**Community Service Director – Sue Clark** *ballyclark@bigpond.com*   0402-818-075



**District Projects:**

**Adopt-a-Town**

This project gives clubs an opportunity to connect with and support a regional or rural town, especially one impacted by fire, flood, drought.

Clubs can visit the town, stay in a motel, caravan park, etc, and spend money in the local shops, restaurants & cafes, while enjoying some time away together.

You can meet some community members and connect with the Rotary club if there is one. Your club may be able to provide some assistance or develop a project with the community.

Cathy will help your club find a town that is not already adopted.

*Contact: Cathy Mason* [*rotaryadoptatown@gmail.com*](mailto:rotaryadoptatown@gmail.com) *0413-447-184*

**Adopt-a-Tree.**

This project was launched on Australia Day 2022 with the aim of seeking support from community members (as well as Rotarians, Rotaractors and clubs) to fund and plant 10,000 trees in in bushfire ravaged/ environmentally impacted areas of NSW including the Hawkesbury and South Coast.

Adoption certificates will be sent electronically. Purchasers will be notified when plantings are taking place and invited to participate.

6-monthly updates will be sent on the growth of the adopted trees.

The cost is $5 per tree.

*Contact: Cathy Mason* [*rotaryadoptatown@gmail.com*](mailto:rotaryadoptatown@gmail.com) *0413-447-184*

or *Barry Antees* [*barryantees@gmail.com*](mailto:barryantees@gmail.com) *0413-880-267*

**City2Surf & Sydney Running Festival.**

Volunteers are required to assist with both events and will receive a donation for their club for assisting.

**City2Surf:**

Theconfirmed date for 2022 is Sunday, 14th August.

Volunteers will work as marshals along the course or remain in Hyde Park to provide information to the participants and public.

The organisers, IRONMAN, will give a donation to each volunteer’s Rotary or Rotaract club.

Contacts: Phillip Snider   [psnider@optusnet.com.au](mailto:psnider@optusnet.com.au)  0418-865-471

or Russell Paine  [russell.paine@gmail.com](mailto:russell.paine@gmail.com)   0410-943-007

**Sydney Running festival:**

Theconfirmed date for 2022 is Sunday, 14th September.

Volunteers will work as marshals along the course and will receive a donation for their Rotary or Rotaract club from the organisers.

Contact: Phillip Snider   [psnider@optusnet.com.au](mailto:psnider@optusnet.com.au)  0418-865-471

More details to come or check the event websites.

**Dolly Parton Imagination Library**

The Imagination Library helps children start school ready to read and learn by providing them with a free, home delivered, age-appropriate book each month until their 5th birthday. A tip-sheet for parents/caregivers comes with each book, with suggested questions to ask the child and activities related to the story.

The program encourages parents to read regularly to their children, fostering the child’s love of books and reading, and developing their language and early literacy skills so they start school confident and ready to read and learn. It particularly benefits children experiencing disadvantage*,* and children from non-English speaking backgrounds.

A local support organisation or preschool should be very willing to work with you and offer the program to families they know whose children would benefit.

Cost is $8.40/month for the book and its postage, which is $100.80 for a year’s (12) books.

*Contact: Cathie Richardson*[*richoc@bigpond.com*](mailto:richoc@bigpond.com)*0407-783-277*

or Sue Clark   [*ballyclark@bigpond.com*](mailto:ballyclark@bigpond.com?subject=Dream%20Cricket)   0402-818-075

**Dream Cricket**

This program gives children with special needs the opportunity to play cricket in a supportive environment, helping them to develop their physical skills and increase their confidence and self-esteem. Children with physical, intellectual or sight impairments can participate.

It is held during school hours for children from one or more schools and with the assistance of their teachers. The children rotate through a tabloid of activities, which are adapted as needed to suit each child.

If possible, invite senior students (Year 10 or 11) from a near-by high school to join you. With some initial help, the senior students will be able to run the activities and help each child as needed.

Our District has a kit of equipment that is available to use, and assistance from clubs that have run a Dream Cricket day will be happily given.

Dream Cricket is fun for everyone, and an excellent experience for the senior students.

Contact: Sue Clark   [*ballyclark@bigpond.com*](mailto:ballyclark@bigpond.com?subject=Dream%20Cricket)   0402-818-075

**Environment and Sustainability**

(With acknowledgement of Paulo Costa, RI President, 1990-91, who developed the program, Preserve Planet Earth.)

A District Committee was formed in 2020 to promote Rotary’s newest area of focus, Supporting the Environment, and encourage engagement of clubs and individual Rotarians & Rotaractors.

The EnviroClub Awards program was launched in 2021. The EnviroClub Awards is a criteria-based award program including Bronze, Silver, and Gold awards. Participation allows clubs to register their environment related projects and initiatives and get recognition for them. Information, requirements, and application forms can be found on the District website.

Some club activities include regular plastics clean-ups from beaches, creeks, and parks, tree and habitat planting, and the establishment of school or community gardens. Other projects involve reducing items going to landfill by recycling (eg using Return and Earn machines, REDcycle bins), or collecting items such as prescription glasses, books, and clothing and arranging their donation to people or places where they can be used.

Climate & Peace webinars presented quarterly have attracted viewers from across Australia and overseas – many, but not all, are Rotarians. Videos from previous webinars can be found at <https://climateandpeace.com.au/>

Contact: Thelma Raman [*thelmaraman.rotary@gmail.com*](mailto:thelmaraman.rotary@gmail.com) 0415-977-253

**Graffiti Removal Day**

A NSW-wide event to remove graffiti from public or private buildings using products which are donated.

Currently scrapped, due to the NSW Government saying they have no funding available for it.

**Indigenous Projects**

Presently there are 5 major projects that are active.

1. Aboriginal Child and Family Health Initiative.

This was the 2021-22 DG Partner project.

The aim is to develop significant health opportunities for Aboriginal Families across greater Sydney. It will replicate key elements of a program operating successfully at the La Perouse Aboriginal Community Centre since 2009 in partnership with the Sydney Children's Hospital Randwick.

At the La Perouse centre, an arts and crafts program is used to facilitate creative expression, celebrate Aboriginal culture and learning, and promote health, literacy, and parenting skills, and access to child and family health and educational services.

Mothers are able to connect with and support each other.

With Rotary funding support, this project will research and explore the transferability of key elements of the La Perouse Community program to Western Sydney Aboriginal Communities, with active support from the Children’s Hospital, Westmead.

*Contact: Allan Teale* [*Allan.Teale@uts.edu.au*](mailto:Allan.Teale@uts.edu.au) *0404-007-800*

1. Tribal Warrior Mentoring Program

This program is based in Redfern and is designed to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth of all ages to Year 12, to develop into confident, independent young adults.

More information can be found at the website [www.tribalwarrior.org](http://www.tribalwarrior.org/tribal-warrior-mentoring-program) .

Volunteers are welcome to attend the boxing sessions held Mon, Wed & Fri from 6am at Redfern Indigenous Centre of Excellence. Contact Jeremy if you are interested.

Contact: Jeremy Wright   [jeremyw@optusnet.com.au](mailto:jeremyw@optusnet.com.au)   0412-239-531

1. Indigenous Knowledge Hub at UTS

UTS is building the first indigenous residential University College in Australia. Rotary will partner with UTS to develop a “knowledge hub” within the College.

The aim is to promote a sense of pride and hope within the indigenous community, particularly indigenous youth with challenging low levels of school attendance and university participation.

The Hub will comprise five key areas: the library, the Keeping Place, the Family Research Space, an Elders Office and, an Academic workplace.

Rotary is supporting a pledge of $3M over 3 years to fund two phases of programming to help make the vision for the Indigenous Knowledge Hub a reality.

*Contact: PDG Garry Browne AM* [*gbrowne@ebso.com.au*](mailto:gbrowne@ebso.com.au) *0418-401-978*

1. Trachoma Prevention

Trachoma is an eye infection that can lead to blindness, but trachoma blindness is preventable.

Australia is the only developed country in the world with trachoma.

This is a combined Districts programme across Australia in coordination with other organizations to educate and help communities to treat and eradicate trachoma and improve the general health of community members.

*Contact: Dr Darshan Sachdev* [*dansachdev@iinet.net.au*](mailto:dansachdev@iinet.net.au) *0403-327-466*

1. Little Wings and Medical Wings.

Little Wings provides ongoing free flight and ground transport to Children’s Westmead Hospital minimising the physical, emotional, and financial strain of travel. See [www.littlewings.org.au](http://www.littlewings.org.au).

Volunteer drivers are needed to take patients to and from Bankstown airport and the hospital. Contact Vinod if you are interested.

Medical Wings provides free transport for Paediatricians, from John Hunter Hospital to mainly to regional NSW Aboriginal communities. Donations appreciated.

*Contact: Vinod Reddy* [*vre97845@hotmail.com*](mailto:vre97845@hotmail.com) *0416414266*

**Probus**

Probus is an organisation that promotes friendship, fellowship, and fun for retired and semi-retired people, with no fundraising involved.

Clubs meet monthly with interesting guest speakers and also provide regular opportunities for members to make new friends, expand their interests, and enjoy new experiences – helping them remain active, mentally and physically.

Anyone can join, and Rotarians can also be members of a Probus club.

Rotary arranges the formation of new clubs and assists existing clubs.

Rotary and Probus clubs can develop good relationships, share newsletters, and include each other in events.

Contact: Lyn Bates   [*lynbates@live.com.au*](mailto:lynbates@live.com.au?subject=Probus)   0408-284-082

**Solar Lights**

Solar lights provide a clean and rechargeable light source for communities that do not have access to electricity.

They are approximately 9cm square in size and are sturdy but lightweight. For a larger light source, individual lights can be clipped together.

Approximately 8 hours of light is provided per charge.

For communities without electricity, they are life changers allowing family activities to extend beyond daylight hours and students extra hours to complete work or study.

The cost for orders over 10 units is $12.00 per light.

This is a RAWCS Project supported by the Rotary Club of Sutherland

Contact: *Pam Boler* [*pamboler5@gmail.com*](mailto:pamboler5@gmail.com) *0410-228-543*