

Busy 1st Week

Busy week due to the number of changeovers, Tuesday night Immediate Past President Tony, Elaine Hart and I went to Rotary Club of Wollongong.

Wednesday Immediate Past President Tony, our Rotary Friend Katie, Past President Di and myself attended Rotary Club of West Wollongong.

Friday, 1st July, 2016

Guest speaker: Cathryn Dorahy

Cathryn became a fire fighter back in 1987, just off the coast of the remote Kimberley region, in Koolan Island. This was where her husband worked as a surveyor, and most of the men on the island worked at the mine. Cycling with her children as passengers improved her fitness. Cathryn's fitness was noticed by the local captain who recruited Cathryn into the local fire station.

In 2004 she traveled to the UK and Lebanon to research best practice fire safety education programs targeted to the needs of Islamic women, made a series of recommendations to the Commissioner, and helped implement new approaches.

Cathryn has worked tirelessly to form links with Islamic women, who were not being reached effectively by traditional fire service education programs. Cathryn received the Fire Service Medal back in June, as she helped migrant women from the Middle East to overcome the cultural boundaries they have been so used to in the past.

She has personally mentored dozens of women who have entered the firefighting profession, has worked with management and in particular the Human Resources Directorate to improve recruitment and retention practices to increase the number of women employed as fire fighters.

Saturday night was district changeover night. A group from the upper Illawarra Rotary Club attended. Stephen Humphrys is the District Governor for 2016/2017. Stephen and his wife Judith will attend our club in September.