

# HORIZONS

## Central Blue Mountains Rotary

*Effective - Energetic - Enterprising - Empowered*

Rotary District 9685 - Australia

Wednesday, July 10, 2019

*Can't wait for Spring*

*Photo: Leura Gardens Festival*



# up front



## Five questions about District Grants with Margie Horning District 5960

### 1. ***How have you seen district grants help members become more engaged?***

Participating in district grants gives Rotarians a sense of ownership and the knowledge that they made a difference in someone's life. It also energizes people to donate to The Rotary Foundation and to become involved. A few years ago, there was a club in my district that hardly participated in giving to the Foundation and didn't do any district grants. Then they applied for a district grant for a food shelf in their rural community. Within a year of seeing how their funds doubled because of the grant, nine members had become Paul Harris Fellows. They had a sense of pride, and they've gone on to be involved with other service projects.

### 2. ***Are district grants more often used for local or international projects?***

Generally speaking, more district grant projects are local than international. For example, in our district, seven of our 25 district grants in 2017-18 were used for international projects. Currently, seven of our 18 projects are in foreign countries, including Guatemala, India, Nigeria, Togo, and Uganda.

### 3. ***How do district grants help clubs foster relationships with the community?***

District grants can be like building blocks; they can allow clubs to start small and then go larger with their projects. There are always needs in your community. Even if it's a \$1,000 or \$2,000 grant, get going on it. It doesn't have to be a multimillion-dollar project to begin with.

### 4. ***What's the most creative use of local district grants that you've seen?***

Clubs have gone far beyond the park bench or dictionary project. They're working with their communities, asking how they can help, and thinking bigger. One club, working closely with its local school district to come up with projects, provided equipment and software for an industry certification. It will help students get jobs in manufacturing or, if they go on to higher education, will count toward their coursework.

### 5. ***What are some misconceptions about district grants?***

People say, "I could never do that; it's too hard." Our district has mentors who will help walk clubs through the process. It may seem like a lot of work, but that grant money allows you to apply your club's extra funds to another project you want to work on. Apply for the grant, and if it's too big a project for just your club, the district grants team can help you connect with other clubs.

— Diana Schoberg

*This story originally appeared in the June 2019 issue of The Rotarian magazine*

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# WhatsOn....

## July

**Wednesday 10** - Hapless in Hamburg - Ava Emdin

**Monday 15** - Board meeting

**Wednesday 17** - To be advised

**Wednesday 24** - Robyn Thomson - Resilience Management (Beyond Risk Management)

**Saturday 27** - Catering van at Woolworths, Katoomba

**Wednesday 31** - Karen West - Organ donation awareness for teens

## August

**Friday 02** - Lawson school breakfast club

**Wednesday 07** - Dr James Hunter - Maritime Archaeology

## Rotary Leadership Institute



The Rotary Leadership Institute course is run over two days, power-packed with information, learning, and skills you can use in your Rotary life straight away.

At only \$75 including all materials, coffee breaks and lunch, this is great value to Clubs and their members.

Networking with other Rotarians and led by experienced facilitators, you are sure to enjoy what others are describing as the best Rotary training they have had.

If you are already an RLI graduate, encourage your fellow Club Members to attend. Register online now at [rli.rotarydistrict9685.org.au](http://rli.rotarydistrict9685.org.au) and supercharge your Rotary.

Dates are;

RLI 53 August 4 and 18 (Sundays)

RLI 54 October 5-6 (Weekend)

RLI 55 November 16-17 (Weekend)

## Dry July for Karen Sullivan



Hello everyone,

Have you heard the news? July is going to be a dry month! And no, I'm not talking about the weather...

I've again signed up to Dry July, which means for the full 31 days of July, I'm going booze-free; jumping on the wagon; ditching the juice, and any other way you can say 'NO alcohol'!

But Dry July is much more than giving up alcohol for a month. I'm also raising funds to help people affected by cancer, and I'd love you to support me and make a donation.

By making a donation, you'll help provide invaluable services to cancer patients, their families and carers – whether it's a lift to a life-saving appointment, guidance from a specialist nurse, connection to an informative voice, access to therapy programs or a bed close to treatment.

Any donation is a good donation, so head to <http://www.dryjuly.com/users/karen-golton> and send any spare change my way!

Thanks in advance for your sponsorship!

Karen xx



**11 Years in a Row**

# Mountain Ghost

The BM attracts a higher percentage of artists, musicians and writers. 7.6% of the total residential population are employed in the creative industries compared to the NSW average of 4.7% and the national average of 3.5%. The creative industries are the third biggest contribution of revenue in the BM worth over \$152M.

## ODD FACTS ABOUT THE MOUNTAINS

The Mountain Ghost had just returned his library books to the Katoomba Library (he still likes reading real books with real paper pages and lots of pictures) but the real reason they have large print is for seniors!

Just down from the Library is a relatively new shop called 'Odd Mountain'. The Ghost was amazed at what was in this shop. Everything was different, quirky weird and odd. It is well worth a visit.

This gets the Ghost thinking about fascinating facts about the Mountains. He thanks Linda Moon for her online contribution.

1. The Blue Mountains (BM) is the site of the steepest funicular railway in the world at the Scenic Railway at Katoomba. The gradient is 52%.
2. The BM is the home of the only Japanese bath house and hot mineral spring in NSW. Sparadise at Bowenfels, just this side of Lithgow.
3. The BM were originally named Carmarthen Hills and Landsdowne Hills by Governor Phillip in 1788.
4. Residents of Katoomba have fought for years to keep fast food chains out of the BM. Subway is the only fast food chain in Katoomba and McDonalds are at Blaxland (well camouflaged).
5. The City of the BM has sister city relationships with Sanda City in Japan and Flagstaff in Arizona, USA.
6. The BM has the highest proportion of residents citing an English, Irish or Scottish heritage (48.6%) than the average for the rest of Australia (39.8%).
7. The BM attracts a higher percentage of artists, musicians and writers. 7.6% of the total residential population are employed in the creative industries compared to the NSW average of 4.7% and the national average of 3.5%. The creative industries are the third biggest contribution of revenue in the BM worth over \$152M.
8. The BM was named the State's inaugural City of the Arts in 1998.
9. The BM has the largest network of walking tracks in Australia. These cover an area of 250 kms. The National Park itself covers over 250 million hectares of mostly remote and inaccessible land.
10. The BM National Park is Australia's busiest park receiving about 4 million visitors annually.
11. Every year about 130 Bushwalkers get lost or require rescuing.
12. The BM is the only home of the prehistoric Wollemi Pine.
13. 150 plant species found nowhere else in the world are protected in the Greater BM area. It is also home to 10% of endangered flora and fauna species in NSW
14. The first example of Hydro Electric Power used to generate electricity in Australia occurred in the Greater BM region of Jenolan and was completed in 1917. The caves at Jenolan were the first caves in the world to have electric lighting.
15. The BM has been inhabited by the Aboriginal people for at least 22,000 years and were occupied by the Gundungurra and Darug people.
16. The Fish and The Chips have been the names of the two commuter trains in the BM for over 100 years. According to local legend they owe their names to John Heron, a burly Scottish train driver based at Penrith who operated the train in the 19th century. The guards at Penrith changed his name to 'Herring' and as the train arrived, the guards would shout out "here comes the big 'fish'". The Chips was named to complement the service.

All this talk about Fish and Chips has made the Ghost hungry so he is off for a feed.

It makes you pleased you live in such an interesting part of Australia..... until next week.....



National Pass



*Starting at Wentworth Falls picnic area, this walk passes epic lookouts with sweeping, amazing views of the waterfall plunging down into the Jamison Valley, before reaching the historic Grand Stairway.*



# BLUE MOUNTAINS WRITERS' FESTIVAL



The inaugural Blue Mountains Writers' Festival will be held at Varuna, the National Writers' House, Katoomba, from Thursday August 22 to Sunday August 25.

The chair of Varuna, Jennifer Scott, said the event will bring some of Australia's finest writers and thinkers to the mountains - to share ideas, spark conversations and inspire creativity.

Fifty writers and special guests feature in events, including the festival launch party, panel sessions with leading authors, two very special children's events, a schools event, writer development workshops, pop-up book club, fireside poetry at Varuna and a literary dinner.

Over 31 events will be held during the four day period at other locations: Carrington Hotel, Blue Mountains Cultural Centre, Katoomba library and cafes and galleries.

"We are calling for volunteers who can help us make the first ever Blue Mountains Writers' Festival a roaring success.

"We need staging assistants, registration and event assistants, ushers, catering assistants and green room assistants," Jennifer Scott said.

Why volunteer?

- Support Australian writers, the arts, and Varuna, the National Writers' House
- Gain experience working in a festival or events environment
- Engage with audiences and fellow book lovers

Varuna, The National Writers' House, at 141 Cascade St, Katoomba, is Australia's national residential writers' house in the former home of writers Eleanor Dark and Dr Eric Dark. In 1989 their son Mick Dark gifted their home to the Australian public through The Eleanor Dark Foundation.

Contact: [Jennifer@scottadr.com](mailto:Jennifer@scottadr.com)

[www.bluemountainswritersfestival.com.au](http://www.bluemountainswritersfestival.com.au)



Rotarian Rod Tout  
*Formerly a member of Upper Blue Mountains Sunrise, joined Central Blue Mountains Rotary, July 03, 2019.*

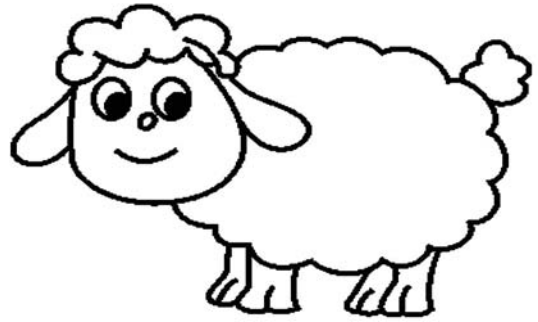


District Governors - 9685  
*Left: Susan Wakefield, 2018-19 and Kalma McLellan, 2019-20 photographed at Changeover - July 06, 2019*

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# A little bit of Aussie country nonsense

—Author unknown



The sun was hot already - it was only 8 o'clock  
The cocky took off in his ute, to go and check his stock.  
He drove around the paddocks, checking wethers, ewes and lambs,  
The float valves in the water troughs, the windmills on the dams.

He stopped to turn a windmill on, to fill a water tank  
And saw a ewe down in the dam..... a few yards from the bank.  
"Typical bloody sheep," he thought, "they have no common sense,  
"They won't go through a gateway, but they'll jump a bloody fence."

The ewe was stuck down in the mud, he knew without a doubt  
She'd stay there 'til she carked it, if he didn't get her out.  
But when he reached the water's edge, the startled ewe broke free  
And in her haste to get away.....she began a swimming spree.

He reckoned once her fleece was wet, the weight would drag her down  
But if he didn't rescue her, the stupid sod would drown.  
Her style was unimpressive, her survival chances slim  
He saw no other option,.... he would have to take a swim.

So, he peeled off his shirt and singlet, his trousers, boots and socks  
And ....as he couldn't stand wet clothes.....he also shed his jocks.  
NOW...He jumped into the water and away that cocky swam  
He caught up with her somewhere, near the middle of the dam.

The ewe was quite evasive, she kept giving him the slip  
He tried to grab her sodden fleece,....but couldn't get a grip.  
At last he got her to the bank and stopped to catch his breath  
She showed him little gratitude, for saving her from death.

She took off like a Bondi tram around the other side  
He swore next time he caught that ewe he'd hang her bloody hide.  
Then round and round the dam they ran, although he felt quite puffed  
He thought that he could run her down, she must be nearly stuffed.

Now, the local stock rep came along, to pay a call that day.  
He knew this bloke was on his own, his wife had gone away  
He really didn't think he'd get..... fresh scones for morning tea  
But nor was he prepared for what .....he was about to see.

He rubbed his eyes in disbelief at what came into view  
For running down the catchment came this frantic looking ewe.  
And on her heels in hot pursuit .....and wearing not a jot  
The farmer yelling wildly ...."Come back here, you lousy grot!"

The stock rep didn't hang about, he took off in his car  
Cos, the cocky's reputation had been damaged, near and far  
So bear in mind the Work Safe rule.....when next you check your flocks  
Spot the hazard....assess the risk....and always wear your jocks!

*This delightful poem is not  
new... and we don't know  
who the author is.*

*It has been reprinted  
many times in different  
publications, but it's always  
worth another chuckle.*