

HORIZONS

Central Blue Mountains Rotary

We live here - We work here - We give back

Rotary District 9685 - Australia

Wednesday, November 08, 2023

Wentworth Falls

Comin' up

Stuff you should know about

Greetings, Central Bluers

This has been a fantastic and busy week.

From the Club perspective, the rotary information night on Tuesday went very well, with Ian as the pop-up MC, and speakers, our Jennifer, Al from Springwood, Faye from Katoomba club and Phill from Sunrise giving various perspectives on rotary, an overview of our projects and what they get out of rotary membership.

We had 13 very engaged community members on the night and expect to see some of them visiting the clubs and our projects in the near future.

Thank you Paul Pixton and the mountains membership hub for putting it all together.

Two of our members were recognised for their community work this week.

Jennifer was made a Community Fellow of Western Sydney University and gave the Occasional Address to Graduates, while Lora was awarded the Hungarian Bronze Cross of Merit, by no less than the President of Hungary. Congratulations to both and wow, what talented and dedicated members to have in our club!

The rotary youth exchange weekend went ahead despite the rain, and 10 students from around the world on exchange in our district visited the mountains.

Well done, congratulations and thank you to Jennifer, Lora, Eric, Michael, Elaine and all who assisted from our club.

A big thank you to Norm Kitto who drove the bus ferrying everybody around, and Springwood and Upper Blue Mountains Sunrise folks who hosted, and in the latter case provided lunch and a bushwalk. Thanks to Lucian Keegel for running the Sunday activities. Jennifer was the overall organiser and deserves a special vote of thanks for the massive effort she put in.

Fat Chance was reset this week as Michael ended the miserable run of no-Joker and put us all out of our anticipatory misery! Congratulations Michael.

...Ian Scott



Fearless Leader

Our Polio Pushups fundraiser ended on 31 October and we raised a fantastic \$11,845.

Well done to all the team; PGH for the design and printwork, athletes for the push-ups, donors for the funds, and thanks to Viv and Allan Byrnes for organising and managing the project. What can they think up for next year?



Hungary's President Katalin Novák, recently in Sydney, awarded Lora Stopic with the Hungarian Bronze Cross of Merit.



Jennifer Scott AM was recognised last week as a Community Fellow, by the Board of Trustees of Western Sydney University, for significant service to the community through a range of organisations.



<https://www.facebook.com/centralbluerotary>

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Exchange Students Weekend in the BM



It's rare to find a dedicated organisation like this

There's an exceptional story to be told about RARE - a valuable Rotary asset.

Yep, it's a Rotary acronym representing **Rotary Australia Repurposing Equipment**

But, RARE has the capacity to undertake complex, high-volume projects in a timely manner and deliver humanitarian aid across the world.

Rotarians will remember it as DIK (Donations in Kind), working for the past 40 years under the umbrella of RAWCS, Rotary Australia World Community Service.

That said: In the company's 2022-2023 annual report, RARE's National Manager, David Clark quoted: "Despite major delays to shipping, 69 containers were sent from the five RARE facilities in Australia and the one DIK store in Victoria."

"We sent 39 containers to Cambodia, Kenya, Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu, Kurdistan, Mongolia, Ethiopia, Sri Lanka, Zimbabwe, Somaliland, Solomons, Uganda, Tanzania, Pakistan, Ghana and Timor Leste. The estimated value of goods was just over \$4,500,000," David said.

"Ninety pallets of medical equipment went by air freight to England, and then by truck to Ukraine. Total value of this project was over \$2 million dollars.

"A container packed with linen was sent from Darwin to people impacted by floods in the Northern Rivers region.

"We are working to promote RARE to all Rotary Clubs so that when they see the acronym RARE they understand it means repurposing unwanted medical and educational equipment destined for landfill."

"Pallet loads of sheets, towels, pillowcases, bathmats, blankets, mattress protectors, and pillows from a disused detention centre were donated and transported free-of-charge.

"In addition, another 40ft container of linen from the same source was provided to the Arnhem Land Progress Aboriginal Corporation for distribution to indigenous communities impacted by floods in the Northern Territory.

"In total, volunteer hours involved in collecting, cleaning, and packing these goods, around 51,000 hours, equates to around \$1,530,000 free labour."

An unusual donation received by RARE this year was, seven mobile dental vans from the South Australian Government, estimated value over \$400,000.

Replacement value would be over \$2 million dollars.

Quite often, RARE products are hired by television and movie companies as props in their productions. This is becoming a good source of income which helps cover running costs.

"For RARE to continue, we need Australian Rotary clubs to work through RAWCS to help finance overseas projects, then we can continue to send our unused medical and educational goods and they can live for decades to come," David Clark said.

...PGH

<https://rawcs.org.au/repurpose-medical-and-education-equipment>



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Rotary  
Districts of Australia

David Clark is a member of Blackheath Rotary Club, a Past District Governor 9685 and a former President of Central Blue Mountains Rotary. (1987-88)

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Info nights are just the start of becoming a Rotarian

We had a Rotary Clubs of the upper Blue Mountains info night last week.

Lots of brochures and other handouts, along with presentations.

The combined clubs affair, which included the E-Club of Greater Sydney, was held at Katoomba RSL. We had 13 visitors, who, hopefully, can be turned into members.

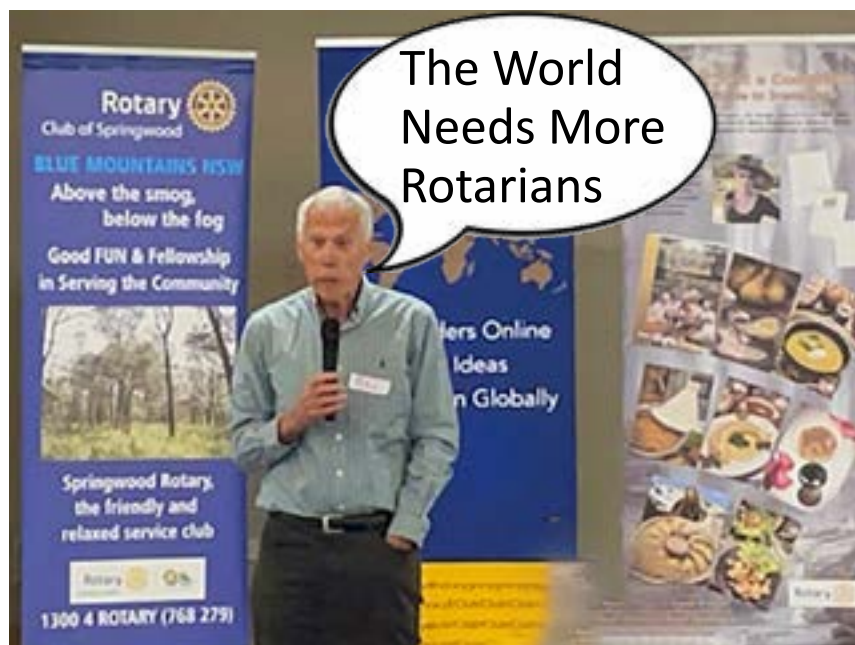
As you can see in the image, Bill Pixton, Upper Blue Mountains Sunrise, was one of the selected presenters.

How do you turn visitors into members?

Easy Peasy...

The info night is just a starter.

- You follow up on their visit
- You invite them to a meeting
- You explain the values of Rotary
- You show friendship
- You ask them to volunteer
- You engage with and mentor them, with the intention that, if they join our world-wide organisation, it will give them a opportunity to become community-minded individuals who share a common goal of making our world a better place in which to live.
- Then, eventually, they just don't become members.
- They become Rotarians.



Colors of the 2023-24 presidential theme logo



The 2023-24 presidential theme is accompanied by a logo that consists of three dynamic shapes with color gradients of dark blue to purple, dark red to light red, and from intense orange to bright yellow. Rotary International President R. Gordon R. McNally explains that the palette is inspired by the colors of Scotland – the purple of heather, the blue of the ocean, and the orange/yellow of the setting sun over the cliffs. The colors identify with modern Scotland and are an intentional move beyond the stereotype of tartan (plaid) often associated with Scotland.

In addition, the colors are also an homage to John Lowrie Morrison, one of Scotland's most successful and beloved contemporary artists, who produces expressionist oil paintings of Scottish landscapes. The logo colors capture the vibrancy of Morrison's painting and that of modern, vibrant, colorful Scotland.

The sweep of each element from tail to head represents creation, starting from a point and growing through the shape. The three shapes represent the elements, and are nurturing, protecting, and hugging each other to create a whole.

Mountain Ghost

The Ghost remembers the Billy Cart Derby. Perhaps it could be replaced by a zimmer frame race, but, for the Ghost to compete, the frame would need to have wheels.



The Ghost and friend wearing safety helmets, competing in a wheeled walker race.

RHODODENDRON FESTIVAL – 2023

The Mountain Ghost counts the years by the passing of another Blackheath Rhododendron Festival. It is a bit like telling the age of a tree by counting the rings in the timber.

The Ghost knows of a person living in the bush outside Katoomba who only has a bath once a year. He estimates his age by the rings around the bathtub. Anyway the Ghost is waffling a bit.

The 2023 Rhodo Festival is upon us again. The Ghost is unaware of any festival in the Mountains which has so united a community over so long a period.

Two events in particular have affected the area over the years are constant bushfires and recently Covid. The Festival was suspended in 2021 due to Covid.

The Ghost did some research on the Festival and its history. The idea started in 1950 by the then Blackheath Rhododendron Association. It had two aims.

Firstly, to beautify Blackheath with a major planting of Rhodos. A memorial drive was proposed with each household to plant four or five rhodos in their front garden.

The local Rotary club undertook the planting in part of Memorial Park. Rotary has been involved every year since.

Secondly, a festival was proposed to be held during the flowering season (October and November) to raise funds.

The first Festival was held in Oct/Nov 1953. It was officially opened by Dame Pattie Menzies, the PM's wife.

A huge range of activities were included, ranging from floats, folk dancing, bands, a golf tournament and the Wentworth Street Billy Cart Derby. The Blackheath Musical Society performed "The Gondoliers" nightly. They also had a Rhodo Queen.

The Ghost looked at this year's programme and over 70 years not a lot has changed.

The Ghost remembers the Billy Cart Derby. Perhaps it could be replaced by a zimmer frame race, but, for the Ghost to compete, the frame would need to have wheels.

There are quite a few Rhodo festivals around the world. The oldest is the Florence Rhododendron Festival in Oregon USA which, next year, is 116 years old. Although it has missed a few years due to various factors.

The Ghost looks forward to next year's Festival along with many others.



Costa and the ABC Gardening Australia team stopped over to have a look at the gardens last week! What a fun, friendly time it was. They enjoyed scones, jam and cream in the tea room.



<https://www.facebook.com/rhodogarden.org.au/>

...that's all folks