

The Port Wheel

The weekly bulletin of the Rotary Club of Port Macquarie Inc

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Pediatric Ward Update

When Rotarians from the Port Macquarie Rotary Clubs heard that Port Macquarie BH was one of only a few hospitals in NSW where the Paediatric Emergency Ward was a sterile white and not decorated with child friendly artwork, they quickly decided to get behind rectifying this problem.

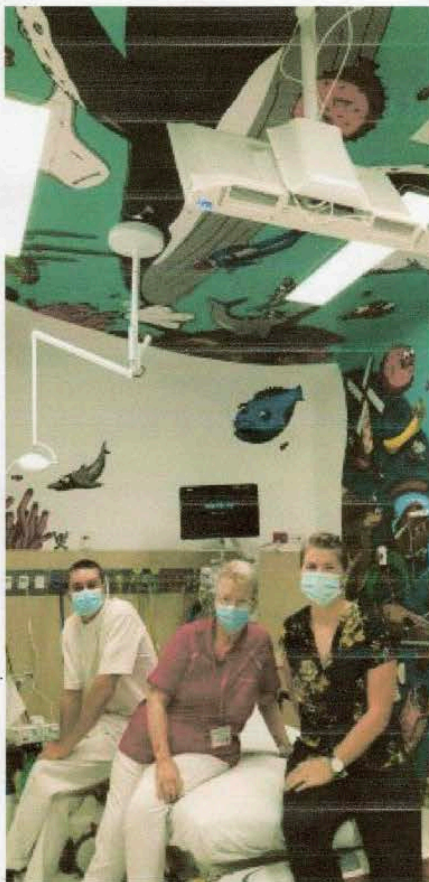
It is well recognised that without artwork, recovery times and indeed recoveries themselves are greatly impacted. To be placed in a sterile environment when serious injuries or other health issues are having a devastating impact, children and their carers respond poorly and this is despite the best efforts of our health professionals.

After reviewing other hospitals that have been suitably decorated our Rotarians agreed to launch an appeal to fund this upgrade. A grant of \$15,000 from the Rotary Australia Compassionate Grants program has now been matched from Club funds and we are looking to this community to contribute and provide a similar amount to fully fund the upgrade.

Below is a look into the Coffs Harbour Pediatric Ward, Port Base is looking at a similar design or using the same artist where possible.



Artist Joe Neathway Brown and Pink Ladies President Helen Mears in the Emergency Department's waiting area, where children get their first glimpse of the underwater adventure world waiting beyond the glass panels.



ED Paediatric Staff Specialist Dr Sarah O'Rourke (front) is delighted with the finished murals, made possible by artist Joe Neathway Brown



NEXT WEEK

12 August 2024

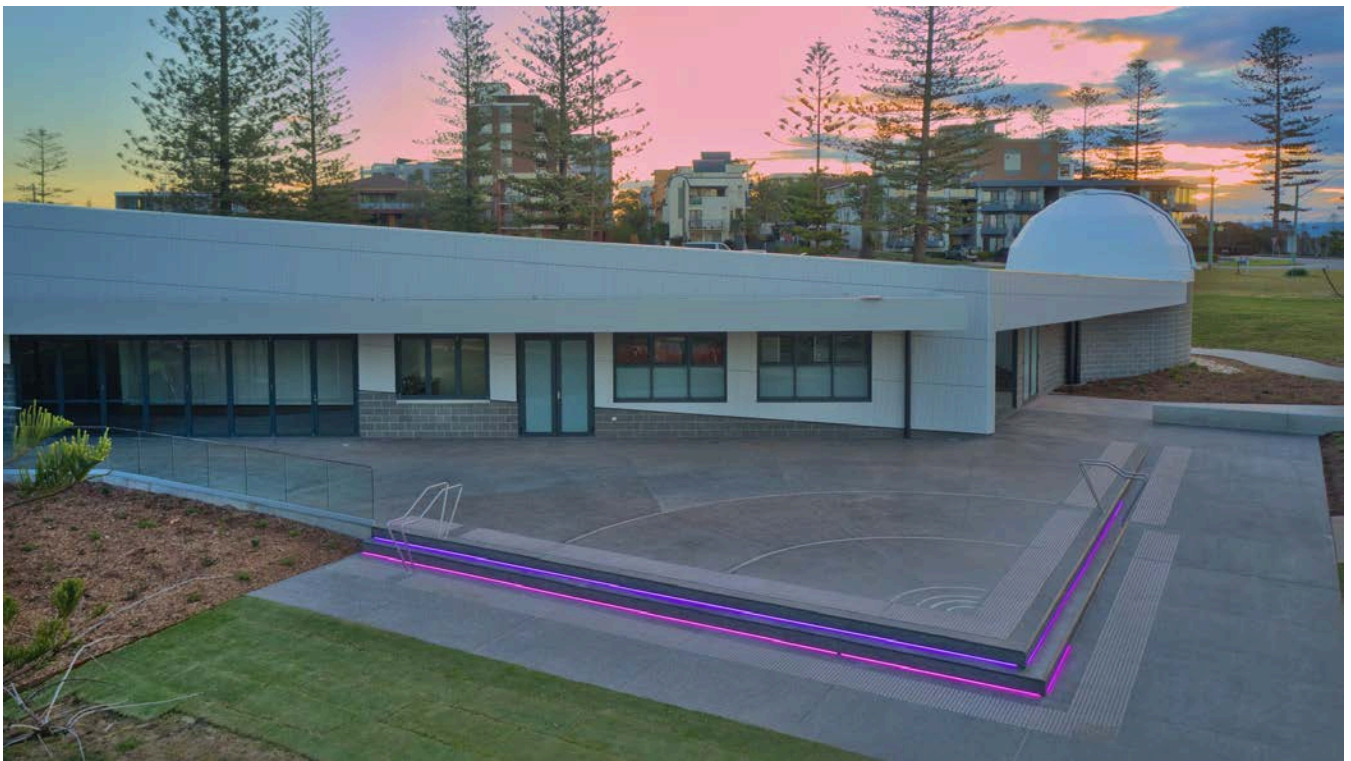
Weekly Meeting - Port Panthers Club

5:30pm for 6pm

Dinner in Bistro following

Observatory External Completion





We are pleased to share some drone photos, taken by community members, showcasing the external completion of the Port Macquarie Observatory located in Rotary Park. Our club has historically participated in the observatory's operations over the years.

The Port Macquarie Astronomical Association's new observatory aims to bring astronomy and science to both our local and tourist communities in a stimulating and engaging manner.

A NSW State and Federal Grant of \$4.86 million, combined with 60 years of community involvement in astronomy through the Port Macquarie Astronomical Observatory, has made this project possible.

The new observatory will be open during the day and into the evening, offering a program of events and facilities designed to cater to all ages and levels of interest in astronomy and science.

**SOCIAL
NIGHT**

26th August 2024

Social Night - Port City Bowling Club
4 Owen St, Port Macquarie NSW 2444
6pm

Weekly Brain Teaser

I am not a king, I am not a queen
But most of you will bow when I'm seen
Currently I am resting on my side
But soon I will continue my stride
I can't walk, run, fly or crawl
Yet I am the greatest traveller of all



Pitfalls of Foreign Aid

A presentation by Dr Ray Hodgson



On Monday night an insightful presentation was given by Club President Dr Ray Hodgson on the pitfalls of foreign aid.

Genius Makeshift Solutions in Footwear

Innovative solutions can arise from simple ideas. One genius example is the creation of makeshift footwear, like thongs made from recycled bottles. These clever solutions, while innovative, are part of a larger conversation about the effectiveness and impact of foreign aid on local economies and communities.

The Case of TOMS Shoes

Ray discussed the model of TOMS Shoes, where for every pair of shoes purchased, another pair is donated to a child in need. While this "one-for-one" approach seems beneficial at first glance, it has significant drawbacks. Ray highlighted the story of a shoemaker in Nepal who, along with many local cobblers and salespeople, lost his job due to the influx of donated shoes. This example underscores the issue: foreign aid can often undermine local businesses and economies.

The Philosophy of Foreign Aid: A Flawed Approach

Over the past 50 years, approximately 2.3 trillion USD has been spent on foreign aid. Despite this immense investment, the effect on global poverty remains negligible. The handout philosophy leads to reliance, which is not sustainable. This is particularly evident in the provision of goods and services.

Humanitarian Crises and Chronic Diseases

Free health camps, while sounding beneficial, create similar problems. Without continuous local medical presence, patients wait for visiting doctors, leading to inconsistent care. Local doctors struggle to compete, and the community only benefits temporarily.

Pitfalls of Foreign Aid

1. **Impact on Local Economy:** Foreign aid can disrupt local businesses and industries, leading to job losses.
2. **Lack of Local Knowledge:** Aid programs often lack understanding of local cultures and medical needs, reducing their effectiveness.
3. **Sustainability Issues:** Many aid programs are not sustainable, leading to short-term solutions rather than long-term progress.

Sustainable Solutions: Training and Local Empowerment

To mitigate these issues, Ray emphasises working within the community. For example, focusing on women's health, local doctors and midwives are trained to use donated equipment, like portable ultrasounds, thanks to support from organisations like the Northern Sydney Rotary Club. Over 150 midwives have been trained directly or through a train-the-trainer system. Charging patients on a means-tested basis helps support the local economy and ensures the services are valued and sustainable.

Addressing Local Knowledge and Medical Needs

Ray collaborates with the Himalayan Health and Environmental Services Solukhumbu to address the lack of local knowledge. Large amounts of donated equipment often go to waste due to lack of training or maintenance. By training locals in public health measures, community medicine services, and telemedicine, these resources become more sustainable and effective.



Wedding Anniversaries August 2024

21/8 - Alastair and Joan Moss
28/8 - Robert and Josi Rutishauser

Birthdays August 2024

1/08 - Glenda Barber

“When you give joy to other people, you get more joy in return. You should give a good thought to the happiness that you can give out.”
- Eleanor Roosevelt



Rotary Club of Port Macquarie

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