Enjoy this first newsletter of 2020 and if you have anything you would like included in future editions please feel free to pass them on to pencom55@hotmail.com

BUSHFIRES

It is very sad to see the total devastation that has been caused by the recent bushfires and we are all thinking of those who have been affected by them. We are really proud of the wonderful job undertaken by the firefighters and the volunteers to protect lives, property and wildlife in these horrific conditions.

OUR CLUB

Newcastle Kiwanis Club meets at Warners Bay Bowling Club on the second and forth Mondays of the month. We get together to enjoy an amazing evening meal ($19) and exchange ideas with other like-minded people. Sometimes there is a speaker and we have had some interesting talks at our meetings. Our club is involved in fundraising and we also carry out several projects during the year. These projects have volunteers working hard behind the scenes to make these events successful and of course members on site to ensure the smooth running of every project. I would like to thank all our members for giving their time and energy to do this. Our main fundraisers, selling Christmas trees and Bunnings BBQ’s, enable us to fund our many community service projects with our main focus being to help children. We also like to make time for social events and would like to extend an invitation to you to come and join us and hear more about what we do and how you can help. You will meet new friends and may develop a “warm feeling” helping children in need or those less fortunate than ourselves.

FUNDRAISERS

Just before Christmas we sold REAL Christmas trees at our usual three Newcastle sites:

- Pacific Highway, Adamstown Heights
- Macquarie Road Cardiff (Newcastle Limousine’s)
- Eleebana Lions Park – bottom of Glad Gunson Drive

This is our main signature project for the year in which we make most of the money to fund our other projects. This year the trees were not quite as tall as they usually are but were much bushier. We have been selling the trees for many years now and are getting regular customers.
One of the other ways we raise funds is to participate in Bunnings BBQ’s. Bunnings have kindly let us have a couple this year and we have enough volunteers to man a roster so that no member is there for longer than a couple of hours.
We started off the year well by some of us joining Sydney Kiwanis Club at Brooklyn, on the Hawkesbury river, for their usual New Year get together. It was a lovely day, although still hot, but it was great to meet new people, have a chat and toss a few ideas about and enjoy a gorgeous seafood meal.

PROJECTS

Another Kiwanis event was to assist with the time keeping at the Special Olympics Swimming meeting at Cessnock pool. It was a slightly cooler day with some cloud cover so wasn’t too hot next to the open air pool as we watched some of our Action Club doing well as we cheered them on.
HEART KIDS

Heart Kids is a charity which we work with as one of our projects. As a club we put on a Christmas party for the Children, who’s lives have been affected by congenital heart disease, so that not only the children get to meet others with the same condition, the parents can also gather a bit of moral support with others going through the same situation. We hold a BBQ, play games, provide a Santa and presents for the children and their siblings.

Bunnings also kindly assists by providing craft and face painting for the children. A great day for the children, their families and us.

We also provide a BBQ and club members for marshalling when they are on their 2 feet for a Heartbeat annual walk at Speers Point Park.

We are going to have another get together at the end of March and hopefully the Easter Bunny might hop on in.
TERRIFIC KIDS

As we don’t give awards in the month of January, I will show some pictures of the children which have previously received a Terrific Club award. We award a book, badge and pencil once a month to a child who has improved in behaviour and tried really hard to become the best version of themselves.

We now have four schools we visit each month. We also give a cheque to each school for $250 annually to assist those children who are unable to go on excursions or lack equipment due to lack of funds.

ACTION CLUB

The Action Club took on the project of filling buckets of men’s toiletries for Christmas. Soul Kitchen collect these from the hall and distribute the out to the homeless or those down on their luck.

They also joined with Newcastle Kiwanis club to enjoy Australia Day festivities at Ken’s home where we had a BBQ and cakes and games in the back yard. A good time was had by all and thanks to Ken for providing shady trees.
AUSTRALIA DAY

UP COMING EVENTS

Sat 8th February – Bunnings BBQ at Glendale, 8.30am to 4.00pm
Mon 10th February Club meeting at Warners Bay Bowling Club, speaker from Path 2 Change
Fri 21st – 23rd Feb Kiwanis Div 2 Mini Convention and training at Tea Gardens Country Club and Hotel
Mon 24th Feb Club meeting at Warners Bay Bowling Club, speaker from Jenny’s Place
Thurs 5th – 7th March Kiwanis ASPAC convention in Kathmandu, Nepal
Sun 15th March Special Olympics at Cessnock Pool, members for time keeping
Mon 23rd March Club meeting at Warners Bay Bowling Club
Sat 28th March Heart Kids Easter BBQ at Pasterfield’s Centre Cameron Park