



## *Rotary Club of Tamworth First Light*

**2018-19**

**District Governor:** Lorraine Coffey

**President:** John Worldon

**Secretary:** Liz Gill

**Treasurer:** Deb Barnes



**MEETING 1449**

**WEDNESDAY 1 MAY 2019**



*Sunrise on the Kimberley - thank you David Hinwood*

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## 2019 DIARY DATES TO REMEMBER – (Computer or Paper)

**08.05.2019 – Wednesday Vocational Meeting at the new  
Mercure Function Room – entrance via Mercure Motel  
carpark via Park or Kent Streets  
Rod Laing will be the guest speaker**

**09.05.2019 Thursday evening Fundraiser time 6:30 for 7:00PM – an  
entertaining movie called “POMS” to raise funds for Microlend, Tamworth**

(an organisation who help the poor and impoverished in the Mt Hagen region in PNG to set up business enterprises so that they can enjoy basic human rights, better living standards and become self-sustaining)

**“POMS”** is an entertaining, funny movie that proves you are never too old to “bring or wing it”!!!

**Please contact Lesley Hood – 0402 470 572 – or purchase tickets from Lesley at a  
cost of \$20.00 per person at either of the next two Wednesday meetings.**

**15.05.2019 - Wednesday – Careers Expo –  
BREAKFAST AT TRECC – 6:45AM**

**15.06.2019 – Saturday – Club Changeover**

**29.06.2019 – Saturday – D9650 Changeover**

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### *Quotation*

*The loss of India would mark and consummate  
the downfall of the British Empire. The great  
organism would pass at a stroke out of life into  
history. From such a catastrophe there could  
be no recovery.*

*Winston Churchill*

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**Quote of the Week**

*'For those unselfish heroes who have given everything for us -  
you will never be forgotten'*

Anon

## **WORLD'S WEEK IN ROTARY 24 APRIL 2019**

Wally Franklin delivered a memorable address to our Club this week, about his service time in Vietnam and life afterwards. His presentation will impact upon myself forever, and the meaning and significance of Anzac Day.

Visiting Rotarian Sue from Gerringong seemed to enjoy her experience at our Club meeting. She did comment how good it was to see the excellent rollup of Family and Friends at the meeting - and of course I had to agree with her!

Please be encouraged to offer your assistance to Marina and her Team for the upcoming Careers Expo.

**John Worldon**

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*Interesting pictures - lots of patience  
required for the perfect photos...*

## ANZAC DAY - GUEST SPEAKER WALLY FRANKLIN OAM

Wally has lived in Tamworth for over 30 years and is very active in the community especially in the area of sport. Wally received the NSW Citizen of the Year Award three years ago and this was followed up with an Order of Australia Medal (OAM). Wally is currently on the board of the Academy of Sport.

Wally enlisted into the Australian Army in the late 1960's into Royal Australian Artillery (RAA) and was deployed to Vietnam in 1968 as part of the 131 Divisional Locating Battery, Wally had just turned 19 years old.

Wally stayed in Vietnam until January 1969 and during this time was part of the Battle of Coral – Balmoral. Fire Support Bases (FSB) Coral – Balmoral were located in Binh Dương Province and was first attacked by a significantly larger force of North Vietnamese Army (NVA) units. On the evening of 12 May 1968, the NVA launched a number of battalion sized assaults on FSB Coral. At one point during this assault the FSB was partially over-run resulting in the forward gun being captured. On 16 May 1968 the NVA assaulted FSB Coral with a regiment sized attack and again this was repelled by the Australian Forces and the NVA suffered heavy losses. Overall the Battle for Coral – Balmoral lasted 26 days. The units involved have only recently been acknowledged for this action and have been awarded both Unit and Individual Citations for Gallantry for the actions taken throughout this battle.

After Wally had completed his time in Vietnam he returned to Australia and things were not good. Advised not to wear their uniforms in public and avoid areas such as bars and pubs. Wally found it difficult and decided to return home to Rockhampton to see his family. Wally remembers going to the meatworks to visit his brother, who met him just inside the gate telling him he had to leave because the entire plant had just gone on strike due to him being there. Wally went to the pub to wait for his brother and was treated horribly by patrons, being spat at and called baby killer. This type of treatment was to continue for Wally and others who had gone to fight in Vietnam and was being pushed by the union movement within Australia. Wally spoke about how he had sought treatment in mental hospitals post-Vietnam and how difficult it was to understand the treatment he and others received.



FSB Coral - Binh Dương Province (1968)



105mm Field Gun

Wally spoke of how family support was one of the things that kept him strong but also spoke of others who succumbed to the effects of both the war and the treatment they received on their return home and some committed suicide. Wally spends his time supporting others from more recent conflicts and has a strong passion for looking after each other when times are tough.

Thank you – Richard Hardwick



Introduced by Richard Hardwick and thanked by Brian Logan (both returned Defence Personnel)

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Just a few points out of many that stood out in this talk.

- First time Wally has ever spoken to a group about his experiences in Vietnam and worse was to come when he, and others, returned to Australia – that took courage to speak today.
- 1966 – Battle of Long Tan – possibly the only battle that Australians are aware of and involved experienced soldiers
- 1968 – Battle of Coral – Balmoral had the heaviest action by far of the entire Vietnam war and lasted 26 days of pure hell with underprepared recruits with little to no time to prepare their dugouts before the actual battle against a fully trained battalion began and has only recently been acknowledged by the Federal Government

Questions asked

Q Why or what created this change throughout Australia against Vietnam Return Soldiers?

A Basically the Unions – Australia Post would not forward letters to the Defence Force members in Vietnam as an example

Q Were your parents supportive upon your return?

A Yes – my father died at the age of 29 and our mother raised six children on her own.

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*Quotation*

*I have only managed to live so long by carrying no hatreds.*

*Winston Churchill*

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Vice-President Elizabeth (Liz) Gill leading the March with President Roy Westfold to the Memorial

The new Memorial waiting for the service and dedication



Some of the crowd in attendance (including the Tamworth contingent) at the Walcha Anzac Day Service and the dedication of the new Memorial

Kevin Anderson MP with Roy Westfold – President Returned Services Eric Noakes – Mayor of Walcha and Elizabeth (Liz) Gill – Vice-President Returned Services after the cutting of the ribbon and the Dedication of the new, beautiful sandstone monument was completed





The young piper - Eric O'Keefe – attends Scots in Sydney



General photos of the crowds who attended the Service – highlighting how beautiful Walcha is during Autumn – definitely worth a drive to Walcha, see the Memorials, have lunch and return home



Photos courtesy of The NorthernDaily Leader



**Gamble  
The**



**Night Away at**

**The Sunrise Rotary Club  
Casino Royale Ball**

**Saturday May 18th 2019**

**Tamworth Town Hall**

**7:00pm to Midnight**



**\$65:00 per head**

**for a table of 12**

**BYO Drinks and nibbles**



**Full selection of gaming tables followed by  
dancing to 2340 Big Band**

**All ticket enquiries to [gouville@tpg.com.au](mailto:gouville@tpg.com.au)**



	1 May	8 May	15 May
<b>Topic</b>	<b>RYLA Participants</b>	<b>Vocational Visit Mercure Motel Rod Laing - Speaker</b>	<b>Careers Expo – TRECC Breakfast</b>
<b>Door Team</b>	Mandy Fisher Phil Lyon	Chris Watson James Treloar	Phil Knight Ian Howle
<b>Meeter &amp; Greeter</b>	Barry Biffin	Les Jacob	
<b>Welcome</b>	Dwone Jones	Helen Tickle	
<b>President Assist</b>	Bruce Hemmett	Brett White	
<b>Visitor Assist</b>	Laurence Heame	Michael Smith	
<b>Corporal Assist</b>	Paul Stevenson	Val Hellman	
<b>Bulletin Notes</b>	Terry Robinson	Paul Crosby	
<b>Introduction</b>	Terry Robinson	Paul Crosby	
<b>Vote of Thanks</b>	Louise Matthews	Mitch Soree	
<b>PO Raffle</b>	<b>3 May</b>	<b>10 May</b>	<b>17 May</b>
at 6:30 PM	Terry Robinson Brett White	Phil Penman Laurence Heame	Phil Penman Steve Massey
<b>24 May</b>	<b>31 May</b>	<b>7 June</b>	<b>14 June</b>
Steve Massey Glenn McIntosh	Glenn McIntosh John Rouvray	John Rouvray Sue O'Connor	Sue O'Connor John Treloar
<b>Corporals for May</b>		<b>Corporals for June</b>	
Val Hellmann & Dennis Maunder		Lesley Hood & Steve Massey	
<b>Birthdays and Anniversaries and Inductions</b>			
<b>Members Birthdays</b>	Mitch Soree (02.05)		
<b>Partners Birthdays</b>	Gloria O'Connor (07.05)		
<b>Anniversaries</b>	Debbie & Peter Leonard (34yrs – 04.05)		
<b>Club Induction</b>	Peter Hyde (11yrs – 07.05)		
<b>Attendance</b>	81%		
<b>Make-Ups</b>			
<b>Visiting Rotarians</b>	Steve Martin, Sue McGilvray		
<b>Visitors</b>	James & Marcus Ryan, Sarah Massey, Robyn Penman, Lyndall Horsfeld, Hayley Warden		
<b>Heads &amp; Tails</b>	?		
<b>Raffle</b>	?		

## 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  
West's Diggers  
Kable Avenue  
TAMWORTH NSW 2340  
Phone: 02 6766 4661

### 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**  
**Tuesday**  
**Wednesday**  
**Friday**

Club Officers and contact details

**President—John Worldon**

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

**Secretary—Liz Gill**

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

**Treasurer – Deb Barnes**