

HORIZONS

Central Blue Mountains Rotary

Effective - Energetic - Enterprising - Empowered

Rotary District 9685 - Australia

Wednesday, December 04 2019

Facing the Fire

Colo Heights, Tuesday November 19



Photo: AAP - Dean Sewell

Chris Van de Kley, deputy mayor Blue Mountains City Council and member of Central Blue Mountains Rotary said we were a crew of three members from South Katoomba Rural Fire Service and three from Blackheath, tasked with Linden Brigade to Colo Heights in the Hawkesbury for property protection for the day.

“We were sent to Wheelbarrow Rd Colo Heights, the property here is used to keep horses. We watched the fire come over the bridge down the gully towards the property at a slow pace until late in the afternoon, when a southerly wind increased the pace of the fire, as can be seen in the photograph.”

up front

Dessert island

When you are in Honolulu for the Rotary International Convention, 6-10 June, make sure to save room for dessert, because the Hawaiian Islands have some sweet treats in store for you.

Shave ice (calling it shaved ice or a snow cone is a quick way of revealing you're not from around here) was introduced to Hawaii by Japanese immigrants.

Inspired by a Japanese frozen treat called kakigōri, they hand-shaved blocks of ice to create mounds of delicate crystals, then flavored the ice with the juice of tropical fruits.

These days, the ice is usually shaved by machine and is often served over ice cream for an extra layer of indulgence.

Flavors range from local favorites such as papaya, lychee, and pineapple to the more exotic (for Hawaii) black cherry, apple, and chocolate.

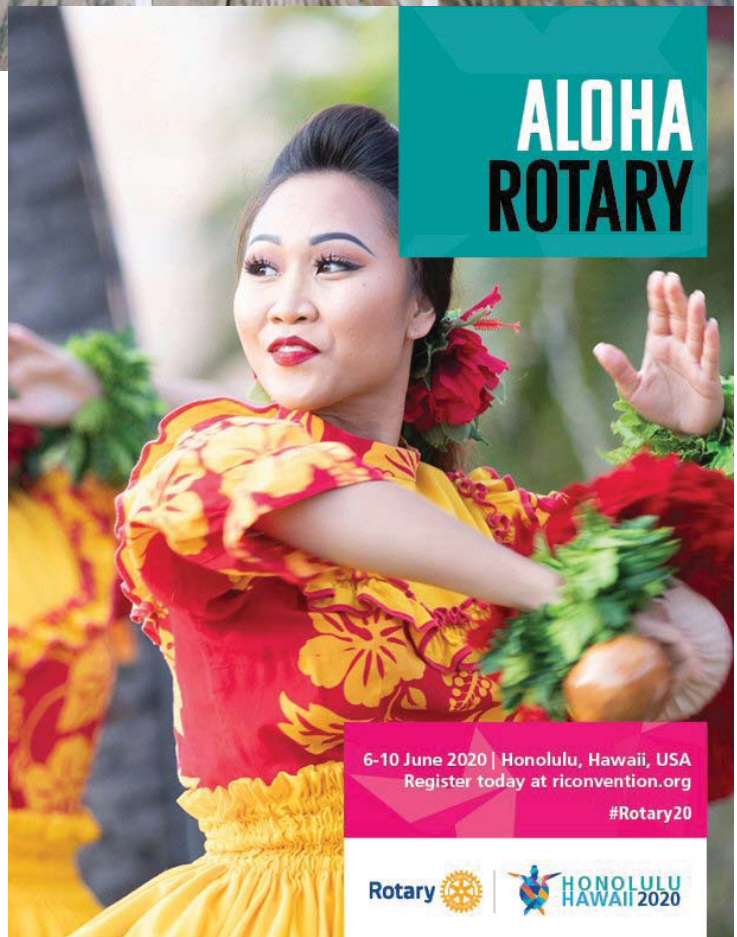
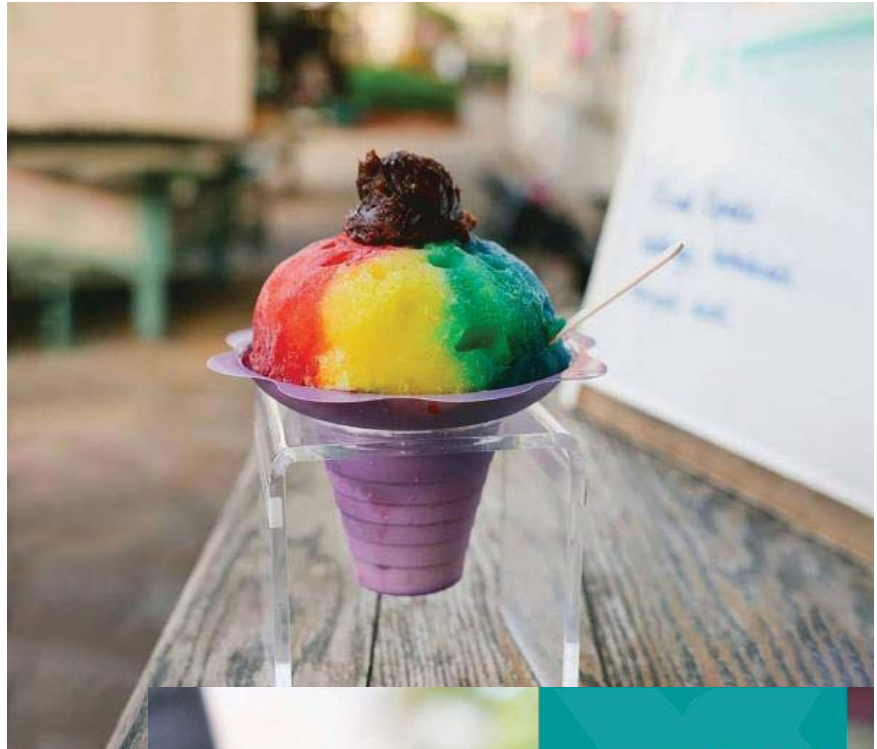
If your taste runs more to fried dough, you can indulge in malasadas, brought to the islands by Portuguese immigrants.

In Hawaii, these luscious yeast doughnuts (the batter is enriched with lots of eggs, butter, and sometimes evaporated or fresh milk) have fillings such as custard, coconut pudding, chocolate pudding, and guava.

Whichever treat you prefer, try to sample the variety from different shops. Many have their own special flavors and fillings.

— HANK SARTIN

- Don't miss the 2020 Rotary Convention in Honolulu. Register at riconvention.org by 15 December to save.
- This story originally appeared in the December 2019 issue of The Rotarian magazine.



WhatsOn....

December

Wednesday 04 - CBM Rotary Annual General Meeting

Friday 06 - Lawson Public School breakfast club

Sunday 08 - Mustangs Soar and Roar, Lilianfels Park, Katoomba

Wednesday 11 - To be advised

Saturday 14 - CBM Christmas Party - Scenic World

Sunday 15 - Christmas in the Park

Monday 16 - CBM board meeting

Tuesday 17 - Christmas Raffle sales - Katoomba and Leura

Wednesday 18 - Food Bank collection and distribution



Top ten Christmas Party dangers

The work Christmas party season is upon us.

Work tribunals and courts are packed with cases of office Christmas party excesses that end in sackings or compensation claims.

The important thing to remember is that the rules of behaviour inside an office apply equally to events that are held outside the premises - be it a pub, club, park or sports ground.

The ten big dangers:

1. Office supplied alcohol has been used as an excuse for bad behaviour - not any more. The Fair Work Commission has been declaring that people must be held responsible for their own bad behaviour while drunk.
2. Taking flirting too far - sexual harassment rules apply at the party just as they do in the office.
3. The law says you can be sacked for intimidating or abusive behaviour at an office party.
4. Posting party photos on social media could be an invasion of privacy or bullying.
5. Off-colour party jokes or roastings still come under workplace discrimination law.
6. Asking questions that are too personal.
7. Responsible serving of alcohol rules apply.
8. Employers would be wise to ensure safe transport home is available.
9. Employers need to provide a safe party environment.
10. Embarrassing fancy dress or karaoke performances are not protected by law.

*Copy provided by Rita Fisher,
as a member of Stacks Law Group*



Central Blue Mountains Rotarian Vivianne Byrnes selling Christmas Treasure Trove tickets at Woolworths supermarket, Leura.

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Please turn to the next page

Mountain Ghost

So why is the Ghost mentioning the RFS? Well some of the worst fires in Australia have occurred in the Mountains. The 1957 bush fire destroyed large parts of Leura and Wentworth Falls with 159 buildings destroyed and four deaths. In 1936 bush fires raged in Linden, Blaxland, Hazelbrook and smaller fires at Springwood, Glenbrook, Leura and Katoomba. 10 houses destroyed at Glenbrook with one death.

Bushfires and the RFS

Once again the Mountain Ghost and his Blue Mountains are threatened by bushfires. It has been happening forever but seems worse in recent times – probably due to more development and climate changes as it does appear to be getting drier and hotter.

One thing that does not change is the magnificent work of the NSW Rural Fire Services. The area covered by the Blue Mountains is one of the most bushfire prone areas in the world.

The population of the area is 75,000 people living in 27 towns and villages across the Mountains. The local government area covers 143,000 hectares of land in the Greater Sydney Region. About 70% is incorporated into the World Heritage Blue Mountains National Park with only 11% of the total land area in private ownership.

The NSW RFS is now the world's largest volunteer firefighting organisation. The Ghost is reminded of some of his friends "volunteered" to fight the Canadian bushfires in our Australian winter. Because the fire fighters are unionised there, everyone got paid to fight the fires. The Ghost digresses again.

The size of NSW is 800,000 square kilometres and the RFS has jurisdiction over 99% of the land.

In the 19th century coordinated firefighting was non-existent, many landowners were forced to defend their own properties.

By the beginning of the 20th century, in response to particularly serious fires, the NSW Government formalised the control of fire prevention which led to the formation of the first formal brigade at Berrigan in the State's south. This was in November 1900.

The period 1919 – 1949 was a focus on bush fire prevention. Local government was tested with managing firefighting responses. Under the Bush Fires Act of 1930 a fund was established for local government to purchase equipment for their volunteer brigades. It was a contribution of 25% from Treasury, 25% local government and 50% by insurance companies.

At the 1940 Royal Easter Show they held the first public display of firefighting equipment and techniques. By 1950, there were 1,376 bush fire brigades with an average membership of 20 and total volunteers of 26,000.

The biggest changes came in 2001. Fire Control Officers became employees of the State Government. Phil Koperberg became the first Commissioner of the NSW RFS. Phil Koperberg is a local. He joined the North Springwood (now Winmalee) Brigade as a volunteer in 1967 working his way up to Captain in 1969. He was Fire Control Officer for the Blue



Mountains Fire Control between 1970 and 1982. In October 2007 Shane Fitzgibbon became the second commissioner.

The Ghost did not realise how big the service is today. In 2014 the Service purchased a BK117 Helicopter (a big helicopter). In 2015 they purchased the Southern Belle DC10 plus lease of planes from overseas.

In 2016, there were 2,029 brigades in 47 districts equipped with 3,783 tankers, 65 pumpers, 50 bulk tankers, 40 communication vehicles, 81 catering vehicles and 30 marine craft. There were 73,162 magnificent volunteers attending 25,000 incidents. The Ghost was unable to find the oldest RFS in the Mountains but taking Woodford as an example was formed in 1923. Woodford has 115 members on its books of which 30 – 35 regularly attend fires. Many of the members who may not venture onto the fire ground assist with other duties at the station and within the district during major fires.

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In September 1968, fires swept through the lower Blue Mountains destroying 120 houses and the Blaxland Shopping Centre. Even cars on the highway were destroyed. Fires swept from Falconbridge all the way to Emu Plains. 14 people died during the period of the fires which was 68 days in total.

The Chief Secretary at the time said: "We are facing a catastrophe almost without precedent" this sounds very similar to comments made only two weeks ago.

2001 – Bushfires at Warragamba destroyed 30 homes and businesses.

2013 – Winmalee fires – 210 homes lost plus a few at Mt. Victoria. The cause was put down to power lines.

The Ghost hopes his readers remain vigilant and hats off to the Furies.....

Soar and Roar Festival - 2019

Lilianfels Park, Katoomba - Sunday, December 08 - 0630 hours



Be there...
and watch
the Mustangs
Soar & Roar

**SOAR &
ROAR**

Proudly Supporting Special Olympics Australia

Mustangs, their drivers and passengers assemble at Lilianfels Park, Katoomba from 06.30, December 08, ready for a sustaining Rotary breakfast before they leave for Sydney Motorsport Park, just before 08.00.

The Special Olympics Australia SOAR & ROAR Festival, gives people with an intellectual disability the opportunity to experience the thrill of a "Dream Ride".

The festival features luxury car dream rides, motorbike dream rides and fun activities for people of all ages and abilities.

Please turn to the next page



Rotarian Journey to Cambodia

10-Day Excursion – Rotarian Led



Brought to you by the Rotary Club of Gainesville, the Rotary Club of Pursat and Sustainable Cambodia



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