



Report for Aug 3, 2021; Volume 83, No: 5 Rotary Club

of Bowral-Mittagong

District 9705 Charter Date 26 March 1940

President: Will Eddowes Secretary: Trevor Fair



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Rotary International President Shekhar Mehta's theme for 2021-22,

***Serve to change lives,***

is urging members to become more involved in service projects, saying that caring for and serving other is the best way to live because it changes not only other people's lives, but also our own.

**Future Events**

- 10 Aug Area Governor Visit - Adam de Toth @ Hermitage 6pm
- 17 Aug Dr Subhasis Talapatra (Referred by Brian Ritson) - Skin Cancer & Prevention @ Hermitage
- 24 Aug Tina McPherson (Referred by Brian Pattinson) - ODI Record 2nd Best Bowling Figures @ Hermitage
- 31 Aug Wendy Lotter – Aboriginal Education & Walks (Referred by Will Eddowes/Brian Ritson /) @Hermitage 6pm
- 7 Sep Lucille Ellem - Dingo Sanctuary Bargo @ Hermitage
- 21 Sep Sharelle Quinn - Last Qantas 747 Kangaroo Flight @ Hermitage 6pm

**Please Note: Apologise by Friday noon, attendance is the default position**

**Venue:** The Hermitage

**Journalist:** Denise Coad

**Welcome:** Sergeant Lynton welcomed Rotarians, partners and guests: Ian Law (Accepted for Membership and also our Guest Speaker); Paul Leotta (Accepted for Membership); Sadie Elford (Application for Membership) and Peter Worner (Returning Member). Partners were Mara de Jongh and Stephanie Robinson.

\*\*\*NOTE\*\*\* Carolina (me) apologises to Fay for listing her as a guest last week rather than our new member 😊

**Invocation:** Robbie Allen

**International Toast:** Robert De Jongh

**Latvia** has won the inaugural 3 X 3 half court Basketball Gold Medal at the Olympic Games. So far it is their only medal but it has propelled them into equal 52nd place on the Medal Table.

Latvia is one of the Baltic Sea countries surrounded by Estonia to its north, Russia and Belarus to the east and Lithuania on its southern border.

It was a Duchy from the 16th Century, ruled by Russia from 1795, occupied by Germany during the First World War, then independent until the Second War when first the Russians then the Germans occupied it. Following the war Russia wouldn't go home and made it a Soviet Socialist Republic.



It finally gained its freedom in 1990 with the collapse of the communist block in eastern Europe and declared its independence on 21st August, 1991.

Up until the Second War Latvia competed in the its own right at the Olympics but it was forced to be part of the USSR team until it re-emerged under its own name in Barcelona in 1992.

Modern Latvia has a high standard of living for its 2 million people and has sent 33 competitors to Tokyo.

The Capital city is Riga with a population of 615 000. It is served by the **Rotary Club of Riga International** which was Chartered on 22nd August, 1998. It has 24 Members led by **President Kim Leandersson**.



Like everywhere else its activities have been limited by the pandemic but the Club has been active in collecting food for distribution to needy families by a local charity.

**In celebration of the Independence Day of Latvia and the Charter Anniversary of the Club later this month and, happily the Olympic Gold Medal for street basketball would you please be upstanding and toast the President and Members of the Rotary Club of Riga.**



## Welcome and Notices: President Will

Will welcomed the 24 to the meeting and called for Reports.

## Welfare Report – Rose Conley

- Rosemary Kelly - Frank is back in Hospital
- Mary Ramsay – John is home
- Trevor Fair – Returned to Tamworth as his Father broke his other Hip
- John Elder – Had to take Margaret to hospital for a Melanoma

## Brian Ritson

- Empire Cinema advised James Bond Movie cancelled universally.
- Confirmed Bowral -Mittagong Rotary would have the rights to the showing of any future James Bond Movie.
- Wants at least 6 people all day volunteers to clean out the Shed as it is rat infested.
- Under-Plate Prize donated by Brian. Winner of a manicure set – Rod Aistrophe

## Sergeant Lynton

- Has been talking to Don Graham at BlazeAid in Cobago. If any Members would like to volunteer from August 17-28. The following Members volunteered: Robert de Jongh, Mara de Jongh, Brian Ritson, David McCosh, Ian Law, Leigh Robinson, Ray Coulton.
- Rosemary Kelly said she would need an Ensuite. Lynton confirmed she would be given a spade, but no en-suite. Lynton showed pictures of the donated BlazeAid tents.

## Mary Ramsay

Advised Tulip Times would be for Locals only at this stage. Will be talking to the Tulip Times Committee on Monday for any issues to be resolved.

**Guest Speaker :** President Will introduced our guest speaker **Ian Law**.

Ian was a Charter Member of the Rotary Club of Pretoria 6 which was the first Multi-Racial Club in South Africa – Chartered 38 years ago.

At that time there were still White and Black areas. They wanted to make a cross section of people a part of Rotary bringing people and races together.

The spirit of Rotary found the only place they could meet was in a Restaurant in the Pretoria Opera House. White, Black, Colored, Indian, etc. – all Nationalities who craved interaction.

They got permission from Council and Government, and the first Meeting was in 1983 – every Tuesday like his new Club - The Rotary Club of Bowral-Mittagong.

When Ian and Susan were leaving for Australia there was a knock on the door and Susan was given 5 Indian Sari. “Rotary is a powerful tool for good”

Members then enthusiastically showed their appreciation for his talk.



**Vote of Thanks** - Les Vickerman thanked Ian for his talk, and then asked Members to show their appreciation once again. Les said he was not aware or exposed to this in South Africa. He thanked Ian and his wife for their courage.



## Leigh Robinson – Director’s Presentation – The Rotary Foundation

The Rotary Foundation helps Rotarians to advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace by improving health, providing quality education, improving the environment, and alleviating poverty.

Leigh said there have only been 2 cases of Polio in the world this year. The Rotary Foundation is the largest Charitable Organisation in the World. It is our Charitable Fund, and is tax deductible. 50% comes back to Clubs to distribute in 3 years to Grants.

The Rotary Foundation grants promote peace, fight disease, provide clean water and sanitation, sustain mothers and children, improve education, and strengthen local economies.

He then spoke of the Paul Harris Fellowship, and the Centurial Club.

He left applications for the Centurial Club on tables.

\*\*\*Post Meeting Leigh asked the editor to include the following in TT for our information:

***The District 9705 Environment Focus committee has created a new web page on the 9705 web site. This new page will provide information on what is happening in regard to our environmental efforts. The link is:***

***<https://rotary9705.org.au/page/protecting-the-environment>***

***If you have any thoughts in regard to what we can do in regard to the protection and sustainability of our environment, please talk to Leigh Robinson.***

**Raffle** - won by Les Vickerman



**President Will** then closed the Meeting. Next week’s Guest will be our Area Governor – Adam de Totth.

\*\*\*Post Meeting Don asked the editor to include the below letter (and photos) in TT for our information and forwarded to Ray Coulton. These photos show the BlazeAid accommodation ‘pods’:



*Cobargo BlazAid camp is one of the last camps still running. There are still about 80 jobs to do. About 200 already completed.*

*Volunteers are welcome. \*\*\*Volunteers need a current negative Covid test to start work\*\*\**

*Accommodation is at the sports grounds at Cobargo in "pods" as shown in the photos above.*

***The proposed dates are between August 17 & August 27***

*Points to keep in mind:*

*Accommodation is at no cost.*

*Bring warm sleeping bag.*

*Breakfast, lunch & dinner are provided.*

*Bring work clothes & boots.*

*All safety gear is provided.*

*Every Friday is a no work day.*

*I will be here at above dates.*

*You can choose your own dates, but need to let the co-ordinator know arrival so a meal can be provided.*

*I suggest anything less than a week may not be ideal because it will take a day or two to become productive.*

*( nevertheless, all help is welcome)*

*No such thing as a flat paddock at Cobargo.*

*Good opportunity to get fit.*

*If women prefer, there is accommodation in an upstairs pavilion. Spartan, but secure. Mattresses on floor. Only one woman there at present. Other women are staying in pods or caravans. Good atmosphere. There are about 17 volunteers at present. Plenty of work. Bacon & eggs every second morning. What else can I say!*

*When you know you are coming, please email me with your arrival date and approximately how long you will stay.*

*This is all roughly written on my phone in a paddock, if you have any questions, please call me.*

*Regards*

*Don*

*0409 714 818*