



MEETING 1651 ISSUE 46 WEDNESDAY 17th May 2023



Rotary Year 2022 - 2023

District Governor	Neville Parsons
President:	Richard Hardwick
Secretary:	Vicki Cooper
Treasurer:	Dennis Maunder

Richard's Notes

Quote of the Week:

We cannot always build the future for our youth, but we can build our youth for the future.
-Franklin D. Roosevelt

Joke of the Week:

I have been recently telling everyone about the benefits of eating dry grapes.
It is all about Raisin Awareness.

And by popular demand, another joke of the week as per last week's bulletin:

I saw a man the other day heading up to the lookout pushing a trolley full of horseshoes, four leaf clover and rabbit's feet.
I thought to myself "wow he is really pushing his luck".

Our meeting this week was back at West's and numbers were a little low. This didn't dampen the spirits of Treasurer Dennis, with what can only be described as disturbing scenes of heading to the lectern to make an announcement, incorporating several "happy skips" along the way. No one can be that happy at 7.00am on a cold May morning.

Last Sunday saw another successful tree planting event on the western entrance to Tamworth and this now brings our total trees planted to 1000 trees for the Centenary of Rotary in Australia. Well done to the members on Sunday and the community members that attended and made the planting successful. I would also like to

acknowledge the efforts of Peter Ryan, who took on the activity almost 2 years ago and saw it through to the end with many helpers along the way from both inside and outside the club.

RYLA 23 wrapped up last Saturday with another successful year completed, RYLA Mum, Louise thanked club members for their support of the program. In particular, Treasurer Dennis for support at the dinner and Dimity and her trusty band of helpers for organising the dinner setup and table arrangements. We are all looking forward to this year's participants returning in 2 weeks to tell us of their journey.

Our guest speaker today, Emma Stilts from the Manilla Community Renewable Energy Inc, who brought us up to date on the current plan for the community solar farm on the outskirts of Manilla and how the community has the opportunity to buy into the proposal and benefit from an alternate power provider. Read more below.

Reminder that our meeting next week will be in the Green Room at the TRECC and a walk through of the North West Careers Expo.

Announcements:

- **North West Careers Expo – 16-17 May 2023**

The Careers Expo team are looking for assistance with the event:

- **Tuesday 16 May 2023 @ 9.00am for the setup stage**
- **Wednesday 17 May 2023 @ 2.00pm for the collapse stage**

If you can spare an hour or two on either of these days, we need the support. Currently we desperately need more people for Tuesday morning.

Please let Courtney know if you can assist via email courtney1priestley@gmail.com

- **May Golf Trip**

The golfers are back, and it sounds like they had it all, after experiencing 4 seasons in a day to finishing off the event with a fantastic sunny day. I don't think it helped with the quality of play but just something to talk about.

I also offer no apology for any offence my quote last week caused. Although I still think that golf is God's Game:

God, where did my ball go?

God, how slow are these guys up ahead?

God, these clubs are rubbish! and

God, where did that golf cart come from?

Well done to Deb Barnes and the Golf Committee on another successful event for Rotary.

- **Recyclable Collections**

Our fundraising through the Return & Earn Machines ceased on 23 Apr 2023 for direct donations through the local machines (excluding the bulk sorter in MacIntosh Street). All is not lost, if you wish to still collect and donate to the Club you can still cash in the bottles and cans and transfer across to our bank account (Just let Dennis know with a quick email).

Rotary News

Lots of great projects and activities have happened over the last few weeks, so lots to catch up on. Please check out the supplementary document distributed with this bulletin for a heap of extra pictures and details about our work!

- Tree planting project
- Golf Trip
- RYLA Dinner

Careers Expo (NWRCE) – HELP NEEDED!

We are in need of support for the North West Career Expo. There have been a record number of exhibitors this year and we need volunteers to come in and help with the setup and pack up activities.

The details are:

- **BUMP IN TEAM**
 - **Tuesday 16 May 2023 - 9.00am**
- **PACK UP TEAM**
 - **Wednesday 17 May 2023 - 2.00pm**

If you have some time to spare (even an hour) over these days, please let us know. We could use your assistance to ensure that the event runs successfully and thank you to those who have already expressed their availability on either the Tuesday or Wednesday at today's meeting.

We are currently undermanned on Tuesday, 16 May, so it will be the priority at this stage.

If you can assist, contact either Courtney Priestley courtney1priestley@gmail.com or Richard Hardwick richardhcherylt@gmail.com as soon as possible.

GUEST SPEAKER -

WORDS BY HANNAH WOODS

Today we had a presentation from Emma Stilts. Emma is the president of Manila Community Renewable Energy Inc. and came to provide us with an update on where they are up to with their renewable energy project, a solar farm to be based 3kms outside of Manila. Emma explained that she currently works for Climate outreach, and that both herself and the other committee members have a passion to build a community owned solar farm. Emma explained that the committee and working group was formed a decade ago with a focus on showing where the future could be, thinking about "what we want to see for our future and our kid's future". Emma told us a little about her life story, and what brought her back to Tamworth noting that after growing up here she travelled overseas to the UK where she met her husband before moving back to Sydney and travelling around Australia. Emma expressed that when her husband and herself wanted to settle down they decided that Tamworth and the region was the best spot for it.



Emma reflected on their project, and noted that they currently have 100 members who are choosing the energy provider energy locals that gives back to ensuring the project gets some traction. Emma explained that they are looking to construct a 4.95-megawatt solar farm with over 15,000 solar panels and that their aim is to raise capital in the community to make electricity cheaper for the community. Emma noted that MCRE is passionate about involving the local community and ensuring that local businesses are a part of the process. Emma explained that in their planning stages the MCRE team have identified that it isn't just about the solar panels in isolation, but that consideration has also been given to what habitat they can build, and making a more sustainable area for the community.

Emma expressed that MCRE will be doing two waves of "sales" of shares in the solar farm, with both rounds consisting of 1000 lots. Emma talked about their evolution as a committee and how they have reverted back to a grassroots approach to ensure that there is community consultation and involvement. Emma noted that they have moved away from their previous development partner to take control of the project entity and this means that MCRE will control the ownership and output of the solar farm. Emma expressed that this has a number of co-benefits, ensures the project is community focused whilst looking at local economic development, social and cultural return.

Emma spoke to the financial side of the project, and gave an overview of the grants and funding the MCRE team has received so far. Of note, Emma mentioned the 2015 growing community energy grant that was attached to a feasibility study. Emma then explained their process behind the 100-mile dinners, taking us back to the original dinner with Simon Holmes a Court. Emma spoke of the Regional Community Energy Fund, which is one of the biggest grants they have at 3.5 million and that with a further grant through the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal they were able to run workshops over 3 days for 300 students in an event titled "Renewable Manila". Emma expressed that as a result of this project they would like to see the money be given back to supporting those locally through a community benefit fund, as well as potentially cheaper electricity for those less fortunate in their community.

The MCRE group is now currently getting their ducks in a row to ensure they are ready to start fundraising. They are looking forward to their future endeavours and planning their project!

Emma was thanked by Mitchell Soree, photography by President Richard.

Funny Corner

THE 90'S



Can you find 9 bands from the '90s in this picture?

Bonus points to whoever can name all 9 bands- email me!

Remember in 1991 when you were “too sexy” for your shirt, your cat, your car, your hat and literally everything?



denisemarita02021

Rotary Events Calendar	Date
▪ NWRCE (AKA Careers Expo)	▪ 16 & 17 May
▪ Rotary International Convention – Melbourne	▪ 27 – 31 May 2023 (register now)
▪ First Light Changeover	▪ Saturday 17th June 2023
▪	▪

Social Calendar	Date
• Post Office Raffles Social Night	• 3 rd Friday of the Month (19.05.2023)
• Jamaica Blue Coffee	• Wednesdays, 8:15am

Tamworth First Light Website - <https://www.tamworthfirstlight.org.au/>

Our Club Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/tamworthfirstlightrotary>

Member Portal Link: <https://www.dacdb.com/> (This one lets you find phone numbers for other members!!!)

Board Members	
President - Richard Hardwick	Secretary - Vicki Cooper
Treasurer - Dennis Maunder	Executive Secretary - Brodie Shields
Club Admin - Liz Gill	Membership - Louise Mathews
Public Relations - Peter Bell	Community Service - Steve Martin
Youth - Dimity Betts	Rotary Foundation - Steve Hawkins

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.

Tamworth - First Light

Meets each Wednesday

6:30 for 7:00 am

West League Club

Chillingworth Room

Phillip Street

South Tamworth

Club Officers and contact details

[President — Richard Hardwick](#)

[Secretary — Vicki Cooper](#)

[Treasurer – Dennis Maunder](#)

Other Clubs meet:

Monday PM – Tamworth West

Tuesday PM – Tamworth

Wednesday PM - Calala

Friday AM - Sunrise

Seven Areas of Focus



PEACEBUILDING AND
CONFLICT PREVENTION



DISEASE PREVENTION
AND TREATMENT



WATER, SANITATION,
AND HYGIENE



MATERNAL AND
CHILD HEALTH



BASIC EDUCATION
AND LITERACY



COMMUNITY ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT



ENVIRONMENT

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

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?

	17 th May	24 th May	31 st May	7 th June
Topic	Cotton Australia-Careers Expo, and the Cotton Industry	RYLA Graduates 2023	Member Personal Profile	TBA
Location	TRECC	Wests	Wests	Wests
Guest speaker	Jenny Hughes (Cotton Australia)	Louise and RYLA	Charlotte Moore	TBA
Sergeant	Mal Turnbull	Mal Turnbull	Mal Turnbull	Mal Turnbull
Corporals	Bruce Hemmett Steve Martin	Glenn McIntosh Michael Smith	Terry Robinson Sue O'Connor	Dennis Maunder Val Hellman
Meeter & Greeter	Terry Robinson	Deb Barnes	Brett White	Nina Wrathall
Door Team	Richard Walker Peter Bell	Barry Biffin Bruce Hemmett	Deb Barnes Alice Elsley	Barry Biffin Charlotte Moore
President Assist	John Rouvray	Hugh Raadgever	Peter Ryan	Courtney Priestley
Visitor Assist	Dimity Betts	Brodie Shields	Stephen Massey	Peter Bell
Welcome	Barry Biffin	Paul Stevenson	Barry Biffin	Izaak Ewin
Bulletin Notes & Introduction	Phil Penman	Louise Matthews	Hugh Raadgever	Alice Elsley
Vote of Thanks	Naomi Blakey	Luke Massey	Bruce Hemmett	Bev Fletcher

*Denotes a change. Roster roles are randomly assigned. If you cannot commit to a rostered duty for your club, please speak to your fellow Rotarians to arrange a replacement and let Mitch know for the next bulletin instalment.

POST OFFICE RAFFLE – FRIDAYS - 6:00 – 7:00PM				
19 th May	26 th May	2 nd June	9 th June	16 th June
Liz Gill Terry Robinson	Terry Robinson Nina Wrathall	Nina Wrathall Glenn McIntosh	Glenn McIntosh Graham Dooley	Graham Dooley Hugh Raadgever

BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES, AND INDUCTIONS			
Members Birthdays	Laurence Heame 18/5		
Partners Birthdays	Les Jacob 17/5, Julie Hemmett 22/5		
Anniversaries	Peter Bell 17/5, Val and Tom Hellman 22/5, Anne and Les Jacob 19/5		
Club Induction	Barry Biffin 26yrs, Steve Martin 4yrs		
Attendance	64%	Lolly Jar Raffle	Skinner
Make-Ups	NBil	Heads and Tails	Glenn McIntosh
Visiting Rotarians	Nil		
Visitors	Nil		



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SUPPLEMENT: TREE PLANTING PROJECT

For those following along, RCTFL has been on a journey to plant 1000 trees for 100 years of Rotary.

Through the guidance of Peter Ryan, his team of experts, and a large number of our very energetic club members, we have successfully met our goal, and are continuing to green our town through planting native species throughout our streets, parks, and walkways.

The most recent planting introduced 190 trees to our community. The club was fortunate enough to have some additional help from the Multicultural Tamworth organisation, with plenty of hands available to make the work go smoothly.

For funding, Regional Australia Bank has provided a grant of \$2000 for even more trees! The installation of a new park bench amongst our trees has also been confirmed for Electra Park, which should be due to be completed soon.

Overall, our success rate for trees surviving the planting stage is 97% - representing a huge success for the ongoing legacy of this project into the future. In the early days of growth, RCTFL members who have been involved in the watering and upkeep of the trees have greatly helped us achieve this success rate- thanks to all members involved.



Hugh giving president Richard a bonk on the head as punishment for 12 months of bad jokes.















Golf Trip

WORDS BY MITCH SOREE, INTERVIEW WITH DEB BARNES.

RCTFL members and friends recently embarked on the annual golf trip sun 7/5, to Tues 9/5. This year, the golf committee was hard at work and again delivered a successful event, with 29 total attendees, including 9 members, and 8 people attending the event for their first time 'on tour'.

The golfers endured rain, (actual) hail, and shine on Sunday playing the Cypress Lakes course in the Hunter Valley. The final 2 days were spent at The Vintage course, also in the Hunter Valley, which was cursed by cold weather on Monday, but this was redeemed with ideal conditions on Tuesday.

18 holes were played per day, with the luxury of golf buggies in lieu of caddies- I'm told that unlike caddies, golf buggies, cannot count, criticise, or laugh.

Honourable mention to Vicky Cooper who got a 5 P's- encouragement award. I'm told this is golfing lingo for something special. Overall scores were low on the event- we shall blame the weather, and unfamiliarity with the courses. Needless to say, no talent scouts gave any invites to the St Andrews or the Masters during this event.

Members upheld the Rotary spirit on the course with no notable incidents, or DUI's out on the green, however the bar was adequately held up on the evenings. Im sure that what happens on golf trip, stays at golf trip, but no doubt my source is just being modest, under-reporting all of the birdies, holes in one, etc.

Sadly, my experience with golf is a 10km walk, punctuated with disappointment.

For anyone considering attending next year, you can look forward to a number of great days away, meet new members and friends, play with different people on great courses. The rotary first light golf committee people would love to see you come along. Next year will be held at Bonville – near Coffs Harbour.



RYLA Dinner – 03.05.2023

NOTES BY LOUISE MATTHEWS, PICTURES BY DEB BARNES, AND LANCE FLETCHER

The RYLA dinner and event was a huge success.

41 youth attended RYLA, with RCTFL nominating 6 rylarians for the camp. In addition, RCTFL had 3 leaders, plus mum Louise. All in all, 10 from RCTFL, representing a 25% representation! At the Keepit event

Our RYLARIANS were - Janarri (Terry Burgess scholarship), Lachlan (Nominated by Peter Bell's club person of the year recipient), 3x from Tamworth Regional Council, and 1 x Joblink plus- making 4 corporate sponsored nominees.



Janarri giving the Welcome to Country



Joe Murphy, from TRC, being the emcee for the night.



Group national Anthem on stage





Jermain, DJ, and Hannah



Pauline Carrigan (where there's a will), and Deb Barnes, RCTFL



Hannah, Immy (Narrabri), Ben.