



# WEEKLY BULLETIN

8 September 2021

Volume 63 | Edition 10

Corrimal  
**Rotary**  
Club



**District 9675**

**SERVE TO CHANGE LIVES**

**Rotary Month - Basic Education and Literacy**

**Tonight:**

**Tonia Barnes**

**DGN, District 9675 & International Director**

**Join the meeting @ 6.30 pm**

Tonia was born in Wollongong and left the area in 1971. She returned in 2015 to make her home in Kiama. Tonia has over 20 years of executive management experience in several organisations including: CEO of Palliative Care Australia; and Director for a global consulting company leading the Economic, Health and Public Policy section. Tonia is married to Chris and they have two adult sons. She joined Rotary in Canberra in 2002 and has continued her Rotary service wherever her work took her across Australia and the globe.

### **President's Report:**

Welcome to this week's zoom meeting. Our guest Speaker is District Governor Nominee, Tonia Barnes, please make her feel welcome.

RDU have highlighted the need for Rotarians to think about donating monies to [www.australianrotaryhealth.org.au](http://www.australianrotaryhealth.org.au). 1 in 5 Australians will experience a Mental Health Issue. One of the most significant barriers to improving Mental Illness prevention and treatment is the low priority given to Mental Health Research. This message is relevant at a time when we are all facing the effects of COVID either through knowing someone who has contracted it, fearful they too are at risk or are just not coping with Lockdown Orders. This is a relevant time to donate to this serious health issue. Get in touch with Australian Rotary Health and see how easy it is to make a donation. All donations are fully tax deductible and cumulative.

Birthday's been celebrated this week are Paul Cook, 4th September and Don Love's Birthday is on the 7th September. No Club or Wedding Anniversaries being celebrated this week.

*President Judy*

### **Congratulations to our Newest Member:**

PDG Di North inducted our newest member, Andrew Stow at our zoom meeting last week. Andrew joined the club as a friend but soon recognised the benefits of becoming a member. Welcome Andrew, we look forward to your continuing support as a valued member of our Club.



### **Something Good and it's from the Media!**

Every morning, after 8.30 news, the ABC local radio station interviews someone representing a group, a church, a community group that is assisting the local community in lockdown. People are experiencing difficulty in these times. Food, meals, soup kitchens and various support structures are being identified. This segment was the brainchild of Peter Riley, a former ABC morning show presenter, who has been with us again in recent months. At the time of writing, 29 people over 29 days have been interviewed from the Highlands, Illawarra, South Coast areas representing 29 organisations. It is so good to know that good things are happening. Every day. It would be interesting to see this segment continuing. It is showing the compassion, generosity and hard work that the community is engaging in to support people in Covid times.

Former member of this club, Maxine Graham, was interviewed a few weeks ago. Maxine is the manager of the Warrawong Community Centre. After her interview, an anonymous donor gave \$5,000.00 to the Warrawong Centre.

*Ruth*

[Link Rotary D9675](#)

[Link Rotary Down Under](#)

[Link RC of Corrimal](#)

## **Anniversaries for September:**

### **Birthdays:**

- 1 Kay Mireylees
- 4 Paul Cook
- 7 Don Love

### **Wedding Anniversaries:**

- 1 Judy & Neville Doherty
- 12 Stephen & Denise Knightley

### **Club Anniversaries:**

- 18 Cliff Barker (1996)
- 28 Horst Huettel (2016)  
Emma McLeod (2016)

## **Upcoming Meetings:**

- 15 Sept Leah Byrne – United Communities  
+ Video from John Kewa
- 22 Sept Sue Clark – Imagination Library
- 29 Sept Omar Soker - Recycling

## **Dates to Remember:**

- 16 Oct Relay4Life BBQ & Event
- 6 Nov Annual Trivia Night
- 13/14 Nov Wings of Illawarra BBQ & Event
- Postponed Days4Girls High Tea (planned for 2022)

**If there are any events above which interest you, please feel free to come along or contact the Co-ordinator.**

## **Member's Raffle:**

35 Cards in the Deck with Joker worth \$970.  
Tickets are available at the meeting or pre-paid by EFT to Club account (BSB 062 528 Account 0090 2773)  
Let me know by email you have transferred money. *Dennis*

## **CREG:**

We are planning to start clean-ups again in the week commencing 13<sup>th</sup> September, if anyone is interested. The NSW government will be easing COVID restrictions in some areas, including Wollongong LGA.

From 13<sup>th</sup> September, outdoor gatherings of up to five people are allowed, provided all five people have been fully vaccinated.

We can go back to our Thursday clean-ups if people are interested and fully vaccinated and we can work on two different locations if more than five people are there.

### **Upcoming Events**

- 11 & 12 Sept Virtual Rotary Zone 8 ESRAG OCEANIA Conference "Learning, Leading, Action"
- 16 Sept 7.30pm ESRAG ANZPI Chapter Meeting  
Speaker: Karin Traeger, CEO, Yarra Riverkeeper Association (further details on next page)
- 26 Sept World Rivers Day

*Peter & Dilys*

## **Oatley Flora and Fauna Meeting**

Dr David Osmond will speak at their forthcoming meeting which is on 27/9/21. David previously worked at CSIRO in the Wind Energy Research Unit and currently is the Senior Wind Engineer at Windlab which was spun off from CSIRO in 2003.

David will discuss:

- ✓ wind energy and how Windlab prospects and then develops a wind farm site
- ✓ historic growth and future predictions of wind (and solar) in Australia
- ✓ issues associated with obtaining most of our power from variable renewable energy

David is passionate about renewables, Electric Vehicles, efficiency and smart ideas that can reduce our impact on Earth.

The link to join the meeting by Zoom is:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3742141020?pwd=i\\_daK5memiUVeVb7bERgr5WgKybj2w](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3742141020?pwd=i_daK5memiUVeVb7bERgr5WgKybj2w)

Meeting ID: 374 214 1020

Passcode: 7kqZp7

## **Paralympic Games – Did You Know?**

The first Paralympic Games were held in 1960 in Rome, alongside the Olympic Games. While the Olympics have the Olympic rings, the Paralympics has three symbols. Three Agitos consists of three colours: red, blue and green. Agitos means 'I move' in Latin and it symbolises the athletic 'spirit in motion'

The meaning of the word Paralympic illustrates the connection to its sister event, the Olympics. The Paralympic Games bring together amazing athletes with a range of disabilities, but contrary to what many people believe, the name of this international multi-sport event doesn't come from merging the words 'paralysis' and 'Olympics' together. It does mark the deep connection to the Olympic games. 'Paralympics' comes from the Greek preposition 'para' which means 'alongside' - it's the event running alongside the Olympics.

The Paralympics started as a series of rehabilitation activities for veterans. Before the Paralympic Games we know and love, there were the Stoke Mandeville Games, also known as the Wheelchair Games. In 1948, World War II soldiers were returning from the front lines with debilitating spinal cord injuries. The British government asked neurosurgeon Dr Ludwig Guttman to open a spinal injury centre at the Stoke Mandeville Hospital in Buckinghamshire to help these war veterans cope with their disability. Soon Dr Guttman made an amazing breakthrough: sport was an important part of the rehabilitation process. What started as a wheelchair competition on the hospital grounds meant to help soldiers recover from their injuries, soon turned into a national event that inspired the international community and caught the eye of the Olympic Games committee.

At the recent Tokyo Paralympics, there were 22 sports including archery, rowing, swimming, athletics and judo with 2 new sports of badminton and taekwondo.

What inspiring Paralympic facts!

*Ruth*



**Join us on zoom on Thursday 16th September at 7.30pm AEST  
For the ESRAG Oceania Monthly Chapter Meeting**

**Book your attendance <https://events.humanitix.com/anzpi>  
to receive the meeting zoom link**

**Karin Traeger is our guest speaker**

She is the CEO of the Yarra Riverkeepers Association and she is to speak about the association and how they work to keep the Yarra beautiful and healthy.

This talk is aimed to help develop ideas about how Rotary clubs can work towards supporting rivers, lakes and coastal areas across our region.



Please join us at our meeting to be held 7:30pm AEST (9:30 NZ) September 16<sup>th</sup>.

*This month we are discussing how communities can support our local streams and lakes and look forward to your involvement.*

Register for your free ticket  
<https://events.humanitix.com/anzpi>

## **IT'S ALMOST 20 YEARS SINCE 9/11**

AND HERE IS A WONDERFUL STORY ABOUT THAT TERRIBLE DAY.

Jerry Brown, Flight Attendant, Delta Flight 15... (true story). Here is an amazing story from a flight attendant on Delta Flight 15, written following 9-11:



On the morning of Tuesday, September 11, we were about 5 hours out of Frankfurt, flying over the North Atlantic. All of a sudden, the curtains parted and I was told to go to the cockpit, immediately, to see the captain. As soon as I got there, I noticed that the crew had that "All Business" look on their faces. The captain handed me a printed message. It was from Delta's main office in Atlanta and simply read, "All airways over the Continental United States are closed to commercial air traffic. Land ASAP at the nearest airport. Advise your destination."

No one said a word about what this could mean. We knew it was a serious situation and we needed to find terra firma quickly. The captain determined that the nearest airport was 400 miles behind us in Gander, Newfoundland. He requested approval for a route change from the Canadian traffic controller and approval was granted immediately -- no questions asked. We found out later, of course, why there was no hesitation in approving our request.

While the flight crew prepared the airplane for landing, another message arrived from Atlanta telling us about some terrorist activity in the New York area. A few minutes later word came in about the hijackings. We decided to LIE to the passengers while we were still in the air. We told them the plane had a simple instrument problem and that we needed to land at the nearest airport in Gander, Newfoundland, to have it checked out.

We promised to give more information after landing in Gander. There was much grumbling among the passengers, but that's nothing new! Forty minutes later, we landed in Gander. Local time at Gander was 12:30 PM!...that's 11:00 AM EST. There were already about 20 other airplanes on the ground from all over the world that had taken this detour on their way to the U.S. After we parked on the ramp, the captain made the following announcement: "Ladies and gentlemen, you must be wondering if all these airplanes around us have the same instrument problem as we have. The reality is that we are here for another reason." Then he went on to explain the little bit we knew about the situation in the U.S. There were loud gasps and stares of disbelief. The captain informed passengers that Ground Control in Gander told us to stay put.

The Canadian Government was in charge of our situation and no one was allowed to get off the aircraft. No one on the ground was allowed to come near any of the air crafts. Only airport police would come around periodically, look us over and go on to the next airplane. In the next hour or so more planes landed and Gander ended up with 53 airplanes from all over the world, 27 of which were U.S. commercial jets.

Meanwhile, bits of news started to come in over the aircraft radio and for the first time we learned that airplanes were flown into the World Trade Centre in New York and into the Pentagon in D.C. People were trying to use their cell phones but were unable to connect due to a different cell system in Canada. Some did get through but were only able to get to the Canadian operator who would tell them that the lines to the U.S. were either blocked or jammed.

Sometime in the evening the news filtered to us that the World Trade Centre buildings had collapsed and that a fourth hijacking had resulted in a crash. By now the passengers were emotionally and physically exhausted, not to mention frightened, but everyone stayed amazingly calm. We had only to look out the window at the 52 other stranded aircraft to realize that we were not the only ones in this predicament.

We had been told earlier that they would be allowing people off the planes one plane at a time. At 6 pm, Gander airport told us that our turn to deplane would be 11 am the next morning. Passengers were not happy, but they simply resigned themselves to this news without much noise and started to prepare themselves to spend the night on the airplane.

Gander had promised us medical attention, if needed, water, and lavatory servicing. And they were true to their word. Fortunately, we had no medical situations to worry about. We did have a young lady who was 33 weeks into her pregnancy. We took REALLY good care of her. The night passed without incident despite the uncomfortable sleeping arrangements.

About 10:30 on the morning of the 12th, a convoy of school buses showed up. We got off the plane and were taken to the terminal where we went through Immigration and Customs and then had to register with the Red Cross. After that, we (the crew) were separated from the passengers and were taken in vans to a small hotel. We had no idea where our passengers were going. We learned from the Red Cross that the town of Gander has a population of 10,400 people and they had about 10,500 passengers to take care of from all the airplanes that were forced into Gander! We were told to just relax at the hotel and we would be contacted when the U.S. airports opened again, but not to expect that call for a while.

We found out the total scope of the terror back home only after getting to our hotel and turning on the TV, 24 hours after it all started. Meanwhile, we had lots of time on our hands and found that the people of Gander were extremely friendly. They started calling us the "plane people." We enjoyed their hospitality, explored the town of Gander and ended up having a pretty good time.

Two days later, we got that call and were taken back to the Gander airport. Back on the plane, we were reunited with the passengers and found out what they had been doing for the past two days. What we found out was incredible. Gander and all the surrounding communities (within about a 75 kilometre radius) had closed all high schools, meeting halls, lodges, and any other large gathering places. They converted all these facilities to mass lodging areas for all the stranded travellers. Some had cots set up, some had mats with sleeping bags and pillows set up.

ALL the high school students were required to volunteer their time to take care of the "guests." Our 218 passengers ended up in a town called Lewis Porte, about 45 kilometres from Gander where they were put up in a high school. If any women wanted to be in a women-only facility, that was arranged. Families were kept together. All the elderly passengers were taken to private homes.

Remember that young pregnant lady? She was put up in a private home right across the street from a 24-hour Urgent Care facility. There was a dentist on call and both male and female nurses remained with the crowd for the duration. Phone calls and e-mails to the U.S. and around the world were available to everyone once a day. During the day, passengers were offered "Excursion" trips. Some people went on boat cruises of the lakes and harbours. Some went for hikes in the local forests. Local bakeries stayed open to make fresh bread for the guests.

Food was prepared by all the residents and brought to the schools. People were driven to restaurants of their choice and offered wonderful meals. Everyone was given tokens for local laundry mats to wash their clothes, since luggage was still on the aircraft. In other words, every single need was met for those stranded travellers.

Passengers were crying while telling us these stories. Finally, when they were told that U.S. airports had reopened, they were delivered to the airport right on time and without a single passenger missing or late. The local Red Cross had all the information about the whereabouts of each and every passenger and knew which plane they needed to be on and when all the planes were leaving. They coordinated everything beautifully. It was absolutely incredible.

When passengers came on board, it was like they had been on a cruise. Everyone knew each other by name. They were swapping stories of their stay, impressing each other with who had the better time. Our flight back to Atlanta looked like a chartered party flight. The crew just stayed out of their way. It was mind-boggling.

Passengers had totally bonded and were calling each other by their first names, exchanging phone numbers, addresses, and email addresses. And then a very unusual thing happened.

One of our passengers approached me and asked if he could make an announcement over the PA system. We never, ever allow that. But this time was different. I said "of course" and handed him the mike. He picked up the PA and reminded everyone about what they had just gone through in the last few days. He reminded them of the hospitality they had received at the hands of total strangers. He continued by saying that he would like to do something in return for the good folks of Lewis Porte.

"He said he was going to set up a Trust Fund under the name of DELTA 15 (our flight number). The purpose of the trust fund is to provide college scholarships for the high school students of Lewis Porte. He asked for donations of any amount from his fellow travellers. When the paper with donations got back to us with the amounts, names, phone numbers and addresses, the total was for more than \$14,000!

"The gentleman, a MD from Virginia, promised to match the donations and to start the administrative work on the scholarship. He also said that he would forward this proposal to Delta Corporate and ask them to donate as well.

As I write this account, the trust fund is at more than \$1.5 million and has assisted 134 students in their college education.

"I just wanted to share this story because we need good stories right now. It gives me a little bit of hope to know that some people in a faraway place were kind to some strangers who literally dropped in on them. It reminds me how much good there is in the world."

"In spite of all the rotten things we see going on in today's world, this story confirms that there are still a lot of good people in the world and when things get bad, they will come forward.