



**Rotary Club of West Wollongong Inc.**  
 (ABN 32 681 953 565)  
**District 9675**  
 Chartered 23<sup>rd</sup> March 1964



## 11 December 2024 BULLETIN

*December is Disease Prevention and Treatment Month*



*It's party time!*

*Merry Christmas to our members, friends, partners & guests and make the most of the Christmas/New Year break!*



President:	Rose Pope	RI President 2024-25:	Stephanie A Urchick
Secretary:	Kerrie Hayes-Williams	District Governor 2024-25:	Sue Hayward
Treasurer:	Noel Watt	Rotary Comm. Leader:	Margaret Uitterlinden
IPP President:	Phil Peckman	President Elect:	Phil Peckman
Send items for the Bulletin to Editor: Michael Crowley			

Birthdays	Anniversaries
20/12 – Marilyn Phillips 02/01 – Roberto Giampieri	14/12 – Tim & Debbie Koppel

Club website: <a href="https://westwollongongrotary.org.au/page/showhomepage/">https://westwollongongrotary.org.au/page/showhomepage/</a>	District Website: <a href="http://rotarydistrict9675.org">rotarydistrict9675.org</a>
Facebook: <a href="https://fb.me/westwollongongrotary">fb.me/westwollongongrotary</a>	Club e-mail: <a href="mailto:westwollongongrotary@gmail.com">westwollongongrotary@gmail.com</a>
Instagram: <a href="https://www.instagram.com/rotary_club_of_west_wollongong/">www.instagram.com/rotary_club_of_west_wollongong/</a>	
Postal Address: PO Box 5040, WOLLONGONG NSW 2520	
Payments to the Rotary Club of West Wollongong can be made direct to: Commonwealth Bank of Australia BSB: 062-528 Account No: 28000503	

## CLUB PROGRAM ... *Dates for your diary!*

Date	Speaker/Theme	
Wednesday 11 December 2024	❖ <i>RCWW Christmas Party – All members, honorary members, friends and respective partners are very welcome.</i>	
Thursday 12 December 2024	❖ <b>JOKER DRAW</b> at The Charles Hotel from 6.00 PM <u>TEAM 3</u>	
Monday 16 December 2024	❖ BBQ at Bunnings Kembla Grange – <i>Volunteers needed please!</i>	
18 December 2024 to 8 January 2025 inclusive	❖ <i>Christmas/New Year break – NO CLUB MEETINGS</i> ❖ <i>Meetings resume – Wednesday 15 January 2025</i>	
Monday 13 January 2025	❖ BBQ at Bunnings Kembla Grange – <i>Volunteers needed ... please add to your diaries!</i>	
Wednesday 15 January 2025	TBA	
Wednesday 22 January 2025	<i>5.30pm start with pre-meeting drinks in the Centro Courtyard!</i> <i>Short meeting – Club Business followed by a Board Meeting</i>	
Wednesday 29 January 2025	TBA	
Saturday 1 February 2025	❖ BBQ at Bunnings Kembla Grange – <i>Volunteers needed ... please add to your diaries!</i>	
Wednesday 5 February 2025	CLUB ASSEMBLY	
Monday 10 February 2025	❖ BBQ at Bunnings Kembla Grange – <i>Volunteers needed ... please add to your diaries!</i>	
Wednesday 12 February 2025	❖ <i>PRIDE OF WORKMANSHIP EVENING</i>	

### *President's Message*

It was very gratifying having our *scholarship recipients Thanapon Deekaikam and Maddy Lawson* visit, and *Nicholas Fantham* speak via a video clip, to explain the studies/research they are undertaking. We are all very impressed with their enthusiasm and dedication and look forward to hearing about their progress next year. Thank you, Michael for all your time and efforts regarding these *Australian Rotary Health and UOW/RCWW John Chaplin Memorial scholarships*. The process of finding students and organising their visits is not easy.



Christmas is fast approaching but we still have a lot happening.

*Thank you to all who are representing us at the 14 schools to present a Citizenship Award.* It's certainly not an onerous task watching all the students recognised for their talents and congratulating one who mirrors Rotary in care and consideration of others.

Thank you in advance to those who will be volunteering to help at our last *Bunnings Kembla Grange BBQ* for 2024 on 16 December.



Our *Christmas party tonight* will be a great way to end 2024, celebrate together, enjoy the Christmas fare and of course get excited by a visit from Santa!



Happily **District Governor Sue Hayward**, our hard working friends from *Southern Youth & Family Services, Supported Accommodation Homelessness Services Shoalhaven Illawarra, ESCABAGS and GREEN CONNECT*, past Assistant Governor and now President of Fairy Meadow Rotary Club **Kerrie Guillaume** and our *new special visitor Kate Thomas* will all be joining us. PLUS we'll meet some of Phil's new family!

See you there.

*President Rose*

### **VALE: Kathleen Adele Chaplin**

#### **A Life of Love, Adventure, and Wisdom**

*Kathleen Adele Chaplin (Adele to all who knew her) passed away peacefully on 27 November at the age of 91.*

*Adele was the beloved wife of Past President John Chaplin OAM, who passed away in 2018. Together, they shared a life full of love, adventure and mutual respect. Adele's love for travel was evident in the many journeys they took together, exploring new cultures and cuisines around the world.*

*A voracious reader, Adele found great comfort and joy in her extensive library, especially after John's passing. She was also an enthusiastic supporter of the West Wollongong Rotary Club for many years, where her wit, humour and wisdom made her a cherished companion. She never failed to attend the awarding of the John Chaplin Memorial Scholarship. Even as an honorary member in her later years, she remained engaged with the Club and valued the friendships and support she found there.*



*Adele's warmth, sharp mind and wicked sense of humour made her everyone's favourite trivia partner, as well as a wonderful conversationalist on topics ranging from world events to shared memories.*

*She is survived by her loving family: five stepchildren and eight cherished grandchildren, who will continue to honour her legacy of kindness, curiosity and love.*

*Adele's presence will be missed, but her memory will live on in the hearts of all who knew and loved her.*



#### **Meeting minutes from last week: Scribe – Di North**

✚ The meeting opened with **Sergeant Di North** welcoming *special guests ARH/RCWW 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary PhD Research Scholar Thanapon Deekaikam, his supervisor at the University of Wollongong (UOW), Professor Mirella Dottori, and our ARH indigenous Scholar, Maddie Lawson.*

- ✚ The *reflection* was given by **Sergeant Di North**, who reflected on a quote from Germany Kent. *“Take time to reflect on how much you have. It may not be all that you want, but remember someone, somewhere is dreaming to have what you have”.*
- ✚ The *international toast*, given by **Dennis Simpson**, was in honour of our PhD Scholar Thanapon Deekaikam, who was born in Thailand. The **Rotary Club of Bangkok** was the first Rotary Club in Thailand.

### **Board announcements:**

#### ✚ **President Rose Pope:**

- At the *District Presidents’ Meeting* on 28 November, Rose was presented with *two awards for our Club* from the Rotary Foundation for our Club’s Foundation giving.
- On Friday 29 November, **Rose and Janet Crakanthorp** represented our Club at the *Australian Rotary Health (ARH) Indigenous Scholars dinner*.
- Rose said there are *14 awards to be presented to local schools at school assemblies* over the next couple of weeks. She thanked those members who volunteered to present them.

✚ **Helen Hasan:** Purple t-shirts are available to purchase, through the website, for the *Walk against Domestic Violence and Purple Fridays*. They cost \$8.50 each.

✚ **Noel Watt:** Last Thursday night’s *Charles Hotel Jackpot Raffle revenue* result was comparatively low; however, the Club did receive a *significant donation from the Charles Hotel*, representing monies from the *Saturday Sausage Sizzle*.

✚ **Michael Crowley** then introduced our scholars:

**Thanapon Deekaikam**, our *Australian Rotary Health (ARH) PhD Research Scholar*, spoke about his home in Thailand, but said he was really enjoying his life in Wollongong. Thanapon received a bachelor’s degree in chemistry from Chiang Mai University in 2018. In 2021, he completed his master’s degree in Polymer Science at Chulalongkorn University in Thailand. He contributed to the invention of natural polymer structures capable of responding to external stimuli for targeted drug delivery. Thanapon wants to expand scientific knowledge of polymers for medical applications. He aims to develop new artificial skin for people with sensory impairments. He is working on human mechanosensory neurons which are specialised nerve cells that allow us to feel touch, pressure, temperature and pain. Examples of neurological disorders where these neurons are not functioning properly include Parkinsons Disease, Peripheral Neuropathy and spinal cord injuries. Early diagnosis of nerve related disorders is important to improve a person’s overall quality of life. The biggest challenge in his research is the lack of realistic tissue models. The existing models do not replicate the complexity of human tissues. *Thanapon acknowledged the work done by Mitchell St Clair Glover on 3D tissue models.*

A video was played from our *John Chaplin Memorial Scholar*, **Nicholas Fantham**, who gave his apologies for not being able to attend. He comes from Bega and is well acquainted with Rotary, having participated in the Safe Drivers’ Course. The research Nicholas is undertaking is to look at organic synthesis in order to manufacture antibacterials. We will have the opportunity to see Nicholas when he visits our club on 12 March 2025.

**Maddy Lawson**, our *ARH Indigenous Scholar*, is a proud Ngemba woman. She is currently living and working in Sydney. Maddy completed a Bachelor of Public Health at the University of Wollongong in 2021 and is now studying for a Master of Public Health Degree. Maddy is currently working for NSW Health in the Infectious Diseases Team. She is working on the sepsis awareness campaign, the annual influenza campaign and the new RSV maternal vaccine rollout.

Maddy has written papers on such things as “Policy reform to protect children from unhealthy food marketing in Australia”, and “Policy reform to improve ACCHO funding allocations” (Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation).

Maddy is also researching women and their HIV risk. The challenges she has discovered for these women getting treatment are access, stigma, education and lack of targeted intervention.

**Michael Crowley** thanked Thanapon & Maddy for telling us about their studies and they have both promised to return to give further updates.



*President Rose Pope with Thanapon Deekaikam, Maddy Lawson & UOW's Professor Mirella Dottori*

✚ The lucky winners of the *wine raffle (drawn by Thanapon & Maddy)* were **Helen Hasan and Phil Peckman**.



✚ The *Sergeant's session* followed, where everyone was tested on their *knowledge of car emblems*.

✚ **President Rose** gave her closing remarks reminding everyone that the *Christmas Party is at the Builders Club next Wednesday starting at 6PM*.

## ROSTERS

**Please arrange your own substitute if you are not able to attend meetings.**

Date	Sergeant	Reflection & Scribe	Int. Toast***	Charles Hotel			
				Thurs. Joker Draw		Friday Meat raffle	
				Date	Team	Date	Team
11/12	<i>RCWW</i>	<i>Christmas</i>	<i>Party</i>	12/12	4	13/12	2
18/12	<i>Christmas/NY</i>	<i>Break</i>	<i>No Meeting</i>	19/12	5	20/12	3
25/12	<i>Christmas/NY</i>	<i>Break</i>	<i>No Meeting</i>	26/12	No Raffle	27/12	No Raffle
01/01	<i>Christmas/NY</i>	<i>Break</i>	<i>No Meeting</i>	02/01	No Raffle	03/01	No Raffle
08/01	<i>Christmas/NY</i>	<i>Break</i>	<i>No Meeting</i>	09/01	6	10/01	4
15/01	J Erickson	D Simpson	M Stanojevic	16/01	1	17/01	1
22/01	J Christensen	M Stanojevic	K Wanambiro	23/01	2	24/01	2
29/01	K Potter	K Wanambiro	N Watt	30/01	3	31/01	3
05/02	P Roberts	N Watt	R Yeoman	06/02	4	07/02	4
12/02	D Simpson	R Yeoman	B Armessen	13/02	5	14/02	1
19/02	Di North	B Armessen	M Bracken	20/02	6	21/02	2

\*\*\*Int. Toast: Each member to research and select their own Rotary-based international toast.

**Apologies to be directed to Treasurer Noel Watt, prior to midday on the Tuesday before our meetings.**

The Charles Hotel "Joker Draw" – Thursday, 6:00pm					
Team 1	Team 2	Team 3	Team 4	Team 5	Team 6
Marilyn Phillips	Ken Potter	Barry Stevens	Di North	Ray Lee	Jim Christensen

  

The Charles Hotel "Meat Raffle" - Every Friday from 5.00pm to 7.00pm			
Team 1	Team 2	Team 3	Team 4
D Simpson & D North	R Pope, D Reid & P Peckman	J Christensen & K Potter	R Pope, D Reid & P Peckman

  

PCYC at the 'Snake Pit' Stadium, Gwynneville – Fit for Life Program: Members' Breakfast Schedule	
TBA	TBA

