



HORIZONS



Rotary - Central Blue Mountains

Effective - Energetic - Enterprising - Empowered

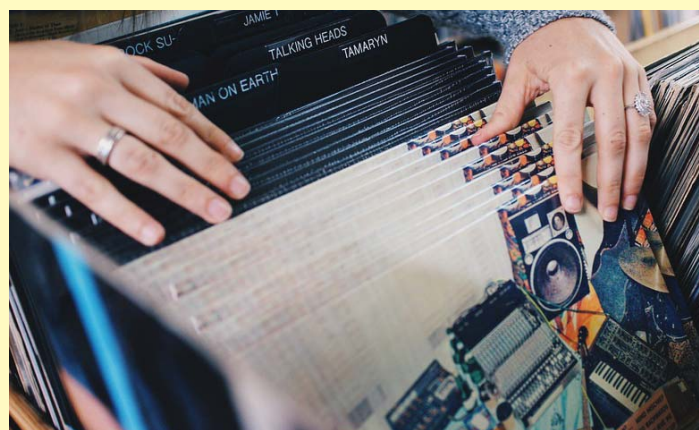
Rotary District 9685 - Australia

Wednesday, February 08 2017

Invite your friends and associates to our outstanding meetings

Rotary - Central Blue Mountains Monster Book Sale - February 18, 2017

Uniting Church, Cnr Megalong and
Grose Streets, Leura
8.30am - 2.00pm



*Hundreds of Quality
Discounted Books*

*Vinyls, CDs,
jigsaw Puzzles*

Proceeds will support Central Blue's
Sustainable Cambodia project

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Congratulations

John Rankins OAM

Member, Upper Blue Mountains Sunrise Rotary, Charter Member and former President of Central Blue Mountains Rotary. Paul Harris Fellow.

John was recognised in the New Year's Honour list issued on Australia Day for service to the community of the Blue Mountains.

His service includes:

Volunteer, Greater Blue Mountains Food and Wine Advisory Group, since 2013.

Volunteer, WorldSkills Australia, since 2004.

Member, Rotary Club of the Upper Blue Mountains, since 2003.

Head Teacher Hospitality, TAFE NSW, Western Sydney Institute, 2010 and cookery teacher, 1996-2010.

Member, Rotary Club Central Blue Mountains, 1976-2002. President 1983-84
Volunteer Board Member, Blue Mountains Villages Ltd, 2016.

Commonwealth of Australia Polar Medal (Australian National Antarctic Research Expedition Mawson 1966)

NSW Department of Education Service Medal 2015

TAFE NSW Western Sydney Institute Recognition Award 2014 for Productive Partnerships and Collaborative Practices



What's On....



February

Wednesday 08 - Sue Beevers - BlazeAid

Wednesday 15 - Club Assembly

Saturday 18 - Celebrating Rotary's birthday

Saturday 18 - Book sale - Sustainable Cambodia

Wednesday 22 - Wayne Cornish - Aboriginal Resource Centre - Siblings Cultural Camps

March

Wednesday 01 - New member information night

Sunday 05 - Food van at Leura School market

Our Mission

Central Blue Mountains Rotary has a very simple mission; to provide service to others within our local community and overseas, to promote integrity, and to advance goodwill through fellowship.

We have a long and successful history of supporting our local community and assisting overseas. Since being established in 1976 we have achieved, quite simply, nothing less than outstanding results every year. We are proud of our contribution to helping others.

Sunday 05 - Clean Up Australia Day - Honour Avenue, Lawson - Girl Guides

Tuesday 07 - Food van - BMGS Cross Country event

Wednesday 08 - Guest Speaker - Jarrod Sorenson

Saturday 11 - District 9685 conference - Penrith Panthers

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He went for a swim and discovered “The Forgotten Flotilla”

A fascinating story from World War II told by Dr. Michael Bendon, a marine archaeologist, who discovered “The Forgotten Flotilla” while having a swim at an ancient seaport, in north-west Crete, in 2008.

Michael was guest speaker at Central Blue Mountains Rotary, last Wednesday.

He said that just below the surface on the sandy bottom was a World War II shipwreck, 52metres long. But its identity was unknown.

There was also a second ship lying further out in waters at a depth of 20metres. This was the start of his five-year investigation.

Michael discovered that two ships had arrived under the cover of darkness in May 1941 only to be dive-bombed in daylight by German Stuka fighters.

Directly hit by bombs, both ships sank, apparently without any crew being killed.

Returning to Crete, some years later he interviewed villagers and went to the sites to take measurements.

His breakthrough came in 2010 in the London archives at Kew, when he discovered both were of British origin and listed as lost “somewhere in the Middle East”.

The rusting, unnamed hulks were the remains of Landing Craft Tank (LCT) A6 and LCT A20 of the type that saved thousands of Australian and New Zealand lives in the Mediterranean campaign.



Dr. Michael Bendon, archaeologist and CBM's John Manners



Tank Landing Craft

They were once secret vessels. No official photographs were ever taken as they were the first of their kind.

The vessels, British tank landing craft Mark 1 were prototypes proposed and developed by Winston Churchill.

Each LCT craft carried up to 900 soldiers (more than double a normal passenger load) from Greece to Souda Bay in Crete in April 1941.



A20 View of ramp



Diver looking inside

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Rotarian adventure in Cambodia - 2017



Central Blue Mountains Rotary members Steve Cookson and Jennifer and Ian Scott, with the university student we sponsor. Bunavidt is studying IT.



Sustainable Cambodia is committed to empowering people through a combination of proven philosophies and methodologies:

Comprehensive programs address far-reaching needs, including education, water, irrigation, food production, nutrition, income generation, training.

Participatory development engages village families to create ownership, self-empowerment and self-sustaining change through village leadership and community service.



Rotarians from various clubs around the world are joining together with Sustainable Cambodia to take a journey into the heart of Cambodia. The incidence of poverty is considerably higher in rural areas with 40% living on less than 35 cents a day.

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Mountain Ghost

This is the 21st official Sydney Chinese New Year Festival. It is one of the largest Lunar New Year Festivals outside of Asia.

CHINESE NEW YEAR

The Ghost was visiting the Big Smoke (no not Bushfires but Sydney city) last week. He noticed that both the Opera House and Harbour Bridge were all painted red. He also noticed that Martin Place was covered in red lanterns and then the penny dropped. It was Chinese New Year and Sydney has really embraced it.

There were crowds everywhere, stalls setting food and drink, and a very good atmosphere. (The Ghost really should get out more) The Ghost was impressed with the Festival and has done some research. This is the 21st official Sydney Chinese New Year Festival. It runs from 27.01.2017 to 12.02.2017. It is one of the largest Lunar New Year Festivals outside of Asia.

The original festival started in Chinatown and now extends all the way to Sydney Harbour and into the suburbs at places like Cabramatta. Last year there were 1.3million visitors making it the third largest yearly event in Sydney. It has developed into an internationally renowned celebration of Chinese, Thai, Vietnamese and Korean culture.

A quick summary of what's on:

- * Famous landmarks such as Opera House, Harbour Bridge, Circular Quay Station and the Town Hall all lit up in red.
- * 12 Spectacular zodiac animal lanterns lining the Barbour foreshores. These are really worth a visit. Some are 10m high.
- * At Martin Place is the Westpac Lunar Lantern Display – a 50m canopy of red lanterns.
- * On 11th & 12th the Dragon Boat races at Darling Harbour – there will be 3,000 paddlers for the largest dragon boat regatta in the southern hemisphere.
- * The Ghost has learnt there will be 80 associated events across Sydney with a pop-up Asian Food Festival at Pymont.

The Ghost is reporting all this good stuff and he was wondering what celebrations were happening in the Blue Mountains for Chinese New Year. Not much it seems.

He could only locate a special dinner at the Chinese Restaurant at Faulconbridge featuring the famous Lion Dance and a special event at the Hydro.

As usual the Ghost likes to give you some history and education to bring the readers up to his level.

The Lunar New Year has been celebrated in China since approximately 1200 BC. It was a time to honour ancestors and a time to bring families together for feasting.



In China it is now celebrated as the Chinese New Year or Spring Festival. The original Chinese Calendar was a complex timepiece. It had the Chinese Zodiac, the cycle of 12 stations or signs along the apparent path of the sun through the cosmos.

These were represented by 12 animals – the rat, ox, tiger, rabbit, dragon, snake, horse, sheep, monkey, rooster, dog and pig. This year is the year of the Rooster and next year will be the year of the Dog. The Ghost is a South Sydney supporter so it looks like he will have to wait six years for the year of the Rabbit.



