

HORIZONS

Central Blue Mountains Rotary

We live here - We work here - We give back

Rotary District 9685 - Australia

Wednesday, June 19, 2024

Image courtesy of Leura Gardens Festival
October 4-7, 2024

Comin' up

Stuff you should know about



Fearless Leader

Hi Friends,

At our last meeting we welcomed Norm and Cheryl Kitto from Springwood Rotary, who are hosting exchange student Mati from Chile.

They collected Lisa on the way and it was wonderful to see them all at our club. It is also wonderful to be able to congratulate Norm and Cheryl for them both being awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia in the King's Birthday Australian Honours list for their community work in Rotary and other activities. Well done and well deserved Cheryl and Norm.

Chris Djekic from RC Springwood gave a presentation on defibrillators. Well, that was the intent, but Chris was so entertaining when running through some other aspects of physical First Aid, and the troops were so interested, that we went well overtime.



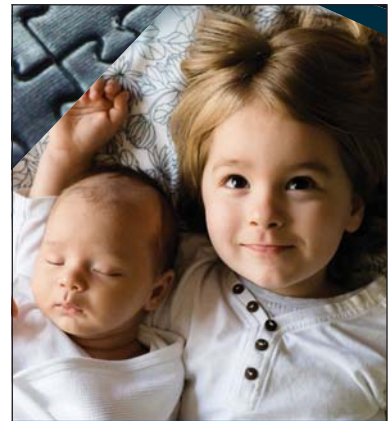
Adding to the fun, Chris bowed to Rita's request for a demonstration and resuscitated a chair. It was good to see how simple and yet how vital the use of a defibrillator is. Chris will be a great help as we start our project to provide two defibrillators in the upper mountains.

Chris has also offered to return and give a further presentation on matters First Aid.

This week we will kick off with our business meeting at 6.15 followed by dinner at 7.00pm, when we will be joined by Ed Sobesiak, from Windsor Rotary, who will speak about RYPEN and RYLA in Timor Leste. If you think these programs are well received in Sydney, wait until you hear about Timor Leste!

Our Changeover is set for the 3rd of July and Eric and Tom have done a great job on catering; many thanks to the Grand View Hotel for accommodating our wishes. It will also be our farewell to Lisa, who departs Oz on 8 July. Please ink this into your diaries and book now for this important and fun evening.

Cheers, Ian.



YOUR GREATEST GIFT A REQUEST TO AUSTRALIAN ROTARY HEALTH

To benefit the future health of Australians through research, contact us today for a **FREE BEQUEST KIT**

australianrotaryhealth.org.au

Ph: 02 8837 1900
E: admin@arh.org.au



Central Blue Mountains
Rotary
Club



Katoomba/
Upper Blue Mountains
Community Bank® Branch

 **Bendigo Bank**

 Find us on  **Facebook**

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

Empowering global changemakers:

Rotary's impact through diverse community leaders

Meet three ordinary people doing extraordinary work through their involvement in Rotary.

An arbitrator and mediator from Australia on a mission to eradicate polio. A former entrepreneur-investor from Singapore who is bringing basic services to marginalised communities in Southeast Asia. A maxillofacial surgeon who utilises equine therapy to help vulnerable children in Singapore.

While these three individuals hail from diverse backgrounds, they all found their way to community service through their local Rotary clubs.

Jennifer Scott, a Central Blue Mountains Rotary member from Australia, and regional vice-chair of the End Polio Now: Countdown to History campaign committee, joined the Rotary-sponsored Interact club at her local high school, and became a Rotary member in 1996.

"Seeing others in need, I realised I could join fellow members in creating sustainable change through community development and education," shared Ms Scott.

For semi-retired Singaporean entrepreneur Chew Ghim Bok, he was inspired to join a club after reading about Rotary's polio eradication project in a local newspaper.

Today, he is a member of the Rotary Club of Bugis Junction, one of 23 Rotary clubs in Singapore.

As for Dr Chan Siew Luen, his surgery skills brought him to the Rotary Club of Singapore, which invited him on a mission to the

Philippines to perform cleft lip and palate surgeries, in 2000.

"From my first encounter, Rotary showed me that by mobilising people and resources, I can create a greater and more lasting impact than just doing surgery," he said.



Jennifer Scott takes part in a variety of running events to advocate for polio awareness. Photo: Jennifer Scott

Ms Scott recalled how when she was still in school, she had classmates afflicted by polio, a disease that can cause paralysis, and does not have a known cure.

As a Rotary member, she learnt about Rotary's End Polio Now campaign, and decided to volunteer with a national immunisation team in India in 2012, which helped to vaccinate 45 million children under five years old within a week.

The ability to create impact beyond borders was a big draw for Mr Chew, who is now a member of Rotary International's board of directors.

Mr Chew has supported overseas projects, like fundraising for cleft lip operations in Indonesia, providing prosthetic limbs in Malaysia, and providing food rations and accommodation for students from hill tribes in Thailand.

Dr Chan explained that a non-profit organisation like Rotary is able

to develop programmes that are tailored to local community needs.

Back home in Australia, Ms Scott actively encourages business and professional groups to lend their expertise through volunteering and imparting leadership, public speaking, and conflict management skills to the younger generation.

"Unless we mentor the next generation of volunteers, there will be a huge gap in areas of need," she said.

Ms Scott's passion for empowering a new generation of community leaders goes beyond borders.

Her local Rotary club collaborates with the Rotary Club of

Pursat on the Sustainable Cambodia programme, dedicated to fostering sustainability, and self-sufficiency in Cambodian villages through irrigation systems, schools, and training.

Dr Chan, meanwhile, helped to start the first public health cause-based community Interact Club, the Interact Club of Sembawang (ICS).

"Through ICS, we not only improve public health in the community, but also support youth in their personal development," he said.

Jennifer Scott added: "As a peace builder and lawyer, I've applied my professional expertise to tackle global challenges.

I've also witnessed a multitude of inspiring contributions from Rotary members across various professions.

If you have the vision, drive and commitment to improve your community and the world, there is a place for you in Rotary."

New Rotary Foundation Chair

Rotary Foundation Australia will have a new chair from July 1, 2024. Past Rotary International Director Jessie Harman will step into the role, taking over from Maurie Stack, who has held the position since July 2020.

Jessie said she is honoured to be elected as chair.

"I have seen first-hand the life-changing impact of projects made possible by the generosity of Australian Rotarians and their connections. Rotary Foundation Australia represents the confidence and trust we can all have, knowing that our donations and the humanitarian projects they underpin are stewarded with accountability and care."

Jessie brings a wealth of experience to the role of chair. She has served as a director of Rotary Foundation Australia since 2020. She is currently co-chair of the Rotary International Communications Committee and was previously a director of Rotary International.

Outside of Rotary, Jessie is a professional non-executive director, serving on the boards of organisations in both the non-profit and for-profit arena.

She holds an MBA and PhD in business and is a member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

In taking on the role, Jessie was keen to recognise the contribution of outgoing chair, Maurie Stack.

"Maurie has led Rotary Foundation Australia through a period of significant development. Consequently, we can now unlock donations from a broader base of Australian donors and facilitate grants within Australia as well as overseas," Jessie said. "I thank Maurie for his leadership and am delighted he will continue on the board as a director."



Image supplied

3,000km tandem ride celebrated at Penrith

Remember Joyce and Phil Ogden. On May 1, we reported their intention to ride a tandem bike from Adelaide to Sydney to raise money for polio.

Well, the 70 year-old Tasmanian Rotarians arrived safely at Penrith, May 29, on time, after their 3,000km journey.

And we understand they achieved their goal of raising about \$40,000 for End Polio Now.

Rotary clubs along the way invited Joyce and Phil to their meetings and presented donations. However, publicity through Rotary club newsletters and local newspapers helped to build the total, even a donation of \$500 coming from the Rotary Club of Cairns West, Far North Queensland.

Met by the Rotary Clubs of Penrith Valley, Penrith, and Nepean, Joyce and Phil's self-supported ride was celebrated at a three-club function at Penrith Bowling Club on May 29, together with Past District Governor Murray Verso, Zone 8 coordinator of End Polio Now, and reported by Nepean News.

In 2022, the couple completed a 3,000km ride from Perth to Adelaide, raising \$38,000 for the same cause.



Congratulations Joyce and Phil Ogden

Image supplied

Pollinators are critical for life on earth

Story by Lis Bastian



As we face a biodiversity crisis in which we're losing plants and animals at an alarming rate, the Rotary Club of Blackheath and Planting Seeds with their B&B Highway pollinator program, have collaborated to inspire all ages to take action to protect and regenerate habitat and help reverse this decline by supporting pollinators, in particular, to flourish.

Initially inspired by Rotarians for Bees, Blackheath Rotary Club has held a Pollinator Forum with the Blue Mountains Planetary Health Initiative.

Four years ago, Rotary International made Protecting the Environment a new area of focus and over the past year the Rotary Club of Blackheath has used a Rotary District Grant to fund a Pollinator Education and Action Program. It built bird boxes with local Men's Sheds, it has shared seed packs to help the community plant more pollinating plants. In April this year, it funded and volunteered to support B&B Highway programs at Blackheath Public School and Zig Zag Public School in Lithgow.

Dr Judy Friedlander, founder of Planting Seeds, says B&B Highways, the flagship program for Planting Seeds, are 'Bed and Breakfasts for Birds, Bees and Biodiversity'.

The programs provide both theoretical and practical steps for protecting and regenerating habitat for pollinators to create wildlife corridors in urban and semi-urban environments.

Stage three students (years 5 & 6) at Lithgow and Blackheath learnt how they could support pollinators by providing food, water and shelter for them. They then took part in a garden bug hunt, became Citizen Scientists recording their findings, and planted and created habitat for pollinators in their school gardens.



L-R: Blackheath Rotarians Libby Bleakley, Mina Howard and Sherlie McMillan volunteering for the B&B program at Blackheath Public School. Photo: Lis Bastian



Students at Zig Zag Public School participating in the B&B Highway pollinator program...Photo: Lis Bastian

Key Points:

- We can all take action to reverse the alarming loss of biodiversity by reducing chemical use and land clearing, and by providing food, water and shelter for pollinators.
- Rotary International has made Protecting the Environment a new area of focus and the Rotary Club of Blackheath has used a Rotary District Grant to increase education about, and habitat for, pollinators.
- Planting Seeds has been supported by Blackheath Rotary Club to run its B&B Highway program at Zig Zag Public School, in Lithgow, and Blackheath Public School.



You are invited to the:



CHANGEOVER 2024

SATURDAY 29TH JUNE 2024

AT WENTY LEAGUES CLUB

50 Smith St, Wentworthville

6.30PM FOR A 7.00PM START



Cost: \$65 per person

INCLUDES A 2 COURSE MEAL AND A DRINK ON ARRIVAL

To Register, click [HERE](#)

Register by 17th June 2024

Norm and Cheryl Kitto Awarded OAM

Congratulations to Norm and Cheryl Kitto, Springwood Rotary Club, each of whom were awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in this year's King's Birthday Honours, for long and ongoing community service.

Norm received his OAM for service to the communities of the Blue Mountains and western Sydney.

Cheryl was honoured for the same reason, but with the addition of her service to people with disabilities. Cheryl is currently Chair at Dare's Disability Advisory Committee, after a decade of service on the Dare Board.

Speaking about the joint OAM honours, Norm told the BM Gazette: "It's quite unbelievable."

"You don't do it for accolades, but you do see the results of the work you do. It's really nice to be acknowledged."

Norm Kitto is a former president (1988-1989) and treasurer of Central Blue Mountains Rotary Club.



Story and image from Springwood Rotary Club newsletter



INVITES: You, your family and friends
To Our Changeover Dinner from Ian to
Lora Stopic and Paul Pixton

As Co-Presidents 2024 – 2025

And our Club Farewell to Lisa

On 3rd July, 2024 at 6.30 for 7.00 pm start

The Grandview Hotel

Great Western Highway, Wentworth Falls

Alternate Serve Main and Dessert – Wine on Table – Cash Bar

\$50 per person with multiple ways to pay:

<https://www.trybooking.com/CSPCC>

or scan QR code

or pay by direct transfer to

Central Blue Mountains Rotary Club Admin:

BSB 633 000 Acct No: 182082479

Reference: "Changeover plus your name" and

email ian@scottadr.com with receipt.



Dress: Cocktail

Dietary requirements: please advise when booking

RSVP and/or book by JUNE 25th

Mountain Ghost

Woodford House later became a private boys school and is now a heritage listed building. The Ghost knows it as the oldest building in the Blue Mountains.



WOODFORD ACADEMY

The Mountain Ghost was recently at Woodford and it was one of those rare days when the Woodford Academy was open. He was really impressed with the Academy and the history of the area. He decided to fire up his computer and do some research. The Academy is owned by the National Trust.

WOODFORD –

Originally known as 20 mile Hollow. In the 1830s an inn called The Woodman was built there. Ten years later the inn became the King's Arms, later popularly known as Buss's Inn after 1855. Some years later Sydney business man Alfred Fairfax converted the building into a private home and renamed it Woodford House.

The railway station adopted the name Woodford in 1871. Woodford is the starting point of the famous Woodford to Glenbrook Track. Ideal for mountain bike riders.

Woodford House later became a private boys school and is now a heritage listed building. The Ghost knows it as the oldest building in the Blue Mountains.

In April 1979, Miss Gertrude McManamey gifted the property to the National Trust of Australia (NSW) Miss McManamey's gift was on condition she could live there until she died. She died in 1988, having left the property in 1986 to be cared for at the Queen Victoria Homes, Wentworth Falls.

Barry O'Keefe AM, QC, former President of the Board of the National Trust of Australia (NSW), regularly visited Woodford Academy, which he loved and had visited since the Trust first negotiated with Gertrude McManamey over its acquisition, when it was falling down around her.

He used his own money, spending a substantial amount to restore parts of the building particularly the eastern part of the main building. He did this unheralded and in the manner which marked his ethos of service.

The National Trust received a \$1m Centenary of Federation grant from the Australian Government in 2001 which O'Keefe had a major part in obtaining, to help restore the property.

Woodford Academy is the only surviving example of a Victorian Georgian sandstone inn in the Blue Mountains. It has been extended and altered for its various uses but still retains its essential Georgian character, especially in the south verandahs and their sandstone flagging. The south wing of the house retains its original small pane window sashes and attic window designed to appear as casements.

....Wikipedia

That's all folks