



Meeting Report 11 August, 2020, Volume: 82 No: 7

Rotary Club of Bowral-Mittagong

District 9710 Charter Date 26 March 1940

President: Rod Aistrope Secretary: Trevor Fair

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For the immediate future, the style of meeting is a bit uncertain.
It depends on how many people are coming.

For now, meetings are likely to be via Zoom.

We need 20 members to have a face to face meeting; otherwise we Zoom.

NEXT MEETING: 18 AUGUST, 2020

On resumption of face to face meetings, you MUST RSVP by Monday 10 am
EFT to General Account (account ends 636) – no cash please.

Subscriptions are also due.



Rotary International President Holger Knaack's theme for 2020-21, ***Rotary Opens Opportunities***, asks Rotarians to create opportunities that strengthen their leadership, help put service ideas into action, and improve the lives of those in need.

"ZOOMING ABOUT" WITH THE ROTARY CLUB OF BOWRAL- MITTAGONG

12 August 2020

President Rod punctually opened the meeting and invited **Vicki** to welcome our guest speaker **John Barrett**, Friends of Bowral.

Invocation: **Brian Pattinson**

International Toast

We are all well aware of the dreadful explosion in Beirut last week which killed and injured so many and even at the moment when so much in our world is going wrong and wearing us down one cannot but feel a further sadness for the people of Lebanon.

Lebanon is located at the east end of the Mediterranean between Syria on the north and east and Israel on the southern borders.

The first human settlement of the Levant was some 7000 years ago. It became known as Canaan and the people the Canaanites whom the Israelites were determined to crush. In fact the Canaanites are the most mentioned ethnic group in the Bible.

The Phoenicians evolved in this land and spread their trading empire to north Africa where they established Carthage and fought the Punic Wars over 88 years in the 2nd and 3rd centuries BC against Rome. They lost but they remain as the Lebanese.

After the 1st World War France occupied the Levant under a League of Nations Mandate. They left in 1945 with a legacy of a sophisticated society with Beirut known as the Paris of the East.

Years of conflict between Israel and Syria and others and a 15 year civil war saw Lebanon occupied until 2005. Political corruption has followed and the people have been demonstrating for change.

The explosion last week has at least seen the government resign but with the nation bankrupt, Covid in the air, and now further political instability it is all very uncertain. We can only feel for them and wish them well.

The **Rotary Club of Beirut Cosmopolitan** was Chartered in District 2452 in 1995 after the civil war and adopted "The reconstruction of human beings" as its motto.

President Habib Saba leads 43 Members who are dedicated to that goal with their projects in child education and health support their main works. They recently delivered a new ambulance and daily distribute food parcels to the poor. Their work looks to know no end.

In support of the people of Lebanon and especially Beirut would you please make our International Toast to the President and Members of the Rotary Club of Beirut Cosmopolitan.

Announcements:

August birthdays are to be celebrated at Kookabar this Thursday at 3:30 pm. \$12 for tea and cake.

Vicki Kelly et al are working on an on-line Trivia program. Relies on honesty (which has eliminated Les Vickerman's team as he

has already stated his intentions to bend the rules).

Guest Speaker – John Barrett

John commenced by providing a recap on the history of the Bong Bong St bypass project. The Mayor has stated that Council has been working on this project for 25 years. Council was asked to prepare an application for a Grant as a part of the Port of Wollongong lease proceeds.

The initial project was for a 2.1 km road commencing at Victoria St through to Links Road – 2013 application.

In 2015 (State Government election year) WSC signed the agreement. Also the project was changed to become a 950 m road from Victoria Rd to Bowral Street.

2017 Council decided to consult with the community. In September 2017 a Community Forum was held in St Jude's Hall with councillors, staff and project officers.

As a result of the meeting the project was again changed in 2018. In 2020 the project was referred to Council where further changes were made.

ACTC (Sydney Trains) owned some of the land required for the redevelopment,

which was required to be transferred to WSC.

Sydney Trains has some reservations concerning commuter safety and commuter parking. They require parking to be in the vicinity of the station.

In March 2020 the Council report was withdrawn as there was an issue with the 50% reduction in parking at Bowral and the 70 additional parks to be installed at Mittagong Station.

It seems Council has been very reluctant to speak to the community. Since 2017 there has been little dialogue. The Friends of Bowral have a petition with 3200 signatures. The Mayor has on 3 occasions chosen not to meet and discuss the project.

One aspect of the current project is to remove 8 oak trees on the Western side on the street. WSC has also decided not to list the oak trees as items of National Heritage. There are also some rare camelias, which the Garden History Club has sought permission to tend and look after. This request has been knocked back also.

One condition of the Project is to lodge an Environmental Report, which via Freedom of Information request has not been lodged.

A brief video was shown.
[Facebook.com/friendsbowral/videos/213165550029578](https://www.facebook.com/friendsbowral/videos/213165550029578)

Q&A included alternate proposals, the preferred one being implementation of Stage 2 being Bowral St to Links Road. The perceived benefits being to remove significant traffic from the Kangaloon/Moss Vale Rd roundabout.

If you would like to raise issues, the key persons to address are

Hon Andrew Constance, Minister for Transport, and

Hon Shelly Hancock, Minister for Local Government

President Rod thanked all the 18+ attendees for zooming in.

Editor's Note:

I'm sorry that I missed this meeting. I had my second compulsory covid-19 test here in SA (also negative) and got back too late to Zoom in. Thanks to Secretary Trevor for sending me the notes.

A reliable source sent me a screen shot taken during the meeting....

See you next week on line.

