



Report for 15 December, 2020; Volume 82, No: 25

Rotary Club of Bowral-Mittagong

District 9705 Charter Date 26 March 1940

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NEXT MEETING 12 JANUARY AT WELBY

DETAILS TBA

## **RULES FOR 2021**

- **SURVIVE**
- **FORGET 2020**

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.

**15 December, 2020**

## **CHRISTMAS MEETING AND PARTY AT GLASSHOUSE, MITTAGONG.**

Welcome from **President Rod** to:

**Ray W's** sister **Lesley Chase**, many partners and **Carolina's** Mum (**Fely**)

Invocation: **Jim Gasson**

**Ray W** offered some words about the kind, brave and gentle **Judy Ritson** who passed away on 15/12 after a long series of illnesses – and then a toast to her memory. **Brian**, we send our sincere condolences to you and your family.

**Ray** also mentioned that **Sue Langford** is not well. We send our warmest love and best wishes to **Sue** and **Ian**.

International Toast: **the learned Don Graham**



At the Rotary Club of Bowral-Mittagong we recognise that the true home of Father Christmas is in Lapland in the north of Finland close to the city of Rovaniemi right on the Arctic Circle. In fact we have toasted one of the three Rotary Clubs in that town most years since 2013.

As proof of Santa's domicile they all meet at the Santa Claus Hotel and all claim him as an honorary Member. His house is just out of town in the Santa Claus Village which is also a tourist attraction and the site of his toy sweat shop.

The factory has been struggling to meet its orders again, this year because of Covid precautions. Some would remember the labour problems they had a few years ago when most of the elves went to New Zealand as seasonal workers as extras on the *Lord of the Rings* and *Hobbit* films. Some came home with pretty nasty burns from *Smaug the Dragon* and they all had film

star attitude problems.

Because of the labour problems Santa's business manager, Mrs. Claus outsourced a lot of the toy manufacturing to China but is having second thoughts because of *our* trade difficulties.

North Americans still think that Santa lives at the North Pole and as usual will track his progress on Christmas Eve using their early warning radar. The risk is that Santa will be intercepted at the Canadian border and separated from his reindeer which will be held in cages somewhere else until 20th January. Next Christmas things might have returned to normal.

**Rovaniemi** is a city of 60 000 and is the provincial capital of Lapland. Reindeer are still a part of the local economy.

Santa's reindeer are selected from the local herds and trained for sleigh duty at the town racecourse, doing laps for the Laps.

The ones with red noses are rare and highly prized. That was confirmed by our Exchange Students, **Maija** from **Finland** and **Isabella** who spent a year there under cover way back in 2013.

**The Rotary Club of Rovaniemi** in District 1385 was Chartered in 1946 and **President Erkki Huttunen** leads the Club of 36 very successful business and professional elves and a few gnomes.

### Note from President Rod: a message from RC of Jerusalem, and near Christmas and Hanukkah

**From:** Dieter Ziulkowski [<mailto:dqziul@gmail.com>]

**Sent:** Sunday, 13 December 2020 8:12 PM

**To:** Rod Aistrop <[pres20rcbm@gmail.com](mailto:pres20rcbm@gmail.com)>

**Cc:** Trevor Fair <[trevorf@oxleypartners.com.au](mailto:trevorf@oxleypartners.com.au)>; Ian Johnson <[buildingforensicspl@gmail.com](mailto:buildingforensicspl@gmail.com)>

**Subject:** Re: International Toast

*Dear Rod,*

*Our Rotary Club Jerusalem was most surprised by your e-mail and your toast. We very much appreciate your action and are wishing you, all members of RC of Bowral-Mittagong, your families and friends a happy and healthy festive season. Merry Christmas and HAPPY NEW YEAR.*

*May the New Year of 2021 bring soon the end of the Covid-19 pandemic and may we all have a great year ahead of us.*

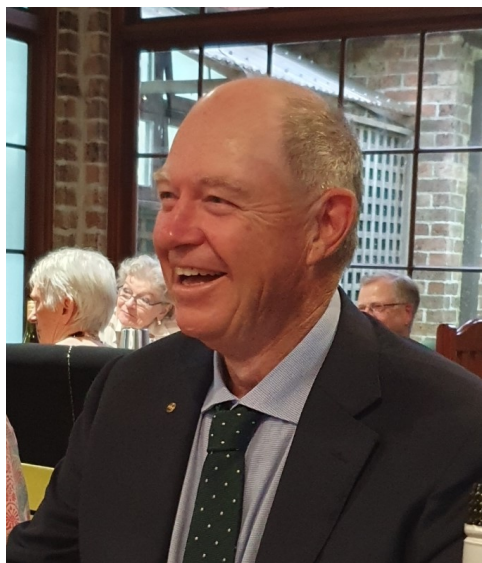
*With Rotarian Greetings  
yours  
Dieter  
RC Jerusalem  
President 2020-2021*

Judging by the noise in the room, this was a social meeting with only a little bit of business. **Rod** reviewed the Covid-19 year to date (and didn't take long for that!) and looked forward to hopefully some of our regular programs returning including our Science and Engineering Challenge in May. There'll probably be no International opportunities in 2021. The new meeting venue may not be ideal but for now, *just meeting* is important.

**Rod** would like suggestions for the remainder of the year. It's good to be seen "out there".

He wished Members, Partners and Friends a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

**Sergeant Lynton** was merciless with his fines (as usual), too many to mention and all raised lots of laughs as well as \$\$\$. His was the one of the few ties! He might as well have left it at home 😊





A few shots of the night...



**And finally,** news with thanks from **Jacinta** about our Book Exchanges

The Mittagong Railway Station is well stocked and has remained operational all year.

The Springetts Arcade Book Exchange has been closed since April 2020 due to Covid-19. I spoke to Springetts Management today and they are happy for it to open again. I dropped off some books today. I encourage members who have books to donate to drop a few into Springetts Arcade Shelf opposite Bakers Delight. Thanks.



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