

Australia Day 2020  
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# Rotary

## Club of Crookwell



## Newsletter 7 Apr 20

**The Board has determine that future meetings of our club are suspended until further notice.**

**The board plans to meet this Thursday on the 26 Mar 2020 to discuss future arrangements.**

**The anniversary dinners planned for Rotary Clubs of Goulburn Argyle and Goulburn have been cancelled.**

**The Probus Cruise to Moreton Island was also cancelled.**

**Birthdays:** None

**Wedding Anniversaries:** Lyne Hewett 1 Apr

**Rotary Anniversaries:** Craig Smart 11 years

Last Meeting: We were fortunate to have a well attended meeting where we were joined by our partners and 6 members form the Rotary Club of Goulburn Argyle. Also members of the Crookwell community; Mandy McDonald and Marguerite Luntungan, in addition to our guest Robert Cameron OAM and his wife Darian.



Robert who works in Canberra but lives on a property at Wheeo spoke mainly about the “Black Summer” bush fires which have been unprecedented. 19 million hectares were burnt, 3,500 homes destroyed and 33 people killed. The estimated economic cost of this is \$5 billion. He noted that since European settlement the temperature in Australia has risen 1.5°C. We are seeing the bushfire season now beginning in Spring. 620,000 lightning strikes were recorded in one event. There is a mismatch in the cost of the fires and the money invested to deal with them. Robert urged us to engage with our local politicians to raise the priority of dealing with disasters.



During questions a several of suggestion were made regarding improved response.

Members of Goulburn Argyle:

Karen, Ron, Hemi, Terry & Alan

Welcome back to the second Bushfire Recovery Committee Newsletter. Firstly a bit of a summary of the final impact of the fires on D9710:

- Over 1300 house destroyed in the District and this does not include those damaged – not destroyed but may still not be habitable. This equates to approx. 50% of the homes destroyed in NSW and approx. 35% of the homes destroyed in Australia
- The number of outbuildings (sheds, garages etc.) would far exceed this. It is believed that at least 1200 outbuildings were destroyed in the Bega Valley Shire alone.
- Kilometres and kilometres of fencing destroyed. BlazeAid Camps are set up in the Bega Valley Shire, Snowy Valleys Shire, Shoalhaven Shire, Eurobodalla Shire and Queanbeyan/Palerang Shire.
- Community facilities such as community halls and playgrounds destroyed.
- Hundreds of thousands of hectares of land burnt.
- There are people in remote areas that still do not have power and are reliant on generators.
- People are living in tents or caravans on their land as there is insufficient housing available for rent.

As you can see – the impact of the bushfires in D9710 has been enormous and it is acknowledged that the impact on other areas of Australia has also been significant.

#### Positives:

Rotary and Rotarians have been actively involved in supporting their communities since the bushfires:

- Visiting Schools to assess whether students or their families need assistance.
- Provision of vouchers to families needing support – vouchers to be redeemed at local shops.
- Working with BlazeAid in the rebuilding of fences.
- Working with other aid agencies as well as other service Clubs and local Council's for the benefit of their community.
- Provision of Donations in Kind to communities.
- Visiting affected Villages to find out what their priorities are.
- Provision of generators and other equipment to support those that may have lost everything.

#### Donations:

Money donated to the National RAWCS fundraising appeal has reached the Million Dollar mark and \$700K is set to be released to affected Districts to support the work being done in Districts. As soon as the detail is finalised – Clubs will be notified on the application process to access those funds. Clubs are in the best position to utilise funds appropriately but we must ensure good governance and accountability for the donated funds.

The District now has a RAWCS – RABS account which allows for tax deductible donations for bushfire recovery and the details for the District RABS Bushfire Project account is 82-2019-2020. All money donated to the account will be utilised within District 9710.

What Clubs have indicated that they want/need for Bushfire Recovery:

NOTE – It is important to first check what a particular community needs before delivering product that they cannot store or distribute. If you know of a community that needs specific requirements or you want to offer products then please contact the Committee.

#### Caravans/Accommodation:

The following Rotary Clubs/Clusters are chasing caravans or alternate accommodation options. They have people in their communities that are living in tents on their burnt out properties as there may not be rental housing or they may not be in a position to access rental accommodation. Remembering that in the Eurobodalla Shire (501) and Bega Valley Shire (450) nearly 1000 homes were lost – there are not sufficient vacant rentals for those looking for properties. If you think that you may be able to help, please contact:



# Events

The committee are looking for expression of interest to the following 3 trips they are looking into:

Sat 4th April – Day trip to Brigadoon in Bundanoon the bus will depart 7am as the parade is at 9am

Cost for bus will be \$30 depending on whether we have a full bus of 30 or not.

3 day trip to the Blue Mountains to celebrate Christmas in July

Day trip to Canberra for a Cruise on Lake Burley Griffin plus lunch and also a tour of Parliament House.

contact Maria Hill-Bennett direct on 0400 217 494 to register your interest.

**These may not proceed due the lock down caused by COVID 19.**

- Sapphire Coast Cluster (Bega, Merimbula & Pambula Clubs) – AG Bill De Jong – [williamdejong@bigpond.com](mailto:williamdejong@bigpond.com) – 0424 346 982. - Batemans Bay Club – PDG Maureen Manning – [mmmannin@bigpond.com](mailto:mmmannin@bigpond.com) –

0414 557 326.

· Tents:

- All Clubs I believe have received an email from Norm Potter and the Brindabella (E-Club) in relation to tents for Old Mogo Town. If you wish to pursue this please contact Norm direct.

In relation to requests from Clubs to “all clubs” with a particular project in mind in the District – we need to be careful that we don't bombard Clubs with requests. They may be lost in the confusion. We will continue to offer this section of the Newsletter for Clubs to send out their requests to Clubs and this Newsletter is distributed to both D9710 & 9700. Anyone who wishes to take advantage of this please contact Phil Armstrong or John Mercer. Contact details below.

Wanted:

We are seeking some photos of some of the projects that Clubs are carrying out as part of the recovery. We want to include these on the District RAWCS/RABS website and include some in the next newsletter. PLEASE – only a maximum of two photos per Club and include a brief description. Thanks and forward again to either Phil or John as listed below.

In Summary:

We are making a difference but this is a long term recovery. We as Rotarians need to remain committed to the recovery and in many instances – we are in the best position to help our local communities. There are many communities impacted by the bushfires and not all received national media coverage. We need to ensure that those communities do not slip between the cracks. Phil Armstrong [philaarmstrong@gmail.com](mailto:philaarmstrong@gmail.com) or 0418259963 John Mercer [john.mercer47@gmail.com](mailto:john.mercer47@gmail.com) or 0474792217

Please keep us informed of what you and your Club is up to in relation to the bushfire recovery or contact us if you think that we can assist with guidance or support.