

Five years after the fires there are still vacant blocks where friends and neighbours homes stood.



L-R: Graeme Davies, representing Australian Rotary Health, Jenny Bigelow (in blue) from "Blue Arc", Susan Templeman, Federal Member for Macquarie, Margaret Bell, Springwood Rotary President, Rose Glassock, Educational Psychologist, and Central Blue Rotary Co-President, Steve Cookson. Sixty five people, including Rotarians from Blackheath, Katoomba, Upper Blue Mountains Sunrise and Springwood attended a special Rotary evening at Wentworth Falls on Wednesday October 10, marking the fifth anniversary of a devestating bushfire at Winmalee which claimed 200 homes...See story page 3.



## October

Wednesday 17: Club business/planning meeting Friday 19: Lawson Public School Breakfast Club Saturday 20: Barbecue - Mitre 10, Katoomba

Sunday 21: Graffiti Removal Day

Sunday 21: "Jazz at the View" and Lunch in support

of the drought relief appeal.

Wednesday 24: World Polio Day Wednesday 24: Social night

Friday 26: Lawson Public School Breakfast Club

Fri-Sat-Sun 26-28: Fellowship in Forbes

Wednesday 31: No meeting

## November

Thursday 01: Movie night - Mt. Vic Flicks

Friday 02: Lawson Public School Breakfast Club Friday 02: Pudding sales - Faulconbridge School Sunday 04: Grandparents/Elders Day - W. Falls Lake

Wednesday 07: Guest speaker - Rowan Price

Thursday 08: Board meeting

Friday 09: Lawson Public School Breakfast Club

Wednesday 14: Members vocation night

Friday 16: Lawson Public School Breakfast Club Saturday 17: Barbecue - Mitre 10, Katoomba

Wednesday 21: Club business/planning meeting

Friday 23: Lawson Public School Breakfast Club

Saturday 24: Community Chest raffle ticket sales

Monday 26: Rotary Foundation Dinner

Wednesday 28: Social meeting/vocational visit Friday 30: Lawson Public School Breakfast Club



Central Blue Mountains Rotary co-president Ava Emdin, on a recent visit to Washington DC visited the Rotary Club of Arlington, Virginia, seen here with president Rob Martinson.



Sydney Districts 9675 & 9685

## An Invitation to the Rotary Foundation Dinner

Waterview

Bicentennial Drive, Bicentennial Park, Sydney Olympic Park

26 November, 2018 at 6:30PM





#### **Program**

6.30 - 7.00pm Fellowship and pre-dinner drinks

7.00pm Introductions

8.00pm Keynote Speaker - Ian Riseley IPRIP

9.00pm Close

Cost: \$75 per person or \$700 for a table of 10

For bookings: <u>Click Here</u> (Instructions for Table bookings display after you enter your name on page 1 – submit attendees using spreadsheet provided)

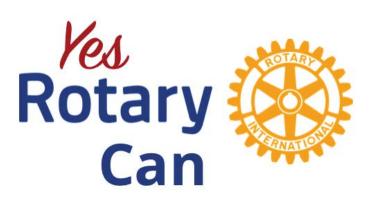
# Women outnumber men at Cessnock Rotary

Some people said it would never happen...

According to a recent report in the Cessnock Advertiser, the once male dominated Rotary Club of Cessnock now has a decidedly feminine touch.

For the first time since the club was founded back in 1937, women now outnumber men.

A spokesman for Cessnock Rotary says it's great... the club's female contingent tend to work harder than a lot of the guys. They are always keen to nominate for activities.



# Five Years After the Fires Rotary Marks the Mental Health Effects

"There are still vacant blocks where friends and neighbours homes stood ... the 'limbo' of bushfire remains."

Rotarians and family from four local Rotary clubs converged on the Grand View Hotel, Wentworth Falls, last Wednesday for Central Blue Mountains Rotary's special event to mark five years since devastating bushfires claimed 200 homes in the Blue Mountains.

The night coincided with Australian Rotary Health's annual mental health day and sought to "Lift the Lid" on the resulting mental health effects on the community.

"There are still vacant blocks where friends and neighbours homes stood ... the 'limbo' of bushfire remains." The words of Susan Templeman MP, keynote speaker at the meeting, attended by about 65 people, including her parents.

Ms Templeman said the fire that destroyed her home was "a sudden, brutal declutter" and destroyed treasured personal items, including her loved violin.

There were, and still are, financial issues also for many who lost their homes. Notably, under-insurance has meant that "some who desperately wanted to rebuild...couldn't afford to. This remains a big issue. Lessons from 2013 may not have all been learned", Ms Templeman said.



Photo: Justine Murphy

Foreshadowing other speakers at the Central Blue Rotary meeting, she said, "Research shows long-lasting effects on children. Current graduating classes in the fire area were in lockdown on the day.

"Mental health relies on being able to move forward. Some do it quickly, others are still dealing with it, trying to recover. They need our support. We have a sense of the community pulling together in very tough times and volunteering, such as in Rotary, is helping in recovery and resilience", Ms Templeman said.

The audience held its breath as Margaret Bell, President of Springwood Rotary, struggled at times to read the blog she wrote after she narrowly escaped the inferno that claimed her home as well. Community support, including Rotary, was a major factor in her efforts to recover.

Jenny Bigelow of "Blue Arc" explained the need to and value of planning ahead to save pets and other animals, pointing to the emotional impact of losing them. "Homes can be replaced, but lives can't", she said.

Education psychologist, Rose Glassock covered a range of mental health effects, with a focus on school students. Many were caught up in their family's and friends' trauma and struggled to cope, both immediately and in the longer term. For some it is a long, continuing process.

Director of ARH, Graeme Davies praised the speakers range of coverage of the mental health effects, with the segments coming together to provide a cohesive whole.

Central Blue Mountains co-president, Steve Cookson brought the night to a close thanking the speakers for their courage in revisiting that day (October 17, 2013) and praised the work of Australian Rotary Health, which has funded over \$40 million in mental health research, including a major examination of the effects of bushfires.....story Steve Cookson

# HEY! Don't miss this

"Jazz at View" Sunday, October 21 11.30am til 3.00pm

Presented by Central Blue Mountains Rotary and the Grand View Hotel, Wentworth Falls

Proceeds donated to the Rotary Australia,
National Farmers Federation, Channel Nine Drought Appeal

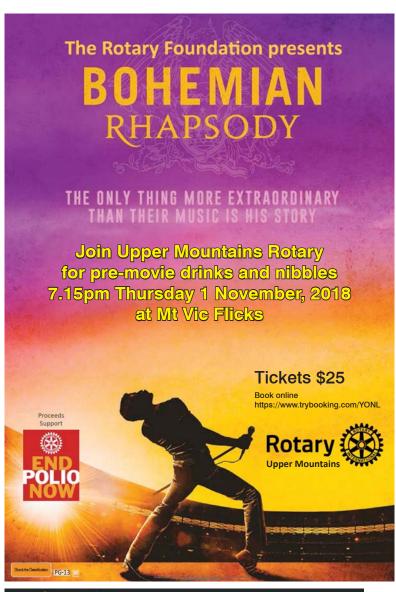
## Katoomba Jazz Group



Also featuring Country Folk Singer Pat Drummond and Guitarist Martin Foote

Enjoy a delicious lunch - Select from the a'la carte menu or specials board Table bookings advisable - 4757 1001

Come along - Have a great Grand View Hotel lunch Enjoy the jazz - Please support this worthy cause



# MOUNT VIC FLICKS

Mount Vic Flicks is a treasured icon of the Upper Blue Mountains. Built in 1934, the cinema is a window into the golden age of Australian country picture theatre culture.



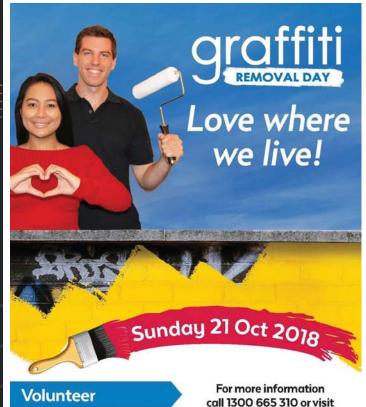
The family-run independent cinema provides an eclectic mix of quality films from Australia and abroad, arthouse movies, and movies suitable to children also new releases.

It also hosts various local and international film festivals, special events and fundraisers. The venue is fully wheelchair accessible, has easy street parking and a quaint snack bar.

The cinema is equipped with a hearing loop system and headsets can be provided for those who do not have hearing aids with a T-switch.

Our special screening of Bohemian Rhapsody, November 01 provides an excellent reason to visit Mt. Vic Flicks...soak up the atmosphere and assist The Rotary Foundation.





Promote the Day

graffitiremovalday.org.au



Premium dark chocolate blended with Valencia Orange tastes, fruit and French **Orange Liqueur** 

### **ORDER NOW!**

Your pudding expert is **Eric Cantor** 



devilishly delicious Tropical mangoes soaked in matured Barossa Valley brandy and natural mango essence Also Rum & Plum

**Christmas** puddings at the **Twilight Market** Faulconbridge Public School, **Friday** November 2 6.00pm to 9.00pm