

# The Waratah



## May 2019



**Youth Services Month**  
**Our club**

**Interact**  
Rotary Sponsored Club



National Youth  
Science Forum



**engages in**

**Youth Services through these programs:**

### Saturday 4 and Sunday 5 May 2019 – President Elects Training Seminar (PETS) and District Assembly



President Howard and incoming Assistant Governor Clarice attended PETS on Saturday. They reported a most successful and informative day. Howard returned with several ideas to discuss with the members. Watch this space. Incoming Secretary and District Interact Chair Madeleine attending the District Assembly on Sunday. It was a very full day of information gathering. The break-out session for Secretaries

was an awakening on the job coming up next Rotary year. Over 100 people attended on the Sunday alone. Again, the Rotary Club of Singleton-on-Hunter did an outstanding job of feeding the hungry participants with a lovely hot lunch on such a cold day in Singleton.

### Monday 6 May 2019 – Fellowship Night

A fun night at Rotary. It is good to have a meeting occasionally when we simply share fellowship with each without a guest speaker.

Once again Madeleine had us all thinking with another one of her “challenges”.

This time it was about our driving skills.

It was good to know most members passed with flying colours, however some of us were also reminded how long ago it was since we took a driving test, and how we all need to keep abreast of the ever-changing road rules!

Thanks everyone for being such good sports.



### Friday 10 and 17 May 2019 – Waratah West Public School Garden Project

Congratulations to the members and friends who did the lion's share of supplying, measuring, cutting, sawing, holding, watching, encouraging and erecting the new greenhouse shelter at the primary school including making and hanging the new doors. When I “popped in” just to say hi and encourage the team, I was very impressed with the progress. Luckily Chris and Helen were able to



supply a carload of tools, benches and saws to make sure the work ran smoothly. Secretary Bob did a huge amount of work prior to the work session in arranging the timber etc to be delivered to site. An amazing joint effort by all so far with the final working bee happening soon to complete the installation of the shade cloth!



## Monday 13 May 2019 – Board Meeting and Club Assembly

President Howard chaired a board meeting with several important items to discuss. The major focus was on the Treasurer's report and all upcoming financial commitments the club has prior to 30 June and beyond. At the club assembly we discussed several items of Health and Safety in and around Memories Function Centre which were brought to our attention by Manager Tim Hawtin.



Secretary Bob will contact everyone regarding “stage 2” of the Waratah West Public School project, and all members are now involved in the final stages of the 50<sup>th</sup> Charter night celebrations.

### Thursday 16 May 2019 – Investiture of Brian Atkins OAM

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Member PDG Brian Atkins was honoured to attend the investiture ceremony at NSW Government House Sydney and receive his recognition from Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AO QC Governor of New South Wales.

Brian was accompanied by partner Madeleine and daughters Kristie and Rebecca.

The celebrations continued at a dinner at Quay Restaurant that night overlooking the Sydney Harbour Bridge and the Opera House.

The following day was a formal luncheon at NSW Parliament House hosted by the NSW Order of Australia Association.

This time Brian was able to invite the nominee of the Order of Australia recognition, and some friends and family.

### Sunday 19 May 2019 – Rathmines Catalina Festival

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Chris and Helen McGrath undertook a load of work at the Catalina Festival again this year.

As Ambassadors for ShelterBox they give tirelessly of their time. It's a very long day (5:30am until 4:30pm) but I am sure the presence at the festival is worth the effort.

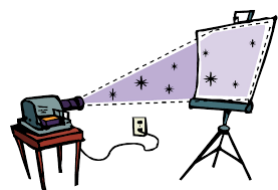
Thank you once again for flying the flag for Rotary's involvement in major community events.

### Monday 20 May 2019 – Slide Night and Fellowship Challenge with Allan Pettigrew

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Allan Pettigrew set the tone for a great night with a very generous Fellowship activity that saw every member go home with a gift. It was Allan's way of showing how much he values the friendships he has made throughout his Rotary service.

PDG Brian arrived a little late but was able to share with the members his recently received OAM memorabilia. President Howard led the congratulations on his achievement.



Madeleine Atkins had a quick “slide show” of the photos being prepared for our 50<sup>th</sup> Charter night. It was great for the older members to enjoy the photos of our members, events and projects over the years. We await with anticipation our special celebration on 17 June.

### Saturday 20 - 26 May 2019 – National Volunteer Week

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**MEDIA RELEASE:**

“Thank you for helping to celebrate National Volunteer Week across the country. We've enjoyed highlighting some of our wonderful volunteers through social media and newsletters, sharing what motivates them to get involved or continue to volunteer with ShelterBox.

Congratulations to all the winners of the 2019 ShelterBox Volunteer Awards. You are all so deserving of your award and we are so thankful to have such wonderful people as part of our ShelterBox Australia team. With over 111 volunteers across Australia doing incredible work in so many ways, choosing the winners has been extremely difficult. But for those receiving an Award this year we would like to congratulate you for your contribution to ShelterBox, whether big or small, we know that everything you do is making a world of difference to families in need.

With this being our first year of presenting Volunteer Awards, we know that as the years go on, we will have the opportunity to recognise many more dedicated and passionate volunteers. Each winner in 2019 will receive a ShelterBox Volunteer Award certificate, a small gift from the delicious and generous local company Pure Melt Chocolate Byron Bay. Winners of the Volunteer Excellence Award are also offered the opportunity to attend an immersive ShelterBox course focused on disaster response and deployments with flights and accommodation paid.

So .... here's the winners of the ShelterBox Volunteer Awards for 2019!

#### **Volunteer Impact Award Winners**

Alan Shepherd

**Chris McGrath**

#### **Saturday 25 May 2019 – Open Day at Waratah Men's Shed**

Thank you to the small team who manned the “stall” at the Open Day at the Hunter Multicultural Communities Centre. It was important we had a presence to display our ShelterBox and Rotary material, however it was disappointing for the organisers not more people attended throughout the day. Once again, a huge effort from Chris, Grant and Bob for setting up and taking down our display.

#### **Monday 27 May 2019 – David Kiernan from Bonsai Association**



Our speaker David had an interest in Bonsai from an early age but took it more seriously from 1998. He has been President, tutor and lecturer for the Warners Bay branch.

David spoke about the history – no, Bonsai is not from Japan, it started in China. It was very interesting to learn the philosophy of Bonsai, the tree trunk representing the human torso, the foliage the clouds and how the lower branches should always point down, and the top leaves should appear to bow towards the viewer.

Bonsai should only be a maximum of 1.5 metres and are often described by the experts as “commercial” trees or trees of the enthusiasts. We learned about

the care of the plants with our members asking many questions of David as his presentation proceeded. David explained the type and need for fertilisers, and the ease of re-potting.

The word Bonsai is in two parts, “Bon” meaning true and “Sai” meaning Tray or Pot. They are meant to be outside plants and need the morning sun. They love water but don't like “wet feet”!



Your plant should be watered once or twice a week in winter and every day in summer.

It is very much a reflective hobby.

Bonsai is an illusion. The lower branches are wired down to give the illusion of age. Not all Bonsai are 100's of years old as they appear, however most are many decades old before the owners is happy with their presentation.

David had over 150 Bonsai at one point, but now has around 30. One of those plants is a 130 year-old Bougainvillea which he purchased many years ago for \$1,800. He is reluctant to sell it!

It was a most interesting evening, and we were very fortunate that David had several of his Bonsai on display for us at Rotary.

As an additional treat, David spoke briefly about his work in Thailand where he teaches English twice a year ... but that is a story for another day!

### **Upcoming Waratah Meetings in June 2019**

**Monday 3 June** Joint Board Meeting (5:00pm) and Club Assembly (6:15pm)

**Monday 10 June** Public Holiday – no meeting

**Monday 17 June** 50<sup>th</sup> Charter Celebration and Changeover Night – **Partners Night**

**Saturday 22 June** – Diversity Day at Gregson Park Hamilton to support Sister Di

**Sunday 23 June** District Changeover Luncheon at Toronto Workers Club

**Monday 24 June** Guest speaker Karen Wilson from ZONTA Association

### **What the District and other Clubs have on offer: (check the District website)**

#### **June and July 2019**

**Friday 31 May – Saturday 1 June** Model United Nations Assembly (MUNA) at Muswellbrook

**Friday 19 July** Invitation to Breakfast by Rotary Club of Newcastle Enterprise. Marina Views, 97 Hannell Street, Wickham Join the Rotary Club of Newcastle Sunrise for a fundraising event to assist Got Your Back Sista continue its work with women and children affected by domestic violence. Enjoy a tasty breakfast while hearing Got Your Back Sista Team Members respond to questions about their work. There will also be fabulous raffle prizes. \$50 per head or \$480 for a table of 10.

Bookings: [www.trybooking.com/BCBWT](http://www.trybooking.com/BCBWT)

### **KEEP IN CONTACT - VISITORS WELCOME**

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

Rotary International Website: [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org)

**Rotary Club of Waratah meets on Mondays 6:15pm Memories Function Centre**

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**For more information email Webmaster AG Chris McGrath: [cjm@internode.on.net](mailto:cjm@internode.on.net)**

**All correspondence to PO Box 57 Waratah 2298**