



Report for 15 September, 2020, Volume 82 No: 12

Rotary Club of Bowral-Mittagong

District 9705 Charter Date 26 March 1940

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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: 22 September, 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.**



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

15 September, 2020

**President Rod** welcomed all RoZoomIans attending.



Invocation – from **Brian Elliott**

International Toast – **Ian Langford**

*Today is the anniversary of the end of the Federal Republic of Central America when it declared independence from the Spanish Empire in 1821.*

*Those federated states became **Costa Rica, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua and Guatemala.** Mexico, to their north declared its independence on the following day and they all celebrate their **Independence Days** this week.*

*Guatemala was the centre of the Mayan civilisation which was fragmented when the Spanish invaded in the early 16th Century. Over the next two centuries they removed huge quantities of gold, silver and gems back to Spain. Napoleon attacked and weakened Spain and Portugal in the Peninsular War from 1807 to 14. The next 20 years saw them driven out of South America and all of the new nations were established.*

*Dictatorships, foreign interference and civil wars, especially from the USA were endemic in all of these countries until, in 1996 democracy finally stuck in Guatemala.*

*It is still however, beset with high crime rates and poverty but at least they are independent and free.*

*Gualan is a port city of 45 000 on a river in the inland, half way between the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans.*

*The **Rotary Club of Gualan** was Chartered in District 4250 in 2001 and has 18 Members led by **President Victor Cordon.** They are currently building a class room at a neighbouring village school under their Rotary District Ripple Effect Program.*

*In recognition of the Independence Days of the Central American countries and Guatemala in particular would you please raise a glass and make our International Toast to the President and Members of the Rotary Club of Gualan.*

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THE GOOD OF ROTARY

**President Rod** advised that the President and another member had resigned from Berrima District Rotary.

Thanks to efforts to publicise the Singing for the Oldies event, the revised number tuning in on line was closer to 1,000.

**Rod** also advised that he'd received advice that all Youth activities have been cancelled for now.

**Mary** has a request from 2ST to provide a bbq soon. Anyone interested and available can discuss with Mary on a separate Zoom at 6.30pm tonight, 16/9. Look for a link from Trevor soon.

**Rod** wished Trevor a happy 60<sup>th</sup> and acknowledged Trevor's 7<sup>th</sup> PHF, a reminder to consider donating to the Foundation.

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September is Childhood Cancer Awareness Month, an appropriate time for **Luciano** to welcome guests **Charles de Bock** and

**Lara El-Eter** who Zoomed in from the Children's Cancer Institute.

In loving memory of his and Robyn's son, Antony David Liberale, **Louie** presented \$10,626 to CCI which included a donation of \$1,500 from our Club. (See detailed statement attached to TT).

Charles and Lara expressed great appreciation to Louie and RCBM and noted that this is Louie's 27<sup>th</sup> year of golf-based fundraising for CCI and his efforts have raised in excess of an amazing \$200,000.

CCI has a vision that No Child should die from cancer and Louie's efforts are really helping them to work towards that.

*From side bar notes on Zoom:*

*Charles de Bock to Everyone:*

*Lara El-Eter Lara is part of the fund raising team. Community Engagement Coordinator is her official title*

*Charles de Bock to Everyone: 05:58 PM*

*Thanks to all of you for helping us make such a difference for childhood cancer! Every dollar counts and makes a massive difference to our efforts.*

*Lara El-Eter to Everyone: 05:59 PM  
Thanks for having us; it was great to see you all again :)*

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### **"One on One": David Rees talks with Robbie**

David came to Australia in 1964 as a child aged 11 from Hastings, Sussex. He and his family were £10 Poms.

He wanted to be an electrical engineer so he attended a technical school in Melbourne. When his family moved to Sydney he went to Macquarie HS, not a tech school but it

had tech subjects. His career goal turned to teaching.

He went to Bathurst Teachers College and was out at his first school aged 21 at a one teacher school. He recalled his first day as a disaster...little kids couldn't read cursive, so he had to write on his blackboard in cursive and capitals. He also ejected a person from the school, not knowing he was a Deputy Director of Education.

Eventually David transferred to Mt Druitt. He married and had two children, now 40 and 36. He has a grandchild, "Chrispy".

David's final school was Mittagong, where he taught for 12 years. Kids he taught years ago still call him Sir.

He's glad to be out. There's too much paperwork now and his beloved blackboard has been replaced with a dreaded smartboard.

Thanks Robbie, great job

