



ROTARY:
MAKING A
DIFFERENCE

THE WARATAH



**The Rotary Club of Waratah meets on Mondays at 6:15pm Memories Function Centre,
3 Charles Street, Wallsend NSW 2287 Australia**
For more information email the Webmaster AG Chris McGrath: cjm@internode.on.net
All correspondence to PO Box 57 Waratah 2298

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Facebook: www.facebook.com/rotaryclubofwaratah
Rotary International Website: www.rotary.org

What's been happening at Waratah Rotary?

Monday 16 October 2017 – Guest Speaker Susi Stewart from Hunter Life Education



Susi Stewart was our Guest Speaker from Hunter Life Education. She spoke about her roll working for the organisation over the past two years.

Originally from Canberra, the program focuses on the health and wellbeing of primary school age children and in some cases students from high schools, but mainly their work is with younger children. Like many other organisations, they rely on donations and sponsors to assist the running of their programs. They also receive some funds from the Government. The Newcastle Permanent Building Society has recently donated a truck which will allow them to visit some 140 regional schools (at a cost of \$77,000). Hunter Life Education organises "The World's Biggest Car Boot Sale" to raise funds.

They address several issues that affect young people through their programs like being overweight, being bullied, health choices, the drinking of alcohol, cyber bullying and general life choices. They have a mascot called "Harold".

It costs \$26 to have a child in the program, and some students assist with a \$10 donation. Every school in the area is visited once each year, however some school do not accept the program.

Susi informed us that Newcastle Middle School, Waratah and Waratah West Public Schools are seeking support in our area so they can access the program. Rotary assists with some schools, however Waratah West Public School is listed as one of schools that need more attention.

2017-2018 Executive

President: Madeleine Atkins
Mobile: 0447 523 221
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President-Elect: Howard Mole
Secretary: Bob Main
Treasurer: Chris McGrath
Public Officer and WWC:
David Winkelmann
Sergeant-at-Arms: Allan Pettigrew

Directors:
Club Service: Fred Neal
Community Service: Grant Pettigrew
Youth Services: Michael Grant
Vocational Service: Bob Cherry
International Service: Gerry Davies

We acknowledge every member of our Club is committed to all our programs with full involvement whenever possible.

Truly "Service Above Self"

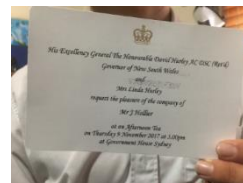
Hunter Life Education's staff workload has increased some 800% from 2001-2016 with around 27,000 children involved in their program each year. They now have three vans within the areas of Scone, Forster and Morisset covered. Their success rate is carefully monitored by the Principals of Hunter Life Education.

Susi is very enthused about her work and was an excellent speaker.

Tuesday 16 October 2017 – National Youth Science Forum Student Jye Hollier

While sitting for his first Preliminary Higher School Certificate exam this week, Jye Hollier received a wonderful surprise in the post.

His Excellency General the Honourable David Hurley and Mrs Hurley will be hosting the NYSF students at Government House on Thursday 9 November. We wish Jye all the best for his exams and the events leading into his attendance at NYSF in Canberra in January 2018. FOOTNOTE: Unfortunately, the Governor was unwell and the visit to Government House was cancelled.



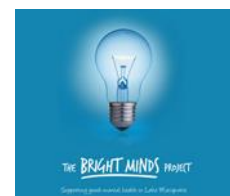
Jye has just received his Academic Performance Report from Merewether High School. Congratulations Jye on achieving the following: The Senior Leadership Award (for school representation, school and community service, commitment to learning, and citizenship), Top 10% Preliminary Chemistry, Top 10% Preliminary Physics, Top 10% Preliminary Business Studies, Top 10% HSC (Higher School Certificate) Engineering Studies, Top 10% Preliminary Mathematics. Congratulations Jye.

Monday 23 October 2017 – Guest Speaker Brad Dunn from the Bright Minds Project



Bradley Dunn is the Youth Development Officer at Community Activities Lake Macquarie (CALM). He gave an interesting and thought-provoking presentation about the issues of young people in the wider Lake Macquarie area.

He started a project called "Bright Minds" in 2013, and it is going from strength to strength. Brad showed a short video about the Bright Minds Project that his team run in schools, and mentioned the "Assist" (for sector workers) and "Safe Talk" (for friends and relatives supporting a person under stress) programs conducted by the mentoring team.



Brad spoke about youth suicide taking more young people's lives than car crashes, about the inspiring mentoring programs he and his team run in high schools, and talked about the issues most affecting young people with their poor choices. Mental health can be a problem with many children. One in 35 students in the 14 to 17-year-old age group suffer from depression at some stage. One in 7 young people suffer from some type of mental illness.

Suicide is the biggest killer of young people, even more than car crashes.

One of the aims of CALM is to assist young people in finding the right person to turn to when they need help. They conduct training programs to assist the students and their mentors. Another problem is to get that person to seek help, but in Lake Macquarie, distance and transport are a major problem. In any cases some children cannot turn to their parents and require outside, well-trained professionals who they can trust. CALM also provides brochures for schools and parents to fill in the gap.

NBN Television has also taken up the program by assisting with exposure to the program. Many schools do not have the resources or training for assisting these young people. It is important to teach these students to be positive about themselves and how they can be a mentor to other young people. A survey of some 1,400 students regarding self-harm showed that 60% had some concerns. CALM approached a Government Minister for assistance with funding to run seminars for parents and their students, unfortunately no assistance was given.



Programs designed for “pre” and “post” help are available. CALM has a Junior Top Blokes Mentoring program for boys aged 14 to 17 which is having a great deal of success. The cost to run a program for eight weeks is \$1,859. It is important to have the students engage in discussions in a group situation with

approximately 10 to 15 students. This allows students to open up to their peers and discuss their problems. The main topics of discussion are stress from school and home, peer pressure, bullying, family or home problems, concerns about future employment difficulties.

CALM is holding a seminar at Wests City (NEX) in Newcastle West on Wednesday 1 November for all to attend including students, parents, teachers, community groups, and the community assistance organisations.

Their group is funded by several government bodies with some donations from community groups together with a small fee paid by some of the schools.

Brad did a wonderful job enlightening the members of our club and hopes that Rotary may be able to assist. Brad was introduced by Brian Atkins and suitably thanked by Gerry Davies.

Wednesday 25 October 2017 – Callaghan College Waratah Interact Meeting

The students gave a report on their group presentation at the school assembly on the first day of this term about their used clothing appeal. The students outlined their plans and made suggestions as to the quality and cleanliness of the clothes to be donated. They made an announcement each morning at assembly, and are very pleased with their progress to date. We look forward to a very successful outcome. We will let you know when you can donate your used clothing to Callaghan College Waratah Interact Club.



Rotarian Teacher Anne Grieve and President Madeleine spoke about the new Callaghan College Waratah Interact Club receiving their official certification documents from Rotary International with the new Interact Club Number.

We are working on a suitable time within the school program for the presentation of these documents. As mentioned in last month's newsletter, the school students all have heavy commitments with exams, so we will need to work around their timetables.

Sunday 29 October 2017 – ShelterBox Display at Catalina Festival Rathmines

Thank you, AG Chris McGrath and Helen for flying the flag for Rotary at the Catalina Festival. Chris and Helen do a huge amount of work for ShelterBox, and this day was no exception. It was a very warm but successful day, the warm weather brought out the crowds and the flying demonstrations were superb. Sadly, the Catalina flying boat had engine problems so flew past on one engine and landed at Rutherford for repairs.

A huge day of Service Above Self.



Monday 30 October 2017 – Guest Speaker Allan Pettigrew

Our Guest Speaker was Rotary member Allan Pettigrew who was introduced by Acting President Bob Main.

Alan was born in Wallsend where he lived most of his life. He built his first house in Lambton, but moved back to Wallsend and built another house where he still resides. The last home took six years to build.



His working life commenced at BHP where he worked in the machine shop before moving upstairs into the office. Ten years later he and his two brothers Neil and David, bought premises in Wallsend and started up a joinery shop. One of their first jobs was to build a Church in Wallsend. His brother David worked as a joiner for the Funeral Director Bill Crooks and Neal was a carpenter. The company commenced making caskets with Ann selling them to other Funeral Directors. As Bill Crooks was getting older, the family joined up and the company became Crooks & Pettigrew.

When Bill retired “the Pettigrew’s” took over the company, which became Pettigrew Family Funerals. Allan sold his house, lived at the front of the joinery shop and the funeral business began. A contractor got involved in the joinery business who went bankrupt and left a large hole in the company’s finances.

Pettigrew Funerals won contracts from the Police Department and the Ambulance Service. Allan did all the work necessary to keep the business running. Their next project was to build a Chapel on the joinery site.

Many improvements and extensions have been added over the years making the outstanding funeral premises it is today. Allan’s son, the late Ian Pettigrew took over the running of the business on Alan’s semi-retirement, though Allan never really retired.



The Company now has three magnificent funeral premises at Newcastle West, Belmont, and their Head Office at Wallsend.

It was pleasing to see twenty of the staff and partners from Pettigrew’s attended the evening. The story of the Pettigrew Family Funerals from the early beginnings to today is amazing, now being the largest funeral business in the Newcastle area.

Thursday 2 November 2017 – Corpus Christi Primary School Public Speaking Competition



Our Club was invited to take on the role as the adjudication panel at the Corpus Christi Maitland Newcastle Catholic Primary School North Region public speaking competition by Year 4 teacher Jenna Maughan. Chris and Helen McGrath and Bob and Helen Main represented our Club on the day, which was most successful for the students, but a very long day for the Rotarians. Service Above Self again!

Monday 6 November 2017 – Melbourne Cup Social Night with Members and Partners from Wallsend-Maryland and Newcastle Enterprise Clubs

It has become a custom to share our Melbourne Cup eve meeting with our friends from Wallsend-Maryland. This year it was indeed a pleasure to have members from the Rotary Club of Newcastle Enterprise with us. Our members reliably conducted five sweeps, with each Club having a little success. We trust we can repeat this friendship activity again next year.



Saturday 11 November 2017 – Giant Christmas Stocking Raffle Ticket Sales and Waratah Men's Shed Fundraising Day



A great start to our Giant Christmas Stocking Raffle held at an open day at the Waratah Men's Shed. Thank you to the Men's Shed for inviting us, taking us through their facility and giving us a "birds eye" view of the operation. The Men's Shed Day was a good representation from our club. Chris and Helen were there at 7.15am with Howard, Michael, Doug, Kevin, Neville, Bob C, Fred and Roslyn all lending a hand. We sold \$206 worth of tickets and all who bought them had some relationship with the Men's Shed. Their members helped us to set up and pack up at the end of the day.



A long day in Rotary service as Chris and Helen arrived home around 2.45pm. It was quite cool during the early morning but then turned into a very bright and happy day, although the Men's Shed members were a little concerned about the lack of numbers.



However, we were quite pleased with the response to our display and money raised. Thanks to Helen for her contribution. Thank you also to everyone who made themselves available on the roster.



Monday 13 November 2017 – Board Meeting and Club Assembly

The November Board meeting was chaired by Past President Grant Pettigrew in the absence of President/Chair Madeleine Atkins. The important issues discussed were;

1. The Xmas raffle, venues and roster
2. The community market day at the Men's Shed at Waratah
3. The upcoming AGM and the role of the Executive
4. Approval of the purchase of book vouchers for the Hamilton North Public School's Award Day.

The Club Assembly was chaired by Past President Doug Tudor in the absence of President/Chair Madeleine Atkins. Doug looked after the meeting in his usual calm manner and with tongue in cheek scolded the Board for exceeding their time and causing the general meeting to start late. The Club discussed the issues coming from the Board report.

Monday 20 November 2017 – Fellowship and Information Night on Paul and Jean Harris's Home "Comely Bank"

As President Madeleine had been on holidays for three weeks, it was time to catch up on all the news and Rotary information. We did, however take the time to learn more about our Founder Paul Harris and Jean. Here is a part of a very interesting story: - Paul and Jean Harris lived at their home which was located on the south side of Chicago in the historic Ridge neighbourhood.

It was named "Comely Bank" after the street by the same name in Edinburgh, Scotland where Jean Harris grew up. The home was built in Rotary's foundation year 1905, and the Harris's lived there for 35 years before Paul Harris passed away in the home following a long illness.

The Harris's entertained many heads of state, captains of industry and Rotarians from around the world. The early days Rotary and Board of Director's took place there, as it grew from the Rotary Club of Chicago to a global organization.



In his last days, Paul Harris asked that his bed be placed by the window overlooking his beloved international peace garden. A few months after his death, Jean sold the home and returned to Scotland. In 2005 the Paul and Jean Foundation was created and purchased the home for \$550,000. Since then, the Foundation has been raising funds to restore the home as it was in the 1940's. The outside is presentable, the inside of the residence is gutted and requires substantial restoration. The early investment was made in the infrastructure, including rebuilding the foundation. Rotarians are working together to raise \$5 million dollars to help pay off the debt on the house, renovations and maintenance.

In recent years, Rotary International has agreed to support the restoration of the home. In 2012 RI agreed to loan the Harris Foundation \$500,000 to progress the renovations and support identifying prospective donors for the project. Comely Bank can become part of the Rotary Heritage Tour, where Rotarians from around the world could visit.

Wednesday 22 November 2017 – Callaghan College Waratah Interact Meeting



President Madeleine met with the students again after a break for holidays. She was very impressed with the response the students achieved with their used clothing collection project over the past month.



It was decided that Madeleine would meet with teacher Anne Grieve and make arrangements for the collection and distribution of the clothing. As soon as the clothes have been distributed the group will make an announcement at school to thank the participants for their generous donations. Arrangements have been made with Anne to transport the clothing to Wesley Mission Wallsend on 28 November for distribution to the needy in the Newcastle area.

Madeleine discussed the possibility of being involved in sending basic school needs to Fijian youngsters from Kindergarten to Year 3 on Dravuni Island, a small settlement off the main coast of Fiji. Arrangements will be made through the Rotary Club of Suva in 2018.

The group will meet again for the last time in 2017 at the Callaghan College Waratah Campus Year 7-10 Presentation day on Friday 8 December. A very satisfying year, with a steady progress of skill-based learning on community service.

Monday 27 November 2017 – Vale Nola Goodwin

It was with sadness that our evening began with a minute's silence for Nola Goodwin who passed with her family around her. Our thoughts go to member Kevin Goodwin in his time of loss. Members have been invited to Nola's service on Wednesday 29 November at Memories Chapel Wallsend.

Thank you to all the Rotarians who were able to attend the service.

Monday 27 November 2017 – Fellowship Night



A time to relax and enjoy the company of our friends and fellow Rotarians. A very pleasant evening with a delightful meal. President Madeleine and Brian showed a few photos from their recent holiday around the Islands in the South Pacific. All further business was held over in respect of Kevin Goodwin.

Tuesday 28 November 2017 – Interact Group Distribution of Clothing



Madeleine met with teacher Anne Grieve at 8:30am at the school so a group of students could pack the car with the huge amount of used clothing donated to the SRC Interact Group.



Madeleine, Callaghan College Waratah Campus teacher and students Matthew and Matilda had the pleasure of delivering the clothing to Wesley Mission Wallsend.



The organisation was very appreciative for the donations. Any unused clothing will be sent to Africa through Wesley Mission.

Thursday 30 November, Friday 1 December 2017 – Giant Christmas Stocking Ticket Sales at Aldi Hamilton

Chris and Helen did a sterling job putting together the giant Christmas stocking ready for our raffle. Thank you everyone for your contributions. Chris and Helen were at Aldi's early to setup the table, gazebo, giant stocking and all the signage required for our community service project over eight days.



Thank you to Bob M, Allan, Bob C, Madeleine, Howard, Doug, Fred, Neville, Chris and Helen for covering these two days rosters. We had enormous tickets sales, to the point we had to call for any unsold tickets from our members. Chris may even need to go to the printers again next week.

Saturday 2 December 2017 – Giant Christmas Stocking Ticket Sales at Waratah Village

Thank you to Gerry, Neville, Doug, Madeleine, Grant, Allan, Fred, Bob M, David, Helen Main, Kevin, Bob C, Roz, Chris and Helen for covering these two days rosters. Thank you also to Wayne and the team from Waratah Men's Shed for assisting with tickets sales. Please note, amazingly we had to postpone our Sunday 3 December roster as all our original tickets were sold. Chris arranged for additional tickets to be printed prior to Thursday 7th.



Monday 4 December 2017 – Board Meeting, Annual General Meeting and Club Assembly

The Board Meeting was well attended as always, and was a wrap-up of our years activities.

The Annual General Meeting was conducted in line with our By-Laws, and the following Executive were elected for the 2018-2019 Rotary Year: Howard Mole (President), Bob Main (Secretary), Grant Pettigrew (Treasurer), Fred Neal (Assistant Treasurer), David Winkelmann (Public Officer). We look forward to an exciting year with Howard in the Chair.



Thursday 7 and Friday 8 December 2017 – Giant Christmas Stocking Ticket Sales at Aldi Hamilton

Thank you to Chris, Helen, Chris and Judi Bartlett (Nelson Bay Club), Bob M, Fred, Madeleine, Howard, Neville and Bob C for covering these two days rosters. Wow, once again tickets sales were through the roof! Well done team.

8 December 2017 – Callaghan College Waratah Campus Presentation Day



President Madeleine represented the Club at the CCWTC Presentation Day for Year 7 to 10 students. Our Club sponsored and presented the “Welcome” Awards to refugee students at the school who have achieved academic commitment and commitment to school community, and the Academic Awards for each subject in Years 7 to 10.

Saturday 9 and Sunday 10 December 2017 – Giant Christmas Stocking Ticket Sales at Waratah Village

Thank you to Howard, Neville, Doug, Kevin, Roslyn, Bob M, Fred, Brian, Madeleine, David, Bob C and Allan for covering the final two days rosters. Thank you also to Wayne and the team from Waratah Men’s Shed for assisting with tickets sales.

The raffle was drawn at 2pm by the Coles Supervisor with the lucky winner being Amber Biddy. Chris and Helen took the giant stocking to the winner, and Amber and her family were very pleased with their winnings.



Monday 11 December 2017 – Annual Christmas Party and Celebration of Neville Chant’s 99th Birthday



Our annual Christmas party turned into an exciting celebration for Neville’s 99th birthday.

We opted for more casual catering that worked so much better than a formal dinner. This allowed everyone to have time to mingle and speak with “old” friends.

Helen and Chris contacted as many past members as possible to share the evening with us. We were pleased to welcome the following:

Malcolm and Sharon Sandstrom, Kevin and Christine Burns, Fred and Ranji Benjamin, Heather Flanagan, Daryl and Lyn Lewis, Peter Blackmore (with a late apology from Robyn), Karen Scott, Greg Stone, Viv Allanson, Helen Macdonald, Vic and Peg Webber, Bernie and Nancy O’Doherty, and Anne Grieve who is on leave.

All the guests have booked the date in 2018 when we will celebrate Neville’s 100th birthday. President Madeleine indicated she was prepared to even invite the Queen!



We received apologies from Enid Quirk Cochrane, Warwick Baker, Cliff Princehorn, Peg Kerr, Greg and Wendy Corbett, Bert and Ann Cordner, Michael and Eva Grant (working), Grant and Anne Pettigrew (on holidays), and Rick Flanagan.

Neville was presented with a letter from Rotary International World President Ian Riseley, and a Paul Harris Fellow Two Sapphire. Many thanks to the staff of Memories Function Centre for preparing a lovely spread and supplying a birthday cake for Neville.

12 December 2017 – Hamilton North Public School's Presentation Day

Secretary Bob M and Gerry represented the Club at the primary school's presentation day. Thank you, gentlemen for flying the flag for Rotary.

Monday 18 December 2017 – Casual Drinks at the President's Home

We trust our members will enjoy a casual night at the Atkins' home for Christmas drinks. It will be time to reflect on another year in Rotary serving our community, and helping whenever possible. As always, we are a group of very good friends. Happy Christmas everyone.

President Madeleine



**A couple of wags
trying to win the
Stirrer's Spoon 2018**



Plans at the Rotary Club of Waratah in the New Year

JANUARY 2018	
15 January	Welcome back dinner for members, and set the agenda for the coming months
22 January	Meeting with members from the Waratah and Newcastle Men's Shed (to be confirmed)
29 January	Guest Speaker to be confirmed
FEBRUARY 2018	
5 February	Rotary Information Night for prospective new members
12 February	Board Meeting and Club Assembly
19 February	Social Night out with partners. Venue to be confirmed
25 February	Guest Speaker Jye Hollier, National Youth Science Forum student's report
Check our website for all details	

**Members of the Rotary Club of Waratah
Giving Service Above Self And Making a Difference**

