



SERVE TO CHANGE LIVES



The Port Wheel

The weekly bulletin of the Rotary Club of Port Macquarie Inc
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Club No. 17940 Chartered May 22nd, 1948

Website www.rotaryclubportmacquarie.com.au

Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/RotaryClubPortMacquarie/>

The Rotary Club of Port Macquarie

P.O. Box 136, Port Macquarie
NSW 2444 Australia

President - Frank Moxon

President-elect - PDG Debbie Loveday

Immediate Past President - Elizabeth Fielding

Vice President - Gai Nixon

Secretary - Geoff Slack

Treasurer - Bob Cleland

Club Service Director - PDG Debbie Loveday

Community Service Director - Phil Perry

International Service Director - Ray Hodgson

Vocational Service Director - Neil Porter

Youth Service Director - Diana Gammon

Club Meetings Wednesdays @ Port Panthers 5-30pm for 6pm start. BUT check program on page 2 for what is happening.

Apologies for Week's Meet to - Frank Moxon

Email: pamoxy@gmail.com
or 0413 349 144 & text - "Rotary YES" or "Rotary, NO"

Club bank details - BSB 932-000
a/c 500 186 792

Past/Present District Governors

Roger Dulhunty 1969-70

Ivan Meldrum 1975-76

Laurie Barber 2006-07

Debbie Loveday 2020-21

David Mayne 2021-22

Bulletin Editor - Kerry Medway
kerrymedway1946@gmail.com

Assistant Editor - PDG Debbie Loveday
dloveday@hdl.com.au



Valda Sturrock three-on-me

Valda is Bob Cleland's fiancé and has played a huge support role in our Rotary Club over many years. She has acted as Registrar for District Conferences, assisted with registering charities for our Craft Expo at the racecourse. In recent years she has been the driving force behind our Rotary Bookshop which along with our giant booksale has raised over \$70,000 per year from the sale of second-hand books.



Two weeks ago Valda shared her interesting story -
I was born in Sydney but grew up in country NSW, most of my school years were in Merriwa and Mudgee with a brief time at Newcastle Girls' High. My father was a policeman, so we had moved 7 times by the time I was 14 (I've since moved another 21 times, so I'm obviously a nomad).

At 14 I moved with my mother to Newcastle and as she wasn't well, I had to leave school and look for a job. I spent 3 days working for a hairdresser, then went to secretarial school for 2 weeks, worked in an electrical store for 2 years and was then offered the job of managing a record store when I was 16. After 12 months I decided that what I really wanted to do was to be a pharmacist so I started night school to study for my leaving certificate.

Two years later, having passed my exams, I thought I would be off to Sydney Uni. to study pharmacy. However, my mother had other ideas and she saw an ad in the paper for a trainee computer programmer at BHP. I reluctantly applied for this and was successful, winning a commercial traineeship which included time off work to attend Newcastle Uni. where I studied Maths & Economics (there were no computer science courses in those days). I was the first female commercial trainee there, and the commercial manager announced that he could "kick the boys in the backside" if they didn't perform, but he wasn't sure what to do with me! I immediately decided to study hard so that I wouldn't have to find out (that was probably his idea).

At that time, BHP ran their own training program and my teacher and mentor was none other than Fred O'Toole (a legendary former member of our R/C). This was also the first place where I encountered discrimination against women in the workplace - if you got married you had to leave.

(continued over the page)

THE HOME OF OUR DISTRICT GOVERNOR

In Our 74th Year



Club program - If you are unable to fulfil your role, swap with someone & advise Port Wheel Editor Kerry.

Date	Program	Speaker	Program Chr	Welcomer	3 ON ME	InterToast	Sergeant
June 29th	Dinner at Panthers	Club Changeover	Frank Moxon Deb Loveday				Kerry Medway
July 6	One hour meet @ Panthers	Club Assembly	Deb Loveday				
July 13th	Meet at Panrthers	Dr Clare Allen					

Valda's story continued

After working as a programmer and then systems designer for 3 years, I left for the bright lights of Sydney and a job with Qantas, where I was their first female programmer. I was met with a very cool reception from the men in the department, until one day when I was working on something which had gone wrong and let out a few swear words. They all cheered and invited me down to the pub for a drink after work, where they told me that they'd been made to take down their girlie calendars and told not to swear because I would be offended. After that, I was just one of the boys and we all got along very well. Working at Qantas, I caught the travel bug which is still with me today.



I spent nearly 4 years working for Qantas and then left to become a director of a software company. After several years there, I then went on the "almost obligatory" overseas trip by ship to England, where I worked in London for a year, then travelled around Europe and America for 4 months before coming home.

When I arrived home and started looking for work I was greeted with the old anti female attitude - "you'll just leave to have a baby" so I decided to start up my own business, first as a contract programmer then later on I purchased my own computer systems to develop new software and this business continued for another 40 years. My company specialized in membership systems for trade unions - the Transport Workers, Railways, Finance Sector, Telecommunications, Journalists, Police Association and Public Sector unions being among them. We also designed and wrote the reservations system for a cruise company and worked on financial and manufacturing systems for Blackmores and others.

The technological changes in computers have been enormous over these years, from the first computer I worked on in 1963 which was physically large, but small in capacity (12K), and cost over £100,000 through to the first mini computer which I bought which cost \$30,000, and was much smaller, faster and had 100 times more memory, to the micro or PC's of today which can do much more than either of those for a fraction of the cost.

I met my partner Bob 26 years ago and we moved to Port Macquarie in 2003 with the intention of retiring and spending a life of endless picnics, boating on the river, travel etc. So much for intentions - we both continued with part time work for the first 10 years, and we both have been involved with Rotary and Probus. When we do have some time off, we love to travel and I also enjoy photography & reading.

Thanks Valda for your story & great support of our club.

Valda & Bob are away this week on a well-earned holiday to Uluru.

Valda has wanted to see the 'field of lights' at Uluru.

DG Debbie will be doing the bulletin for next 6 weeks while Kerry is away.



Dr Ted Giblin with our guest speaker Dr Angela Frimberger

Club News

DGs Visit to Combined Clubs in Port Macquarie

DG Neville Clarke & Patti on Saturday 9th July @ 6pm
\$40pp Bookings & Payment via Trybooking
www.trybooking.com/BZTYP

Tonight's International Toast was to the **R/C of Aberdeen in Scotland** proposed by **Alastair Moss**

Tonight President Frank inducted his 3rd new Rotarian when **Peter Coulon was welcomed to our club**



This weeks guest speaker

was Dr Angela Frimberger who gave a very enlightening talk on **CLIMATE CHANGE**.

Angela shared some stunning revelations in a considered talk backed by many facts & intellectual understanding.

- Angela posed three questions -
1. MUST WE CHANGE
 2. CAN WE CHANGE
 3. WILL WE CHANGE

Angela's factual talk needs a much larger audience than the 20 members we had present tonight. Whether you agree or disagree with Climate Change we need to hear considered facts such as Angela presented in her excellent talk.

Birthdays June 2022

25/06 - Geoff Slack
30/06 - Patricia Urban
30/06 - Darryl McMahon

Anniversaries June 2022

24/06 - Gai & Bill Nixon