



# The Waratah

## September 2019



### Monday 2 September 2019 – Guest Speaker member Alan Palmer



The evening started with a fun game (designed by President Howard) to “guess the member” from a photo taken when each member was in their 20’s. Michael Grant was the only one to identify every member. Guess who brought in this picture (left)? Haven’t we all changed over the years? Member Alan Palmer spoke with great passion about his recent adventures with partner Judy to Queensland and South Australia by car, train, boat and car.

Alan gave us a brief history of family; the Skelton’s who were very much involved in the rail industry over many generations. Since the 1960’s Alan and Judy travelled on all country railways in Queensland, not to mention the other states.

Their holiday included driving to Scone, Warwick, Toowoomba, visiting family before boarding the Spirit of Queensland at Caboolture.



Off the train, into a limousine to Port Douglas, Daintree River cruise, then on to Cairns and Mossman, a catamaran sunset cruise to the Barrier Reef, all part of a Queensland Rail Package. Before leaving Cairns, Alan and Judy enjoyed the stained glass “wall” depicting the Creation at St Monica’s Cathedral in Cairns.

Train down to Tully for three nights stay at Mission Beach, to Proserpine and over to Airlie Beach for another three nights, and a trip out to Hamilton and Daydream Islands, then to Mackay to see Judy’s sister.

They slept in pods on the overnight trips (photo right).

After collecting the car again, it was time to visit several relatives on the way home, travelling via Surfer’s Paradise, Ballina and Taree.

They were only home three days before heading off with Rotarian friends to Adelaide on an Aldinga Tours package. This leg of the journey was full of highlights including the XPT from Sydney to Melbourne, the Puffing Billy in the Dandenong’s, Ringwood and the Overland Great Southern Rail to Adelaide.

Adelaide and surrounds included St Peter’s Anglican Cathedral, Mount Lofty, Hahndorf, the Botanic Gardens and a Chocolate Factory. Alan was very impressed with the visit to the Zoo and they had a great view of the Panda’s.

They took the train from Adelaide to Broken Hill via Crystal Brook and Petersborough and spending some time enjoying Broken Hill’s Art Gallery. They continued the train trip to Menindee, Parkes (where it was snowing), Bathurst and Lithgow. Changing to an electric train, it was the final leg to Katoomba and back into Sydney before getting the coach back home to Newcastle.

An amazing journey. Thank you for sharing the stories Alan.





## What was Wally up to in September?



At Rotary helping Neville at the door on **2 Sept**



Wally went missing during the week. We found him at David and Ann's watching the test cricket and ABC tele!



**9 Sept** – Wally had lunch at the Hunter Multicultural Communities Centre and made some new friends. He's very sociable!



**16 Sept** – Clarice won Wally instead of the Jolly Joker. He made more new friends and started preparing for his holiday with Clarice and Victor to Uluru. He'll be away for a week.



**17 Sept** – Today Wally was cold, so Clarice bought him some socks, and a sunhat for Uluru, and a food bowl for trying the indigenous food, and a backpack for his holiday!



**18 to 28 Sept** – Wally's trip to the red Centre. Welcome home Wally and friends.

## Monday 9 September 2019 – Lunch out with Partners



Thank you to Annette and Jason from Hunter Multicultural Communities Centre (HMC) Waratah for hosting us for a lunch-time meeting.

Angela and her staff looked after us with a wonderful home cooked meal. It was nice to have a

relaxing luncheon with minimal Rotary business. Again, a great opportunity to simply enjoy each-others company.

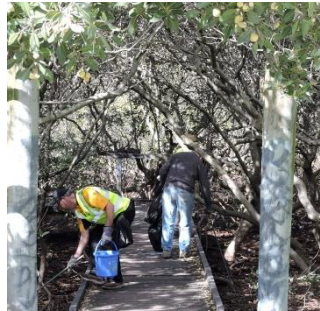
It is a wonderful community Centre enjoyed by many. Even Wally was there socialising. Several of our members commented on the wall display of historical photographs from the Great Camp in Greta 1945 to 1962.

Check out our website for more photographs.



## Saturday 14 September 2019 – Waterway Clean-up

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Thank you to our club's 17 members and friends you attended the Carrington Boardwalk Waterway clean up. The project was requested by Irukandji Shark and Ray Encounters at Bobs Farm Nelson Bay when they donated a family pass for the Shine for ShelterBox Trivia Night. The team collected 14 large bags of rubbish before heading for coffee and lunch. Service above Self everyone .... and most definitely People of Action. Check out our website for more photographs.

## Monday 16 September 2019 – Board Meeting and Club Assembly

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### Fun - Fellowship - Fundraising

This evening was devoted to briefing our members on all aspects of our upcoming Rotary efforts.

We had a Fathers' Day Raffle wrap-up report and a full update by Bob Cherry on our Club's ShelterBox Trivia Night to be held on Saturday 9 November. Prizes have been allotted for the auction, coin toss, balloons and raffle. More smaller prizes for the raffle are needed by mid-October and the \$400 first prize cash was donated by 3 Waratah members. Thank you! There is only five weeks to go,

so book now! Thank you to Allan Pettigrew for supplying the centrepieces for the tables.

We had a brief update on the Therapy Dog Project with Magistrate Skinner changing to Guide Dogs Australia. We are eagerly awaiting commencement of the project.

We sent our August newsletter and a special invitation to some of our friends of Rotary to attend our meeting on 30 September when we hear from Wilma Simmons and Pam Wellham speak about their trip to Nepal. The Christmas raffle is in place and we are going to purchase a new tear drop banner for better branding when we are in the community.

A meeting was held with the newly formed Transitioning Committee who will be looking for prospective new members to form a transitional group.

### WHAT THIS SPACE – A SPECIAL INTRODUCTION BY CLARICE HAMLING

Clarice reported she has attended a **Respectus / Dale School** meeting and has some ideas on how our club can support their exceptional works with their mothers and children. She spoke of a Parents Hub, assisting with items or cash for a Food Bank or supporting a young person with training and development. Clarice will keep us up to date as ideas fall into place.

## Monday 16 to Thursday 19 September 2019 – Science and Engineering Discovery Day

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On behalf of Newcastle Regional Chair Brian Atkins, many thanks to our Committee members Bob Main and Clarice Hamling, and Waratah members Bob Cherry and David Winkelmann for doing the lion's share of work with Paul Griffiths (Williamstown Rotary Club) at St Clemente's High School Mayfield.

The year 5 and 6 students gained so much from their experience of Science and Engineering, primary level.



## Monday 23 September 2019 – Fun and Games Night



We had a relaxing night at Rotary with some games to keep us amused. Madeleine arranged a “roll the dice” activity (David Winkelmann won) and a junior quiz test (congratulations Bob Cherry), to keep us focused on the upcoming Shine for ShelterBox Trivia Night.

The last game was named “Who Am I?”. It was a little easier than expected with Bob Main guessing the answer on the third clue. The answer was Serena Williams.

Thanks for having fun everyone!

## Saturday 28 September 2019 – Living Smart Festival Speers Point

A part report from Chris McGrath to this amazing ShelterBox team.



What can I say? A wonderful sunny day if a little cool and breezy at times however a very good location for us to spread our wings.

Let me say a big thank you from Helen and myself for all who turned up, and at the ungodly hour of 6:00am, ready for the big day... and it did not disappoint.

Even my Jeep Compass, which I thought was quite a roomy vehicle, was packed to the brim just allowing enough room for the two of us to fit in. I even had to fit ten sandbags into the rear footwells to make room for all the equipment!

Mike showed us some new tricks in putting the tent up, we had to use sandbags as pegs were not permitted, and my system of securing the front verandah to the table legs worked a treat.



### MARKETING

Some comments on the day and suggestions for the next outdoor event.  
(These are comments Waratah Rotary can also consider)



Our tent plus the new banner and table displays are our main attractions, the ShelterBox not quite so, but a good talking point when we describe what we can fit in, and how we are able to distribute relief so effectively. The team spirit was high too .... we had one extra Rotarian who helped in the morning! On behalf of our team thank you Keith!

At the conclusion we had the tent down and packed in its bag by our professional "tent packers", Carol and Sue. Great job ladies.

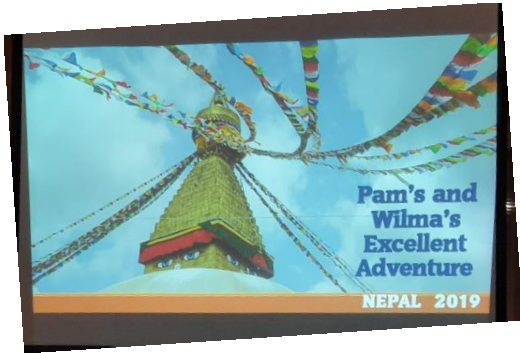
Our packing team, Yannis, Carol and Sue a big thank you, our all-round helpers, Chris B, Keith P, our display coordinator and driver Helen.

For the volunteers who were unable to make the day, you missed out on what was in my mind the most worthwhile event so far in my short time with ShelterBox.

I may need to call on volunteers to assist for (other) events if they come off, so be ready to put your hand up. 🙋



## Monday 30 September 2019 – Guest Speakers Wilma Simmons and Pam Wellham



It was our pleasure to welcome distinguished Rotarians Wilma Simmons and Pam Wellham to our club to speak about their recent trip to Nepal.

Wilma and Pam were inspired by Rotarian Stephanie Woollard from Melbourne after she set up and continued to support the Seven Women Project in Kathmandu, a city of over one million people. It was interesting to learn everyone they spoke to had very good English.



Although it was the wet season, it was very hot and humid, especially at night.

Most tourists in Nepal are there to trek, however Wilma and Pam wanted to support the Seven Women Centre and experience local community life. They shared many stories and photographs about the mixture of religions, the 486 steps up to the Monkey Temple, and the amazing experience of a Buddhist / Hindi burial.

The story that stimulated the most conversation was about the Nepalese Kumari Living Goddess worshipped by Hindus and Buddhists. Tradition says the little girl is chosen at the age of around three years of age, is taken from her family and remains the Living Goddess until she is returned home at puberty. She lives in a special home with servants only, and never walks on the ground outside. Until recently, the Living Goddess was not educated whilst serving in her position, and history has told there are many issues returning to “normal life” for the small child. It was difficult to hear of the different customs and traditions surrounding the Living Goddess.

In 2015 there was a massive earthquake in Kathmandu with many buildings not yet repaired. Stories were told that the Seven Women were responsible for the earthquake because they had taught literacy to other young women. The Centre also supports women fleeing domestic violence, teaches English, teaches arts and craft skills, and has lessons in Nepalese cooking. One of the women now goes to University. The Centre has also rented a house that sleeps ten guests. It is wonderful to learn many of their activities are now self-sustainable. Pam and Wilma also visited the local markets (getting up at 5am) and attended an Association's Arts and Craft Centre where they had four sewing machines. I also learned you wear a red scarf for welcome and a yellow scarf for farewell!

Wilma and Pam visited the Centre for Ophthalmology. It was set up by the Fred Hollows Foundation in 1994, only 12 months after his death. In an adjoining building, they manufacture lenses for between \$10 and \$15 (in lieu of purchasing from America at a cost of \$150) and sell their lenses throughout the world. Students from Australia go to the Clinic for training. They have surgery available for cornea transplants, which is amazing as their culture states organ donations are not acceptable. Due to the education shared from the Clinic, over 1,000 corneas were donated last year, with the clinic seeing around 1,000 patients per day.

Wilma and Pam touched very briefly on a man they met with sustainable technology – but that is a long story for another night! He was in to reducing waste by using water bottles filled with plastic bags to make building “bricks” and a plan for solar cooking.

The club gave a donation to Wilma and Pam's project to complete four classrooms in Kathmandu, and we wish them well.

Thank you to District Governor Graeme Hooper and Sue, Assistant Governor Sharon Chambers and a friend of Rotary Ciare Shoppe for sharing our special evening.





The Rotary Club of Waratah Presents

# SHINE FOR SHELTERBOX TRIVIA NIGHT?

**Saturday November 9th 2019**  
**West Wallsend Workers Club**  
 53 Carrington Street West Wallsend

No BYO, Food can be bought from Reeds By the Creek, prior or during the night. Bar facilities available

Tickets \$15 per person

8 people per table

To book contact:

nathansb@outlook.com.au

or 0417781340

Raising money for ShelterBox: <https://www.shelterboxaustralia.org.au>



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**CASH PRIZE!**  
**Raffles**  
**Lucky Balloons**  
**Auction**  
**and lots more**

\*\*\*\* ATTENTION \*\*\*\*

**Saturday 9 November 2019**  
**West Wallsend Workers Club**  
**6:00pm for 6:30pm Trivia start**

The "House Full" sign is about to go up so please contact Bob Cherry urgently if you want to join the Waratah team tables.

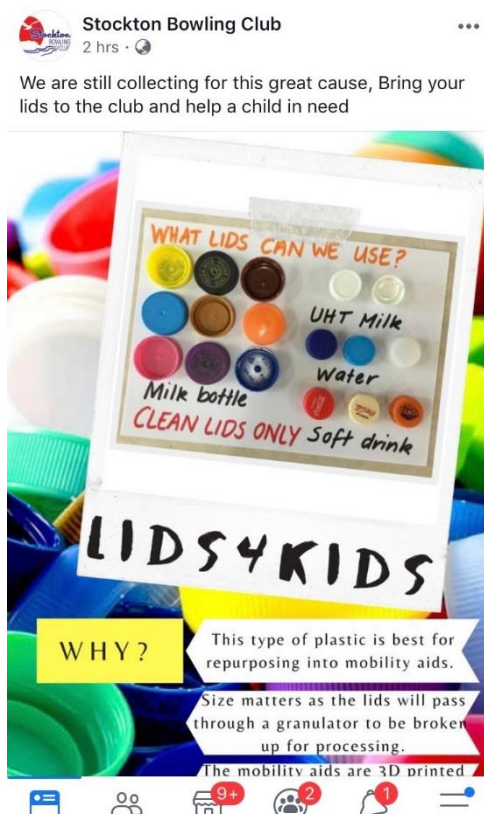
Contact Treasurer Grant with your \$15 entry so he can pass it on to the committee.

## Lids4Kids Project

Deborah is now collecting your lids so she can take them to the collection point in Stockton. Bring them along to our first meeting in October.

Check out the original story for more details:

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-06-27/lids-for-kids-canberra-collection-volunteer-envision-hands/11249628>



## **Upcoming Waratah Events in October / November 2019 (Keep checking the website)**

**Monday 7 October** No Rotary – public holiday

**Monday 14 October** Board Meeting (5pm) followed by Club Assembly

**Monday 21 October** to be confirmed (check the website for updates)

**Sunday 27 October** Graffiti Removal Day with Wallsend-Maryland club

**Monday 28 October** Final job allocation and planning night for Shine for ShelterBox Trivia Night

**Monday 4 November** Our traditional Melbourne Cup night

**Saturday 9 November** Shine for ShelterBox Trivia Night

**Monday 11 November** Board Meeting (5pm) followed by Club Assembly

## **What the District and other Clubs have on offer: (check the District website or see Secretary Madeleine for more details)**

### **October / November 2019**

**Thursday 24 October** Paint it Red for Polio Day – contact Secretary Madeleine for details

**Saturday 26 October** End Polio Now Walk from Nobbys to the Foreshore

**Friday 8 November** Presidents, AGs, Chairs of Committees Meeting at Rutherford – all members welcome

**Saturday 9 November** Shine for Shelterbox Trivia Night

### **2019-2020 Executive**

**President:** Howard Mole

**Mobile:** 0417 223 673

**Email:** [howardm@live.com.au](mailto:howardm@live.com.au)

**President-Elect:** TBC

**Secretary:** Madeleine Atkins

**Treasurer:** Grant Pettigrew

**Public Officer and WWC:** David Winkelmann

**Sergeant-at-Arms:** Bob Main

**Club Service Director:** Grant Pettigrew

**Youth Services Director:** Howard Mole

**Community Service Director:** Deborah Holt Smith

**Vocational Service Director:** Bob Main

**International Service Director:** Michael Grant

### **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](https://www.rotary.org)

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

3 Charles Street Wallsend NSW 2287 Australia

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

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

**Rotary**



**ROTARY  
CONNECTS  
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