



# Rotary Club of Tamworth First Light



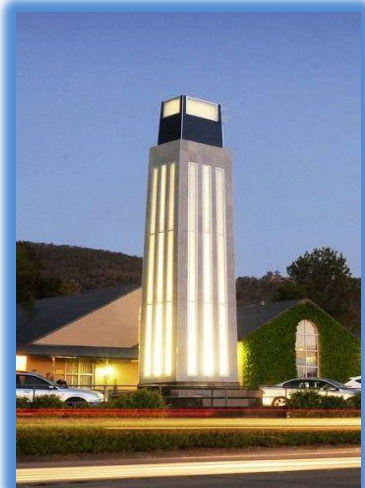
**2020 - 2021**

District Governor - [Debbie Loveday](#)

President: [Deb Barnes](#)

Secretary: [Sue O'Connor](#)

Treasurer: [Michael Smith](#)



**MEETING 1521**

**ISSUE 13**

**WEDNESDAY 23 September 2020**



*Wave burst at Sunrise - thank you David Hinwood*

# IMPORTANT DIARY DATES FOR 2020 - 2021

**Friday, 16.10.2020 – Our Club will be holding a Fundraiser Golf Day in Tamworth** please note in your diaries **NOW** – donations towards prizes for the day would be welcomed!

**Wed, 2 December 2020 – AGM** – start thinking whether you wish to stand for a position and have a chat with President Elect Marina Hearne!

**MAY 2021 RYLA CAMP AT KEEPIT DAM** - start looking for applicants NOW please!!

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## HOW IT WORKS:

- 1 x full page advert at a cost of \$3520 - commission payable = \$880  
An annual booking of a full page advert - commission payable = \$7108
- 1 x 1/2 page advert at a cost of \$2090 - commission payable = \$522  
An annual booking of a 1/2 page advert - commission payable = \$3932
- 1 x 1/4 page advert at a cost of \$1320 - commission payable = \$330  
An annual booking of a 1/4 page advert - commission payable = \$2420



*Guess Who is Coming for Dinner*

*Saturday 19.09.2020-*

*!!!Only photo received and it was upside down!!!*

*Mandy Fisher - Hostess*

*Brenda & Michael Smith*

*Deb Barnes, Liz Gill*

*Robyn & Phil Penman*

*Judy Farr*



## Quote of the Week

I think that's the single best piece of advice: constantly think about how you could be doing things better and questioning yourself.

Elon Musk

Dear Members and Friends

Thanks to Rod Laing for an interesting insight into how Wests managed through the Virus shutdown and how they have changed as a result. Rod explained how they had to “Reinvent, Renew and Reconnect”. Each business has been affected differently and it is interesting to listen to how organisations continue to cope.

I hope everyone gets to follow Liz’s “Sound Trails” in Walcha at some time before the heat arrives.

Thanks to everyone who was involved in GWICTD especially to the hosts for all your work but also to the guests for making it so much fun. We will be keen to hear some stories from each venue.

My quote for this week motivates us to question everything we do and look for a better way. We do many great things in this Club and have for many years, however the Covid virus has thrown a curveball at us and we need to consider new ways of doing things. Is there a way we can change to better fit the new circumstances? I need everyone to help as we each think in a different way. If you have an idea, please share with other members to see if we can make it happen.

I look forward to seeing you on Wednesday

**DEB BARNES**

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*Our choice for  
breakfast last  
week*



## **OUR GUEST SPEAKER WAS ROD LAING – CEO – WEST ENTERTAINMENT GROUP (WEG) ON “HOW TO REINVENT, RENEW AND RECONNECT A BUSINESS THROUGH A PANDEMIC”**

Introduced by David Hinwood

Thanked by Laurence Hearne

In March the Corona Virus Pandemic hit Australia and in mid-March – health order restrictions came into place limiting our Club's capacity to one person per 4sqm (which is 25% of our capacity) and our business declined by 60% overnight.

On Sunday 22 March the Prime Minister (PM) announced all hospitality venues would cease trading at midday on Monday 23 March. This resulted in management having to organise two staff meetings to inform 160 team members that they would be stood down without pay. The Board gave access to staff with long service and / or annual leave entitlements to cash them out, if they chose to do so.

This was the hardest thing I have ever had to do in my 34 years employed with this Group. This is when I discovered that so many of our staff lived from week to week with nothing saved – how would or could they cope? This resulted in a new project to assist these staff members by having staff market days where they could purchase essential items (including toilet paper) at cost price. We organised counselling and financial advice with advisors as well as employee relations access for all staff that needed help at no cost to them.

Next the Executive Team started the long process of shutting down the business and suspending fixed contracts such as Fox Sports, TAB, Keno – this proved a difficult task but we needed to also ensure that we could put everything back together when the time came to reopen. This also required meetings with our bankers who came to our aid and currently paying interest only but know this has to revert back as early as possible.

Lion Brewers deserve a special mention – they refunded all our untapped kegs - only to have to pour everything down the drain.

Fortunately, March was a strong trading month, cash flow was high – coupled with a recent operational review resulted in a massive reduction in operation expenses we finished in good shape – even with the 60% loss. The problem was unknown – where was the finish line – how long would we be closed – at our most stressful time – we had unexpected shining lights and the human spirit was one of these.

Up to 12 managers and staff returned to work for no pay – they were not asked – they just arrived – and the Hotel Mercure was the only part of our business actually trading.

We only had two staff on – difficult not knowing numbers of guests each day / week but two more staff returned plus my wife to ensure rooms were cleaned and ready for guest/s. This is the spirit that drives our business – people before profits and what can I do for my place of work.

In May many staff came back to work on pay to assist with the NS Warriors quarantine isolation camp. We were the only hotel open in Australia and made a profit in May - thanks to the Warriors. We were able to return our temporary visa holder chefs back to work – as they were unable to participate in JobSeeker etc. However, JobKeeper did assist our business as roughly 50% of our workforce were eligible employees.

Project REBOUND was our new project to lead us through the road to recovery – anticipating 1 July would be the start. A little-known fact is the NSW Government had chosen Wests to be one of seven NSW Clubs to trial a re-opening for our entire industry. This was planned for June until basically the evening of the trial – it was cancelled and our entire industry reopened on 1 June. We were given a deadline of four hours to write plans and procedures for a COVID safe reopening! WEG Management worked until 5:00AM one Friday and Saturday to ensure plans were rock solid. These plans and the experience we gained from the Warriors Camp are used throughout club-land – something we are very proud of today,



We worked very closely with NSW Health, the NRL and the Warriors to ensure reopening and the recent NRL game were successful.

Back to Project REBOUND. This Project allowed us to deal with how we would reopen – what will reopen and what services we could offer under the new normal.

- Reinvent** We took a long look at re-inventing our current member services and offers and investigated and introduced cost savings by implementing technology that was currently not on offer at WEG
- Renew** We are looking at ways to renew current club facilities at reduced costs by undertaking these works ourselves so that when members return, they will find a different place compared to when they left – a place that reflects “freshness”
- Reconnect** This is the essential part of this Project – the re-engagement of our membership through all communication channels and find different ways to re-connect with all members.

Today with current health restrictions limiting our trading – WEG has the capacity to serve over 3,000 patrons – limited to 300 – Diggers 191 and The Courts 88 patrons.

It was not a surprise to learn about the cancellation of the Tamworth Country Music Festival as we would not have been able to trade with the limited restrictions.

The new normal is looking at small Events – Brewfest will now be Beer Nights at the Royal for 200 instead of 3,000 patrons.

The fall-out from the Festival cancellation will be massive. Last January our profit was \$600K – overnight we lost \$60K in hotel revenue but under Project REBOUND we will adapt. The result of smaller Events is possible with Covid – it is like a piece of string – when will it end.

At our AGM in November we will be announcing a fairly substantial profit considering we were closed for nine weeks in the past financial year. This July – start of the new financial year we recorded a monthly profit of \$1.1M – July last year was \$215K – January was \$600K – we may have already had our Festival!

In closing – we can never thank enough – or forget – those companies and individuals that came to our aid during this crisis. We cannot forget our staff spirit – working for no pay for up to eight weeks after we had reopened – glad to confirm that all management except one have now returned to their full pay. That is the spirit to serve and can never be forgotten.

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*Rod Laing being thanked by  
Paul Stevenson*





**World Polio Day:** is a time for Rotarians and Rotaractors across the globe to raise awareness about our work to eradicate polio for good. If we stay committed to making progress, polio will be the second human disease ever to be eradicated.

In our fight to end polio, we've used our collective strength to defeat this devastating disease in almost every part of the world. This year, the World Health Organization's African region was certified free of wild poliovirus – showing that eradication is possible even in very difficult circumstances. Wild poliovirus still paralyzes children in Afghanistan and Pakistan, and as long as polio exists anywhere, it remains a threat everywhere.

### **Let's Take Action**

A polio-free world is possible, but we can achieve it only by taking action together. With the challenges to vaccination programs posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, it's even more crucial that Rotary continues to build awareness and raise funds for polio eradication.

Join the effort to vaccinate children and end polio by organizing a World Polio Day event for your community. In 2019, Rotary members held more than 5,900 events in 136 countries. This year, online events and activities will allow us to expand our reach even more and inspire others to join us.

### **African Region – Nigeria, Wild Poliovirus Free!**

It was so good to hear the great news that the African Region of Nigeria has been certified as Wild Poliovirus free. As Rotarians we should feel so very proud of helping to achieve this amazing milestone.



*Thank you to Robert Lewis & Quirindi Bulletin – great article re the **Elimination of wild Polio virus in Africa** – wonderful achievement – the maps provide an excellent reference to this achievement,*

**I HATE WHEN A COUPLE ARGUES IN PUBLIC AND I MISSED THE BEGINNING AND DON'T KNOW WHOSE SIDE I'M ON.**

## The Object of Rotary

The Object of Rotary is to encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise and, in particular, to encourage and foster:

- **FIRST.** The development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service;
- **SECOND.** High ethical standards in business and professions; the recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations; and the dignifying of each Rotarian's occupation as an opportunity to serve society;
- **THIRD.** The application of the ideal of service in each Rotarian's personal, business, and community life;
- **FOURTH.** The advancement of international understanding, goodwill, and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional persons united in the ideal of service.

## Rotary Grace

O Lord and giver of all good  
We thank Thee for our daily food  
May Rotary Friends and Rotary ways  
Help us to serve Thee all our days

### Tamworth—First Light

Meets Wednesday morning,  
6:30 for 7:00 am at  
The Events Centre  
Hotel Mercure  
TAMWORTH NSW 2340

### The Four-Way Test

**Of the things we think, say or do**

1. Is it the TRUTH?
2. Is it FAIR to all concerned?
3. Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
4. Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

### Other Clubs meet

**Monday PM – Tamworth West**  
**Tuesday PM - Tamworth**  
**Wednesday PM - Calala**  
**Friday AM – Sunrise**

Club Officers and contact details

**President—Deb Barnes**

[president@tamworthfirstlight.org.au](mailto:president@tamworthfirstlight.org.au)

**Secretary—Sue O'Connor**

[secretary@tamworthfirstlight.org.au](mailto:secretary@tamworthfirstlight.org.au)

**Treasurer – Michael Smith**



## WEEKLY ROSTER FOR BOTH CLUB AND POST OFFICE RAFFLES

	23 September 2020	30 September 2020	7 October 2020
<b>Topic</b>	<b>Bill Gleeson "Flying High" Hotel Mercure</b>	<b>Louise Matthews &amp; RYLArians Hotel Mercure</b>	<b>Mitch Gillogly Development in Tamworth Hotel Mercure</b>
<b>Sergeants</b>	Mandy Fisher Steve Martin	Mandy Fisher Steve Martin	Mandy Fisher Steve Martin
<b>Corporals</b>	Naomi Blakey Graham Dooley	Phil Penman John Rouvray	Dennis Johnson Brodie Shields
<b>Meeter &amp; Greeter</b>	Richard Hardwick	Peter Ryan	Val Hellmann
<b>Door Team</b>	Steve Hawkins Ian Howle	Richard Walker Laurence Hearne	Chris Watson Paul Stevenson
<b>President Assist</b>	Peter Leonard	Mitch Soree	Bruce Hemmett
<b>Visitor Assist</b>	Steve Massey	Ron Allen	Peter Bell
<b>Welcome</b>	Brian Logan	Brett White	John Treloar
<b>Bulletin Notes</b>	Phil Lyon	Barry Biffin	Marina Heame
<b>Introduction</b>	Phil Lyon	Barry Biffin	Marina Heame
<b>Vote of Thanks</b>	Glenn McIntosh	Terry Robinson	David Hinwood

### POST OFFICE RAFFLE – FRIDAYS - 6:00 – 7:00PM

25 September 2020	2 October 2020	9 October 2020	16 October 2020
Louise Matthews Peter Leonard	John Rouvray Richard Walker	Richard Walker Phil Knight	Phil Knight Brian Thompson

### BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES AND INDUCTIONS

<b>Members Birthdays</b>	Ian Howle (29/09);
<b>Partners Birthdays</b>	Pam Shields (09/29)
<b>Anniversaries</b>	Kerry & Dennis Johnson (48yrs – 23/09); Margaret & Phil Lyon (50yrs – 26/09); Lisa & James Treloar (12yrs – 27/09)
<b>Club Induction</b>	Ron Allen (29yrs – 25/09); Peter Leonard & Mitch Soree (3yrs – 27.09)

<b>Attendance</b>	89%
<b>Make-ups</b>	
<b>Visiting Rotarians</b>	NIL
<b>Visitors</b>	Bev Fletcher, Rod Laing (Guest Speaker)
<b>Heads &amp; Tails</b>	Glenn McIntosh
<b>Raffle</b>	Skinner

