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**NEWSLETTER: 11TH APRIL 2025**

## NEW SIGNATURE PROJECT



### Cessnock's Signature Event: Rotary Club of Cessnock Hosts an Enchanting Evening at Marthaville

Rotary Club of Cessnock recently hosted its *Elegant White Picnic* under a canopy of silk lanterns, and the soft glow of candles in the historical garden at Marthaville, creating an unforgettable evening of community, charm, and connection.

Guests, dressed in their finest white apparel, gathered at three elegantly styled long tables set across the lawn, surrounded by the soft glow of lights and the natural beauty of the heritage garden. The wisteria covered gazebo became a focal point of the evening, with the exquisite *Rose Chandelier* adding a touch of floral elegance that set the perfect tone.

Gentle background music added to the relaxed and elegant atmosphere as guests shared conversation, laughter, and delicious food. It was a night of calm sophistication, just a beautiful celebration of togetherness and purpose.



# SPECIAL THANK YOU

**We have so many people and friends of Rotary to thank for making our Elegant White Picnic such a huge success.**

Firstly to our wonderful member Penny McNaughton. It was Penny who thought that this idea would work for our club based on similar functions that she has attended over the years. After she proposed this idea, it was taken up by most of our members and then the planning began, or more accurately Penny started collecting items and organising virtually the whole event. We were praying for good weather on the day and we were blessed with a fantastic Autumn night. Penny and her friends set up the Marthaville Gardens with flowers, white tables and chairs, napkins, table cloths, Etc, even rose scented hand wash in the toilets. Not to mention that after the event all of that had to be dismantled, stored, cleaned, ironed, you name it. Suffice to say a mammoth task from start to completion. What can we say about such a person, simple thanks is just not enough.

Then we have to thank PE Vicki Steep for stepping in for our president who couldn't attend on the night. Plus a fabulous MUSO Ron Jackson for providing a perfect calm musical background.

Penny and Bev went to a few wineries who were so generous in providing for our prizes

To the vineyards in Palmers Lane; **Moorebank, John Wallace Wines, and Calais Estate**, as well as to **Vinden Estate, Honeytree Estate, Blueberry Hill Vineyard, Bimbadgen, First Creek Wines, and Château Élan** for their generosity in providing the best-dressed and raffle prizes. Special thanks also to **Cessnock City Council** for the lighting upgrades and **Creightons** for the loan of the white chairs, which added to the elegance of the evening.

A huge thanks also has to go to all our attendees. Wouldn't have been such a success without the fun crowd that were in attendance. Thanks to Claudia's Creations for the 70th Birthday Cake. Last of all I would like to thank everyone who happily posed for their photos





# BEST DRESSED AND RAFFLE PRIZES





# ELEGANT WHITE PICNIC NAPCIN WAVE



The event was not only a visual delight but also a successful fundraiser, with proceeds going to support **RYPEN (Rotary Youth Program of Enrichment)** a program that empowers young people through leadership development and personal growth.

Rotary Club of Cessnock extends sincere thanks to everyone who contributed to the success of the evening. It was a truly elegant occasion for a worthy cause, and we look forward to more meaningful moments like this in the heart of our community . The Napkin Wave was the start of the fun.



# 70th Birthday Celebration at White Picnic



We had so many fun photos from the night and they are all downloadable from our Facebook page. Lyn's surprise Birthday was a highlight and the cake was made by CLAUDIA'S CREATIONS. One of our sponsors Llynda was in full swing doing a napkin twirl and wasn't shy in posing for the camera either.





# Welsley Raymond Steep

## "WES"



Passed away 11.04.2025  
Aged 74 Years  
Late of Quorrobolong

Beloved husband of Vicki. Loving father and father-in-law to Tammy and David, Raymond (dec'd), Matthew and Bonnie. Cherished grandad to Daniel and Dominic. Proud great-grandad to Annabella and Charlie. A dear brother, brother-in-law and uncle to their families. A much-loved member of the STEEP and LIVINGSTONE families.

Family and friends of WES are warmly invited to attend his Funeral Service in St. John's Anglican Church, Cessnock this THURSDAY 17.04.2025 at 12pm; thence for interment in The Aberdare Lawn Cemetery.

C.R. SMYTH & SON  
FUNERAL SERVICES

**PE Vicky Steep and family warmly invites Rotary members and friends to the Funeral Service in St John's Anglican Church Cessnock at 12pm Thursday 17th April 2025.**

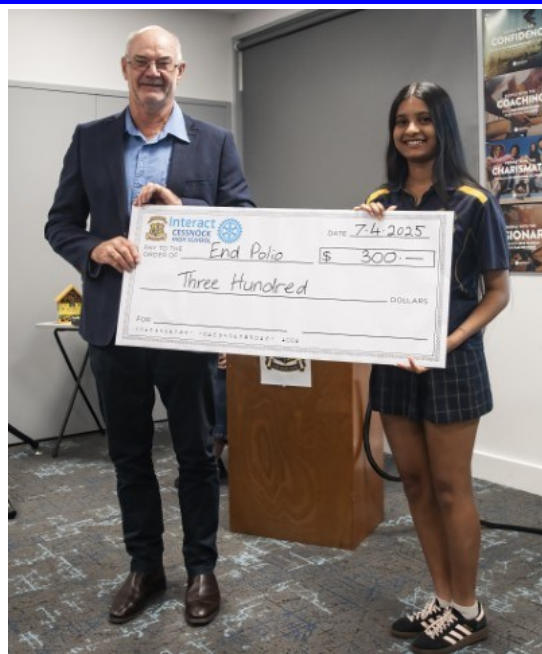


Rotary Clubs Unite for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Challenge (STEM) Our members from Cessnock Rotary were proud to volunteer alongside fellow Rotarians at this year's STEM Challenge at Callaghan University. We were blown away by the talent, enthusiasm, and teamwork displayed by the students. From building innovative prototypes to solving complex real world problems, these young minds showed exactly why the future is in good hands. Their creativity, resilience, and collaborative spirit made the day..

Guest Speaker at Our Meeting was Ruth Goodwin  
Ruth Goodwin, Principal of Cessnock West Public School, joined us as our guest speaker this evening, sharing her inspiring journey as both an educator and a dedicated wildlife carer. For the past seven years, Ruth has been rescuing and rehabilitating orphaned and injured wombats, providing them with the care they need to recover and return to the wild. Balancing leadership in education with wildlife rescue is no small feat, but Ruth approaches both with the same dedication and compassion.



# 2025 CESSNOCK HIGH SCHOOL PRESENTATION NIGHT PRESENTED BY THE CESSNOCK HIGH INTERACT TEAM



Past President George Koncz of the Rotary Club of Cessnock had the honour of presenting the official Charter to the newly formed Cessnock Interact Club. It was a fantastic evening filled with pride, inspiration, and a sense of community. Rhia, the dynamic President of Interact, delivered a wonderful presentation highlighting their achievements so far and outlining the exciting goals they have set for the future. The energy, passion, and commitment shown by these young leaders left us all feeling hopeful about what lies ahead.



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Our club is pleased to welcome a New Sponsorship for the 24/25 Financial year  
Jason from JWN Electrical has generously offered to support us  
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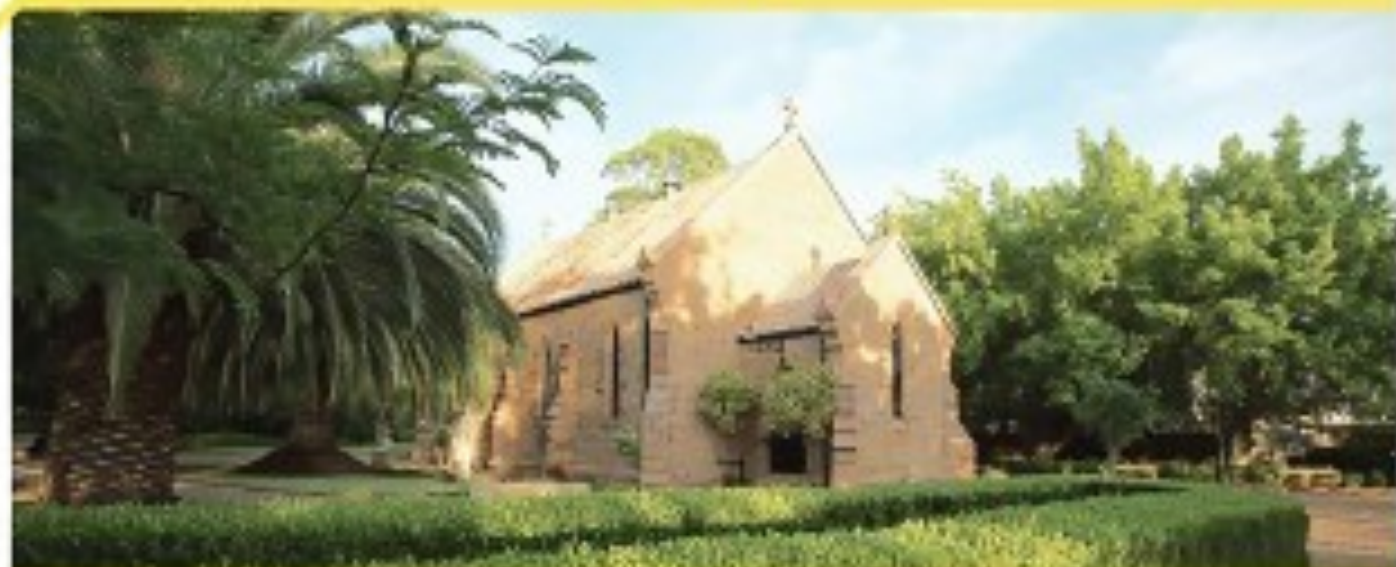
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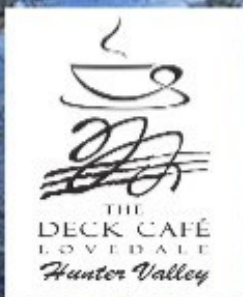


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