



Report for 22 September, 2020, Volume 82 No: 13

Rotary Club of Bowral-Mittagong

District 9705 Charter Date 26 March 1940

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Our next meeting, 29 September, is via Zoom.

Then, get out the lipstick and brylcreem!!

THE FOLLOWING MEETING: 6 October, 2020 is face-to-face! And, AS A BONUS, to celebrate some return to normality, IT'S A PARTNER'S NIGHT

**VENUE IS THE HIGHLANDS HOTEL
(formerly The Lion Rampant)
Main Rd, Mittagong (corner Victoria St)**

**2 course, alternate drop meals are \$30 per person
Vegetarian meals are available, request when RSVP'ing Trevor**

Please note: you MUST RSVP no later than Sunday evening.

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

22 September, 2020

This issue bought to you by



**Corner Old Hume Highway and Crimea
St, Mittagong.**

**Baking is in their blood, 8 generations
of it.**

**Delicious food, every day, baked and
sold by our member Des and Nerida
Rudolph. Ask me how I know!**

**Call in and say "Hello" and take
something home for dinner.**

President Rod welcomed all RoZoomIans
attending, as well as our guest speaker,
Dr John Hewson.



Invocation – from **Brian Elliott**

International Toast – **Rod Aistrophe**

There was a short bike ride in France
over the last few weeks which finished
on Sunday with our own Tasmanian,
Richie Porte coming third.

First and second in *Le Tour* were
Slovenians. The winner, Tadej Pogacar,
also known as Pogi, turned 22 just
yesterday.

He is from Komenda, a small town of
only 900 people about 20km north east
of the Capital of Slovenia, Ljubljana.

These Slovenians had an unfair
advantage over Richie because they
grew up surrounded by mountains and
have had to ride up steep mountain
roads all of their lives.

Slovenia historically was a part of many
central and eastern European empires
and kingdoms, the last of which was
Yugoslavia until 1991 when they were
the first to leave post communism.
Now-a-days it is an advanced high
income well

developed country, part of the EU and
uses the Euro as its currency.

Komenda doesn't have a Rotary Club.
The nearest one is the Rotary Club of
Domzale located about 8km towards
Ljubljana.

It was Chartered in District 1912 in
1998 and has 12 Members led by
President Martina Orazem. Like us, not
much is happening for them because of
the virus.

In recognition of the new cycling
powerhouse, Slovenia would you all
raise your glasses and make our
International Toast to the Rotary Club of
Domzale.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THE GOOD OF ROTARY

(Thankyou Trevor for doing the notes this week - RW ☺)

A REMINDER

Vicki Kelley

- Meetings – in discussion with Highland Hotel, Mittagong to commence live meetings from 6th October. Conditions (as approved by AHA) include limit of 150 persons, have a designated area, waiter and bathrooms. All meals are to be brought to the area. To make it worthwhile for the venue there is a minimum of 20 persons for a \$30 two course dinner.
- Next week will be a Zoom meeting with the Berrima RFS chief providing an update of last summer and some tips for preparation for this summer.

Mary Ramsay

- Spotlight opening in new premises at Mittagong Marketplace. Will be a BBQ no profit, just a promotion event. 28th November 10-2 pm. Seeking several more volunteers.

Robert de Jongh

- World Polio Day – in conjunction with David McCosh preparing press releases for SHN and 2ST. A presentation to be made at either the meeting of 20th or 27th October. Also potentially a sausage sizzle in Corbett Plaza, will require WSC approval.

Brian Pattinson

Uniting Church's Spring plant stall is on this Saturday.

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Guest Speaker – **Dr John Hewson**, ANU Professor and Economic Commentator

This current pandemic is the largest economic and social disruption since the 1930's. Therefore there is not much to draw on. Some are trying to compare with the 1918 flu outbreak.

The Governments are short term focused, with no or little planning, even with bushfires, droughts, floods.

Disruption has influenced meetings with Zoom now a common occurrence. Working from home has seen an increase in productivity, with commercial property in low demand. NAB has advised Docklands that they will not need the proposed office space.

While border closure has been disruptive, the herd immunity method of Sweden currently has a 70% higher death rate. Second wave of virus outbreak, which is bigger than the first wave, is currently spreading through the US, UK and Europe.

Australia has been fortunate that it is an island, however it is quite likely that international borders will not open until there is a vaccine.

Australia is technically in a recession, and there is currently a lot of debate on how to get out of recession. Real unemployment is 11-12%, and it will take a long time to recover to normal levels.

The challenge to Government is "where to next?". The Budget deficit is \$200 billion, and the removal of JobKeeper will cause other issues. Businesses, including "zombie" businesses have received cash handouts, even though the economy has been slowing since 2018.

Structural issues including Aged Care/Banking, etc need to be sorted out.

JobKeeper/Seeker has worked better than first thought. \$300 billion stimulus has been spent so far. The Government will be under pressure not to proceed with the proposed tax cuts. The tax cuts will not be very effective as the main beneficiaries will be the high income earners, who will either save or pay down debt.

Short Term politics & management has been caught short. This is the opportunity to invest in major projects including renewable energy. Even the recent announcement on the Energy Road Map contained no commitment. The Government is still talking about coal and gas powered power stations, both of which are expensive and dirty.

The StockMarket is still rising because the world is flooded with cash, and low interest rates means that the investors will choose shares as the preferred investment.

There is hope that Trump loses, and loses big, and Boris Johnson is not doing much better. China will require a longer term view.

Social Housing is one of the main ways to stimulate the economy in the short/medium term. John does not believe the Government will attempt affordable housing as an option as Rudd did this strategy after the GFC.

John was encouraged to keep fighting for good economic policy however his closing remarks were "It is hard to be popular, when you are a pain in the butt".

The following is from Rosemary and Frank Kelly, who receive a NSW OzHarvest newsletter.

Hi everyone,

This week I'd like to highlight one of our regional chapters... The Southern Highlands OzHarvest chapter has been operating since August 2017 and is our

newest regional chapter. Jenny O'Regan, our current chapter coordinator, has been managing the chapter with her husband Phil since early 2019.

Jenny coordinates 11 volunteers who work across 4 food rescue runs, collecting from 3 major supermarkets as well as additional local food donors, and the occasional ad hoc collection. They have 7 regular agencies, however during Covid they have been distributing to an additional 5 agencies!

In 2020, the Southern Highlands team have delivered 145,000 meals! During Covid, the meals delivered were significantly higher thanks to the generous support of the local Harris Farm. For 5 months (April to August) Harris Farm Bowral provided an additional 250kg of beautiful fruit & veg 5 days a week – a total of 80,000 meals. This means that a team who normally deliver an average of around 8,000 meals a month tripled their meal distribution during the past 5 months, to approx 24,000 meals a month.

Lucy from the Bowral Uniting Church Pantry, one of the agencies who receive OzHarvest food rescue weekly, said "partnering with OzHarvest has been amazing and key to the success of this initiative, allowing us to help over 60 families a week within the area, particularly during Covid-19 where we saw many people effected by lockdowns. Jen and her team are fantastic!". The Pantry operates two days a week, providing fresh produce, groceries and toiletries to anyone who requires assistance in the Southern Highlands, as well as a hot lunch once a week. Lucy also represents the Uniting Church on an inter-agency panel working collaboratively to increase support services within the Southern Highlands and solve issues together.

You can see more of the Uniting Church Pantry's work here: <https://www.facebook.com/watc>

[h/?v=344161749959196&extid=SyE3AHi12IKSMvz3](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=344161749959196&extid=SyE3AHi12IKSMvz3)

Beth from the National Ops Team, has recently been living in Bowral and has had the special opportunity to join to the Southern Highlands run for a few mornings a week to help the passionate and community minded volunteers and has come away feeling inspired and motivated to do more. As a Southern Highlands girl herself, she feels lucky to be able to help with food relief in her own community and thinks this team of volunteers deserve a big shout out for their work!

A big thank you to all of the volunteers in Southern Highlands, and around the country to who support regional communities with food rescue!!