



The Waratah

October 2018



Monday 8 October 2018 – Board Meeting and Club Assembly

Once again the Board and club members were very active in planning for the next few months in our Rotary club. All hands are on deck with the Annual Trivia night and plans underway with the Waratah Men's Shed in building a Christmas Raffle "hamper" that will fit into the back of a vehicle. We know Chris and Helen will be very happy about this after the huge effort they put in last year.

It was agreed to once again to support Hamilton North Public School with their annual Book Prize and plans have begun on a new vegetable garden at Waratah West Public School.

New membership applications were discussed, and two new members will be inducted on Monday 22 October.

Monday 15 October 2018 – Vocational Visit to SES Wickham



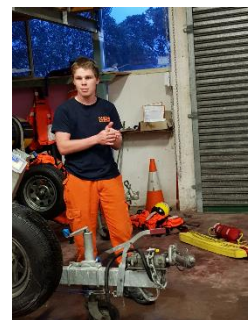
We had a wonderful roll-up of members and partners attend our most informative on-site visit to the SES headquarters in Wickham.

We first met in the Training Room for a briefing from three of the team including Ralph Perrin, SES Operations before moving on to the Operations Centre.



The centre had a bank of computers focusing on five large screens. The screens indicated the National rainfall, radar loop, east coast weather patterns, storm watch (complete with visual lightning strikes) and the "Beacon", their system login for jobs. When residents ring 132 500 (located in Wollongong) it can take up to 3 and a half hours to log the call, collect all relevant information, contact the appropriate centre, check all details on the emergency and have a fully equipped team on site. Two-way radios are linked to all crews and the Operations Centre together with all other emergency services (police, ambulance, fire).

The Centre are proud of their cadet program and work very closely with local high schools on training students in emergency services. They also handle major community work but do not cover any tasks that should be covered by commercial entities for major events. Our group was then invited to inspect their workshop area with a close look at one of the emergency vehicles and all its equipment.



The Wickham Centre has six units, the newest being made in Brisbane and kitted out in Sydney. They also have two purpose-built trailers and a T4 catering trailer as well as several rubber dinghies.

Newcastle zone SES covers Broken Bay to the Queensland border and out west to Scone. The Hunter Valley headquarters are in Metford. Michael Grant thanked the crew on behalf of all present.



Tuesday 16 October 2018 – Callaghan College Waratah Campus Interact Club



Thank you to teacher Sheena Roberts for collecting 7 photographs from teachers in preparation for the Interact Group's next fundraising adventure – a Teachers Baby Photograph guessing competition.

The students had a general discussion with Madeleine, Clarice and Sheena from school on how the competition will work with all arrangements in place for the week commencing Monday 19 November.

The first prize will be two \$40 Charlestown Square Entertainment Passes.



Chris McGrath has been invited to the school assembly on 19 November for a visual display of a ShelterBox (or part of a box) and to address the students.

Congratulations to the students involved for their work to date to try and raise up to \$1,000 for a ShelterBox.

Saturday 20 October 2018 – Fun Shopping Day at Waratah Village for Trivia Night



All huge thank you to Nekon Pty Limited, the owners of Waratah Village Shopping Centre, for once again donating \$1,000 to allow our club to purchase goods required for the Annual Trivia Night.

President Howard and Madeleine spent the morning visiting the businesses and purchasing gifts and gift cards for the Chocolate Wheel, the Helium Balloons prizes and raffle table prizes.

We are confident of a successful event with the support of Waratah Village.

Monday 22 October 2018 – Fellowship Night and Final Night Planning for Trivia Night



A very exciting night at Waratah Rotary with two new members inducted, Clarice Hamling and Deborah Holt Smith. Our new members are making a significant contribution to our club activities already.

The evening was set aside to plan the Friday's Annual Trivia Night with Bob Cherry once again taking on the role as Coordinator. It was a very busy evening of plans and last-minute check lists, but as always, a friendly and enjoyable evening with good friends.



A special mention to Chris and Helen McGrath who coordinated the District coach trip to Merriwa over the weekend and raising substantial funds for our farmers and Rotarian friends "out west".

The trip was titled "Bugger the Drought" ... very Australian!



Friday 26 October 2018 – Annual Trivia Night

As in past years, we had the “full sign” up at Memories Function Centre for our Annual Trivia Night.

A huge thank you to Chair Bob Cherry, his team and all the members who fulfilled their roles on the night.

Warwick Mears set some testing trivia questions, ably supported by scorers Tonya and Karen with Howard and Michael handling the computer work. The gifts provided by Waratah Village Shopping Centre Management and the members of our club enabled the night to run smoothly and encourage our guests to dig deep for Zara’s House.

Sister Di spoke passionately about the facility at Jesmond and their plans.

The new addition of the One Hundred Club went extremely well thanks to Nathan and Jenna.

The Chocolate Wheel was a novelty with Brian having no trouble selling three full spins. The two Helen’s sold raffle tickets and balloons all night, also with a great deal of success. Treasurer Grant will be reporting to the club soon on the financial success of the evening as he gathers the last few donations still coming in.

A debriefing meeting will be held over the coming weeks.



Monday 29 October 2018 – Guest Speaker Bob Bush - Poet



Bob Bush, a local poet is a Newcastle boy now residing at Tea Gardens. He started writing poetry in 1994 while traveling outback with a friend through the Simpson Desert. After many years of success, he has now published his fifth book.

Bob commenced his presentation with two poems “Home” and “The Way Things Were” which we all identified with.

His favourite poem titled “The Auction” about a bugler of a bygone war brought a smile and a tear to all who listened intently. It took him many drafts to get the poem just right and this one touched him

deeply.

It was interesting to see where his inspiration comes from – attending a writers’ club, being given a mystery bag with swimming goggles, a note that said compassion and paint me a picture, which encouraged him to write a poem in two days!

“The Machine” about a washing machine was a very funny poem, with all the males nodding and smiling throughout. He then went on to tell a story about the sport of fishing, needing a mate, the best gear you can buy, the biggest car and boat, catching the smallest of fish, and trying to keep “the wife” happy. “The Great Outdoors” was a story about a dreaded camping adventure in the rain.

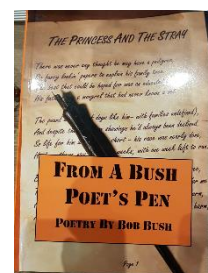
Bob had a great personality and was certainly a great presenter.

He concluded his amusing presentation with our favourite topic, food, with the poem titled “A Chicken Checker”. The cat ate the chicken, the birds ate the filet steak and Bob had toast and vegemite!

Bob Bush was introduced by Gerry Davies and thanked by Bob Main.

Bob kindly made his books and CD’s available to club members.

We look forward to seeing Bob at the club again over the coming months.



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

For more information email

Webmaster AG Chris McGrath: cjm@internode.on.net

All correspondence to PO Box 57 Waratah 2298

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