



**Report for February 2, 2021; Volume 82, No: 27**

**Rotary Club of Bowral-Mittagong**

**District 9705 Charter Date 26 March 1940**

**President: Rod Aistrop Secretary: Trevor Fair**

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**And the next meeting – 9<sup>th</sup> February  
Highlands Hotel, Mittagong**

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.**

**2 February, 2021**

*And we're back at the Highlands Hotel.*

**President Rod** welcomed all, including **Dominic's** partner **Fay** and **Leigh Robertson** from the RC of Wollongong.

**Brian Elliott** gave the Invocation and **Carolina** made her maiden International Toast, to applause.

Our first **International Toast** for the New Year is to celebrate the Sri Lanka's establishment as a dominion of the United Kingdom on 4th February, 1948 after 133 years as a colony.

There are signs of human habitation in Ceylon from 125 000 years ago and its recorded history dates over 3000 years. Over the last millennium a number of kingdoms arose across the island.

The last of these to resist the Portuguese and then the Dutch was the Kingdom of Kandy which ultimately submitted to Britain in 1815.

The city of **Kandy** is located right in the centre of the island at an elevation of 500 metres above sea level and became the centre of the tea plantation industry which is still an important part of the economy. It has a population of 125 000 and is the second largest city in Sri Lanka.

**The Rotary Club of Kandy** was Chartered in 1941 in District 3220. It is one of 69 Clubs in the district which also covers the Maldives.

**President Asoka Amunugama** leads 69 Members whose ongoing activities include a micro business self-help financing project.

It was established in 1998 with funding from a Rotary Foundation 3H Grant and works on a similar basis to the Grameen

Bank in Bangladesh, providing financial assistance to individuals and village groups to establish self operated viable businesses. It continues after 22 years which indicates a high level of success for the project and the Club.

**In recognition of the National Day of Sri Lanka on Thursday would you please be upstanding and make our International Toast to the President and Members of the Rotary Club of Kandy.**



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**Sgt Lynton** told us about the colourful life of our recently deceased past member, Charlie Johns.

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### **Announcements:**

Time to take care of the Book Exchanges. Rosemary can do the Mittagong Station; Robbie will look after Corbett Plaza. Please offer them excess books. There was a thought about running a Book Sale.

BBQ planned for Saturday 6/2 from 10 to 2, subject to Council approval and playing by Covid-19 rules. A crew was mustered (but weather looked bad for today, so it was cancelled).

The District Conference will be at Bathurst on 19-21 March. Mary has information on accommodation and transport.

The Science and Engineering Challenge is set for the end of June, benefitting students from 8 High Schools and 14 Public Schools. It will depend on the Covid19 situation closer to the time. New Committee members are needed.

**Sgt Lynton** flogged many members, including **President Rod** for **Min** retiring and then immediately departing for the desert; **Leigh** with a warning that the RCBD will be a quick one; **Rosemary** for looking alluring early in the morning to hooning bike riders; **Carolina** for a great job with clear diction; **David McCosh** for taking up residence at Pepperfield; **Vicki Kelley** for her leadership on the Womens' Refuge project; **Robbie** for selling stuff; and **Ray W** for preparing to move to a new home (he's staying here in the Highlands).

**Dominic Williams** gave a really interesting talk about Djambawa Marawiliand and the Baniyala Community of East Arnhem Land.



The Indigenous Community Development Corporation, which Dominic has chaired, has been working directly with the Baniyala Aboriginal Community in the Northern Territory to identify housing opportunities and promoting indigenous home ownership. The ICDC was involved in the design, procurement and installation of two new 2 bedroom dwellings in Baniyala. These have now been handed over to the community. They have also been

involved in exploring and helping develop commercial activities in the community such as tourism and trepang fishing. There have also been achievements in public health, literacy and education, with much still to be done.

Thanks, Dominic; this is a fascinating topic with constant reference to Aboriginal history including land rights and the concepts of belonging to land, hunting rights and being unable to hold title to property.

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Please take a Clown Doctors Diary from Ray W on Tuesday for a \$10 donation to support this amazing organisation, co-founded by the late Dr Peter Spitzer, PHF (presented by our Club in 2012.)

### For your Diaries

9<sup>th</sup> Feb

**Andrew Buttfield** of the Sydney Bridge Climb is talking at our Dinner meeting

18<sup>th</sup> Feb Thursday

**February birthdays** @ the Imperial Hotel, Bowral