

Tamworth First Light

The Bulletin

Issue 17 | 9 October 2024 | Meeting 1722

This Week

- Brian Logan was President
- Richard Hardwick, next week

*9 Oct RSVP Link
will be emailed by
Courtney this
week*



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: Nil

Joke of the Week: Too many terrible jokes this week, Brian keeping true to form. James attempted to appease us all with a half-decent joke. Not enough groans team!

Notices:

- Thanks to everyone for their assistance at the Community Garden Fundraiser Bunnings BBQ that was on Sunday, 29th October.
- A reminder about our upcoming Golf Day on Friday 11th October, please encourage anyone interested to register for this. Bev is also looking for helpers for the BBQ from 11.30am over the lunch period. Please let her know if you can help with the BBQ.
- Reminder - Interact Club social event on 10 October at Burger Bulls.
- Richard reminded us that the Aussie Bird Count is on from 14th – 20th October.

- Sue is still on holiday. Richard Hardwick is President next week!

Guest Speakers: Thank you to Bill Gleeson for his presentation on the musical society.

Sue O'Connor
President 2024/ 2025

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Interact Club of Tamworth Sunshine

INVITE YOU TO A SOCIAL EVENT

THURSDAY, 10 OCTOBER 2024

5:45PM

LOCATION: BURGERBULLS, KABLE AVE
(OPTIONAL TO PURCHASE YOUR OWN MEAL)

A great way to meet our Interactors and their families

please RSVP with the link below before
Tuesday 8th October 6pm:

<https://forms.gle/k3CZvHGQA3eAWcyy6>





\$7 OPTION

Don't want a cooked breakfast? First Light now has the option to pay only for drinks (tea/ coffee/ juice) and a \$2 fine

**Santa Helpers
WANTED!!**



The Santa Crawl committee are looking for 2 people to join the committee - **PR & Volunteer Coordinator Assist**

Contact Charlotte for info.



The trees are going well
at Centenary Park.

No damage to new
trees, no graffiti and
trees are growing well.
Council are putting
more time into the
maintenance of the
park as well.

So far so good.
Fingers crossed it stays
that way.

Peter Ryan



Are you ready to count?



AUSSIE BIRD COUNT

14-20 October 2024

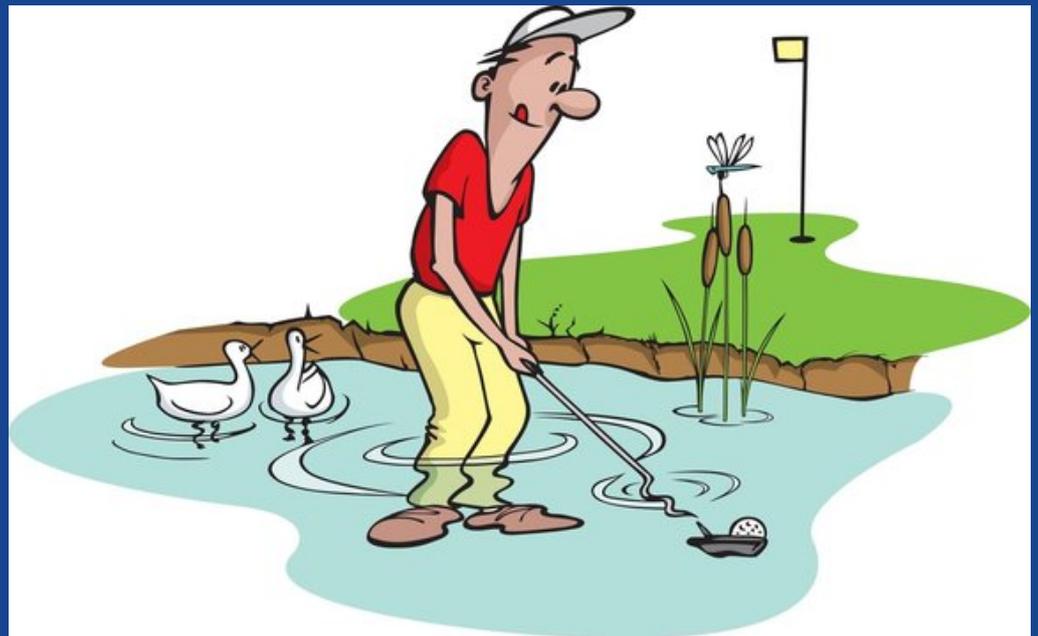
Start counting in...

0	1	1	0	6	2	0	3	6
Days			Hours		Minutes		Seconds	

Mark the date in your diary!

<https://aussiebirdcount.org.au/>

Golf Day
Oct 11
BBQ
Helpers
required
Contact
Bev or
Vicki



Guest Speaker - Bill Gleeson

Tamworth Musical Society



When the tag was given to Tamworth Country Music, a well-known musician, John Muller in Tamworth said, "you know that is not quite right, it should be "Music Capital of County Australia" as we have such a variety of music in Tamworth" and have had since the earliest times.

Before white settlement there was a beautiful freshwater lagoon between West Tamworth and East Tamworth. The local indigenous tribes would gather there to fish and hunt kangaroos and emus. For hundreds of years the tribes met and held their corroborees on the eastern side of the lagoon, so music has always been an important part of Tamworth.

White settlers arrived in 1840 and brought with them their various types of music. In 1846 a number of artistic groups formed and unfortunately these didn't survive for very long but by 1888 things changed. This change occurred when the Tamworth Musical Society formed and still remains today. This is one of the oldest community groups in Tamworth and in fact is one of the oldest performing groups in Australia.

How did it all start? "The Movers and Shakers" of Tamworth have always been behind the success of the group. Around this time the Reagan family came to Tamworth, and they had travelled to England and attended a number of the Gilbert & Sullivan productions. On their return they suggested the group perform these types of operettas. These productions were held in the "Old fellows Hall" situated between where the Town Hall and the Tamworth Police Station are situated now. In 1888 the first show was "Pinaforme" and from then on, all their productions were very successful. For a long time, all proceeds gained from these productions went back to the community. The group remained in these premises for approximately two years and then made a move to "Allambie Hall" located approximately where the Services Club is on Marius Street and these premises actually had electricity.

The group remained there until they were able to move to a hall behind the old Central Hotel (CH on Peel) This is where they remained until the hotel burnt down and they had to make a further move to what was called the "Theatre Royal" located on the corner of Dowe and Brisbane Streets (CH on Peel Boutique Hotel)

In 1927 the group moved into a beautiful building called "The Capital Theatre "on Brisbane Street. This was a grand building which could seat 1400 people and was made up of three levels. The Town Hall was completed in 1934, and the group then relocated and remained in the Town Hall for over 76 yrs until their final move to the Capital Theatre in Centrepoint Shopping Centre in 2009.

So, what makes Tamworth Musical Society so successful, really two things:

People involved in the group willing and wanting to perform without payment and the number of extraordinary business people and individuals who have provided support throughout time.

In 1901 P.J. Smith arrived in Tamworth. He was the owner of a local store and had interests in horse racing/ breeding and real estate. He loved to perform, and he starred in many of the productions at the Theatre Royal. He remained with the society for 51 years, starting as a choir boy and then eventually patron of the society.

Bill too commenced as a choir boy in 1959 and then became patron, but will soon stop that as it is time for someone else to provide influence for the direction of the society.

Where is the society going? Now days the costs of a production range from \$100,00 to \$200,00 so the society must make money to continue future productions. There are substantial costs for:

Rights of name- Approximately \$3,000 but further costs on takings for the production. This can be between 15% to 20% of takings.

Scenery and costumes need to be hired because of the huge amount of time and cost to locally put these together.

If the Society wasn't to present any productions, there would still be a cost of \$40,000 to pay for insurance and a storage shed. The society tries very hard to keep the costs of tickets as low as possible and under \$50 where other societies are now charging at least \$100 per ticket

With these costs the society is unable to provide funding to community and certainly all society members perform without payment. Some other locations pay their orchestra, but Tamworth orchestra members perform without expectation of payment.

In 2013 Tamworth Musical Society produced "The Phantom of the Opera" with Robert McDougall as the lead and the leading lady from Coonabarabran. This has been one of their most successful productions in recent times. The leading lady had to travel from Coonabarabran twice a week for rehearsals.

There were a few challenges during this production because a huge chandelier had to fall heavily on the stage with the orchestra under the stage. During rehearsals the orchestra wasn't present and were not aware the chandelier would be crashing down on the stage above them. It appears orchestra members had a lot to say after the chandelier fell so heavily above their heads, apparently not a pleasant experience.

The next interesting story told was about the Town Hall ghost "Blue" As a small boy Bill recalled over the years hearing about Blue from different caretakers and the antics Blue got up to, such as opening and closing of doors and flushing toilets. One particular story was about Blue saving the burning of the Town Hall. Peter Godden who was providing the lighting for productions heard a voice call out "Blue, Blue ". He looked up and one of the lighting bars was burning and this is what saved the Town Hall. Bill goes on to tell the story of a time he had just finished acting in a production and was crossing the stage to his dressing room when he felt a blast of freezing air on his face. The caretaker then said, "Blue did you enjoy the show tonight" There wasn't a response, so Bill believes Blue didn't enjoy it and that's why there was a freezing blast.

Why does The Tamworth Musical Society attract over 100 members with the average age of 22 years old? The arrival of Peter Ross has made a major impact, and he brings to the society, acting, directing and an absolute genius at putting together successful productions. Peter has revolutionised people's thinking, and the young people are involved and developing skills and close comradery.

The present venue is adequate currently, but we look forward to gaining funding for a Tamworth Arts Precinct in the future. There have been some very good years recently for the society and this year in particular has been very successful. Each year there are two productions, one in April and another in October. Bill attended numerous productions in regional areas , Coffs Harbour, Orange and Wagga Wagga and Tamworth Society is well up there and the reason they are so successful is because of the attitude of production participants are not paid where other areas provide payments to the orchestra members

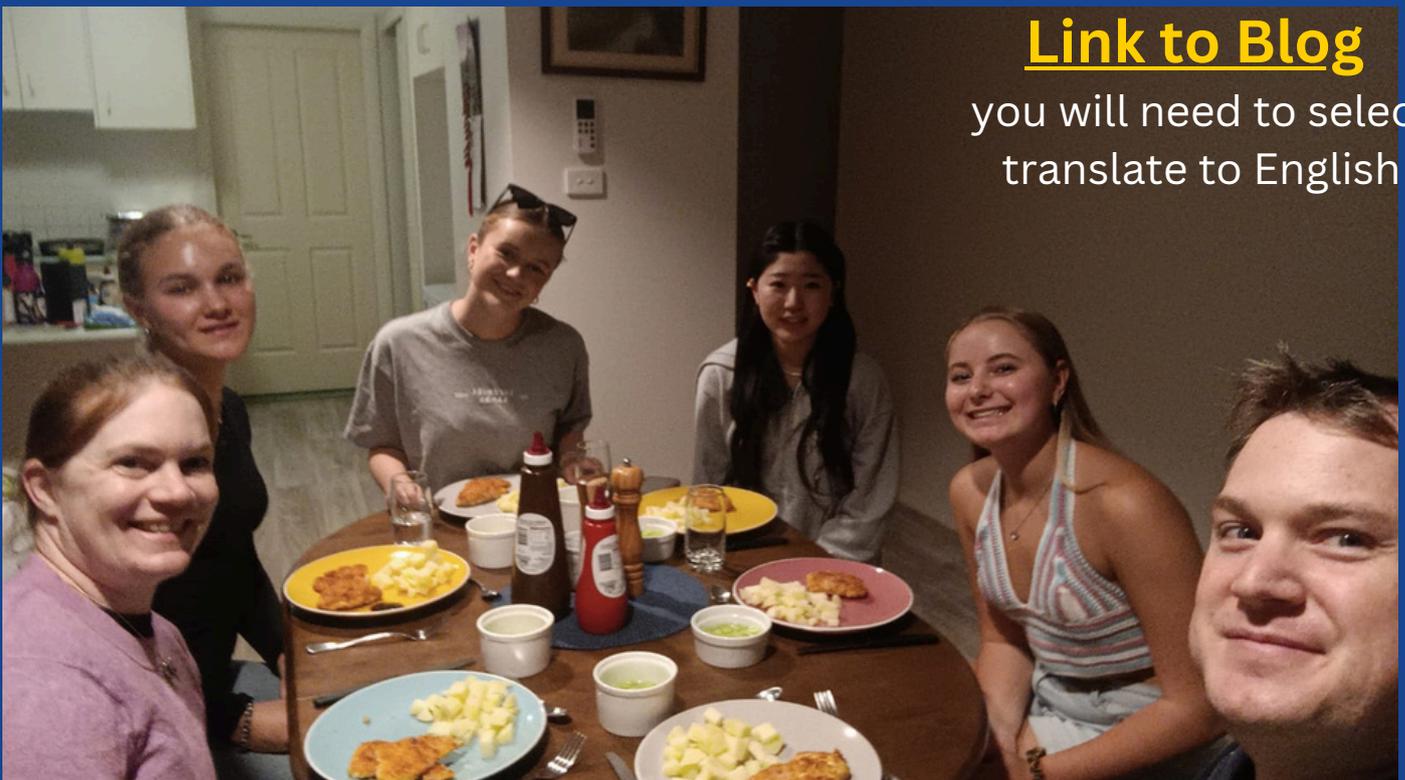
Exchange Student Adventures - Ela & Malin



German Schnitzel & Czech
Cucumber salad



Ela's Blog
if you would like to
follow Ela's journey,
she has a blog



[Link to Blog](#)

you will need to select
translate to English

The Funny Elbow

**I just read a book
entitled "How to Survive
Falling Down a
Staircase".
It's a step by step guide.**

**This tape
doesn't even
taste like
scotch.**



**I ALWAYS GET NOSTALGIC
PUTTING MY CAR IN REVERSE**



IT REALLY TAKES ME BACK

**I WENT TO LEGOLAND LAST
WEEKEND**



**PEOPLE WERE LINED UP
FOR BLOCKS**

**Police have confirmed
that the man who fell
from the roof of a
nightclub and died was
not a bouncer**

Important Info

[Tamworth First Light Webpage](#)

[District 9660 Webpage](#)

[Rotary International Link](#)

[DACdb Link](#)

Calendar



Join us
every 3rd
Friday of
the month
at The PO
Hotel

11 OCTOBER 2024 - CHARITY GOLF DAY

16 & 17 NOVEMBER 2024 - DISTRICT SHOWCASE

20 DECEMBER 2024 - SANTA CRAWL

14 - 16 MARCH 2025 - DISTRICT CONFERENCE

13 & 14 MAY 2025 - NWRCE

ASSISTANCE REQUIRED:

10 OCT - INTERACT SOCIAL

11 OCT - GOLF DAY BBQ

Roster

Date	9 Oct	16 Oct	23 Oct
Topic	Stress Mastery for Success	The Heart Foundation	Club Training Day (Youth Protection)
Location	Tamworth City Bowlo	Tamworth City Bowlo	Tamworth City Bowlo
Guest Speaker	Deb Maes	Simon Cowie	Bruce Hemmett
Sergeant	Terry Robinson	Terry Robinson	Terry Robinson
Corporal	Brian Logan	Charlotte Moore	Luke Massey
Meeter & Greeter	Liz Gill	Joanne Lewis	Paul Stevenson
Door Team	Vangel Christov Steve Hawkins	James Treloar Mitch Soree	Deb Barnes Alice Elsley
President Assist	Hugh Raadgever	Peter Ryan	Mal Turnbull
Guest Speaker Intro & Visitor Assist	Diane Petterson	Glenn McIntosh	Nil
Bulletin Notes Vote of Thanks	Bev Fletcher	Luke Massey	Nil

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

12 Oct	19 Oct	25 Oct	1 Nov
Barry Biffin Brian Logan	Brian Logan Hannah Woods	Hannah Woods Louise Matthews	Louise Matthews Charlotte Moore

Any changes to the roster, please let the President Assist know the morning of the meeting that you are replacing someone.

Reminder that it is up to members to find your replacement if you are unavailable.

Email Leave of Absence to the Secretary

Birthday, Anniversaries, and Inductions

Members Birthdays	Phil Lyon and Brett White - 14 Oct
Partners Birthdays	Nil
Club Inductions	Nil
Anniversaries	Nil

Attendance

69%

Visiting Rotarians	Jane Bradford - Honorary
Visitors	Ela Fiserova (YEP RC First Light), Milla Jagla YEP Student RC Quirindi & Malin Breivik (YEP Student RC Tamworth)
Heads and Tails	Laurie Hearne
Chook Raffle	Skinner (free breakfast the following week only, cannot be claimed at a later date)