



The Wahroongler



Bulletin of The Rotary Club of WAHROONGA

Chartered 1975 and Meeting at 7.15 am Wednesdays, at Warrawee Bowling Club

Rotary Australia's first Breakfast Club.

24th May 2017, Vol 43 No 20

Neil's Notes



Last week we enjoyed the company of Mayor Jennifer Anderson along with the Council's General Manager, John McKee. Both kindly agreed to be part of a Five Star Fellowship interview in which we learnt about their families, interests, education and careers. Who would have known our local Mayor had links back to the First Fleet and Gallipoli!

This event also cemented the strong relationship our Club has with the Council, often working hand in hand to meet the needs of our local community.

This coming week is one of the busiest in our current year with no less than three activities on in the one week! This begins with our usual breakfast, at which we are honoured to have an International speaker, kindly provided by the SAN. Later that night we are part of the BOBBO recipients' Dinner at which we will donate our share of the money raised to the Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Women's Shelter.

The curtain is also closing fast on our current Rotary year, with President elect, Sue Owen and her enthusiastic and talented team ready to take over following our changeover dinner set for 6:30pm Wed 27 June at the Asquith Golf Club. At this event, we look forward to welcoming Peter Kirkwood to our Club. Peter is a long-time friend of the Club and has indicated that he would now like to become a member!

We recently received a \$1000 membership grant from our District, so look forward to welcoming many other new members in coming months.

This Weekend the Salvation Army hold their annual appeal. Club members will know that we have had a long association supporting this event. If anyone is available to assist with counting etc. at Abbotsleigh Junior School, please contact Ian Faulks.

Neil McWhannell, President

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f: https://www.facebook.com/Rotary-Club-of-Wahroonga-334219889938494/?hc_ref=NEWSFEED&fref=nf

Last Week's News



Sandy updated us on the Pymble Players. She has 53 now and gave back 20 seats. They will not be able to share our supper.

Terry gave an update on NOVUS. It raised around \$120K and of this we would get about \$24K for our youth programs.

Assoc Prof Anne Prescott advised that the International Women's Day and International Project raised almost \$9K from the Dinner, which gives \$3K to each charity. They had run out of money for the hostel in Manbu in the remote area of Gorkha in Nepal. This money will allow them to start building the **Bhawani Hostel** again.



With this money the **BRAVE Centre** will have more success and more people trained up to help people with disabilities. One fellow now has a job in data entry that allows him to support his family.

With the **Days for Girls** in January the BRAVE Centre started making kits for Days for Girls and the money will be put towards a treadle sewing machine, as there is no power and it is simpler with fewer moving parts to go wrong. Thanks for the support and from the Council as well.

17.5.2017 Jennifer Anderson, Mayor & John McKee, General Manager Ku-ring-gai Council 5 Fellowship



Neil interviewed Mayor, **Jennifer Anderson** in a friendly chat. She is used to very grilling interviews.

She was born in the Royal Hospital for Women in Paddington and raised in Chatswood. Her parents had two houses there till the last few years. Her mother was from Narromine and became a registered nurse and worked in Dubbo to help the war effort. There she met Jennifer's father who joined the air force and was stationed in Dubbo. He was a lawyer.

Her mother's father had been the Deputy Mayor of Narromine Shire Council. When she decided to run for Council her mother was very concerned for her. As Deputy Mayor her grandfather at the election, was asked to take a bag to the Council Chambers. He did not know what was in it, but when there it was found to be votes—for the opposition. He was disqualified. He served in France during WWI.



On Dad's side, his great uncle landed in Anzac Cove Gallipoli. His was the first body identified on the beach and reported to be the first fatality in that campaign.

Qu. Had she ever visited the Commonwealth War Graves in Europe—No. But on her mother's side, her father fought in France in the Villiers-Bretonneau area twice.

A few years ago the Council established a sister city relationship with Pozieres, 30 Kms from Villiers-

Bretonneau. She took a private family trip and met the Mayor of Pozieres on the 99th commemoration of the Battle of Pozieres. Their town has over 200 people and he was stunned that Ku-ring-gai has over 200,000 people.

Only one third of those killed have graves, the rest of those lost are in the sludge of Fromelle. There is a lot to do to identify as many as possible. In Pozieres Australian Defence personnel identified two in the last two years through the internet and communications. Knowing a plane had come down, they could identify the plane the those lost.

Neil's wife's great uncle's details were found through internet research and it is very moving.

Jennifer is married to Jim, a retired merchant banker who is enjoying his retirement. They have two sons and two daughters. Her older daughter has been in England and is just back and due to have her first baby in three weeks at RNSH. With tenants in their home they are staying with Jennifer. Their younger daughter is a nurse at RNSH so will be a great help.

Neil's daughter is also about to have a baby and had a trip to hospital last week, but home now waiting for another two months—he hopes.

Jennifer's career began as a Librarian at Lane Cove Public Library. Her first job was with local government, where she met a number of people. Working in libraries was a very good foundation, with library information science. She did not know how handy the study skills were to be in research and assessment of each piece of information and looking at the source, and whether it was fake news, as mentioned a lot now in politics. She worked at the University of London and at the University of NSW.

Jennifer's husband's family were on the First Fleet—not as free settlers. His parents died relatively young at 40-50 and some family history disappeared. She did not know how his father had the middle name Roberts (with an s) in his name. 30 years ago she noticed a family history get together for the Roberts Family in Windsor and anyone with that name was welcome. William Roberts was on the First Fleet and the families who married into this family included Anderson and this was Jim's family.

Her family came here in the 1850s as free settlers on her father's side.

She has held elected roles on the State Executive of the NSW Parents' Council and the State Council of the NSW Federation of P&C Associations. They had very structured debates, which was good training for her later in local government. Jennifer is a member of the National Trust and a past Executive member of the Art Deco Society of NSW. She likes to contribute and put something back into society and put her knowledge into practise.

The role of Mayor has many positive and negative challenges. Definitely they extend you. She loves to get out from behind her desk and could just stay and deal with paperwork. But staff appreciate it if she accepts as many invitations as possible. The community is important and many very decent citizens do not like to make contact or sit and write to anyone at Council. It is very important to meet with people.

Through serendipity, years ago, she was at the opening of a new funeral parlour nearby. She had been to the building when it had been a restaurant with a function centre upstairs and asked about this room. They told her their needs were met by the ground floor space. As she knew there were many community groups in desperate need of space, she considered this space and the meshing of the functions. She found the answer by putting together a Cavalcade of Antique Clothing who use the top floor, which is very successful.



Ken on the question about the victory in the courts on amalgamations.

They do not know if it is done and dusted, or there are more challenges. The future of Ku-ring-gai has a stunning focus. The Council was very strong and united in opposing the merger, but they lost the first case. Deciding to appeal, there was some dissent about the pros and cons, but they won decisively and the court awarded them the costs that the government had to pay for. This was most reassuring as it was rate-payers money that they won back and it had worried a number of councillors. If it is all done, then the current merger will be nullified and we will be as independent as we currently are.

The Premier talks tough, she is intent on pursuing councils—others are still undertaking litigation. It is tough to tell, in theory no decision will be taken until all the councils have completed their legal action. Woollahra lost their appeal in the Supreme Court and are now going to the High Court. Our victory gives the other councils more leverage with their cases. We don't know how long this will take.

David It was serendipity for us with the funeral parlour as well. We were able to use a small storeroom there too, although that may change soon we understand.

He appreciates the speeches and resources for press releases from the Council and the work of the teams there and having Danny Houseas on the coalface to help our teams.

George asked what were Jennifer's thoughts for after her time at Council.

Jennifer has been a councillor for 11 years and her focus is on Ku-ring-gai and the opportunity to serve. The Council elections are in September and we cannot know the results till then.



John McKee
GM Ku-ring-gai Council

John is relieved that he still has a job, especially when the whole amalgamation program is over. It has been tough to keep the staff settled. Some have jumped ship to other councils, or to other businesses. It is a worry to keep staff on track through trying times.

He moved to the Central Coast 12 years ago and he is happy commuting. He is in Davis-town, near Saratoga and Kincumber in an old fishing town in a knockdown rebuild.

He has two children, a boy of 9 and a girl of 8, going on 28, who are growing up very fast and attending Green Point Christian College, five minutes from home. His wife works in local government on the Central Coast in Financial Control.

John has a Bachelor of Business and has been in local government for 27 years. After school he went to study law at the University of Wollongong, but he did not want to stay on campus, so got an old bomb, but did not like the commuting. So he got a job as an admin. trainee at Parramatta Council. A uni pre-requisite with correspondence study was having experience and he was 18 and had a job and money. At the end of his first week his father asked how it went and he told him that he'd not be there by Christmas. That was June 1990. He was a Director of Finance and Corporate Services for five years. In 1998 he was made General Manager and this is his 12th year. He and Jennifer have been together through 4 terms. He is a very keen cricket umpire and played 2nd grade for Parramatta in the under 17 squad for NSW. He was offered a scholarship to England and his father was keen, but his mother wanted him to get his HSC, so said 'no'. He liked rugby union and league and loved sport till his back gave way. His relaxation now is lawn bowls where he can switch off. He plays

pennants at Davistown RSL.

In his work role he is quite placid and does not get fiery or upset easily. But at the weekend at his children's sports, he can be anything but calm.

People rely on Council for different things. Some want the roads and rubbish, while others want more for the changing population—aging, human services and can cost a lot and are critical for a lot of people. Different councillors support arts or capitol works and the goal is to keep the majority of people happy and achieve it within the budgetary levels and award negotiations.

On resourcing, mergers can lead to cost savings. He believes that some NSW councils are too small to be viable and should be merged. The issue is the blanket approach if you do not have 250K then you do not have scale capacity. But they are a well run council. There are economies of scale that can be achieved and other ways through joint purchasing on a regional basis.

Where there have been amalgamations in Victoria and Queensland, the rates rose over time post amalgamations. They are bigger councils with larger staff numbers to manage and higher salaries required to manage those larger staff numbers. Over time there is creep back greater than the rates before the mergers.

The NSW Government never said they disagreed with making tangible savings. There have been some suggestions about selling off national assets like golf courses.

Three years ago in 2014 Ku-ring-gai and Bankstown won the Bluett Award for local government excellence in the city and regional category, so we should not be the focus of any amalgamation plans.

David how many staff—450. There have been demographic changes with apartment buildings and more people from intercultural backgrounds. The question is whether it makes any difference to the way council works. Human Services with Danny Houseas is in more demand. People grow up, get married, leave as they can't afford the area and when they are older they come back.

The challenges are for all those in units and the type of people and their demands from council for more open space and parks to play; traffic and more people in smaller areas; the size of families, demographics and the services that people require from council.

We seek to get balance in local services that are appropriate for the social fabric. The government challenge is for more medium density in five stages that are close to the spines and transport. But this spine and the rail link is on the Pacific Highway route and there is no more room to grow. The Council has no control over the Pacific Highway, it is too hard and they can't widen it. Development leads to worse traffic.

To achieve balance do you grow up or sprawl outwards? We are expected to get 5,000 more up close. In major cities do you spread into the local area and where do you stop once it begins?

We appreciate that in time development affects lives, careers, families and is affected by the politics.

More background—[Mayor](#)
[General Manager](#)





Hello President Neil
I have received progress reports from Nepal. They cover:

- Rebuilding Devi Jal Kumari (with the Rotary Club of Kalamalka in British Columbia)
- Phase 1 of the Bhawani Hostel.

We expect to receive a report on Bhairabi shortly.
Cheers

Richard Jackson

Director and Financial Planner

Note: The 2 pictorial reports are attached in the mailout to members



President Neil with Ku-ring-gai Council's John McKee, GM, Jennifer Anderson, Mayor and Danny Houseas, Manager Community Development

Correction: Kym Carlson (not Barrett in last week's Edition), Psychology Manager for KYDS with Alice & John Cheok. Alice is a counsellor from KYDS who was part of an amazing story at the Novus Dinner.

LAST WEEK—17th May 2017

Attendance: 50.88% (29/57) or 70.18% with 11 valid make-up credits

Apologies: John Cameron, Marlene Carty, Leon Clark, Helen Clarke, Barry Edmundson, Robert Ferguson, Ross Grant, Kerri Hodge, Susan Owen, Douglas Reid, Jenetta Russell, Peter Smith, Greg Starr, Ron Wainberg, John Welch, Alfreda White.

Visiting Rotarian: Murray Lennon (Immediate PP, St Ives RC)

Guest Speakers: Jennifer Anderson - Mayor, John McKee - General Manager Ku-ring-gai Council

Visitors: Danny Houseas - Manager Community Development (Ku-ring-gai Council); Christine Biddle (John Collins)

Make-Ups: Members who earned Credits at the Novus Dinner & the pre-dinner preparations on May 5 & May 6 were: Stuart Armstrong(2), Ian Cameron(1), John Cameron(1), John Collins(2), Phillip Comfort(1), Philip Easton(1), Barry Edmundson(1), Jim Fulton(1), Rob Giacometti(2), Terry Hodge(2), Bob Howe(1), Richard Jackson(2), John Julius(1), Judith Kaine(1), Jo Karolis(1), Max Lake(1), Kerrin McCormack(3), Richard Pitt(1), Doug Reid(1), George Richards(1), Jenetta Russell (2), David Russell(2), Margaret Sachs(1), Barbara Salisch(1), Peter Smith (1), Janelle Speight(1), Greg Starr(2), Sandy van Dijk(1), Jim Verco(3), Rochelle Wiley(1)

7.15 am Meeting 24.5.2017 Dr Terry Johnsson, SAN International Speaker

With the sponsorship of the 'SAN', Dr. Terry Lyndon Johnsson will speak of his unique story that has inspired thousands over the years. He served as a Presidential Honor Guard for three U.S. Presidents.

His story is nothing short of a miracle, considering he was diagnosed with an extreme case of dyslexia as a young man. His full story can be found in his books, "For His Honor" and "Aim High."

He went on to earn a doctoral degree at the prestigious Wesley Theological Seminary of Washington DC. After years of ministering to Young Adults, Dr. Johnsson was asked to be the Senior Chaplain and Operation Manager of WGTS FM in Washington, D.C., which is the second largest Christian Radio Station in the country. Recently, Dr. Johnsson joined Adventist Health in Portland, Oregon as Executive Director of Mission Integration.



6.30 for 7.00 pm 24.5.2017 Bobbo Dinner at Pymble Golf Club, Cowan Rd , St Ives: Presentation of Cheques to the Bobbo Beneficiaries, Cost \$40 - **Pay at door**

RECEPTION & HOSPITALITY ROSTER, from Club's Website for the year

If you are unable to attend any day please arrange a substitute and inform Len Stanley at lstanley@med.usyd.edu.au or 0420 849017, or 9144 4049

Date	Set up & put away	Hospitality	Reception (2 Rotarians)
24 th May	Bob Howe	Kerri Hodge	Greg Starr, Len Stanley
31 st May	Bob Howe	Terry Hodge	Sandy van Dijk, Greg Starr
7 th June	Richard Jackson	Bob Howe	Jim Verco, Sandy van Dijk
14 th June	Sandy van Dijk	Richard Jackson	Ron Wainberg, Jim Verco

CLUB AND DISTRICT DIARY

25th May 8 pm Thursday—Pymble Players, 'Australia Day' \$25 to Sandy van Dijk

28th June 6:30pm Changeover Dinner at Asquith Golf Club, Guest David Rands

1st July District Changeover at Hornsby RSL

22nd July Saturday Rotary Yulefest is scheduled with soup and puddings!

6th Oct Friday—Didi's Bridge Day, Gordon Uniting Church—Joan and Jan are organising another bridge day for the Lotus Centre in October. As a number of members help on the day would you please include it in the Club and District Diary. Thanks, Rob

Draft Speaker's Program for the next few months

31.5.2017 Hugh Burne, Health and Nutrition Myth busting

21.6.2017 Kerrin McCormack Working with Children background & risk management

The Rotary Club of Wahroonga

The McWhannell Clan & 2016-2017 Board & Committees

BOARD

President Neil McWhannell
Past President Marlene Carty
President-elect Sue Owen
Secretary Sue Owen
Treasurer John Cameron

LEADERS

Sergeant John Collins
Archivist/Historian Ken Broadhead
Badge Collection John Julius
Child Protection Sue Owen,
 Kerrin McCormack
Insurance Officer Phil Easton
Mailbox & Noticeboard Key Holder
 Sue Owen
New Badges Phil Comfort
Public Officer Judith Kaine
Public Relations Janelle Speight
Risk Management & Insurance
 John Collins
Roster & Attendance Len Stanley
Rotary Foundation Chair
 Chris de Zylva
Speaker Program Helen Clarke,
 John Cameron, Philip Easton
Wahroongler Editor Kerrin
 McCormack assisted by George
 Richards, Janelle Speight, Steve
 McGregor + Webmaster
Webmaster Ian Cameron
Welfare Officer Rob Ferguson

COMMITTEES

Community Co-ordinator - Ron Wainberg
Team - Daksh Baweja, Leon Clark, Helen Clarke,
 John Collins, Barry Edmundson, Brett Goods, John
 Julius, Max Lake, Doug Reid, Janelle Speight

International Chair - Anne Prescott
Team - Jim Fulton, Janet Grundy, Richard Jackson,
 Jo Karaolis, Richard Pitt, Abhi Poudel, David Russell

Membership Chair - Helen Clarke
Team - John Collins, Phillip Comfort, Rob Ferguson,
 Carol Johnson, Jenetta Russell, Margaret Sachs,
 Alfreda White

Partnerships & Fund-Raising Chair - Peter Smith
Team - Stuart Armstrong, Terry Hodge, Jenetta
 Russell, Barbara Ward, Dick Webb, Garry Webb

The Ministry of Fun Chair - Rochelle Wiley
Team - Phil Comfort, Kerri Hodge, Sandy van Dijk

Vocational Chair - Hugh Burne
Team - Ken Broadhead, Jo Karaolis, John Welch
 Angus M Robinson—on leave

Youth Chair - Bob Howe
Team - Phil Comfort, Philip Easton, Ian Faulks,
 Ross Grant, Barbara Harvison, Kerrin McCormack,
 Barbara Salisch, Greg Starr, Jim Verco

PAUL HARRIS

FELLOWS: Please
 see attached Link for
 the up-to-date
 listing —
[Paul Harris Fel-
 lows Listing](#)

Anniversary

None this week

LINKS [SAN Fun Run](#) [St Eddie's Events](#) [KYDS Counselling](#)
[Pymble Players](#) [Youth Science Awards](#) **Hazels' challenge &**
PCYC changes with the times, both in Hornsby Advocate 11.5.17. attached

Intention to donate
 \$26.50 cheque.
 Please see John C.
 in honour of Arch Klump
 RC
 6th President



1517



\$A26.50
 2016