cover the cost of Bobby and Ashley's appearance at the finals. Dave presented the two students with a certificate and an individual trophy for their success at District level and wished the students the best of luck in the upcoming finals.

We had a huge gathering with an additional 13 friends of Rotary and partners attending.

Tuesday 31 July 2018 – Callaghan College Waratah Campus Interact Club

After a short recap of last month's meeting, Madeleine and ten students discussed the five choices the students identified for their community service project (Homeless Centre - Soul Café, ShelterBox, Animal welfare, school sport team uniforms and a boxing gym). The student unanimously decided to support ShelterBox.

It was a little more difficult to decide how to raise the funds for purchase a kit. It was decided to seek permission from the school executive for a "Teacher Baby Photo Competition".



The students now have the task to speak with their teacher and the school executive to obtain permission and meet to discuss the process for the successful outcome.

There will be now meeting in August, however Chris McGrath can be called upon for more details if required. The next meeting with the students will be the third week in September.

This is a very engaged, confident group of young people keen to make a difference and support others.

2018-2019 Executive

President: Howard Mole

Mobile: 0417 223 673

Email: howardm@live.com.au

President-Elect: TBC

Secretary: Bob Main

Treasurer: Grant Pettigrew

Public Officer and WWC: David Winkelmann

Sergeant-at-Arms: Fred Neal

Directors:

Club Service: Grant Pettigrew

Community Service: Kevin Goodwin

Youth Services: Howard Mole

Vocational Service: Michael Grant

International Service: Roslyn Parton

**Rotary Club of Waratah meets on Mondays 6:15pm Memories Function Centre
3 Charles Street Wallsend NSW 2287 Australia**

Website: <https://portal.clubrunner.ca/10174> Facebook: www.facebook.com/rotaryclubofwaratah

Rotary International Website: www.rotary.org

All correspondence to PO Box 57 Waratah 2298