

HORIZONS

Central Blue Mountains Rotary

We live here - We work here - We give back

Rotary District 9685 - Australia

Wednesday, April 03, 2024

Wentworth Falls

Comin' up

Stuff you should know about



Fearless Leader

Hi Blue Crew,

Last week we met at 6.00 pm for our business session before dinner, and it needs a tweak, but generally worked well. Members arrived at 6.00pm, but that did not suit as meal and other logistics were sorted. So, we will start a little later.

This week and from here on we will meet on the first and third Wednesdays of the month at 6.00pm for 6.15pm business session, followed by dinner, and on the first Wednesday, a speaker or topic.

Please arrive in time to get organised with a beverage or pay for your meal or whatever, as we need to start the business session bang on 6.15pm.

Where there is a 5th Wednesday, we will have a social outing.

Nothing stops folks from dining at the Grandview on the 2nd or 4th Wednesdays, except it will not be a meeting.



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

In the same vein, you are welcome to organise a coffee meet-up or other activity at any time and invite members to join you.

The future of the catering van was discussed at the last meeting and we are resolved to dispose of the vehicle. We still have a few outings to do before that happens though, so please let Eric know if you can assist on 9th of April for the BMGS Compassion fundraiser.

Our guest for the last two weeks, Chad Adams, has signed up on the Lawson Breakfast roster to cover for some absences over the next months. Many thanks Chad.

Finally, I trust you have all had a break over Easter and had the opportunity to relax with family, friends, pets or a book.

See you on Wednesday.

Cheers, Ian.



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Exchange student to Brazil Evelyn Prasad (third left) and other new inbounds from Australia enjoying a briefing weekend. With District Chair Ronan Ribeiro on right and Counsellor Marco on the left.



Charity Golf Day

at Leonay Golf Club
Friday 19th April 2024

Four Person Ambrose

\$1600 Sponsorship or \$160 per person

- Raffle Draw
- Auctions
- Golf Presentation

Breakfast and Lunch provided
(includes water, beer, and soft drink during the game. All other drinks are to be paid for by players.)

Motorised Carts available to all players.

For more information, please contact John Sturt - 0417 282 827 - email: jsturt@bigpond.com

Rotary Youth Driver Awareness Program Shines Spotlight on Road Safety

Senior high school students were challenged to change the way they think about road safety when they participated in the Rotary Youth Driver Awareness (RYDA) program in February.

The Rotary Clubs of Leeton and Leeton Central are continuing their partnership with industry leader Road Safety Education Limited (RSE) to bring the youth road safety program to Year 11 students from 14 high schools from across the region, including Leeton, Yanco, Narrandera, Griffith, Hay, Ardlethan, Barellan, Coleambally, Hillston, Lockhart and Ariah Park.

RYDA is RSE's award-winning road safety education program which has been held since 2001 and has seen over 600,000 students attend the workshop across Australia and New Zealand.

The RYDA program is a series of practical and powerful workshops that provide students a unique opportunity to learn essential life skills at a critical time in their lives. It takes each student one school day to complete the program. Leeton RYDA facilitators include NSW



Image supplied

Police Officers, Council Road Safety Officers, Driver Trainers and crash survivors.

Whether driving or travelling with friends, every young person contributes to the safety of the road users around them – RYDA gives students the tools and strategies they need to make good choices from any seat in the car.

RYDA is made possible through the support of RSE's corporate partners BOC, Toyota, Bridgestone, MTAA Super and Boral.

Rotary and an old paper mill

A stroll inspired Rod Morrison to suggest that his Rotary club in southeast Australia offer public tours of a structure that has long loomed beside the Barwon River: the 1878 Fyansford Paper Mill.

Though listed by Australia as a heritage site, the mill and its legacy hadn't received their due, says Morrison, a member of the Rotary Club of Highton.

Rotary members pored over old photos and drawings to assemble displays for the 75-minute guided tours, which began in 2022.

The mill made paper out of rags, ship sails, frayed rope, military uniforms, reeds, and other old fabrics until it closed in 1923. "It was one of Australia's first recyclers," Morrison says.

During World War II the plant served as a secret sea mine facility for the Royal Australian Navy. The heritage tours have already generated more than US\$12,000 for community projects, along with enthusiasm for history.

This story originally appeared in the April 2024 issue of Rotary magazine.



Image supplied

Rotary Club encourages residents to 'fly the flag' during new fundraiser

MOOSEJAWTODAY.com

For an annual subscription of \$60, a Rotary volunteer will take a three-foot by five-foot Canadian flag attached to a 10-foot pole and plant it in residents' front yards for several days before and after the long weekends in May, July and September.

The Rotary Club of Moose Jaw Wakamow is launching a new project that it hopes will not only be an innovative fundraiser but also increase residents' love and patriotism for Canada.

"Fly the Flag with Rotary" is a new fundraiser that is different from anything the club has done before and that it hopes will help raise funds for its projects in the community and internationally, the group explained.

Rotary clubs in Alberta and British Columbia have held this fundraiser for many years with great success, while this initiative will be new to Saskatchewan.

The Wakamow Club has 100 flags with poles and stakes ready to go, and once people subscribe online, it will learn how many more it may need for the expected start date in May.



Blue Mountains City Council Seniors Survey 2024

Blue Mountains City Council is running a survey to learn more about the experiences and priorities of seniors living in the Blue Mountains.

The survey covers questions like how you enjoy spending your time, and whether you have the access you need to services and support.

We often talk about 'seniors' as one group, but seniors are as unique and varied in their lives, personalities, interests and beliefs as anyone else.

The survey is an opportunity to share your experiences and give council a better understanding of seniors within the community.

The Blue Mountains population is ageing, with almost 20 per cent over 65 years of age.

It's vitally important that we continue to care for older people. This survey will help Council to understand the changing needs of seniors.

This survey will close on 12 April 2024.

<https://yoursay.bmcc.nsw.gov.au/seniors-survey-2024>



Council is running a survey to learn more about the experiences and priorities of seniors living in the Blue Mountains.

It's vitally important that we continue making the Blue Mountains a better place to grow older. This survey is an opportunity to help Council understand the changing needs of seniors.

Visit yoursay.bmcc.nsw.gov.au to complete the survey. There are also paper copies available at Blue Mountains Libraries and the Katoomba and Springwood Customer Contact Centres.



Sydney's Greatest April Fool Hoax

*This week
46 years ago*



On the morning of April 1, 1978, a barge appeared in Sydney Harbour towing a giant iceberg.

Sydneysiders were expecting it.

Dick Smith, who at that time was the owner of Dick Smith Electronics, had been loudly promoting his scheme to tow an iceberg from Antarctica.

Now, he had apparently succeeded.

His plan was to moor the iceberg near Sydney Opera House, carve it into small ice cubes, and sell them to the public for ten cents each.

These alleged, well-travelled ice cubes, fresh from the pure waters of Antarctica, were promised to improve the flavour of any drink they cooled.

The cubes would be marketed under the brand name... 'Dicksicles.'

As soon as the iceberg entered the harbour, phone calls started pouring into radio stations and newspapers, with people asking, "What's that in the harbour?It looks like an iceberg."

Ferry skippers politely gave way to the slow-moving curiosity — which they christened the "Dickenberg One".

Excitedly, the entire city waited to catch a glimpse of the floating mountain of ice.

People gathered along the shore to see it. Local boat owners went out to meet the berg and were given complimentary ice cubes.

Then down came the rain.

The water washed away the firefighting foam and shaving cream that the iceberg was really made of, exposing the white plastic sheets beneath.

In a degraded condition, the Sydney Iceberg sailed proudly on, floating past the opera house and the city skyline.

Boat owners who joined the procession were still given free ice cubes... though the cubes actually came from an onboard beer refrigerator.

Dick Smith said he really did have a dream of towing an iceberg from Antarctica to Australia.

He thought it would be a great way to provide fresh water for cities in times of drought.

Most people told him it was a crazy idea.

But... one of his staff members said, "Why not just fake an iceberg for an April Fool's Day hoax?"

Dick Smith loved the idea.

In mid-March, he anchored a barge at Balmain wharf.

Then, on the morning of April 1, 1978, at 3.00am, Dick and his collaborators began transforming the barge into an iceberg.

This involved plastic sheets, several dozen cans of shaving cream, and lots of fire-fighting foam.

Two hours later, they began towing the berg toward the harbour.

As dawn broke, Dick Smith employees called up radio stations and



newspapers, claiming to have spotted an iceberg in the harbour.

Aiding the deception was the weather, which was grey and gloomy, so that from the shore the floating mound of foam really did look like an iceberg. Until it rained.

It was a great April Fool's stunt. And provided heaps of copy and images for radio, newspapers and television on what was really a very dull news day.

...that's all folks