



# HORIZONS



## Rotary - Central Blue Mountains

*Effective - Energetic - Enterprising - Empowered*

Rotary District 9685 - Australia

Wednesday, December 13, 2017

## Christmas in the Park 2017



*Central Blue Mountains Rotarians Ava Emdin, Jennifer Scott, John Sim, Ray Wiles and Ian Scott were in the club's catering van ready to help feed local Blue Mountains residents and visitors at this annual event run by the Holy Trinity Anglican Church, Wentworth Falls.*

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**WhatsOn....**

## December

**Sunday 03 - 23** - Christmas Giving Tree  
Woolworth's supermarket - Leura

**Wednesday 13** - CBM Rotary Christmas function

**Friday 15** - Late night shopping event Leura Mall

**Sun-Sat 17-23** - Christmas Raffle ticket sales

**Monday 18** - Board meeting

**Monday 20** - Club Assembly

## January

**Tuesday 9** - Annual RYLA dinner

**Wednesday 10** - Barbecue - W. Falls Lake

**Monday 15** - Board meeting

**Wednesday 17** - Club Assembly

**Wednesday 24** - TBA

**Friday 26** - Australia Day event

**Wednesday 31** - Guest speaker: Robyn Kapp  
Huntington's disease

## Singapore to host the 2024 Rotary convention

Rotary members worldwide are set to converge in Singapore in 2024 as the Republic has won the provisional bid to host the the international service organisation's annual convention that year.

The five-day convention which represents Singapore's largest association congress to date, will be held at the Singapore Expo Convention and Exhibition Centre. Among other meetings, the event will include workshops, forums and entertainment.

Singapore's bid was led by Rotary regional leader Chew Ghim Bok, and supported by Rotary clubs from Singapore and around the Asia Pacific region.

The convention was last held in Singapore in 1999 and attended by about 19,000 participants.

As part of Singapore's bid to host a convention with a sustainable impact, the Rotary Clubs of Singapore plan to champion a legacy project striving towards sanitation progress and hygiene awareness by 2025.

**Late Night  
Christmas  
Shopping  
Leura Mall  
Friday Dec 15  
until 9.00pm**

*in association with Leura  
Village Association and  
CBM Rotary*

Bands - Buskers

Rotary Christmas sausage sizzle

Wonderful shopping

Great Christmas decorations

Mouth-watering food and coffee

Christmas lantern parade

View Club Christmas wrapping  
service

Have your photograph  
taken with Santa

Fun for all

Bring your family and friends



# Rotary club pays \$20,000 to refurbish lookout



Photo: Jesinta Burton.  
Story: The Esperance Express

The Esperance Rotary Club (WA) has reopened the lookout on Dempster Head, following its recent refurbishment. The current estimated cost of the development was around \$20,000, provided by the club as a 'return' to the Esperance community. The structure, first built in 1964, was last replaced in 1987. Esperance Shire president Victoria Brown commended Rotary on their work within the town. Ms Brown said the time and money contributed by Rotary was testament to what Rotary and the community were 'all about'.





# Mountain Ghost

Access to Wentworth Falls was the greatest challenge – solved by cutting a zig-zag staircase into the sheer cliff face from the bottom up, then quarrying into a corner of the cliff to create a pathway to the stairs.

## THE NATIONAL PASS

The Mountain Ghost was saddened to learn of the death of David Gliddon and the injury of two others while repairing the National Pass Walk of Wentworth Falls.

The National Pass Walk is probably the Ghost's favourite walk in the Blue Mountains. An expanding waistline, bad knees and a lack of fitness has meant he has not done the walk for some time.

A good walk for the Ghost these days is from the public bar to the carpark (he has a designated driver)

The National Pass Walk has been described as one of Australia's finest bushwalking trails. It is also one of the most historic. The National Pass hiking track was built with picks, shovels, crowbars and dynamite between 1906 and 1907. The cost was 430 Pounds Australia.

Much of the track was fairly easy to create as it runs along a claystone ledge separating massive sandstone cliffs above and below.

Access to Wentworth Falls was the greatest challenge – solved by cutting a zig-zag staircase into the sheer cliff face from the bottom up, then quarrying into a corner of the cliff to create a pathway to the stairs. The Grand Staircase as it became known is the tallest outdoor staircase in Australia.

The opening ceremony was performed at the Valley of the Waters end in 1908. An area known as Prince Regents Glen was no longer the lost world that visitors could only gaze down on from above but was now accessible.

The Ghost learnt an interesting fact doing his research. It would be impossible today to build this Giant Stairway as conservation policies prevent blasting away any cliff face. We think the National Park is spectacular today, imagine it 100 years ago.

After 95 years of service the track was closed in 2002. Bushfires, rain storms and landslides played havoc with fencing and wooden bridges. The \$1.5M restoration project won a National Trust Award and another from UNESCO in 2008. This time helicopters deposited many tonnes of sandstone blocks and timber sleeper steps along the trail and a carefully chosen team set to work.

The Grand Stairway was the biggest concern with its 173 stone steps zig-zagging up a 90m cliff. Heritage stonemason perched on the cliff face to do the job.

It really is a great walk, 6km for the round trip and taking about three hours for people with good fitness. It is a hard walk but a safe walk. The only drawback according to seasoned walkers is the number of people doing it!

The Ghost won't spoil the walk for you but it starts at Wentworth Falls Lookout and descends to Fletchers Lookout. This is the lookout that so impressed Charles



Darwin in 1836. Then on to the Queen Cascade at the top of Wentworth Falls and crossing the stepping stones it becomes a very dramatic cliff walk to start the descent into the valley via the hand hewn sandstone staircase built in 1908.

After descending the Grand Staircase you are in lush rainforest. At the end of the walk we arrive at Conservation Hut for a well-earned coffee.

This is the Ghost's last article this year. He wishes his millions of readers (hundreds anyway) a safe and enjoyable holiday break. Any suggestions for future articles please send to the Horizons Editor....[pghpubs@tpg.com.au](mailto:pghpubs@tpg.com.au)



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# CBM Rotary Christmas Raffle

*Goods valued at \$1,000 retail. Raffle drawn December 23. Tickets available at Woolworth's Leura and Katoomba from Dec. 17 to Dec. 23.*



Rotary Centennial Park, Chinchilla

Congratulations to the Rotary Club of Chinchilla Qld, celebrating 60 years of service to their local rural community.

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# What's On at Penrith Observatory in January 2018

## Gravity

20 January 2018

Have you ever wondered about gravity? What is this invisible force that stops us from flying off into space as our planet rotates? How does the Moon stay in orbit around Earth? Why is the gravity of a black hole so strong?

Includes presentation, short 3D movie, tour of the dome and viewing of the night sky through a range of telescopes (weather permitting).

\$18.00 Adult

\$12.00 Child/Concession

\$50.00 Family (2 adults + 2 children)

Children under 3 years of age free.

Please Note: Parents/carers are responsible for and need to remain with their children at all times

### BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL

8pm – 10pm

Penrith Observatory (Building AO), Western Sydney University, Werrington North campus, Great Western Highway, Werrington  
Contact website for public enquiries and bookings:

[https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/observatorypenrith/penrith\\_observatory/whats\\_on](https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/observatorypenrith/penrith_observatory/whats_on)



Penrith Observatory



*Central Blue Rotarians Ava Emdin and Lora Stopic were delighted to spend the morning with Days For Girls Vice President Margaret. Central Blue Rotary donated a further \$300 to support the work of the Emu Plains Chapter.*

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# LEURA CHRISTMAS MARKETS 2017



**When: 15 & 22 December**

**What: Santa, sausage sizzle, lantern parade, band, choir, food and drinks. Shops open til 8pm**

**Where: Leura Mall**

**Come and celebrate Christmas!**



## RYLA dinner January 09

The RYLA program of 2018 includes a formal dinner for RYLA participants and the Rotarians of their sponsoring clubs.

Partners and guests, including the parents and family of sponsored participants, are more than welcome.

The formal dinner will be held on Tuesday 9th January 2018 at Miramare Gardens, Terrey Hills.

The event commences at 6.30pm and will conclude at approximately 10.30pm. The cost is \$50 per person and includes a two-course meal. The guest speaker is Michael Regan, Mayor of Northern Beaches Council.

Please provide names, Club association and any dietary requirements to:

RYLA dinner coordinator, Raylene Jarvis  
Upper Northern Beaches Rotary Club.

email: raylene2@iprimus.com.au

Payment for the dinner can be made by direct deposit:

Rotary D9685 RYLA

Westpac BSB: 032 086

Account no.: 333 127

Please complete payment by December 31st and send an email to Raylene when a direct deposit payment has been made.



**8.00am  
till Noon**

## Australia Day Community Breakfast

**Wilson Park, Wentworth Falls  
January 26, 2018**



**Adults \$8.00  
Children \$4.00**

**Enjoy freshly cooked eggs, bacon, sausages and Aussie Damper cereal, fruit juice, tea and coffee**

***Entertainment, Aboriginal Culture, Games, Contests, Prizes for the best Aussie outfits***

**Our Sponsors**



**BMCC Councillors  
Kevin Schreiber, Ward 1  
Chris Van der Kley, Ward 2**

*..that's all folks*