

Tamworth First Light

The Bulletin

Issue 4 | 10 July 2024 | Meeting 1709

This Week

- See Sue's notes for requests for volunteers

10 July RSVP Link:
Click Me

**Send in your
photos to Marina**



Rotary Year 2024 - 2025

RI President: Stephanie Urchick

District Governor: Bruce George

President: Sue O'Connor

Secretary: Courtney Priestley

Treasurer: Dennis Maunder

Sue's Spark of Rotary Inspiration

Quote of the Week: Before you criticise someone, walk a mile in their shoes, that way you will be a mile away and they will not have any shoes.

Joke of the Week: Joker card – thanks Richard!

Notices:

- Peter Ryan explained the Kickstarter Challenge funding opportunity. Talk to Peter if you know of anyone who may be interested.
- Naomi spoke of the Community Garden monthly meeting at 1pm Friday at TCBC. Also there's silverbeet, kale and rocket in abundance at the community garden that anyone is welcome to go and pick.
- Dolly Parton Imagination Library 5 Year Milestone Celebration: Wednesday, 10th July 10am -1pm at TRECC, gold coin entry. Take your children or grandchildren along dressed as their favourite book character!
- NAIDOC Family Fun Day, we generally support the Sunrise Club with the BBQ: Friday 12th July, 8.30am – 3.30pm, at Bicentennial Park. Interactors will also be included. Please let me know if you can help out by doing a shift 8.30 – 10.30, 10.30 – 12.30, 12.30 – 2.30 or 2.30 – 3.30 for cleanup.
- myTRC Volunteer Connect Expo: Sunday 14th July, 8.30am-11.00am, at the Town Hall. This is an opportunity to showcase our club and also Interact. Please let me know if you can come along help with our stall.
- MHERV Van Visit: 16th -17th August at Bunnings. We are working toward running a fundraising Bunnings BBQ (possibly 4th August) as MHERV has lost their major sponsor, and also an awareness raising table at Bunnings the following weekend, in conjunction with the other Rotary clubs. Thank you to Brian and Richard who have offered to coordinate MHERV.

Guest Speakers: Lesley Lamb, from Timbumburi P.S. spoke about the issues of teacher shortages and low teacher retention rates in rural schools. She then spoke about her recent research trip to USA to look at how these issues are being tackled there. A very interesting presentation.

Sue O'Connor
President 2024/ 2025

Rotary News

A new Rotary Year
Meet our RI President
Stephanie Urchick

THE MAGIC OF ROTARY



Rotary is at its best when we foster a sense of inclusion and belonging in our clubs. In fact, I would go so far as to say that belonging is *The Magic of Rotary* itself.

With a focus on inclusivity and belonging, it is easier to be united in a common purpose. When we are committed to one another and focused on our goals, we are most effective.

Rotary's Action Plan can help. The Action Plan comes with tools you can use to collect feedback, assess your club's strengths and weaknesses, and address challenges.

The world is changing, and our clubs can't afford to stand still. But the changes we make need to be consistent and strategic – building on one another towards a greater vision. The Action Plan can help you work towards that vision and create effective change within your club. Following the Action Plan and addressing suggestions from the community will go a long way to fostering the

sense of belonging we want all Rotary members to feel in their clubs.

That's why expanding our commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion is so important. Committing ourselves to each other's wellbeing is the first step to expanding our reach, allowing us to spread Positive Peace in these troubled times. Peacebuilding is one of our top priorities, and one of the most effective ways we can build peace is with our Rotary Peace Fellowships, through which peace and development professionals learn how to prevent and end conflict.

We offer the fellowships through our Rotary Peace Centres at leading universities around the globe, where more than 1,800 Rotary Peace Fellows have graduated. And thanks to a \$15.5 million gift from the Otto and Fran Walter Foundation, we can continue supporting peacebuilders in more regions with the next peace centre at Bahçeşehir University in Istanbul.

Opening another peace centre is a monumental

achievement, and it is my great honour to invite you to celebrate at next year's Rotary Presidential Peace Conference at the Istanbul centre. The three-day conference, February 20-22, will highlight the many ways our family of Rotary advances peacebuilding. Registration for the conference is officially open. I hope to see you there.

The 2025 Rotary Presidential Peace Conference has great potential for our peacebuilding efforts – but only if we have your support.

The truth is, we're not going to bring peace to the world, end polio, or grow membership by waving a wand and saying some funny words. It's up to you. You create the magic with every project completed, every dollar donated, and every new member inducted.

I love my Rotary family and I know you do too. That's why I know that together, we can make every club and district simply irresistible. This year, let us change the world by embracing *The Magic of Rotary*. RIU



It's time to celebrate five years of Dolly Parton's Imagination Library



You're invited to join us to celebrate our five year milestone of Dolly Parton's Imagination Library being part of the Tamworth Local Government Area.

Come dressed as your favourite book character - there will be best-dressed prizes and all sorts of fun including face painting, craft, music and much more. Morning tea and/or lunch will also be available for purchase.

Date: Wednesday, 10 July 2024

Time: 10am – 1pm

**Place: TRECC, Greg Norman Drive,
Hillvue NSW 2340**

If you would like to join in on all the fun, please register here - <https://www.tamworth.nsw.gov.au/DPIL-5years> RSVP to attend.

Don't forget your gold coin donation at the door.



Guest Speaker - Lesley Lamb

Leslie recently completed a Premier's scholarship research trip looking into teaching best practice and how to retain staff in remote and rural areas whilst ensuring equitable education for students.

Leslie has been teaching for 32 years, has lived in Tamworth for the past 14 years and across her career has taught in multi states, a mix of independent and state schools and in regional/remote areas.

She currently teaches at Timbumburi and Tintinhull schools.

Across her life Leslie went to a small school and has taught in small and remote schools.

Rural and especially remote schools:

- Find it difficult to provide quality education, leading to lower results.
- The areas tend to have higher youth unemployment and mental health issues.
- example - NAPLAN results are much lower in regional and remote areas.

Rural and remote areas in NSW can attract teacher but have issues retaining the teachers:

- There are currently 3000 vacancies across NSW (42% of the required teachers)
- 9800 lessons performed without a teacher
- 87% of NSW schools are affected by the teacher shortages

On the 4th of May Leslie started her travels to the US to interview and research staff and professionals from across remote areas of the US and into Canada. As part of the research Leslie was able to complete online interviews as well as travelling to areas in Australia as well.

Some of the findings and examples from Leslie's research:

- The issue of remote teacher retention isn't just an Australia issue however, Australia is unique because of the higher proportion of remote schools (due to our geography and population spread compared to the US where there are larger cities in remote areas).

- It was commonly found that financial incentives alone don't work. A lot of urban teachers struggle with the social and geographical isolation of relocation and students who go to the city to study often then stay and teach in the city. (In NSW they currently offer a \$20k sign on bonus for anyone relocating).

- Colorado example - at the Colorado Centre for Rural Education they offer a stipend of \$4k per month to ensure that students completing their placement in remote areas aren't negatively affected financially by leaving existing part time jobs during the placement period. In Australia this isn't done which means that to complete a placement in a regional/remote area a student will need to leave a part time/casual job and live off savings for the placement period or complete a placement close to where they are studying.

- At a school in NSW they have a 'Welcome Experience' whereby a councillor of sorts is assigned to help the person settle into and merge into the town's life through support finding a home, sports teams, social groups etc.

- In Calgary, individuals who already work in schools but in admin roles are invited to study teaching to encourage teachers from the region to stay in the region. Essentially a pathway to an education degree. In NSW this is mimicked through the 'Grow Your Own' scheme.

- In Boston Leslie met with Dr Michael O'Conner, who works to bring remote teachers together online and in person to ensure that they are provided with mentoring and professional development.

- Leslie had a school visit to California High desert school which is 2 hrs from LA and in a very remote area.

Some other issues that relate to regional/remote living include the availability and cost of housing (especially when minimal housing is available in regional areas). In city areas there is a similar issue but associated more with cost of housing near schools.

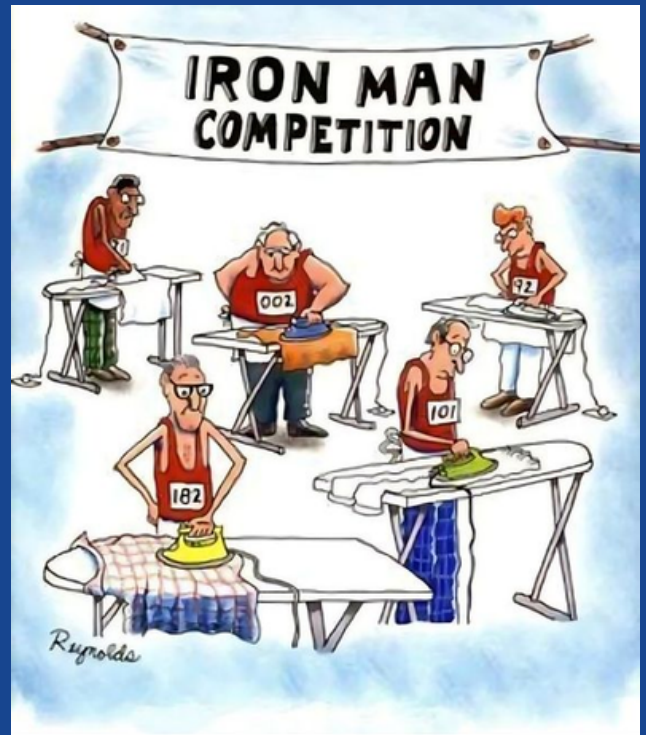
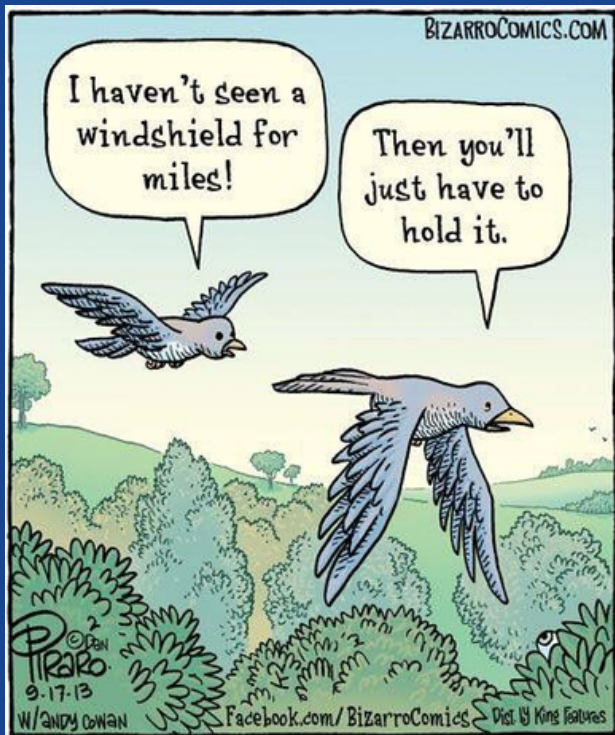
Leslie will complete a report and present it at the UNSW on the \$15k provided and five weeks she spent travelling and investigating issues around remote teaching.

Leslie had a wonderful time travelling and sightseeing everywhere she went as well as taking the opportunity to see family.

Notes by Naomi Blakey

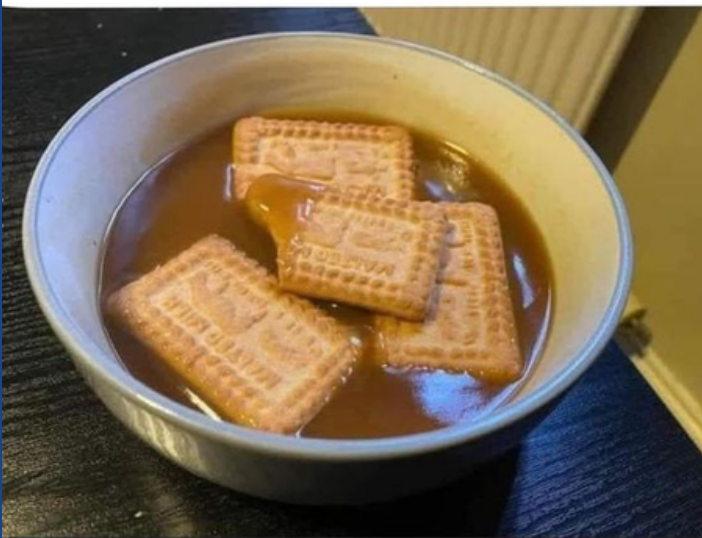


The Funny Elbow



My brain just logged me out due to inactivity and now I can't remember my password.

This is what I think when Americans say biscuits and gravy



Important Info

[Tamworth First Light Webpage](#)

[District 9660 Webpage](#)

[Rotary International Link](#)

[DACdb Link](#)

Calendar

ASSISTANCE REQUIRED:

12 JULY 2024 - NAIDOC BBQ

14 JULY 2024 - MY TRC VOLUNTEER EXPO

4 AUGUST 2024 - POSSIBLE BUNNINGS BBQ

16-17 AUGUST 2024 - MERV

Roster

Date	10 July	17 July	24 July
Topic	Open Water Swimming	Personal Profiles	United Disability Inclusion
Location	Tamworth City Bowlo	Tamworth City Bowlo	Tamworth City Bowlo
Guest Speaker	Marcus Ryan	Vangel & Jo	Yvette Humphrys
Sergeant	James Treloar & Paul Stevenson	James Treloar & Paul Stevenson	James Treloar & Paul Stevenson
Corporal	Joanne Lewis	Steve Martin	Bev Fletcher
Meeter & Greeter	Diane Petterson	Peter Johnston	Vangel Christov
Door Team	Terry Robinson Glenn McIntosh	Alice Elsely Mitch Soree	Louise Matthews Hugh Raadgever
President Assist	Michael Smith	Dimity Betts	Peter Leonard
Guest Speaker Intro & Visitor Assist	Steve Hawkins	Luke Massey	Richard Hardwick
Bulletin Notes Vote of Thanks	Brian Logan	Vicki Cooper	Charlotte Moore

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

12th July	19th July	26 July	2 Aug
Hannah Woods Peter Bell	Peter Bell Brett White	Brett White Michael Smith	Michael Smith Steve Hawkins

Birthday, Anniversaries, and Inductions

Members Birthdays	Barry Biffin 12/7, and MICHAEL SMITH IS BACK!! 15/7
Partners Birthdays	Leigh Howle 12/7, and Sue Robinson 15/7
Club Inductions	Nil
Anniversaries	Nil

Attendance	61%
Visiting Rotarians	Simon Guest – RC Tamworth West
Visitors	Lesley Lamb – Guest Speaker
Heads and Tails	Terry Robinson
Chook Raffle	John Rouvray