



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



12 February 2025 BULLETIN

February is Peacebuilding & Conflict Prevention Month

Tonight we will celebrate the Pride of Workmanship Awards



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
<i>17/02 – Bruce Inglis and John Harper</i>	<i>12/02 – Kim & Anne Hockings 15/02 – Barry & Nikki Stevens</i>

Club website: https://westwollongongrotary.org.au/page/showhomepage/	District Website: rotarydistrict9675.org
Facebook: fb.me/westwollongongrotary	Club e-mail: westwollongongrotary@gmail.com
Instagram: www.instagram.com/rotary_club_of_west_wollongong/	
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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 12 February 2025	❖ <i>PRIDE OF WORKMANSHIP EVENING</i>	
Thursday 13 February 2025	❖ JOKER DRAW at The Charles Hotel from 6.00 PM	
Friday 14 February 2025	❖ Charles Hotel Friday Night Meat Raffle from 5.00pm	
Wednesday 19 February 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 26 February 2025	❖ <i>Q & A facilitated by Rita Giampieri:</i> <i>“A fulfilling life with Downs Syndrome” - Rachael Young (Artist) & her inspirational mother, Assunta Young</i>	
Wednesday 5 March 2025	❖ <i>TBC – RYLA sponsored participant: Cerentha Jaatinen</i>	
Monday 10 March 2025	❖ BBQ at Bunnings Kembla Grange – <i>Volunteers needed ... please add to your diaries!</i>	
Wednesday 12 March 2025	❖ <i>UOW/RCWW John Chaplin Memorial Scholar – Nicholas Fantham + Nina Burr from UOW... NB. Partners' evening</i> SERGEANT: Laptop & AV equipment required please	
Wednesday 19 March 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 26 March 2025	❖ <i>Peace Oration – featuring Dr Glenn Kolomeitz at The Builders Club</i> <i>(More details about Dr Kolomeitz and his presentation will follow shortly. However, this will event will be open to members, friends, partners, members of other Rotary clubs and the general public).</i>	
Sunday 18 May 2025	❖ <i>Ride4Rotary... More information including registration and donation details can be sourced HERE!</i>	

President's Message

Last week's meeting and *Club Assembly* covered quite a few issues and topics. Those unable to attend will find all the information in the Club Assembly minutes. Thank you all for your input.

With two BBQs plus two nights a week at the Charles, we've been keeping busy.

At the meeting it was announced that we're very lucky to now have **Kate Thomas** accepted into the Club. *We look forward to a more formal welcome very soon.*

Since before Christmas, **Jim Christensen** has been putting in many hours preparing for tonight's *Pride of Workmanship Awards*. I've no doubt it will be a heartwarming event. To recognise those who give more than expected and make such a positive contribution to the community, is gratifying for everyone.

President Rose



PRIDE OF WORKMANSHIP

The Pride of Workmanship Awards Program is an approved Rotary program that commenced in 1976 and enables managers in our society to help employees achieve the goal of job satisfaction, and publicly recognise them for their efforts.

Participating businesses promote the *Pride of Workmanship theme of "Do it once- do it well"* throughout their organisation and nominate employees worthy of recognition, not only within the organisation, but the wider community. Nominees of the Pride of Workmanship Program are presented with a trophy in recognition of their achievements.

The Pride of Workmanship is one of the greatest intangible assets in our society. This Program encourages favourable employer/employee relationships and a sense of community spirit as well as a sense of pride in individual achievements.

Meeting minutes from last week: Scribe – Michael Crowley (on behalf of Kevin Wanambiro)

- ✚ **Sergeant Ken Potter** opened our meeting precisely on time before handing over to **President Rose Pope** who welcomed all members to our *28th meeting of the Rotary Year*.
- ✚ **Anne Christensen** then proposed an *international toast* to the **Rotary Club of Cancun, Mexico**, which was established in 1976. Most of the Club's community service work is channelled through the "Centro Comunitario Rotary International de Cancun", which is a community centre established by the Club in a working class neighbourhood to provide medical and dental consultations, vocational education, literacy education, aerobics classes and an area for university students to assist local residents with legal advice and information relating to home design and construction techniques.
- ✚ Yours truly was put on the spot for a *reflection* (thanks Ken) so attention was pointed to the fact that **Rotary celebrates its 120th Anniversary on Sunday 23 February 2025** and we might like to *consider how we as a Club can best celebrate the occasion!*
- ✚ **President Rose** went on to cover a few items prior to this evening's Club Assembly; namely:
 - *What is a Club Assembly?* Rose outlined pertinent information gleaned from the Internet; however, members can also refer to page 3 of last week's Bulletin for a broad summary.
 - Our most recent member, **Kate Thomas**, will be representing our Club on the *Ride4Rotary committee* and provide us with updates as/when necessary.
 - A volunteer was sought to organise a roster for the *PCYC 'Fit for Life' Program members' breakfast roster*. **Ray Lee** accepted the challenge and asked for volunteers to contact him if they wish to be added to the new roster. *The breakfast task usually entails two members making breakfast for children every fourth Thursday from 7am to 8/8.30am at the Snakepit Stadium, 37 Foley Road, Gwynneville.*
 - A *\$2,500 District Grant* has been approved in favour of *Green Connect* for the purchase of a new trailer... our Club is required to contribute the same amount.
 - **Past District Governor and current District Chair of Environment & Habitat Barry Antees** is organising a *tour of Mt Annan Botanic Gardens at 10.30am on Saturday 15 February* – All Rotary club members are invited to participate. The tour will commence with morning tea followed by an extensive tour of the Australian Plant Bank. Participants also have the opportunity to listen to Dr Nathan Emery who will share his insights on the pivotal role of seed banking, plant conservation and herbarium collections in securing the future of Australia's diverse plant life. Further information can be found and bookings made [HERE](#).

- A reminder of our *Pride of Workmanship event at Centro on Wednesday 12 February*. The cost will be \$45pp (**NB. PAYMENT DUE FRIDAY 7 FEBRUARY**) and includes a drink on arrival, bruschetta, a main meal and cake for dessert.
- *Wednesday evening 30 April is scheduled as a social evening*. **Annette Lavender** is in the process of developing 'something'... more information to follow. 😊

- ✚ The **Club Assembly** officially commenced at 6.44pm and minutes from the Assembly will be dispatched separately by our capable Secretary, Kerrie Hayes-Williams in the not too distant future.
- ✚ **Maddy Lawson, the Australian Rotary Health Indigenous Scholar** our Club supported over 2023 & 2024 has achieved impressive results at UOW during her final semester enabling her to attain the Master of Public Health... Maddy also sent a brief report which has been included later in this Bulletin.
- ✚ The **wine raffle winners** were **Michael Crowley** (below left) and **Helen Hasan** (below centre with **Annette Lavender**, who facilitated the raffle).



- ✚ **Sergeant Ken** (pictured above far right), in lieu of a formal Sergeant's fines session, ended the meeting with the *poem, 'Clancy of the Overflow' by Banjo Paterson*.

Congratulations to Di North named as runner up for Wollongong's Senior Citizen of the Year at the City of Wollongong Awards on Thursday evening 6 February 2025.... The Awards, which were presented by Lord Mayor of Wollongong Councillor Tania Brown (pictured with Di below right), honoured our City's remarkable citizens



As mentioned last Wednesday evening, Maddy Lawson (Australian Rotary Health's [ARH] Indigenous Scholar whom our Club sponsored over 2023 – 2024), has successfully completed her Master of Public Health with academic results in the Distinction/High Distinction range. A copy of her final report to ARH & our Club is appended below for the information of members & friends.

Semester 2 Reflection – Madeleine Lawson

Reflecting on my second semester of the second year of my master's degree, I continue to feel grateful for the support provided by the Rotary Club scholarship. This semester has been and rewarding, and I have had the opportunity to explore a wide range of topics within public health that have expanded my knowledge and skills.

One of the key highlights of this semester was my coursework in Public Health Methods, which provided an overview of a range of methods commonly used in public health practice. This included qualitative inquiry, evaluation, survey methods, and risk assessment. The diversity of these approaches broadened my understanding of how public health research and practice are carried out in different settings. Learning how to assess risks, evaluate interventions, and interpret qualitative data has strengthened my research skills and will help in my future work, especially in my role as a policy officer. This subject has also highlighted the importance of applying the right methods to specific public health challenges and the role of evidence-based practices in policy-making.

In addition, I found Health Economics, Policy and Promotion to be the most engaging subject this semester. The course focused on the complex interplays of social, economic, environmental, and institutional factors and their influence on health outcomes. I was particularly interested in examining how an accessible, well-managed health care system can play a critical role in the prevention and management of sickness and also protecting and promoting population health. A key area of focus was comparing the health and health system effects of various strategies, evaluating how the best alternatives are chosen and financed given the constraints on resources. This subject was particularly relevant to my career, as it helped me better understand the broader context of health policy and the importance of making cost-effective, equitable decisions that enhance system performance.

Another important component of my semester was the MPH Capstone subject, where we explored a range of public health issues from interdisciplinary perspectives. This subject was largely student-led and focused on independent and collaborative study. Although challenging at times, I thoroughly enjoyed the group work. It gave me an opportunity to engage with peers from different disciplines and backgrounds, allowing for discussions and diverse viewpoints on the issues we were studying.

Outside of my studies, I also had the opportunity to again attend another Rotary dinner in Wollongong. It was wonderful to reconnect with other scholarship recipients and share my academic journey with the Rotary Club members. I enjoyed hearing about the current research that is happening at UOW.

Thank you once again for your ongoing support. I am excited to finish my master's degree and take the next steps in my career, equipped with a wealth of knowledge and the skills to make a meaningful impact in the field of public health.

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
12/02	J Erickson	N Watt	R Yeoman	13/02	5	14/02	1
19/02	D Simpson	R Yeoman	B Armessen	20/02	1	21/02	2
26/02	Di North	B Armessen	M Bracken	27/02	2	28/02	3
05/03	P Roberts	J Christensen	A Cachia	06/03	3	07/03	4
12/03	J Christensen	A Cachia	A Christensen	13/03	4	14/03	1
19/03	K Potter	A Christensen	J Christensen	20/03	5	21/03	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
Marilyn Phillips	Ken Potter	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 – Fit For Life Program: Members' Breakfast Schedule at the Snakepit Stadium - Gwynneville	
Thursday - TBA	TBA
Thursday - TBA	TBA
Thursday - TBA	TBA

Happy 120th anniversary, Rotary International!

Rotary started with the vision of one man — Paul Harris. The Chicago attorney formed the Rotary Club of Chicago on 23 February, 1905, so professionals with diverse backgrounds could exchange ideas and form meaningful, lifelong friendships.

Over time, Rotary's reach and vision gradually extended to humanitarian service. Members have a long track record of addressing challenges in their communities and around the world.

"Whatever Rotary may mean to us, to the world it will be known by the results it achieves." - Paul Harris

