



Rotary Club of Tamworth First Light



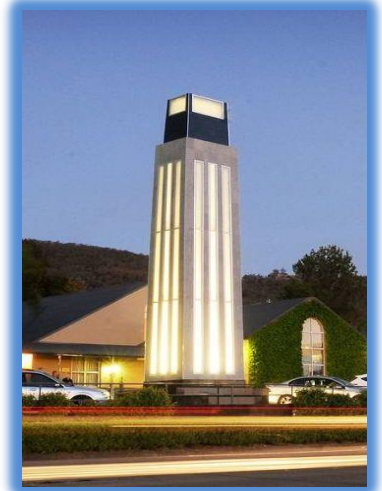
2019-2020

District Governor [Phil Hafey](#)

President: [Barry Biffin](#)

Secretary: [Liz Gill](#)

Treasurer: [Deb Barnes](#)



MEETING 1467

WEDNESDAY 11 SEPTEMBER 2019



Mum, Dad and the kids – lovely shot – thank you David Hinwood

IMPORTANT DIARY DATES **2019**

Wednesday, 18 September – Polio Movie – “Ride Like a Girl” – Family movie first female jockey to win the Melbourne Cup

Saturday 23 & Sunday 24 November 2019 –

Rotary D9650 2019 Showcase Weekend at Tamworth

Friday, 29 November

“Rotary charity golf day”

Looking for players, BBQ helpers and sponsors for the day

Similar format to last year, teeing off at lunchtime with drinks and presentation afterwards

2020

17 – 22 March 2020 Science & Engineering Challenge

20 – 22 March 2020 – D9650 Annual Conference at South West Rocks – book early!

02 – 09 May DISTRICT 9650 RYLA 2020 – Lake Keepit Sport & Recreation Centre
RYLA Dinner Wed 6th May

Saturday, 26 June 2020 -D9650 Changeover

Mitch Soree is our Public Relations Director this year –please don't forget to provide Mitch with details about upcoming events, stories, happenings – he likes jotting down notes and can be contacted on **0401 719 332** or mitchell.soree@gmail.com

Amazing photo – looks like a meteor landed millions of years ago

Thank you – Rob Clifton



Quote of the Week

*Singing in the shower is all fun and games
Until you get shampoo in your mouth....
Then it becomes a soap opera!*

Anon

BARRY'S BRIEFINGS

WEDNESDAY, 4 SEPTEMBER 2019

Again, what an interesting meeting with a presentation by one of our own –Bruce Hemmett.

Reminder that there is a board meeting next Tuesday so, if you have something that you would like to be discussed by the board please let Liz or myself know or speak with the relevant Director

Next week is or DG Phil Hafey and Bronwyn's visit – this would be an appropriate meeting to invite partners and friends and prospective members along

Thank-you again to the Penman's for their hospitality and to our social committee led by Michael Smith for the "**Bonfire & Pizza**" night – it was a great night and the bonfire was a beauty! For those who were unable to attend – try to make the next social event – you missed a fun event!

Our Polio Movie – "**Ride Like a Girl**" is getting closer – please make sure you purchase tickets - \$20 per person – bring along friends and children – it is a family film and it is officially launching in a fortnight's time – we are just ahead of the crowd!

Westpac Helicopter Charity Bike Ride commences next Friday – from Coffs Harbour via Port Macquarie and back to Tamworth. **Malcolm Smith** is going on this ride once more – this year he is fitter and leaner and really ready for this Challenge. It is a charity ride so this is the link to donate to Michael <https://2019rideforthechopper.gofundraise.com.au/page/MichaelSmith21>

See you all next week
BARRY BIFFIN

WTF fun fact #9132

In 2001 India started building roads that hold together using polymer glues made from shredded plastic wastes. These plastic roads have developed no potholes and cracks after years of use, and they are cheaper to build. As of 2016, there are more than 21,000 miles of plastic roads.



GUEST SPEAKER TODAY IS OUR OWN BRUCE HEMMETT – PROFILE & DECORAMA

Bruce's story began in Royal North Shore Hospital – born in January 1950 and named Kristen Bruce Hemmett.

- 1950 was also the start of Decorama Blinds founded by English-born John Dickens initially as Dickens & Grove (D&G). for the manufacture of Venetian blinds – made from timber and finished and painted on the premises. The D&G delivery van carried the sign “Beware, a blind man is driving this truck” – caused a bit of a stir at the time.
- In late 1950's the business was sold and the Dickens returned to England – new owner changed the business name to Express Venetian Blinds. The next owner moved the business to sheds behind Kingston Chambers (now Zambrero – Mexican Restaurant). My family purchased the business in 1960 and changed the name to Express Venetian Blind Co as we stopped making timber venetians – all aluminium.
- School days in Sydney created a lot of teasing “Kristen” was considered a girl's name – on moving to Tamworth and East Tamworth Primary School – I insisted I was called Bruce and the teasing stopped
- My career as a blind maker started after school each day – my sister Karen and I assembled the venetian blinds – I was 10 years old
- The population of Tamworth 1960 was 14,000
- Moved the business behind the family home in Bourke Street (now Family & Community Services and expanded the range to include canvas goods like window awnings, tents and horse rugs, timber fly screens and timber screen doors.
- We moved the business to 253 Peel Street now Blue Flame Indian Restaurant
- In 1967 purchased and moved into 288 Peel Street and the business was advertised as Express Decorama Blinds and the business flourished. We were expected to work in the business every school holidays – I went to enormous lengths to find alternate work during the holidays
- In 1969 I applied and was accepted to work at the ANZ Bank in Peel Street, transferred to Hamilton, Newcastle Branch and moved to the Manuka Branch in the ACT.
- I left the bank and worked at McCallum's Department store and two years later became the General Manager of McCallum's Woden Plaza Store
- In 1972 the company was split into Decorama Blinds Pty Ltd – charter was to retail
- I and service our product range and Hemmett Industries Pty Ltd whose charter was to manufacture and wholesale our product range
- Our parents wishing to retire, finally my brother mark became Manager of Hemmett Industries in 1972 and I finally returned as Manager of Decorama in 1973
- 1973 was a big year – married my first wife Sandy, purchased my first home and returned to Tamworth
- In 1974 I became Director of both companies and my daughter was born in 1981 and Sandy and I separated in 1984
- Over the next decade the business expanded covering Armidale, Inverell, Glen Innes, Moree, Narrabri, Gunnedah and Quirindi and everywhere in between
- Decorama Blinds advertised extensively on radio, press and TV and our most successful campaign was centred around a clown – he was kidnapped, ransomed, returned went to functions etc
- In 1963 I met Julie and we have been together for over 27 years and married in 2005
- 2001 Julie and I became carers of our new grandchild, Gabby and over the next nine years we also looked after her older sister Maddison
- 2010 Changed our lives when Gabby – aged eight – was diagnosed with brain cancer and lost her battle aged 10 years and I walked away from Decorama – had managers put in and lost all interest in the business – stopped advertising and let the business survive on its good name
- Strange how not having the “boss” involved the business falls apart so forced to return to re-build the business, pay off all the debts that had occurred and rebuild my reserves once more



- 2018 the beneficiaries decided to sell Peel Street and I decided the time was right to sell Decorama
- June 2019 two of my long-term employees Madison Hall and Brad Trow became the owners of Decorama Blinds and have moved the business to 123 – 125 Bridge Street and are very busy
- In the massive clean-up of Peel Street – Bozo the Clown went out with the rubbish
- The old Decorama Building has been demolished and the site will be leased to the NAB which is due to open in April 2020
- My full-time working career ended on 30 June 2019 as I banked the final cheque for the sale of Decorama
- Finally, I am only working a few hours a week for the new owners and will retire fully when they feel they don't need me any more – hopefully before this Christmas....

**Introduced by Richard Hardwick
And thanked (in photo) by Rob Clifton with Bruce Hemmett**

Very interesting talk and we all gained a reminder or learnt about the different types of businesses that were in Peel Street over this 50-year period



The Shaggy Dog Story

A blonde finds herself in serious trouble. Her business has gone bust and she's in dire financial straits. She's so desperate that she decides to ask God for help. She begins to pray "God, please help me. I've lost my business and if I don't get some money, I'm going to lose my house as well. Please let me win Lotto."

Lotto night comes around and somebody else wins.

Once again she prays "God, please let me win the Lotto. I've lost my business and house and I'm going to lose my car as well."

Lotto night comes around and she still has no luck.

Once again she prays "My God, why have you forsaken me? I've lost my business, my house and my car. My children are starving. I don't often ask you for help and I have always been a good servant to you. PLEASE let me win the Lotto just this once so I can get my life back in order".

Suddenly there is a blinding flash of light as the heavens open.

The blonde is overwhelmed by the voice of God himself: "Sweetheart, work with me on this one – buy a ticket." Anon



‘REGIONAL MEMBERSHIP UPDATE’

Article by Barbara Mifsud, Regional Membership Officer, Membership Development, South Pacific and Philippines Office, barbara.mifsud@rotary.org, <https://www.facebook.com/barbara.mifsud.1> - copied from **Rotary on the Move** – recommend to all Club Directors.

Barbara Mifsud is a pleasure to work with – may not have the answer but will find it and come back to you – Bulletin Editor

August - Happy Membership Month! While all Rotarians are responsible for membership attraction and engagement throughout the year, August has been designated as a month to celebrate Rotary’s greatest asset — our members. Thanks for all that you do, and all you will do as Rotary leaders this year. We have some exciting additions to membership resources including those highlighted here, but I urge you to also check out the updated membership pages: rotary.org/membership and rotary.org/flexibility.

New! Corporate Membership Guide - If your club is looking for ways to partner with local businesses, consider offering corporate membership. Corporate membership allows Rotary clubs to engage a corporation – or any business, non-profit, or government entity – by offering an alternative membership package to some of its employees. The new Guide to Corporate Membership includes information about the ways it can be structured, the benefits it offers, and what you need to do to get started. The guide also includes a template that can be used when connecting with local businesses about this opportunity and sample bylaws that you can build on.

New! Learn How to Adapt to Change - Change isn’t always easy, but sometimes it’s necessary to adapt and evolve. Rotary’s new online course, *Leading Change*, covers how to plan for and manage change, how to successfully lead it, how to assess people’s readiness for change, and how to respond to resistance. Share this course with other leaders and members in your district, including your district’s Rotaract chair and Rotaract representative to help them develop as leaders.

New! Strategic Planning web page - Have you seen Rotary’s new Strategic Plan webpage on rotary.org? The new webpage describes Rotary’s five-year action plan based on a new model of service leadership that is grounded in person-to-person connections. It also defines our priorities in detail, which are to increase our impact, expand our reach, enhance participant engagement, and increase our ability to adapt. Share this new webpage with club leaders and keep the strategic plan in mind as you work to ‘Grow Rotary’ in 2019-20 and beyond. Download the strategic plan flyer as well as the strategic planning guide.

Updated! Membership Resource Guide - I’ve updated the Membership Resource Guide with helpful new resources and publications noted in red. If you have any questions about the materials listed, please let me know.

Membership Leads report - Membership leads submitted through rotary.org/join are first sent to the district leadership team. That’s why it’s beneficial to have an established process for quickly and effectively managing leads and connecting these prospective members with the right club. It’s important that districts and clubs use My Rotary to update the status of candidates, because that data then populates the report so district leaders can see how far leads have gotten, what percentage of leads haven’t been followed up on and what percentage of leads are no longer interested in membership. In 2018-19 Australian districts received 291 leads and only 7.22% were admitted into Rotary. In New Zealand and the Pacific Islands, the conversion rates were similar with receipt of 40 leads and only 7.5% converted. These leads are people who are already aware of Rotary and are interested in knowing more. See what happened to leads in your district in 2018-2019 and make a resolution in this coming year to make them a priority: 2018-2019 Australian districts 2018-2019 New Zealand and Pacific Islands And a friendly reminder: district leaders please don’t forward the Membership Leads e-mail alerts you receive to club leaders. They won’t be able to open the link in the message (the link is specific to the district’s leads page). Instead, please assign the lead to the club in Membership Leads and an e-mail alert with a link to the club’s leads page will be sent to the club’s leadership.

Membership Start Figures - Please note, official 1 July membership figures will not be ready until mid-August. As you run membership reports in Rotary Club Central, please keep in mind that membership numbers are subject to change. Staff are working diligently to process end-of-year membership changes like new club charters, member terminations and new member additions that are submitted in a variety of forms (online, email, fax and post). Because the official start figures are not finalised, I haven’t included membership reports this month



. 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
Mercure Function Room
Kent Street
South Tamworth

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—Barry Biffin](#)

[Secretary—Liz Gill](#)

[Treasurer – Deb Barnes](#)



WEEKLY ROSTER FOR BOTH CLUB AND POST OFFICE RAFFLES

	11 September	18 September	25 September
Topic	DG Phil Hafey & Bronwyn's visit	Anne Sanders Outback Nursing in Western Australia	Dr Tracey Schumacher (Dietician) and Dimity Betts Medical Research Locally
Sergeants	Mandy Fisher Steve Martin	Mandy Fisher Steve Martin	Mandy Fisher Steve Martin
Corporals	Anne Jacob Dennis Johnson	Peter Ryan Louise Matthews	Peter Hyde Phil Lyon
Meeter & Greeter	David Hinwood	Lesley Hood	James Treloar
Door Team	Peter Leonard Paul Stevenson	Rob Sharp Laurence Heame	Chris Watson John Worldon
President Assist	Ian Howle	Maureen Thornton	Naomi Blakey
Visitor Assist	Phil Penman;	Mitch Soree	Dennis Maunder
Welcome	John Rouvray	Brodie Shields	Peter Bell
Bulletin Notes	John Treloar	Liz Gill	Ian Howle
Introduction	John Treloar	Liz Gill	Ian Howle
Vote of Thanks	Michael Smith	Richard Walker	Steve Massey
POST OFFICE RAFFLE – FRIDAYS - 6:30 – 7:30PM			
13 September	20 September Club Social Night	27 September	2 October
Bruce Hemmett Peter Ryan	Peter Ryan Phil Knight	Phil Knight David Hinwood	David Hinwood Marina Lawrence
BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES AND INDUCTIONS			
Members Birthdays	Jane Bradford & Richard Hardwick (14.09)		
Partners Birthdays	Marion Dooley (13/09)		
Anniversaries	Pauline & Dick Davison (62yrs 14/09); Annette & Peter Ryan (23yrs 17/09)		
Club Induction	Dennis Maunder (29yrs 12.09); Steve Massey & Phil Penman (13 yrs 13/09)		
Attendance	80%		
Make-Ups			
Visiting Rotarians	Janni Sievanen YEP		
Visitors	Nil		
Heads & Tails	Skinner		
Raffle	Deb Barnes		

