

# HORIZONS

## Central Blue Mountains Rotary

*Effective - Energetic - Enterprising - Empowered*

Rotary District 9685 - Australia

Wednesday, September 18, 2019



This October  
**celebrate**



# HAT DAY

World Mental Health Day is only four weeks away and that's when Australian Rotary Health will be celebrating Hat Day as part of its national Lift the Lid on Mental Illness fundraising campaign.

You can get involved with your friends, colleagues or Rotary Club this year by hosting a Hat Day on Thursday October 10 or anytime during Mental Health Month in October.

Your support will help the 1 in 5 Australians who suffer a mental illness every year. 100% of funds raised will go towards vital mental health research at universities across Australia.

# up front

## *Rotarians respond in the Bahamas*

Posted on September 10, 2019

Report compiled by Diana White, past district governor, and District 7020 Rotarians



*ShelterBox Head of Operations Alf Evans, left, confers with local contacts including Past RI President Barry Rassin, right, in the Bahamas.*

The destruction left behind by Hurricane Dorian is devastating. In parts of the Bahamas, literally everything is gone, replaced by piles of rubble where homes once stood. Roads blocked with debris and thousands on thousands left homeless and in need of supplies.

Rotarians in District 7020, one of two districts that cover the Caribbean and hard-hit Bahamas, immediately switched into assistance mode.

Significant donations of supplies are funneling in from various local efforts and through international disaster relief agencies.

As this aid continues to come in, Rotary in the Bahamas is beginning to move to longer-term strategies in preparation for helping the economies to recover.

Rotarians in Nassau have rescued, registered and sheltered more than 3,300 evacuees in New Providence and Eleuthera.

Through the receiving and registration process at the airport's main staging site, we collect information on those needing housing.

It will take time; but that is what Rotary is best at.

Latest news from the ShelterBox operations team:

- Evacuation shelters in Nassau that have been created in community halls, churches and other communal buildings. These have reached capacity at 1,800 people, but more and more families are arriving each day.
- Recent estimates are that 13,000 homes have been severely destroyed or damaged across the two northern islands. So far 4,800 people have been evacuated from Abaco to Nassau.
- Hundreds of people are still missing and priority is still search and rescue. Progress is being made by our teams working with the other organisations in the Bahamas to understand what a coordinated plan could consist of and how we might be able to help people create shelter for themselves and their families, so they can start the slow process of trying to rebuild their lives.
- Shelter items like tarpaulins, shelter kits and household items like solar lights may be needed. However, our teams now need to take the time to confirm this with the people on the affected islands and also to make sure that this need isn't being met by the many other organisations that are working in the Bahamas.

It is very important for our teams to make sure these details are confirmed so that we can be sure we are providing the right support at the right time to the people who need it the most.

*Please turn to the next page*

# WhatsOn....

## September

- Wednesday 18 - Foodbank pick up and delivery
- Wednesday 18 - Guest speaker - Moira McGhee - UFOs
- Friday 20 - Lawson Public School breakfast club
- Monday 23 - dinner with Rotary International President Mark Daniel Maloney
- Wednesday 25 - Guest speaker from Grace's Place
- Saturday 28 - Catering van at Woolworths, Katoomba

## October

- Wednesday 02 - Guest Speaker - Kathy Kendall-Dziura
- Wednesday 09 - Guest Speaker - Deb Wells
- Thursday 10 - Hat day - Australian Rotary Health
- Wednesday 16 - Guest Speaker - Eugene Ma - Lion dancing
- Sunday 20 - Jazz at the Grand View - End Polio
- Monday 21 - BM clubs combined meeting
- Wednesday 23 - Meeting transferred to Monday 21/10
- Thursday 24 - World Polio Day
- Friday 25 - Lawson Public School breakfast club
- Saturday 26 - Catering van at Woolworths, Katoomba
- Wednesday 30 - A night of Pizza - Alexandra Hotel, Leura

## Guest Speaker September 18 Moira McGhee



Moira McGhee has had a lifelong interest in science and astronomy and "who or what is up there".

She has been a member and researcher for several groups since mid-seventies incl .BUFORA ,ACUFOS, co-founder UFORNSW (Life Member) and MUFON State Director NSW 1997-2014.

Moira McGhee founded INUFOR in 1989, has published 24 digests, is the author of "Contact Down Under" and she co-authored "The Gosford Files" and participated in several documentaries/radio and TV presentations.

Moira McGhee has been guest speaker at several national conferences.

# Rotary trailer equipment stolen

Blayney Rotary will now be raising extra funds to help replace equipment stolen from their new barbecue trailer.

Housed at the time in a local residence, thieves removed over \$3,000 of equipment and stock, including an esky that was designed just for that trailer. The trailer has since been moved to another location.

'Disgusted' is how Blayney Rotary president Jane Whitten described her feelings when the club discovered that their new barbecue trailer had been stripped almost to its chassis.

Funded by both a state government grant and the club, the trailer was so new that the club hadn't even had the chance to have a Blayney Rotary sign placed on the outside.

Mrs Whitten said that the offenders stole the jockey wheel, the electric lights, a stainless steel side table for the barbecue, heavy duty tubs, cleaning products, boxes of Powerade, a first aid kit and more.

Mrs Whitten said the club was unsure exactly when the theft took place as the house was vacant at the time, but was between the 2nd and 7th of September.

"They even stole the octopus strap that holds the side table in place," she said. "We'll be using the gold coin donations raised at the Farmer's Market to help pay for the repairs."

This story was reported by the Blaney Chronicle

## Rotary Leadership Institute

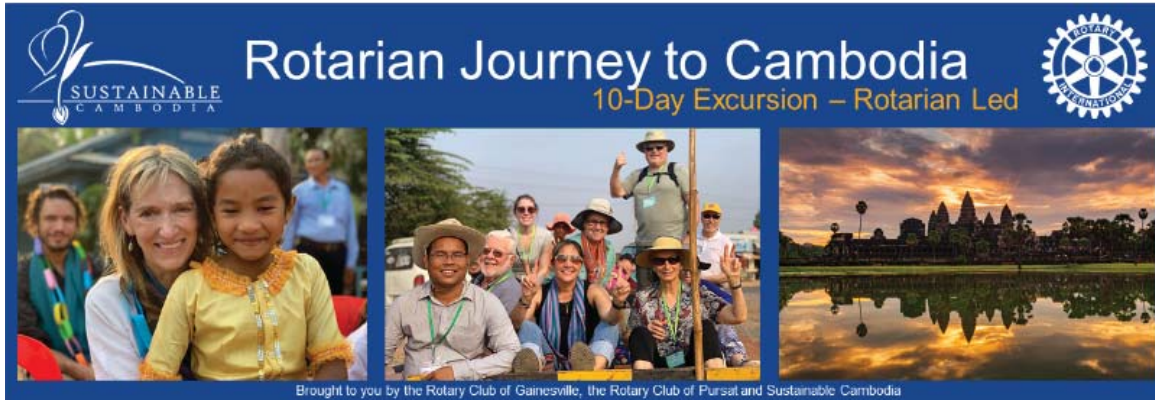
Courses are run over two days, power-packed with information, learning, and skills you can use in your Rotary life straight away.

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.

Register online now at [rli.rotarydistrict9685.org.au](http://rli.rotarydistrict9685.org.au) and supercharge your Rotary.

Dates are: RLI 54 October 5-6 (Weekend) and RLI 55 November 16-17 (Weekend)



*Early Registration ends September 30*



*Jan 9-19 & Jan 30-Feb 9, 2020*  
*Participate from only USD \$995/pp*

**Join fellow Rotarians on a trip into ancient Cambodia...**

Rotarians from various clubs around the world are joining together with Sustainable Cambodia on a journey into the heart of Cambodia.

This 10-day excursion is a truly unique experience of traveling into Cambodia. Located in Southeast Asia, this beautiful country is rich with history and culture and was awarded one of the top travel destinations for the last two years.

We will travel to the must-visit places in Cambodia including the heart of Cambodia, Phnom Penh, and we will walk amongst the ancient temples of Siem Reap. But tourism is not the sole purpose of this trip.

We will go far off the "tourist routes" to visit village families and experience the impact of Rotary projects in the remote villages of Pursat Province. For those who haven't gone before, you will have the adventure of a lifetime while helping rural families and children in ways you may have never dreamed possible.

Your contact is Jennifer Scott 0414 367 631 - [jennifer@scottadr.com](mailto:jennifer@scottadr.com)

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# Mountain Ghost

Apart from the Mountain Ghost, the most famous Ghost in the Mountains is the Lady in Black. A black clad female apparition has been stalking Victoria Pass for more than a century with truckies still reporting sightings of the woman on the descent from Mt. Victoria to Little Hartley on the Great Western Highway.

## BLUE MOUNTAINS GHOSTS AND MYSTERIES

Mrs Mountain Ghost informed the Ghost that according to the Press he was conducting a Blue Mountains Ghost Tour.

Well, evidently there is an organisation called Blue Mountains Mystery Tours who have been conducting Ghost Tours in the Mountains for 15 years led by Paranormal Pete (great name).

Pete takes his clients on "Buster" the Ghost bus to various sites in the Blue Mountains at night obviously there is a visit to many cemeteries but the other sites are secret unless you go on the tour.

Off the record the Mountain Ghost has heard the tours are a lot of fun.

So what do the Mountains have to offer in the areas of paranormal activity (this is the scientific name for Ghost sightings).

Well, the most famous Ghost in the Mountains is the Lady in Black. A black clad female apparition has been stalking Victoria Pass for more than a century with truckies still reporting sightings of the woman on the descent from Mt. Victoria to Little Hartley on the Great Western Highway.

The woman is said to be the ghost of the child bride Caroline Collett beaten to death by her ex-boyfriend John Walsh in 1842 and left to spend an eternity of cold nights haunting travellers.

The road has been upgraded and widened since the original was built by convicts in the 1830s but she is said to still put in an appearance for motorists, usually on the coldest of nights when black ice forces drivers to slow down.

Woodford Academy has long been listed as one of Australia's most haunted sites. Built in the early 1830s Woodford Academy is reported as the oldest building in the Mountains.

It has been used as a highway inn, police post, private residence, guesthouse, sanatorium and a school.

Twelve spirits are said to be haunting the academy and they are referred to as the "Dismal Dozen". One of the twelve is the famous ghost of Twenty Mile Hollow, "The Lady in White". She is believed to be William James' wife who was found hanging by a noose in the back garden.

Other ghostly places in the Mountains are Hartley Village and Lithgow (Lithgow Eskbank House and



Lithgow State Mine Museum). The only time the Mountain Ghost has seen a ghost is when he looks in the mirror.

The other big mystery of the Mountains is the Black Panther that has been seen since the 1930s. The Ghost believes that if this is the same big cat it is 80 years old or in human years about 500 – so it is a mystery.

Big cats have reportedly attacked livestock and killed pets with over 600 reported sightings in the last 20 years.

Some of the theories are that the creatures are a secret "marsupial cat" yet to be classified, others suggest escaped circus animals that have mutated into giant feline killers. Others have suggested they are large feral cats.

The Ghost suggests a visit to Specsavers at Katoomba will fix the problem....

