



Report for 29 September, 2020, Volume 82 No: 14

Rotary Club of Bowral-Mittagong

District 9705 Charter Date 26 March 1940

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**Next meeting: Face to Face!!**

**Get out the lipstick and brylcreem!!**

**AS A BONUS, to celebrate some return to normality,  
IT'S A PARTNER'S NIGHT**

**SEE TREVOR'S EMAIL ABOUT COMPLIANCE WITH COVID-SAFE RULES**

**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

29 September, 2020

**President Rod** welcomed all RoZoomIans attending, as well as our guest speaker, Berrima RFS Chief **Bruce Hansell**.



Invocation – from **Robbie Allen**

International Toast – **Will Eddowes**

**Ubuntu** is an Africa concept meaning “I am because you are.” It embraces the idea that humans cannot exist in isolation. We depend on connection, community, and caring - simply, we cannot *be* without each other. This philosophy requires a conscious shift in how we think about ourselves and others, especially at a time when our nation is more divided than ever.

As South African social rights activist **Archbishop Desmond Tutu** explained, “My humanity is bound up in yours, for we can only be human together.” He understands that the potential of human beings working collectively to achieve goals is infinitely greater than the potential of any individual.

As individuals, we are equipped with particular talents and strengths. Though it is natural for us to want to use these for our own self-progression and success, if we use these qualities to better our community, we reap both personal and societal benefits. We do not have to sacrifice personal

success for the community's success, but we must strike a balance between the two. **Nelson Mandela** described it in 2006:

*“A traveller through a country who would stop at a village didn't have to ask for food or for water. Once he stopped the people would give him food and entertain him. That is one aspect of Ubuntu, but it will have various aspects. Ubuntu does not mean that people should not enrich themselves. The question is are you going to do so in a way that enables the community around you to be able to improve as well?”*

To ask everyone to practice Ubuntu seems unrealistic. But we can start by asking ourselves this:

“What if what you want to be will only come about when you ensure that others get to be what they want to be as well? And what if all of humanity was on your team, working toward your good?” At this time of stress and division this serves as an important reminder that we belong to a greater whole. **This is Ubuntu: the idea that humanity is based on the plural and not the singular.**

**Nelson Mandela** received the Rotary Award for World Understanding in 1997. Many African nations were sceptical of the polio immunisation program. Mandela called on all of the Presidents of all of Africa to allow Polio Plus to immunise their children. Such was his status that resistance to the program fell away leading to eradication of polio from all of Africa. This year it at last includes Nigeria.

**Nelson Mandela** was a great supporter of Rotary, particularly in his home area of Eastern Cape in South Africa. He was born and is buried in Mveza near Mthatha on the south coast.

The **Rotary Club of Mthatha** was Chartered in District 9370 in 1949 and has 12 Members led by **President Mlungisi Mvambo**.

They continue serving their community, even though the Covid virus is wreaking havoc, by distributing corn meal flour known as mealie pap as a nutrition supplement to villagers around their region.

So with a thought for our community and the concept of Ubuntu please raise your glasses for our International Toast to the President and Members of the Rotary Club of Mthatha.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THE GOOD OF ROTARY

**Rod:** Face to face meetings will strictly comply with covid-19 requirements.

**Gwenda:** saw Brian Ritson recently. Judy is having daily treatment until she can come home.

**Rod:** Club has agreed to drop the new James Bond premiere as the theatre needs revenue; we'll be offered a suitable one next year.

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**Vicki** introduced the Fire Captain of Berrima RFS, **Bruce Hansell**.

Bruce suggested that we all prepare for the season by checking the RFS website: <https://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/>

Berrima has two vehicles, a Pumper and a Toyota Strike Vehicle.

Suggestions: don't stand on the roof in shorts, t-shirt and rubber thongs (always wear cotton clothing) but do block down-pipes and fill your gutters. **Ask the Furies to help with emptying gutters.** Cut the grass short and well away from your home. Don't assume that brick homes won't burn (ember attacks). Listen to the ABC for updates. Make a list of what you would take if you have to evacuate. Understand alert levels. Have an escape route and practice it.

Bruce spoke about improved funding for crew safety items including GPS locaters, aerial firefight and spotting trials, better communications need to happen between

RFS and landowners about water locations. He also explained the events leading up to the Berrima Crew getting caught in a flash-over this last year, leading to Bill Lockley and others receiving burns.

A few questions followed: complain to Council if neighbour's block is a fire risk (I've done that and it was fixed, fast). Complain also if roadside grass is a risk. More back burning and hazard reduction is required on the Gib.

Disbursement of the he close-to \$50 million raised by Celeste Barber is problematic but for now, newly designed helmets and face masks are being evaluated and will be given to all crew.

In thanking Bruce, **President Rod** said that there's absolutely no doubt that the men and women who make up the RFS crews deserve our admiration and total support.

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One for the cat owners.....☺



*Kevin, you do great work here, but it's been brought to my attention that you're a cat.*