

August 2014 Hallidays Point News of Our World



Community News of Hallidays Point and surrounding areas - www.hallidayspointnews.org
All articles and advertising to be submitted by 15th of the previous month to editor@hallidayspointnews.org

Local Identity Peter Ryall B.A., Dip.Ed.

Hallidays Point local Peter Ryall completed his formal education at Sydney University where he majored in Government and American History and went on to a career as an English and History teacher at Young High School, then Head Teacher, History, for 28 years at Bega High School and subsequently Gorokan High School on the Central Coast.

While at Gorokan High School, he developed a keen interest in Aboriginal affairs and taught Aboriginal Studies from Year 7 to the HSC level. He was seconded to the NSW Board of Studies to help update the HSC Aboriginal Studies curriculum. During a two week school holiday period, he hired a mini bus and with some Elders from the local Aboriginal community, he and his wife Ann took a group of disadvantaged Aboriginal students to Uluru for a cultural experience. They also visited Mornington Island in the Gulf of Carpentaria to do a one week study of the Lardil group of Aboriginal people there.

Peter was selected to undertake study tours of South Africa in 1980 representing Apex and Brazil in 1981 as a member of a Rotary Group Study Exchange team. He spent all of 1994 teaching in Alberta, Canada, on an exchange teaching program with his wife Ann. While there he developed a close relationship with the local Cree Indian first nation and in a moving smoking ceremony he was made an honorary Cree Indian and given the name "Fire Child".

He used to be heavily involved in soccer as a player, coach and administrator (his nephew Sebastian Ryall currently plays for Sydney FC in the national A-League). He says his most famous student was the Oscar winning actor Matthew McConaughey whom he taught as a 17 year old Rotary exchange student from Texas in the mid-1980s.

Peter and his wife Ann retired in 2006 and moved to Hallidays Point after 37 years in the classroom and he soon became a very active member of our local community becoming secretary of our local wonderful Landcare group and an active member of Dad's Army.



Even Ivan could not deter Peter from enjoying the camaraderie of this wonderful band of Robin Hood and his merry men.

Both he and Ann do part-time contract work for the University of Newcastle's School of Education supervising trainee teachers who are undertaking practice teaching in local schools. Last year, time restraints caused him to relinquish his registration as a Civil Marriage Celebrant. He still acts as a JP.

Peter is a Life Member of Apex. At a recent convention in Adelaide, he was elected National Vice President of Apex40, an organisation of retired Apexians. He will assume the presidency for 2 years next year which will involve a fair bit of travel to visit some of the 36 clubs throughout Australia and to represent the organisation overseas.

He and Ann have 3 daughters, a son, and 4 grandsons. Their youngest daughter, Lisa Pursch, lives next door with her husband Kingsley and their son Adam. Lisa teaches at our local school and Kingsley at Forster High School. Peter is a keen swimmer and he is on the beach most mornings throughout the year, walking from his home in Red Head to swim laps of the Black Head Ocean Pool.

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