

The Port Wheel

The weekly bulletin of the Rotary Club of Port Macquarie Inc

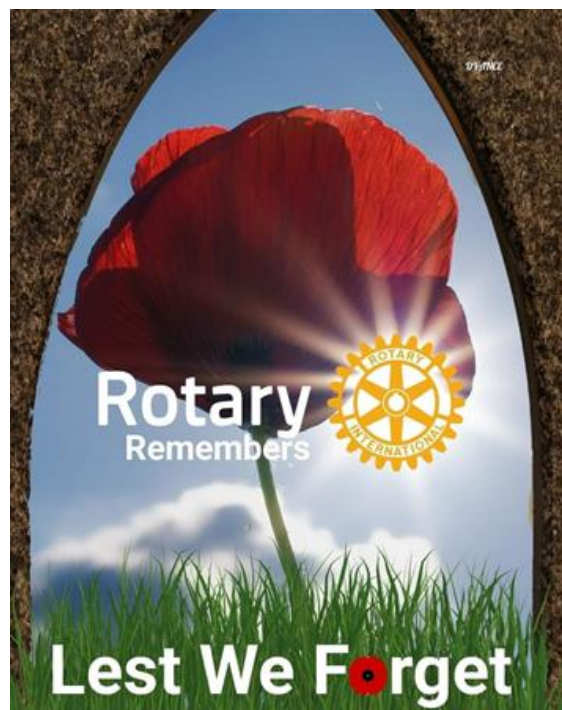
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Nepal Hospital Update



Monday evening was very busy as both Dr Ray and PDG David Mayne provided updates on the progress of the Women's and Babie's hospital in Nepal.

Dr Ray provided photos of the hospitals construction and all Rotarians in attendance were amazed at the substantial progress made since our last update. Ray explained how Rotary International have been instrumental in funding this hospital and many Rotary Clubs and philanthropists from all around the world have contributed to the success of this wonderful project. The hospital will not only save the lives of Mums and babies, but also contribute to the quality of life of many women who may be ostracised by their family due to their poor physical condition. Dr Ray also advised that he is currently raising funds for the provision of an all-terrain ambulance to service the surrounding areas which are inaccessible by normal transport.

Dr Ray and Helen are flying to Nepal this weekend for a fortnight of medical operations and training of local Doctors and nurses. Congratulations to Ray and his dedicated team of local volunteers who will again be assisting him on this visit.

David Mayne has also recently visited the hospital site and provided photos of the substantial progress in the fit out of the 5 story building. David has also been instrumental in organising the Pathology unit and this will see dramatic improvements in transfusion and availability of blood donors. Thanks to the presence of a better equipped Path Lab, assessments can be made on-site rather than having to wait while samples are transported to a nearby city and waiting for their reports and recommendations.

From the slides shown, Rotarians could see that the new hospital is constructed alongside the existing general hospital, but the Women's and Babies hospital will have their own separate entrance. This will enable them to be stand alone while sharing facilities like the elevator.

Thank you to David also for his wonderful contribution to this project. Like Dr Ray and the local volunteering medical staff, David pays his own expenses for these visits to Nepal and the locals are truly appreciative of David's efforts in improving their lives.



NEXT WEEK

18 November 2024
Special Guest Speaker: Gail Davis
Port Macquarie Panthers
6pm
Dinner in Bistro Following

Weekly Brain Teaser

I am taken from a mine and shut up in a wooden case, from which I am never released, and yet I am used by almost every person. What am I?



Last Weeks Answer: Pencil Lead

Laurie Smith OAM



On Monday evening we were privileged to share Laurie Smith's journey through five decades of attending the Olympic games.

Laurie's first taste of the Olympics occurred in 1968 where he witnessed the Mexican games. It was at these games that he met Mike Wenden the Australian swimmer who won gold in the 100 and 200 metre freestyle. Mike and Larie remain good friends 50 years later.

Young and impressionable, Laurie was infected with the Olympics as a vehicle to bring athletes and visitors from all around the world to compete and celebrate this great sporting and cultural event. Laurie noted that even athletes from waring nations made friendships that last forever.

However not all of the games have been peaceful. Laurie recounted that the Games are also used as a centre stage for protests and had hair- raising experiences at the games in Mexico, Barcelona and Brazil. Students and activists attempted to hijack the games and were brutally dealt with by the police and military. Laurie was at the Munich Games when 12 competitors from Israel were killed by extremists. The memory of this event still affects Laurie, as he also attended the memorial ceremony in the Olympic stadium.

On a happier note, in the 80's Laurie met and married the love of his life, Barb. Together they have attended all Olympics as spectators since then and when the Games came to Australia in 2000, they decided to assist as Volunteers. They have been volunteering at all Games since Sydney and missed only Tokyo due to lockdown.

Both Laurie and Barb are convinced that the Sydney Games are hands-down best organised and presented games that they have attended. None of the volunteers in Sydney were paid, but in some countries it is the only way they can amass the number of volunteers required. And in Athens, they were still laying grass and painting the stadium the day before the Games commenced.

There have been many highlights over the years, but both Laurie and Barb agree that theirs was meeting William and Kate at the London Games. They had 10 minutes chatting with the Royal couple and Barb even invited William to visit Port Macquarie when next they toured Australia.

Laurie has written a book about Volunteering and it is called 'Living is Giving' and details the 2000 experience.

There is no doubt that Laurie and Barb embody all that is good in volunteering and they are regularly assisting good local causes such as the Port Triathlon and yes, even our annual book sale at Panthers where they can be seen stacking and tidying the books. Congratulations to Laurie and Barb, two great Australians.

Laurie Smith OAM
Olympic Adventures



SOCIAL NIGHT

Next Social Night

By popular demand, our next social night will be back at the Westport Club! Join us at 6 pm on 25 November for a relaxed evening with good company, delicious food, and a chance to unwind. We look forward to seeing you there!

Invitation

HASTINGS
SECONDARY COLLEGE

EXCELLENCE - INNOVATION - OPPORTUNITY - SUCCESS

The WIZARD of OZ

DECEMBER

5 **Thursday**
11:00am Matinee
6:30pm Evening

6 **Friday**
11:00am Matinee
6:30pm Evening

**PORT MACQUARIE
CAMPUS MPC**

Proudly brought to you by
Hastings Secondary College
Creative and Performing Arts
students and staff

TICKETS

Pre-purchase tickets at Port
Macquarie Campus, Westport
Campus, online via the QR
code, or at the door (if
available)

Full \$20

Concession \$15

PURCHASE TICKETS



By L. Frank Baum With Music and Lyrics by Harold Arlen and E. Y. Harburg Background Music by Herbert Stothart Dance and Vocal Arrangements by Peter Howard Orchestration by Larry Wilcox "The Wizard of Oz" is presented by permission of ORIGIN™ Theatrical on behalf of Tams-Witmark LLC, A Concord Theatricals Company Based upon the Classic Motion Picture owned by **Turner Entertainment Co.** and distributed in all media by **Warner Bros.** Adapted by **John Kane** for the **Royal Shakespeare Company**



Wedding Anniversaries November 2024

- 3/11 - Brian & Bett Calford
- 21/11 Ian & Gail Davis
- 25/11 - Narelle & Frank Moxon

Birthdays November 2024

- 10/11 - Sue Porter
- 10/11 - Brian Calford
- 22/11 - Terry Crossley
- 25/11 - Dr Ray Hodgson

"Whatever Rotary may mean to us, to the world it will be known by the results it achieves."



Rotary Club of Port Macquarie

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