



Report for March 9, 2021; Volume 82, No: 34

Rotary Club of Bowral-Mittagong

District 9705 Charter Date 26 March 1940

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## And the next meeting – 30th March Location TBC by Trevor

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### “Down the track”, news from Vicki

We are planning a trip to the Thirlmere Rail Museum followed by lunch - so stay tuned for details

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.

**23 March, 2021**

***Annd now. "Live" at the (Highlands) Local!***

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

*(Thanks to Trevor for notes 😊)*

Welcome: President Rod welcomed Dom's partner Faye (we think, as there was some confusion as to her identity), and also Leigh Robinson who has returned yet again.

Invocation – **Brian Elliott**

International Toast: **Dom Williams**

**Aruba** is a small island 30km off the coast of Venezuela in the Caribbean. From about 4000 years ago it was inhabited by Amerindians from South America whose peaceful existence was disturbed by Amerigo Vespucci in 1499 when he claimed it for Spain.

The Dutch took it during the 30 Years War in 1636 and it has stayed connected ever since. With Curacao and Sint Maarten also in the Caribbean, Aruba became a semi-independent member of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in 1976 and celebrated its National Day, Flag Day on 18th March.

The island has an arid climate unlike the adjacent continent and the rest of the islands. The country has a population of 116 000 who rely on tourism because of the mostly clear skies for their economy together with petroleum refining.

The **Rotary Club of Aruba** was Chartered in 1938 in District 7030 which includes 122 Clubs over 17 countries across the eastern Caribbean. It is the only Club in Aruba.

It has 49 Members led by **President Geert Rep** whose activities this year have been limited to fund raising by

raffles and the like and financial support of community support charities.

**In recognition of Aruba's Flag Day would you please be upstanding and make our International Toast to the President and Members of the Rotary Club of Aruba.**

### **Announcements**

**BlazeAid** - Tumburumba - Need numbers ASAP to allow accommodation to be booked. Need 6 people. \$40 includes meals at caravan park. Please contact Don Graham ASAP. From May 2 - 16 May. For all or some of the time.

### **SEE ATTACHMENT FOR MORE INFORMATION FROM DON**

Science & Engineering Challenge  
Seeking assistants for planning and on the day.

WSC - Community Support for tree planting at a site at Balmoral.

### **Conference**

### **Presentation from District 9705 Conference**

Introduction: Ian Langford - 10 attendees from the Club attended the Conference at Bathurst. Travelled via Crookwell. Social side was great.

Jo Chalmers:

Great weekend with great speakers, mainly academics. Unfortunately the main speaker that many went to see, Shane Fitzsimmons was otherwise distracted.

Fiona Nash spoke about women in leadership roles. Now works for CSU. Students from regional areas, who train in regional areas, tend to stay in regional Australia.



Club projects - vulnerable youth - 15/19 yo, also Ruby's House - halfway house in Adelaide. Referred from Police. Self harm has tripled in the last few years. The house has professionals to assist and counsel the youth.

Another project - Gungarlin wheelchair soccer. \$12k per chair. As moving as DreamCricket? Seeking sponsorship to help fund chairs.

Prof Leslie Hughes - Macquarie Uni spoke about climate change.



Justin Borevitz - focusing on using Landscape Genomics to select gene variants.

Tracey Sorensen - Actively involved in grassroots environmental organisations.

Prof John Skerritt - spoke on COVID-19 pandemic.

Prof Admiral Chris Barrie - strategic leadership issues.

Prof Robert Booy - immunisation does save lives.

Commissioner Georgina Whelan - first female Commissioner of ACT Emergency Services Agency.

Youth Exchange Program - returned students.

**Next week - Jan Campbell - Economic Development Officer, WSC.**