



Rotary Club of Tamworth First Light



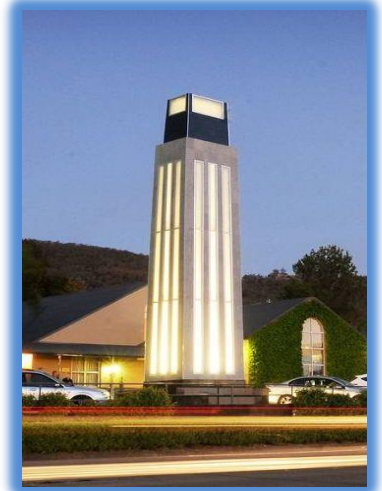
2019-2020

District Governor [Phil Hafey](#)

President: [Barry Biffin](#)

Secretary: [Liz Gill](#)

Treasurer: [Deb Barnes](#)



ZOOM-MEETING 1504

WEDNESDAY, 3 JUNE 2020



Tamworth seems to be the new home base for cockatoos at present – they are everywhere – so we have another excellent photo from David Hinwood – thank you!

IMPORTANT DIARY DATES 2020

This Wednesday, 3 June – **OUR SEVENTH ZOOM MEETING** – details on Page 5

Saturday 18 July as Changeover Date – further information to follow

Saturday, 26 June -D9650 Changeover – Laurieton – POSSIBLE?

15 – 22 August - DISTRICT 9650 RYLA – KEEPIT DAM

It's important to identify **AND** nominate potential participants **NOW** to ensure they have the opportunity to organise leave **AND** be part of the premier youth program at District level, Nationally **AND** Internationally.

Saturday 15 – Saturday 22 August 2020

Lake Keepit Sport & Recreation Centre

RYLA Needs YOU!!!

Accepting nominations now

Please encourage your members to:

identify potential participants

tell them about the RYLA program

share the positive impact it will have on their lives

encourage them to apply

encourage employers in your Club to sponsor an employee

invest in the future of your Club

RYLA is the future of Rotary...

www.rotary9650.org.au/RYLA

The program is brilliant, the results outstanding, the experience is life changing.

Nominations close Friday, 24 July 2020

If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact:

David Mayne DGN & D9650 RYLA Chair (RC Port Macquarie) 0434 860 680

Louise Matthews D9650 RYLA Secretary (RC Tamworth First Light) 0420 743 083

Yours in **Developing Rotarians of the Future**

LOUISE MATTHEWS



	BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES AND INDUCTIONS
Members Birthdays	Dick Davison (90yrs 08/06); Glenn McIntosh (05/06)
Partners Birthdays	Sarah Massey (07/06)
Anniversaries	Chris & John Rouvray (49yrs 07/06)
Club Induction	Nil

ATTENDANCE 78% – Thank you Brodie Shields
Janni Sievanen (YEP), AG Simon Guest (Tamworth West)

Heads & Tails Peter Hyde
Raffle (Breakfast) Skinner

Winners from last Wednesday's Fine Session decided by Mandy Fisher – Sergeant
Finest Fine – Brett White

REMINDER - MASKS - Peter Bell – **don't forget the offer for masks from Inspirations – we may still be required to wear masks when we can leave "self-isolation" possibly from 1 June – this week!**

VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR AWARDS WERE ANNOUNCED IN THE NORTHERN DAILY LEADER – SATURDAY, 22 MAY EDITION.

Emily Madirazza - Our young National Youth Science Forum (NYSF) participant who went to Canberra last January and that group had their time cut short due to the bushfires was **Awarded the Youth Volunteer of the Year category** and was commended for her dedication to the Tamworth Regional Youth Council and the Festival Community Volunteer Ambassador Program. Emily has also coordinated two environmental and sustainable activities to raise environmental awareness.

Our Club congratulations have been sent to Emily

LONG TERM YOUTH EXCHANGE (YEP)

Update from Kaisa!!

Kaisa is just about to finish her Senior High School studies.
She said she will work over the summer but then she will be off to university in Tampere – 4 hours from where she lives now - and she will be studying Medicine!!
So look out in 6 years, she might be a Doctor.

How wonderful is that.

Thank you - Marina Hearne for the up-date....



Quote of the Week

Seven years would be insufficient to make some people acquainted with each other, and seven days are more than enough for others.

Jane Austen

Hello Members and Friends

Looking forward to our **ZOOM** into Wednesday morning at 6:30AM and having a chat – don't forget to check Page 5 – SAME details for the next four weeks.....

Val Hellmann will kindly introduce our guest speakers whilst our Zoom Meetings continue as she has the pleasure of finding them, liaising with them - assists with making them feel comfortable with Zoom by attending one or two of our Zoom meetings – very successfully to date.

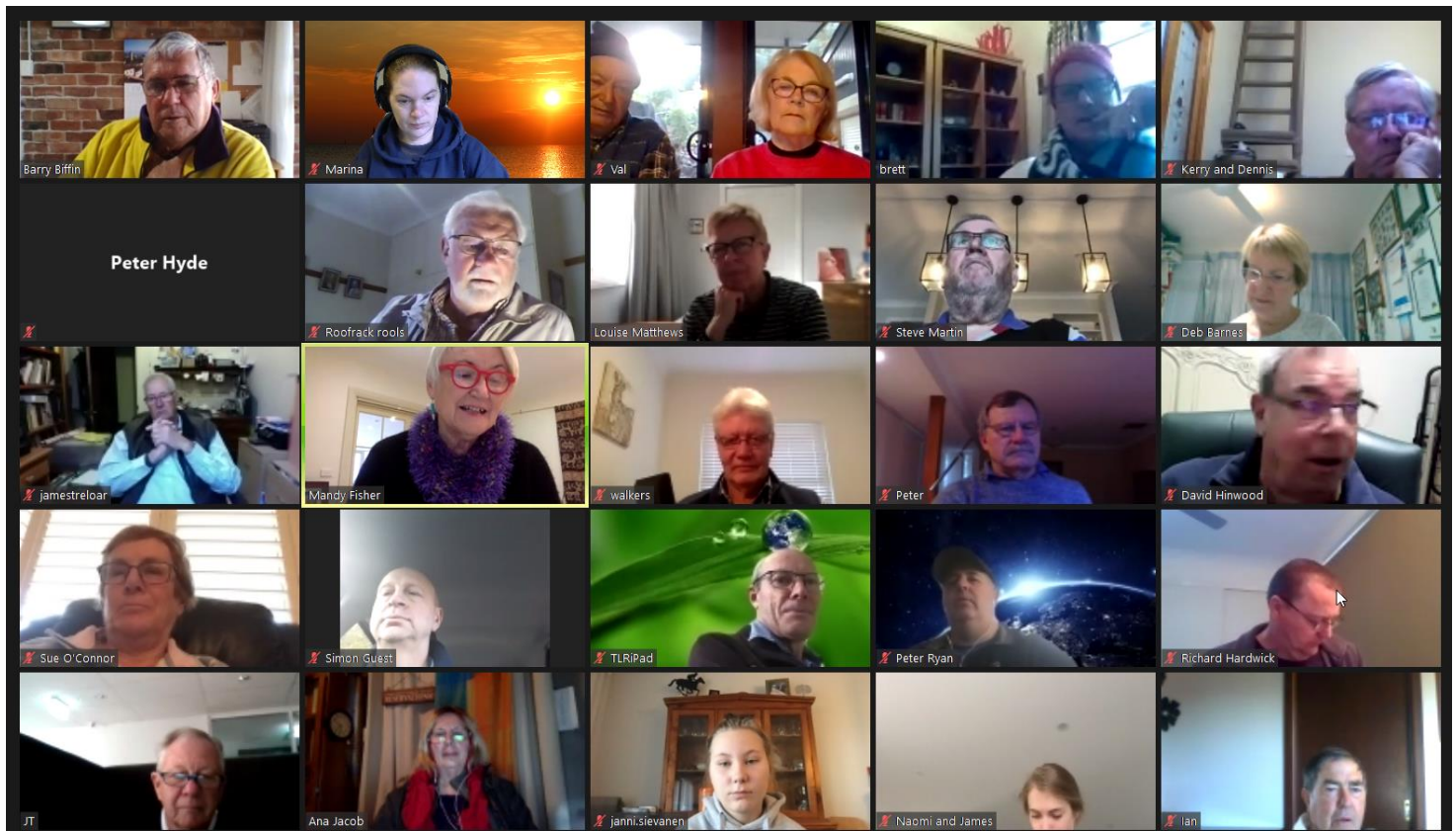
See you all this week when we do it all again with different speakers – Naomi Blakey – “Museums in Tamworth and Surrounds”

Don't forget to save the date for the **change-over on Saturday, 18 July** - as restrictions ease, we will be able to make more decisions on what form this will take.

We can also meet for coffee at Jamaica Blue in the Centrepoint Arcade after our ZOOM meeting.

Hope everyone has a great week.

BARRY BIFFIN



ATTENTION MEMBERS, FELLOW ROTARIANS AND FRIENDS

We will be holding our **ZOOM** meeting this Wednesday (27 May 2020 at 6:30AM) for all members and friends or any Rotarians interested in participating to join in. Remember the meeting room is open from 06.30am for conversation / chatter / catch-up

Please note

Zoom is currently rolling out an update to its program and this may mean you receive a message to update the Zoom application. **Please take the opportunity to update the system when it requests you to before 30 May 2020.** After 30 May 2020 the update will be required before you start any meetings.

To enter the meeting please use the link below:

Topic: RCTFL - Rotary Weekly Meeting – Naomi Blakey – “Museums in Tamworth and Surrounds”

Time: Wednesday, 3 June 2020 at 06:30 AM

Then every week on Wednesday until 24 June 2020 – four (4) occurrence(s)

June 10 2020 at 06:30 AM

June 17 2020 at 06:30 AM

June 24 2020 at 06:30 AM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83411096114?pwd=OS9lNkxWQnVoR0tLRHNZaDc1NEcxZz09>

Meeting ID: 834 1109 6114

Password: RCTFL9650

By clicking on the above link, it will take you straight into the meeting room – Richard has password protected the meeting and this is embedded in the link already.

Richard's email is Richard.Hardwick@challengecommunity.org.au



A PAGE FOR DIMITY BETTS AND HER CHILDREN – JUNO AND MYLES



Juno went back to day-care this week which has been great for her to see her friends, the educators all commented on how much she has 'grown up' in the last 2 months since she last went.

Myles is nearing 5 months and it's crazy to think we've already seen the worst drought, horrendous bushfires, wonderful welcome rain and a global pandemic in his lifetime!

In general, we have been staying at home like everyone else and its actually been quite nice to take life nice and slow for a change! We are certainly very thankful to have plenty of space around us to enjoy!

I hope you are all keeping well and staying busy and engaged and look forward to catching up with everyone sooner than anticipated once more! **DIMITY BETTS**



AUSTRALIA AND AUSTRALIANS – AN INTERESTING STORY – PART 5

TIPS TO SURVIVING IN AUSTRALIA

- ❖ Don't ever put your hand down a hole for any reason **whatsoever**
- ❖ The beer is stronger than you think, regardless of how strong you think it is
- ❖ Always carry a stick
- ❖ Air-conditioning is imperative
- ❖ Do not attempt to use Australian slang unless you are a trained linguist and extremely good in a fist fight
- ❖ Take good maps. Stopping to ask directions only works when there are people nearby
- ❖ If you leave the urban areas, carry several litres of water with you at all times, or you will die – and don't forget the stick
- ❖ Even the most embellished stories told by Australians – there is always a core of truth that it is unwise to ignore.

HOW TO IDENTIFY AUSTRALIANS

- ✚ They waddle when they walk due to the 53 expired petrol vouchers stuffed in their wallet or purse
- ✚ They pronounce Melbourne as “Mel-bin”
- ✚ They think it makes perfect sense to decorate highways with large fibreglass bananas, prawns and sheep
- ✚ They think “Woolloomooloo” is perfectly reasonable name for a place, that “Wagga Wagga” can be abbreviated to “Wagga” but “Woy Woy” can't be called “Woy”
- ✚ Their hamburgers will contain beetroot – apparently it is a must have. How else can you get a stain on your shirt?
- ✚ They don't think it is summer until the steering wheel is too hot to handle
- ✚ They believe that all train timetables are works of fiction
- ✚ And they all carry a stick.

Hope you have all enjoyed a “witty, fairly accurate and strangely informative essay about Australia” over the past few weeks and was by the late Douglas Adams of “Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy” fame.

MEMBER SPEAKER – STEVE MARTIN – UPDATE RONALD HOUSE

Currently Ronald House has been closed since early April, it is planned to re-open on 9 June.

Steve has had to turn away 7-8 people each week needing accommodation. Luckily two Tamworth Hotels have been able to provide very cheap accommodation to assist as well as Rotary Lodge at the hospital.

Fundraising activities have been at a stand-still – this has been their biggest issue. The Wellness Challenge raised some funds but not enough and sponsors haven't been able to help either due to the current environment. The program to renovate the bathrooms has been placed on hold.

Once open on the 9th, 3 out of 5 rooms will be available. Restrictions will be 1 family allowed in public spaces and the Kitchen will be on a roster system.

ASSISTANCE REQUIRED: If you are able to sleep over at Ronald McDonald House 1 night per week it would be of great benefit. Steve is short volunteers due to them falling in the high-risk category (age 65+ or have a chronic disease). He would be extremely grateful if anyone can help out.

Thank you Marina Hearne for these notes.



JANNI SIEVENAN- APPLYING FOR ROTARY YOUTH EXCHANGE IN FINLAND

Every country seems to be very different on how to apply for exchange.

For Janni, she had to contact her local club ([Karis Rotaryklubb - Karjaan Rotaryklubi](#)) to get an interview, if there are more than one person applying they may need to conduct a district interview. Some clubs have a panel, others are one on one. After this there are 2 district briefings and one multi-district briefing. There is also a briefing weekend in Singapore on their way over to Australia with all the exchange students.

Janni paid to Rotary for them to handle all her paperwork. She had to get all her vaccinations up to date, have dental appointments and medical appointments at her own expense prior to coming over.

For the Finnish students, they are required to all purchase the same blazer and name badges. They are also required to bring their own personal 'hat pin' type badges of their country to give to other students. Janni paid for her own flights and Singapore.

Questions and comments

- Biggest thing to understand about living in Tamworth Janni would tell people is that there is no public transport. You need to walk or get a lift (when you're used to jumping on a train or bus whenever you want, it's very difficult to have independence).
- Highlight – all the travel she has been able to do
- Biggest difference is the school system – Janni feels that High School here is the equivalent of Finnish Middle School, that she sort of went down a few grades coming here.
- Janni believes her English has improved, especially her pronunciation.
- Janni prefers the heat over the cold.
- Janni will return to Finland on Sunday, July 5th all things going smoothly
- Brett White commented that his son picked the most expensive country to go to – Switzerland, costing them quite a pretty penny. I'm sure the experience was all worth it Brett!
- Majority of the exchange students in our district have remained, only about 3 of them returned home due to COVID concerns.
- Finnish schools are closed until at least their new school year in August.

Thank you Marina Hearne for these Notes

Quote:

*You complain that the
cards are ill-shuffled until
you get a good hand.*

Jonathan Swift

