



Report for February 16, 2021; Volume 82, No: 29

Rotary Club of Bowral-Mittagong

District 9705 Charter Date 26 March 1940

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**And the next meeting – 23<sup>rd</sup> February**

**Help to choose our snags of the future!**

**Rotary/Lion Club Shed.**

**19 Boronia St, Bowral (behind Gibraltar Hotel)**

**Mud map attached. Warm clothing needed.**

**BYO CHAIRS, GLASSES, DRINKS  
(WINE BAR AVAILABLE)**

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.

**16 February, 2021**

**And now. "Live" at the Highlands Hotel.**

**Heeeeer's Rod! (Drum Roll.....)**

**President Rod** welcomed all including **Andy Buttfeld** and partner **Gail**, Dom's partner **Fay** as well as **PP Simon Knight** and **PP Linda Knight**.

Invocation - **Brian Elliott**

International Toast - **Rose Conley**

*Lithuania is one of the Baltic States located at the east end of the Baltic Sea and bounded by Latvia to its north, Belarus to the east and south, Poland to the south west and the Russian enclave of Kaliningrad along the coast to the west.*

*It emerged as a state in the 11th Century and at its peak it was the largest state in Europe extending from the Baltic to the Black Seas and east almost to Moscow.*

*Today is its **Independence Day** marking the re-establishment of free Lithuania in 1918 after a century of occupation by Russia then Germany during the First World War.*

*Rotary was established in Lithuania in 1934 but was extinguished when the Russians overran it on their way to Poland in 1940. Rotarians were exiled to Siberia and it was not until 1995, with the collapse of communism that it re-emerged.*

*Lithuania is now a country of 2.8 million with a high standard of living, at peace with its neighbours. It has over 2000 Members in 68 Clubs in District 1462.*

***The City of Ukmerge** is 70km north of the capital, Vilnius in the east of the country and dates from 1330. It has a*

*population of 20,000.*

*The **Rotary Club of Ukmerge** was Chartered in 1996 in District 1462 which covers the 68 Clubs in Lithuania. It has 35 Members led by **President Vytautus Pariokas**.*

***In recognition of the Independence Day of Lithuania and the Rotarians who suffered because of their Membership during the Second World War, would you please be upstanding and make our International Toast to the President and Members of the Rotary Club of Ukmerge.***

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**2021 Science & Engineering Challenge and Discovery Day.**

**Covid-19 allowing, the Discovery Day is on May 31<sup>st</sup> and the Science & Engineering Challenge is on June 1<sup>st</sup>. Please mark your diaries accordingly.**

**Fresh Committee members needed. See Ian or Rod for an interesting and very worthwhile job. Help a young person think about STEM for the future!**

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**Announcements:**

District Conference - Mary is arranging transport and accommodation, be quick to get a seat and bed.

James Bond movie - October release at this stage.

**Test & Tag - a big thank you to past members Paul Stevens-King and Ray**

**Coulton for their assistance, as well as Highland Electrical Service for donating their time.**

Guest Speaker - Introduced by **Dom Williams**. Gail and Andy have recently relocated from Lavender Bay to Bowral. Andy is an Engineer by profession. Dom's recent talk on Indigenous Initiative was established by Andy. Andy has built 2 schools for Redlands in Jindabyne as well as some solar homes in PNG and was previously a member of the Rotary Club of Sydney Cove.

Andy Buttfield - Graduated in Adelaide, built power stations early in career, then with Westinghouse in the South Pacific. Building schools in Jindabyne.

Charter member of Sydney Cove. Paul Kaye, the entrepreneur employed Andy to develop the logistics for the climb. The harness gear, developed by a Scotsman, is the intricate gadget attached to the harness, allows walkers to move around the bridge. Latchway equipment needed some work as it was designed for roofing, not for 1500 passes per day.

Welding technique was the main issue. The cable that the operation uses had to be replaced every 3 months, until a teflon lubricant was identified as being a suitable solution.

Photography was very new when the Climb commenced. Talked to Kodak who flew up the next day. BridgeClimb used more photographic paper each day than Disney Land.

Andy also negotiated the uniform procurement, and used Kimberley Clark uniforms. 100k uniforms were ordered. November 1999, commercial operations commenced.

Security is also an issue, especially as it is a Sydney tradition of climbing up the

Bridge during the night. Sydney Olympics assisted as security was required to be increased. BridgeClimb would have been blamed for any issues that would have occurred.

Andy and Paul inspected many bridges around the world, including Firth Bridge near Edinburgh. Sydney's climate is very suitable. Brooklyn Bridge is an iconic structure which Andy built a replica for design purposes. However, the weather was the main inhibitor for these bridges.

Golden Gate Bridge was the next bridge to review. 217 m high as per 137 m for Harbour Bridge. Also regularly in fog. September 11 also finished the option.

Robert de Jongh gave the vote of thanks.

Raffle - Green C5 = Carolina - Wine - Better luck next time.

Next week - Sausage Sizzle Off - at the Shed.

And finally:

The Trump Years



*"Surely they can't all be tell-alls..."*