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SPRINGWORD
Newsletter



Issue 43

3 June 2022

President's Report

We were treated to a perfect, although slightly chilly, day for the official opening and dedication of the Sensory Garden at Springwood Primary School last week. After a sumptuous afternoon tea served by John and Beth Fuller, we enjoyed presentations from Margaret Bell who began this development in her presidential years; Shannon Atkins, who did all the hard work; Nicole Swan, Deputy Principal and teacher from the special assistance unit; and then some very special words sent by Don Cameron, written in memory of his father. Margaret's and Don's speeches are shown in full elsewhere in this newsletter. The children evidently love playing in what was a previously unused area, and the final result looks just terrific. Thanks to all who were part of this project.

As winter began with an arctic blast, a group of mountains Rotarians headed off to Glow in the Zoo last Wednesday night. It was a fun night, and a huge thanks to Norm and Cheryl for organising the event.

I am pleased to report that Bill Clague is home again. However, Peter Sparkes is back in hospital and we wish him a speedy recovery.

As I enter the final month of my presidency, plans for Changeover are

progressing well. I have always been impressed by the way Rotary facilitates a seamless transition between Presidents and incoming Boards, and already I can see that Norm's planning for the incoming year is well underway.

This Monday is a speaker meeting and we have a presentation from Adrian Rhodes, from the Schools Industry Group.

Group A people, please remember to let Jenny Kroonstuiver know if you **are not** coming; Group B and guests will need to advise if they **are** attending. All RSVPs by 5.00pm on Sunday please.

Have a good week –
and stay warm!
Jenny Kroonstuiver
President



Planned meetings to the end of June 2022

- **6 June** – Speaker meeting – Adrian Rhodes
- **13 June** – no meeting – Public holiday
- **20 June** – Speaker meeting - Mina Howard
- **27 June** - Changeover



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Upcoming events

- **8 June** – Zoom handover of the Interplast bears
- **18 June** – Bunnings BBQ
- **27 June** – Club Changeover
- **2 July** – District Changeover
- **14 July** – Ronald McDonald House dinner

Thought for the week

Winter is the time for comfort, for good food and warmth, for the touch of a friendly hand and for a talk beside the fire: it is the time for home.
Edith Sitwell, 'Taken Care Of'.



Winter raffle

There are still just a few tickets left, so if anyone wants any, please contact Jenny. Just a reminder that if you are transferring funds for raffle tickets, to please put them into the Community Account and clearly label them 'raffle'. Thank you!

Sergeant's corner

Found on the bus after the Glow in the Zoo trip: one item of ladies' intimate apparel. The owner can collect from Cheryl Kitto.



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Door Prize and Pick-a-card results



There was no door prize or pick-a-card draw this week.

June celebrations



Happy birthday to: Robin Ingram and Kevin Richards.

Congratulations on your wedding anniversary, Adam Law.

Members who joined our club in the month of June are: Pat Ainslie and Warwick Harrison (second time); Liz Roberts and Bruce Wood.

Zoom 'handover' of the Interplast bears – Wednesday 8 June, 7.00pm



All members are invited to join us for the 'official' handover of the interplast bears to Kian Safei. Kian is unable to attend in person, so we are doing this by Zoom.

Grab a glass of wine and feel free to join us on the following link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82288169474>

Members of the 'stuffing group' are welcome to come to my place and join the meeting from there if they prefer.



District Changeover 2022

The end of the year is approaching at an alarming rate. Let's all celebrate the end of another somewhat unusual year due to circumstances beyond anyone's control. The Changeover will be celebrating the achievements of DG Lindsay May and all Clubs in our District, and welcoming incoming DG Mina Howard and her teams.

This will be another fantastic Rotary event to be held at Hornsby RSL - another sign of normality returning. The date is Saturday, 2nd July 2022. Commencement time 6.30 pm for 7.00 pm.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Margaret Bell's presentation for the Sensory Garden event Interactive Sensory Garden Springwood Public School - Support Unit Project 2018-2022

This project began in 2018 following a call from a parent of a child in the support unit. It was a simple request for Rotary to supply bottled water or poppers for a walk to raise funds for a garden play area in the unit.

As president, I thought that our Club might be able to make it a project and went to see Assistant Principal Nicole Swan, to see if we could help. She had the idea of a play area full of colour, sensory plants, herbs etc. and had collected many large old tyres and was in the process of painting

them in multi colours to use as planting beds. She had also managed to fund a free swing and frame. Some parents had made interesting play boards with lots of different tactile objects for the children to touch etc.

I approached our Club with the suggestion we apply for a matching grant to assist and some hands on help for installation. Shannon Atkins had already been in the wings with Nicole on this and following a meeting and grant approval we set about stage one! We had days of fun, planning, painting, building, planting and laughing. Behind the scenes things were going on in sheds with equipment being assembled! We had a shortfall and we're not able to afford soft fall under the swings but the right sized mulch did the trick!

Shannon and his team provided the bulk of the labour and expertise at no charge, only barely covering costs, and in very good humour. For this and lots of other community work he was awarded a Paul Harris Award that year at changeover! It would not have been possible without his generosity and experience.

We succeeded in a further grant in David Rayner's year as president to extend the garden, but COVID stepped on and it was held over for a year. Another successful grant application from Jenny Kroonstuiver's Board and away we went again! The design was changed to make the garden very interactive, suitable for all ages and colourful and sensory. This time, as the work was so specialised, Shannon gave up his Easter Holidays with his family to



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complete the task during the school holidays with all of the heavy equipment needed and the end result is amazing. Rain delayed progress until finally it is done!

This has been completed by Rotary Foundation grants, generous donations by members, initial funds raised by parents 4 years ago and labour by club members led by Shannon and the Landsculpt team. The total costs have been approx. \$20,000 with this budget being stretched as far as possible to include sand pits, wall mirrors and play boards.

With the loss of our much loved and respected Charter member, Alan Bruce Cameron, we wanted to dedicate this project in his honour as past principal of Springwood Public School.

I give many thanks for the indulgences from our Club on this project and for the many laughs along the way! I am delighted to say it is now done!!!

Rotary 'Service above Self' is what we do well...
Margaret Bell PP PHF

Don Cameron's message in response to the dedication to Alan Cameron

it is with great pleasure that I acknowledge the dedication of the Springwood Primary's Sensory Garden to my Father Mr Alan Cameron.



It is a most appropriate tribute that speaks to 3 aspects of Alan's life he held dear-as an educator, a Rotarian and a passionate gardener.

As an educator Alan spent 38 years in the profession-teaching in demonstrations schools in North Newtown, and Haberfield; spending a year teaching in Edinburgh as well as starting Carlingford West Primary School amongst other positions. The final chapter in Alan's career as an educator was here at Springwood Primary from 1977-1988. Upon being appointed Head Master, Alan finessed every aspect of the school down to the motto, school song and uniform.

As principal, he wasn't an elusive figure but was visible and personally engaged in every child's advancement.

The enduring allegory he established of The Good Ship Springwood Primary, became legendary amongst students of the school. The staff were officers who would show leadership, plan and provide example; the students were the crew who would be decent, fair and honest. There were no passengers. Just workers. At the end of each year the school achievements would be presented at assembly in the form of a long scroll that would role from the lectern down the aisle to the door. It was a masterful and fun visualization of how much could be achieved when you work together. The Good Ship Springwood Primary would dock victorious at the end of each school year before re-entering uncharted



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waters and the adventures the following year would hold.

*Of the things we think, say or do...
Is it the truth
Is it fair to all concerned
Will it build goodwill and better
friendships
Will it be beneficial to all concerned?*

As a Rotarian, Alan was able to serve the community that had welcomed him and in which he had made his home. Forming Springwood Rotary Club alongside founding members Fred Thompson and Tony Hammond in 1984 the club has; and continues to—contribute to the local community as well as participate on wider national and international projects.

Gardening for Alan was an activity that provided a lot of joy through nurturing and hard work. He loved his roses and cold climate garden he laid out and cared for—which continues to reward through the changing seasons in a myriad of ways. The healing and restorative aspects of gardens are well known as well as how plants appeal to our senses-visually and through touch and smell. The ecosystems gardens promote visualize the cycle of life—providing a constantly rewarding sanctuary.

I would like to acknowledge the creative work of the Landsculpt Group in realising this Sensory Garden and the Rotary Club of Springwood along with Springwood Primary school for honouring Alan Cameron with the establishment of this beautiful garden—a most appropriate outcome that captures many facets of Alan's life he held dear.



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2022 Zone 8 Rotary & Rotaract 'Better Together' Conference

*From Andrew Giumelli & John
McKenzie - Zone 8 Better Together
Conference Co-Chairs*

Early bird tickets are now available for all Rotaractors and Rotarians in Australia, New Zealand and across the Pacific to attend the Zone 8 Better Together Conference in Canberra from **October 28-30**.

The conference will be held at the National Convention Centre Canberra and the Saturday night dinner at Old Parliament House.

The conference is set to be the first in-person zone event since the COVID-19 pandemic and is shaping up to be a celebration of all the best our Rotary family has to offer. This includes a range of excellent speakers and sessions across the weekend.

Australian Army Major Alex Rubin was deployed as part of the Australian contingent to rescue the Wild Boar soccer team in Thailand and will headline the conference. Major Rubin was also involved in the Northern NSW flood recovery effort and will no doubt captivate the audience.

Another keynote speaker will be New Zealander Suran Dickson, founder of Diversity Role Models, a charity that tackles gender and sexuality related bullying by encouraging empathy and critical thinking in young people.

In addition to tickets going on sale, booth registrations have also opened for the Rotary Showcase and the conference team are also taking



expressions of interest in hosting a breakout session over the weekend.

To purchase tickets, register for a Showcase booth, complete a breakout session expression of interest form or find out more about Canberra head to <https://conference.rotaryzone8.org/> today!



Tench Reserve - Tree planted for Rotary Club in 2017

From AG Peter Agar

In 2017, the combined Nepean/Lower Blue Mountains Rotary clubs organised a short End Polio Now walk at Tench Reserve, followed by a ceremonial tree planting.

Penrith Council is now in the process of redesigning & revamping the layout & facilities in Tench Reserve &

the tree we planted looks like being a victim.

Matthew Buckley from PCC has contacted Garry Smith to devise a plan that is amenable to everyone.

The tree is now 5 years old, so is quite mature & moving it, although an option, may result in killing it. Another option is for Council to donate a tree to replace it, once the final upgrade works are complete.

Please contact me with your thoughts & suggestions regarding how best to proceed.



A note about images used in this newsletter

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**MENTAL
HEALTH
FIRST AID**
Australia

Learn the skills. Make a difference.

Michele (Rotary Club of Lower Blue Mountains) and Cheryl Kitto (Springwood Rotary Club) has recently completed their qualification to teach accredited Mental Health First Aid. This course was extremely interesting and beneficial to all those who attended. In the current social environment, it could be of great help to be able to assist anyone in need.

Michele and Cheryl would like to teach as many members of our community as she can and is offering a course to fellow Rotarians and Volunteers from the Blue Mountains area.

**Michele & Cheryl will be holding a
Mental Health First Aid Course**

on

Thursday 14th & Friday 15th July 2022

at

Glenbrook Guide Hall, 10 Hare st, Glenbrook

8:30 for a 9am start until approx. 4.30pm both days

Cost: \$50 (for workbook and lunch both days)
(These courses normally cost \$280.00)

We are only requesting funds to cover costs

*Please contact Michele of your interest in attending
including any dietary requirements?*

Michele Ellery
info@believesupportconnect.org
0423 709 630

Rotary



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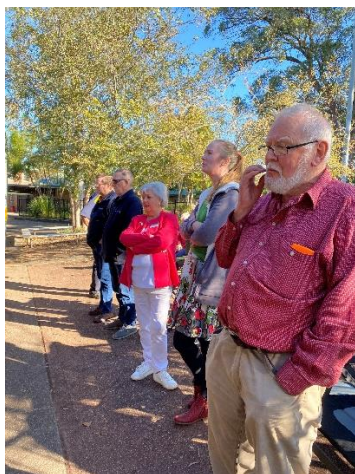
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Photo Gallery

Opening and dedication of the Sensory Garden



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Glow at the Zoo bus trip
(with thanks to Sherril and Cheryl)

