

Tamworth First Light

The Bulletin

Issue 33 | 12 February 2025 | Meeting 1737

This Week

- Packed meeting this week supporting Sora and Billabong



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

Conflict is inevitable, but combat is optional.

Max Lucado

Jokes of the Week

Brett White entertained us with some quick wit, although it was a little dim at times.

With President Sue away for the week, we had a super busy meeting with representatives from Billabong Clubhouse and Sora in attendance to thank us for the funds raised from the Santa Crawl. Charlotte and her team did a fantastic job in the organising and conducting the event and this was a common theme from the two organisations when they gave their presentations on where the money will go.

Billabong Clubhouse will be putting the funds into their new shed project to create a safe multi-use space for their clients to use to further enhance the services they provide.

Sora will be putting the funds into their domestic violence programs to provide long term supports to the community for vulnerable individuals and families.

Also, a big thank you to Aurelie who created the presentation of the evening for the Club to view. So many happy people enjoying the event and raising money for two great organisations.

Vocational Meeting:

·Thank you to James for the opportunity to visit and go through the turf farm and to Brian and his team for a wonderful breakfast.

Special General Meeting

·Reminder of the SGM next meeting, please be available if you can

Youth Exchange Program:

·Marina is looking for families to support the next intake of YEP students. Please reach out to Marina if you would like to assist.

Science & Engineering:

·All moving along, committee meeting today at 5.30pm at the Tamworth Bowling Club.

Club Dues:

·Dennis is reminding all members who have yet to pay their half yearly dues to get the money in as soon as possible.

RYLA:

·Louise reminded all members of the District RYLA Zoom meeting Thursday 6 February 7.30pm to 8.30pm. All are welcome to join the meeting and listen in.

Clean Up Australia Day:

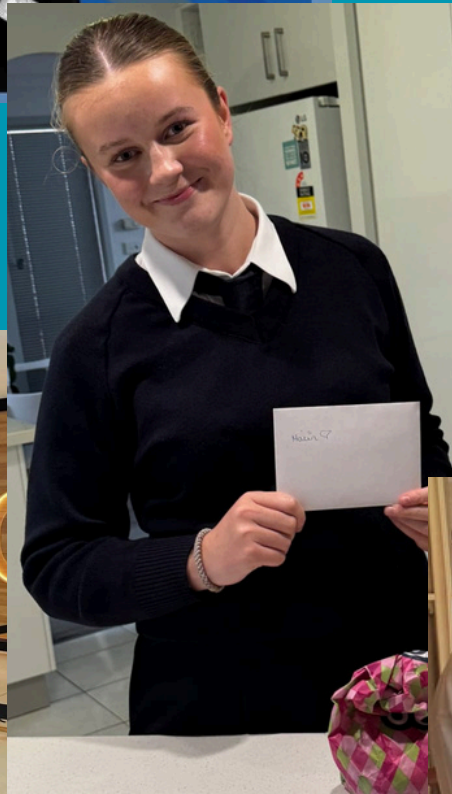
·Naomi has organised our attendance for the Clean Up Australia Day activity behind the Hungry Jack complex. Naomi will be away and needs support of a coordinator to take the lead on the day. Please let Naomi know if you can assist.

Fill in President for Sue, PP Richard Hardwick

Rotary Youth Exchange

rotary
youth
exchange

50 Years
1975-2025





ABOVE: A SewAid program on the Gold Coast has been teaching refugee and migrant women basic sewing skills since 2022.

Sewing cuts across borders

A PROGRAM to teach sewing skills to Gold Coast refugee and migrant women showcases how clubs can operate within a hybrid model to benefit their local communities and that it is possible to contribute and

be part of Rotary wherever you live.

In collaboration with PDG Tony Castley, of the Rotary e-Club of Greater Sydney, NSW (D9685), Rhonda Whitton, who lives on the Gold Coast, Qld, and is an e-member of the Rotary Club of Highton, Vic (D9780), established a SewAid program on the Gold Coast to teach refugee and migrant women basic sewing skills.

The program is modelled on Tony's successful SewAid program that he has implemented in Africa and South Pacific countries.

The sewing program runs throughout the year and offers four-hour classes on Saturday mornings. It has been operating since 2022. Classes adopt a very flexible teaching approach to cater for the different cultures and family circumstances of the participants as well as their different levels of sewing skills.

The women get to choose their own sewing projects and fabrics to best meet their expectations and sewing experience. Items range from children's skirts, shorts and dresses through to ladies' garments, tote bags, hats and purses.

While the women learn basic sewing, garment construction and mending skills, it is also an opportunity for them to meet and socialise with other women within the Gold Coast community. This means there is always chatter and laughter during classes, but within a very respectful and nurturing environment.

The program operates in conjunction with Thriving Multicultural Communities (aka TMC or The Migrant Centre) on the Gold Coast. TMC arranges participants and also makes available a large training room and storage for the sewing machines, overlockers, fabric and haberdashery.

The success of the program is based on Rotarians collaborating across three states as well as working alongside a community organisation. It's a win-win for all. **www**

Clean Up Aus Day

Sunday 2nd March 8am

Park next to Hungry Jacks (where park run is)

Will clean up along the parkland near the river up from Hungry Jacks going towards Paradise.

Please bring/wear:

- Long pants
- Hat
- Water
- Enclosed shoes

Please feel free to bring any family or friends.



LET'S CLEAN UP 2025

AUSTRALIA

JOIN OUR **BIGGEST EVER CLEAN UP**
SUNDAY 2 MARCH
CLEANUP.ORG.AU

Clean Up  CELEBRATING **35** YEARS

The poster features a central illustration of the map of Australia filled with a diverse crowd of people, symbolizing a nationwide community effort. The text is bold and clear, providing essential information about the event's date, time, and website. The bottom right corner includes the 'Clean Up Australia' logo and a '35 Years' anniversary badge.

Santa Crawl Recipients

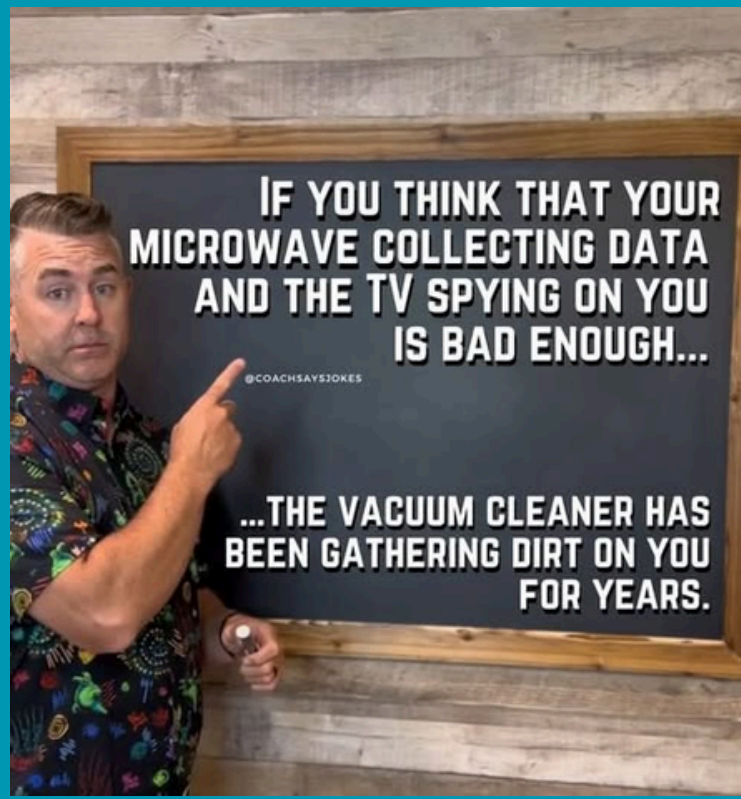
Billabong Clubhouse & Sora

Billabong Tamworth, led by Jess Piper, will use the funding to renovate an existing shed, transforming it into a multipurpose space designed to support wellbeing activities, relaxation, and private one-to-one meetings. The renovation aims to create a welcoming and functional environment that promotes mental and emotional wellbeing, providing a dedicated space for community engagement and support. Once completed, the space will be adaptable for various activities, ensuring it serves as a valuable resource for individuals seeking a safe and calming setting for personal growth, relaxation, and meaningful connections.

Catherine Woods and Brad Moffat presented on behalf of SORA, an organisation that provided vital support to 11,000 individuals and 500 families across the New England North West region last year. They highlighted the significant time, effort, and resources required to help individuals rebuild their lives. One example shared was of a woman in her 70s who showed signs of domestic violence; despite receiving support, it took several months for her to feel ready to leave the refuge. SORA is committed to inclusivity, with 35% of its workforce comprising Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander employees. The generous \$9,700 donation will be used to enhance support services for women experiencing domestic violence, ensuring they receive the necessary care, guidance, and resources to regain stability and independence.



The Funny Elbow



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

TBC 8 MARCH - INTERACT CHARTER DINNER
14 - 16 MARCH 2025 - DISTRICT CONFERENCE
17 - 21 MARCH 2025 - S&E CHALLENGE
13 & 14 MAY 2025 - NWRCE

ASSISTANCE REQUIRED:

2ND MARCH - CLEAN UP AUS DAY
17 - 21 MARCH SCIENCE & ENGINEERING CHALLENGE

Roster

Date	12 Feb	19 Feb	26 Feb
Topic	SGM	Little Wings	Regional Aus Bank Community Partner
Location	Tam City Bowlo	Tam City Bowlo	Tam City Bowlo
Guest Speaker	Sue O'Connor	Clare Pearson	Claire Paras
Sergeant	Mitch Soree	Mitch Soree	Mitch Soree
Corporal	Peter Ryan	Glenn McIntosh	Paul Stevenson
Meeter & Greeter	Luke Massey	Hugh Raadgever	Brett White
Door Team	Michael Smith Vangel Christov	Peter Johnston Barry Biffin	Liz Gill Richard Hardwick
President Assist	Brian Logan	Terry Robinson	Deb Barnes
Guest Speaker Intro & Visitor Assist	-	Naomi Blakey	Vicki Cooper
Bulletin Notes Vote of Thanks	-	Dimty Betts	Laurence Hearne

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

14 Feb	21 Feb	28 Feb	7 Mar
Steve Martin Helen Tickle	Helen Tickle Mitch Soree	Mitch Soree Peter Ryan	Peter Ryan Peter Johnston

**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 Secretary, Courtney**

Birthday, Anniversaries, and Inductions	
Members Birthdays	Nil
Partners Birthdays	Robert Betts 13/2
Club Inductions	Aurelie Quade 14/2 (2yrs)
Anniversaries	Trudy & Brett White 18/2 (41yrs - how after those jokes on Wed!!)
Attendance	79%
Visiting Rotarians	Nil
Visitors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ela Fiserova (YEP RC First Light), Malin Breivik (YEP Student RC Tamworth), Brad Moffett, Catherine Wood, Jeff Faint, Marion Rae, Piper Butcher
Heads and Tails	n/a
Chook Raffle	Peter Johnston (free breakfast the following week only, cannot be claimed at a later date)