ROTARY: MAKING A DIFFERENCE

The Wahroongler

District 9685 — From the mountains to the sea

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. **16th Aug 2017, Vol 43. No 7**

Sue's News



It is always an inspirational experience to visit St Lucy's School at Wahroonga. This primary school offers excellence in education for children with intellectual disability.

We were hosted for breakfast last Wednesday by the new Principal, David Raphael, and by his Deputy, Susan Jones in a visit arranged by Richard Pitt.

Richard interviewed David Raphael about his pathway to St Lucy's School and learned that he had spent the previous fifteen years as Principal of William Clarke College at Kellyville, an Anglican day school catering for children from K to Year 12, with a student population of in excess of 1,500.

I was very familiar with William Clarke College, as my daughter taught there during her first few teaching years in Sydney after her graduation, and I attended several events at the school. It was a school where the staff were enthusiastic, mutually supportive, and in the main, strongly Christian. I had watched this then little school, surrounded by commercial market gardens and chicken farms, gradually expand, before endless McMansions marched over the hills, over the bush and over the farmland so that all that lay in their path was transformed into suburbia in almost no time at all.

It is amazing how St Lucy's attracts the likes of Jo Karaolis and David Raphael from the top echelon of the mainstream, into the demanding area of working with children with disability. David Raphael advised us that St Lucy's now catered for 140 children - 104 on the Wahroonga campus and the remainder in satellite campuses. Approximately 70% of the current students are on the spectrum.

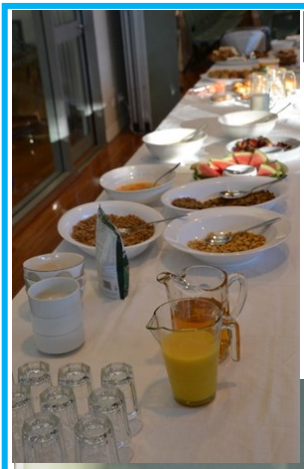
Susan Jones gave us an interesting account of the reading program employed at St Lucy's. Insightful to know that many of the children can learn the process of reading relatively easily, but are not be able to comprehend what it is that they have read.

Richard confirmed at the meeting that the Rotary Club of Wahroonga would again be providing a bursary to cover the fees and other expenses of one student in the 2018 school year. This will fund a student whose family would otherwise not be able to afford to send their child to St Lucy's. I thanked the staff at St Lucy's for the wonderful breakfast, and all their efforts in hosting us.

On another matter, I was sad to receive a note of resignation during the week from Barbara Ward. I thank Barbara for all her efforts while a member of this Club and wish her the very best in the future. I hope that she will continue to visit us as for breakfast, as and when she can. She will receive a warm welcome.

This week Neil McWhannell will be hosting a Five Star Fellowship meeting and will be interviewing at least one of our scintillating club members. I hope that this will be a quiet oasis of a meeting providing an opportunity for fellowship, as amazingly our speakers program is now officially full until the end of December! Don't forget the membership drive meeting on 30 August, 2017 with Paul Fletcher MP. Please let me have contact details for guests to invite asap. **Sue Owen, President**

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At Last Week's Meeting at St Lucy's

Anouncements—Neil advised he has dug out more space in his basement for the Rotary Club's stock. The Club has agreed to pay for 1m^3 of concrete, but he needs some help in forming it up and anyone with builder's plastic underlay would be a help too.

Kerrin advised that the Kur-ring-gai Interchurch Committee is hosting a luncheon at St Andrew's Presbyterian Church, St Ives, today and anyone is welcome to come along to hear Fr Shenouda Mansour discussing Ecumenism and Coptic Monasteries in Australia.



Richard Pitt, when he was President, considered the donation RCW was making to St Lucy's as it wasn't very clearly identifiable. They decided instead to provide a bursary for one student for one year's tuition that covered fees, school uniform, excursions, plus the holiday camp. The value was about the same and if after the donation for the bursary there was surplus it was allocated to another student in need. Without the bursary the student could not get into the school.

By selling Raffle tickets everyone can sell them knowing what it is for and have a sense of purpose and know that the students really appreciate it. Thank you to Rob Gia and Barb Harvison, who is joining him in running this year's Christmas Raffle.

In introducing **Principal, David Raphael, Richard** asked him several questions about himself.







Before St Lucy's David was at William Park College in Kellyville, an Anglican school established in 1988. He was its principal for 15 yrs from 2002-2016. The founding principal, Phillip Bryce was there for 15 yrs from 1988. It's now become a tradition that principals stay for 15 yrs, but with only two principals in 30 yrs this has been a blessing. It is very special for the leadership of the school as you are there long enough to make a difference, but not so long to become crusty.



When he started there was a pre-existing Yr 7-12 high school and he extended it to build on the culture to have a pre–Kinde to K-Yr 6 school. They went from 900 students to 1,600 and as Kellyville is blooming with a railway station yet to be built, this is well positioned for the future. In this time he has been involved in 8 building projects. Here at St Lucy's he does not intend to build so much, but they have just acquired No 10 Billyard Ave, that will lead to a rethinking of their Master Plan. Before he arrived they were going in certain directions, but this change will have a significant impact. They have more students wanting to come to St Lucy's than they can accommodate, so this will allow them to expand and take more students with special needs focus. St Lucy's is in good hands so welcome to you all.

Thanks to all in the Rotary Club who have so faithfully supported us for many years. The bursary is a blessing to the families who receive it each year, as it makes a huge difference because it enables a family to come to this school who could not otherwise afford it. Our fees are not huge at $4,000 a year, which are at the lower end of fee scales, but for families who already have significant challenges with the extra costs of having children with disabilities and special needs it is still significant. The bursary for the family is indeed a blessing and this year the family receiving it are so grateful for it.



In introducing **Susan Jones, Jo** gave some background about St Lucy's. It is a Dominican school established in 1960 and has 140 students, not all are here, as some are at the satellite campuses at St Joseph's in the Northern Beaches and at St John's. When she came here most students had intellectual and vision problems but when she left this had dropped to one quarter, while those students with autism had risen to 70%.

Susan was at SCEGGS Darlinghurst, that our President also attended. She taught at St Edmond's and was in the Audit Unit for students with learning difficulties at St Leo's. She went on to the NSW Board of Studies as an Inspector of Special Education. She went to inspect St Lucy's to see if

They were doing the right thing. Things were alright and she was so impressed that she wanted to join St Lucy's and became its Deputy in 2011. Susan has been Deputy to four principals over eight years, that shows how adaptable she is.



Susan told us that she loved St Lucy's when she did prac teaching there and it was her boss at the Board of Studies who told her about the Deputy's job just before it closed, as he believed it would suit her very well and she'd be areal loss to them.

She told us about St Lucy's Reading Program and for those who have visited before, she tested us to check out what we remembered of the Key Word Sign language—"Good morning everyone", "How Are You?" "Good" and "Sad".

The Reading Tutor Program was established in 2010 with quite large classes In Jo's time 11-12, but now 9 in each class with a teacher and teacher's aid. They need 3x20 mins intensive instruction a week and could not do it with a staffing cap. They also use a Multi-lip program from Macquarie Uni that is 1:1 delivered intensively in an explicit way. In 2010 they established that they needed a workforce and it needed volunteers to staff it and they began a recruitment process and to undertake a lot of training for the volunteers because of the specialist nature of the work as reading instructors. They come on Mon, Tues and Thurs and anyone with some spare time is most welcome to join us.

There are 5 key areas—Phonemic awareness in hearing sounds in words ca-aa-te -> cat, or to break up the sounds of H-A-T to get he-aa-te -> hat—break up and put back together.

Graphics as a lit of children do not talk and it is hard to assess if they can get words from pictures and back again. Then Phonemics to give letter sounds and recognition of a simple word, like Cat and be able to look at a word and know what it means. Children have a very good memory for patterns , but if they have never seen a word before they are not very good at sounding it out. They move on to complex sounds like 'che' in chicken and build up from there. Then comes Fluency for comprehension—if you are stuck on da-oo-og you don't get to put it together as d-o-g. Then Comprehension and the meaning of words, vocabulary with the who, what, where as key aspects of the text. The more complex and difficult aspects are the why and how. They first train students in the sight words from the Macquarie program that covers 30 mins a week to build comprehension. A key part is finding the topic that interests each child as it is so boring if you Have no interest in a topic and need to do drills each week—for you maybe red wine, but lots of students love ipads.



Rewards include lollies or a book to motivate them like Thomas the tank engine each day!!



Thanks and congratulations from Richard and President Sue



If children don't speak how to you deliver and assess their skills? Our very skilled volunteers use cards to prompt them. Many children can read fluently, but don't understand what they read. You need infinite patience in this work.
We appreciate all that the Rotary Club does to help us. A range of Q&As followed from members to round off another wonderful visit.

This Week is Science Week + CubeRider Project Update





Bob and Anne participated in the Ku-ring-gai Council's STEM Forum on 7.8.17. attended by Educationlists and Students. Bob presented the Cuberider program. Anne joined the Professionals and Students for an interactive forum.

From: "Shukla, Keerti" <Keerti.Shukla1@det.nsw.edu.au>
Date: 10 August 2017 at 8:00:34 pm AEST
To: Bob Howe <bob.howe@strategicconsulting.com.au
Subject: Cuberider 2017

Hi Jim and Bob,
I am so excited to share with you the DTHS CubeRider team's achievements thus far. They have successfully designed and coded 7 experiments that will be launched on 14th August at 2:57am by the SpaceX CRS Falcon-9 from Cape Canaveral, Florida USA. This means, we are only 4 days out from lift-off and from running these experiments in space!
We are celebrating this very special moment with a 'sleepover' at school where students will be watching the live-stream of the rocket launch. Not just this, but the whole experience (along with some student interviews) will be shot and channelled by the ABC, on a later date. For DTHS students this is an exciting opportunity in itself and couldn't have been possible without the Rotary's Club assistance.
So thank you for your support and trust in our students!
Regards,

Keerti Shukla
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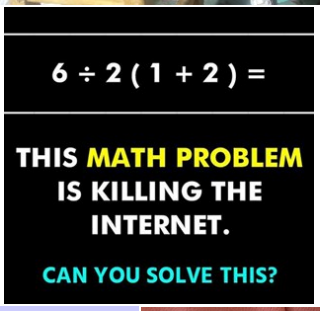
"I have come to believe that a great teacher is a great artist...teaching might even be the greatest of the arts since the medium is the human mind and spirit." John Steinbeck

Members' Extra News

Kerrin, see attached a couple of pics -outcomes from the recent Mongolian visit by Jan and Joan.
The girls together with a friend of Joan's, Liz Waring and three granddaughters, Joan's 2 and Liz's 1, spent 2 weeks in Ulaanbaatar, capital of Mongolia, teaching the Lotus Centre teenagers, some of their sewing skills.
They took 4 new sewing machines with them—see girls at work and since returning to AU they have been pleased to see some of their work—screen printed and being sold in the Centre's shop to tourists. A great outcome!! Regards, Ian Cameron











A new son for Filipa and David. Our New Grandson, No. 6 Grandchild, Thomas Jackson Comfort: 3.49Kg, 51cm. Born 12.8.17. at 2.20pm. (Phil's Dad's 97th Birthday) Regards, Phillip

Hi, The answer is 1—Anne

New Baby Corner



Thomas Jackson Comfort. 1 day old.

Next Week, 16th Aug. - 5 Star Fellowship + Group Discussion

Last Week—Club Assembly, 9th Aug 2017

Attendance: 36/57 members, 63.16%
Apologies: Hugh Burne, Leon Clark, Helen Clarke, John Collins, Ian Faulks, Brett Goods, Ross Grant, Terrence Hodge, Richard Jackson, Judith Kaine, Jenetta Russell, Margaret Sachs, Sandra van Dijk, Garry Webb.
Visitor: Lyn Varvel—Margaret Sachs

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 ***len.stanley29@gmail.com*** *or 0420 849017, or 9144 4049*

Date	Set up & put away	Hospitality	Reception (2 Rotarians)
16th Aug	Richard Pitt	Ian Cameron	Leon Clark, Len Stanley
23rd Aug	Abhi Poudel	Richard Pitt	Helen Clarke, Leon Clark
30th Aug	Anne Prescott	Abhi Poudel	Phil Comfort, Helen Clarke
6th Sept	Doug Reid	Anne Prescott	Phil Easton, Phil Comfort

Club and District Diary

Fri 25th Aug Daffodil Day, Jenetta Russell Convenor for contacts
Th 31st Aug 9:30- 4:00, Domestic & Family Violence Workshop and Local Court Visit
Sun 10th, 24th Sept and 8th Oct. **Rotary Leadership Course RLI 43**: full course fee is $75*.
Register at rli.rotarydistrict9685.org.au ** The fee covers direct participant costs. Rotarians who have partially completed RLIs prior to today and wish to do individual parts should contact PDG Ian Scott for registration by response to this email; the cost for catch up sessions is $20.*
Tu 19th Sept 6.30 pm Building Grace's Place, Blacktown Worker's Club, $80 pp
Sat 23rd Sept Outing Mooney Mooney Club for Lunch
Fri 6th Oct Didi's Bridge Day, Gordon Uniting Church
Sun 15th Oct San Run for Life
Sat 2nd Dec Club Christmas Party
Fri 8-12th Dec Abbox at Abbotsleigh for Yr 12 students & **Christmas BBQ on 12th**

Speaker's Program for the next few weeks

23rd Aug Club Meeting, Michelle Dickson - The Indigenous Active Health Program
30th Aug Club Meeting, Membership Drive Special Guest Speaker, Paul Fletcher MP
6th Sept Club Meeting, Michael Bendon, WW2 Historian
13th Sept St Edmund's Breakfast at St Edmund's
20th Sept Club Meeting, Kalma McLellan, District Community Service Chair
27th Sept Club Meeting, Simon Gillard Keynote speaker on PTSD & Author
4th Oct Club Meeting
11th Oct Club Meeting, 5 Star Fellowship + Hat Day 10th Oct
18th Oct Club Meeting, 4 Way Test with 4 Schools Debating
25th Oct Club Meeting, World Skills CEO, Brett Judd
1st Nov Club Meeting, Armistice Day
8th Nov Club Meeting, Melbourne Cup on 7th Nov
15th Nov Club Meeting, Poss Anne Johnstone, RAVO
22nd Nov Club Meeting, John Cameron—Foundation

The Rotary Club of Wahroonga

Sue's Super Heroes & 2017-2018 Board & Committees

Board

President Sue Owen
Past President & IPP & Community Service Director Neil McWhannell
President-elect Stuart Armstrong
Secretary Greg Starr
Treasurer PDG John Cameron

Leaders

Sergeant Jo Karaolis
Archivist/Historian Ken Broadhead
Badge Collection John Julius
Child Protection Phil Easton, Kerrin McCormack
Communications Team
Photographer George Richards
PR & f Janelle Speight
Wahroongler Editor Kerrin McCormack
Webmaster Ian Cameron
Year Book & Asst Treasurer Steve McGregor
Insurance Officer Phil Easton
Mailbox & Noticeboard Key Holder Greg Starr
New Badges Phil Comfort
Public Officer Judith Kaine
Risk Management & Insurance John Collins
Roster & Attendance Len Stanley
Rotary Foundation Chair Marg Sachs
Speaker's Program Helen Clarke, John Cameron, Philip Easton
Welfare Officer Rob Ferguson
Asst Welfare Officer Barbara Salisch

Avenues of Service Committees

IPP & Community Service Director - Neil McWhannell
Team - Stuart Armstrong, Daksh Baweja, Leon Clark, John Collins, Barry Edmundson, John Julius, Peter Kirkwood, Max Lake, Ron Wainberg

International *Director* - Anne Prescott
Team - Jim Fulton, Janet Grundy, Richard Jackson, Jo Karaolis, Richard Pitt, Abhi Poudel

Vocational Director - Hugh Burne
Team - Ken Broadhead, Jo Karaolis, Kerrin McCormack, Jim Verco, John Welch, Alfreda White
Angus M Robinson on leave

Youth Director - Bob Howe
Team - Christine Biddle, Phil Comfort, Philip Easton, Ian Faulks, Ross Grant, Barbara Harvison, Doug Reid, Barbara Salisch, Greg Starr

Other Committees

Bobbin Head Cycle Classic Support Committee
Chair - Stuart Armstrong
Team - Neil McWhannell, Jim Fulton, John Collins, Doug Reid, David Russell, Janelle Speight , Greg Starr

Grants Chair - Peter Smith
Team - Garry Webb

Membership Processing & Welfare
Chair - Helen Clarke
Team - Rob Ferguson, Judith Kaine, Barbara Salisch

Partnerships & Fundraising *Chair* - Jenetta Russell
Team - John Collins, Barry Edmundson, Rob Giacometti, Terry Hodge, Dick Webb

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

Club members on the Novus Board
John Collins, Terry Hodge, David Russell, Garry Webb, Rochelle Wiley

Paul Harris Fellows:

Link for up-to-date listing— Paul Harris Fellows Listing

LINKS Happy Women's Day South Africa

Advocacy in Education Flyer Northern Sydney Vocational Support Network

NDCO Seminar Series for people with disabilities and their support people

BHCC Connection BHCC Volunteer with us

Opera Lunedi Flyer for opera lovers or those just wanting to know more about how it all works

Rotary Action Group Against Slavery Newsletter