



Report for Sep 14, 2021; Volume 83, No: 10 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

- Sep 28 Brian Ritson - September 28 by ZOOM - Snakes
- (TBC) Dr Subhasis Talapatra - Skin Cancer & Prevention @ Hermitage 6PM
- (TBC) Tina McPherson - ODI Record 2nd Best Bowling Figures @ Hermitage 6pm
- (TBC) Wendy Lotter – Aboriginal Education & Walks @ Hermitage 6pm
- (TBC) Lucille Ellem - Dingo Sanctuary Bargo @ Hermitage
- (TBC) Tony Glenn - Caravan Trip - Mackay and Pinnacle @ Hermitage 6.00pm
- (TBC) Sharelle Quinn - Last Qantas 747 Kangaroo Flight @ Hermitage 6pm
- Sept/Oct "Picnic in The Park" Meeting on a Saturday. Spit Roast on The Gib.

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

Venue: Zoom meeting held this week due to NSW statewide Lockdown – 21 members online

Journalist: David McCosh

Welcome:

President Will opened the meeting following fifteen minutes of socialising as members came on-line for yet another Zoom meeting. Informally, our visitor and guest speaker, Area Governor at Area 6 District D9705, Adam de Totth was introduced and joined the conversation from Canberra.

Invocation:

Luciano Liberale

Rod Aistrop then delivered the International Toast to the President and Members of the Rotary Club of San Pedro Sula.

INTERNATIONAL TOAST

Two centuries ago tomorrow, the 15th September, 1821 was the day that 5 countries in Central America declared their independence from the Spanish Kingdom. It followed the break away from Spain of Mexico and Chile in 1820 and occurred a year before Colombia, Venezuela, Peru, Bolivia, Ecuador and Panama also achieved independence under the leadership of Simon Bolivar.



Those Central America provinces became Guatemala, El Salvador, Costa Rica, Nicaragua and Honduras.

Honduras has a short coast on the Pacific and runs through the Isthmus to the Gulf of Mexico.

It now has a population of 9.6 million.

In the rich agricultural north west corner of the country is Cortez Province, famous for banana and sugar production which, in the early 1900s was essentially taken over by a cabal of 3 American fruit companies. It inspired the author O. Henry to refer to it as a banana republic, a term which has endured.

The Capital of the Province is San Pedro Sula, a city of 670 000 which until 2016 held the coveted title, Murder Capital of the World with 187 homicides per 100 000 that year. It has since happily relinquished the title to Caracas.

It is served by the **Rotary Club of San Pedro Sula**. The Club was Chartered in 1937 and has 59 Members led by **President Ruban Hanik**.

Like us all the opportunities to undertake active projects is limited at the moment but they do have an ongoing program to collect and distribute food, clothing and bedding for poor families in the Sula River Valley still affected by the damage from Hurricane Eta last November.

In recognition of the Independence Day of Honduras, Guatemala, El Salvador, Costa Rica and Nicaragua would you please raise a glass and make our International Toast to the President and Members of the Rotary Club of San Pedro Sula.



Board Meeting report:

President Will then gave a short report on the previous night's Board Meeting:

International Day of Peace Ceremony.

President Will reminded the Club of the virtual ceremony to be held via Zoom on the Tuesday 21st September at 2.30pm, organised by the Rotary Club of Canberra Burley Griffin and Rotary District 9705. Will and Rod will represent our Club; however, the ceremony is open to all members.

Registrations close this Friday, 21st September.

The Keynote speaker is - Australian Diplomat and singer/songwriter Fred Smith.

Fred has just returned from Afghanistan. He has had an exceptional career.

Once described as "Australia's secret weapon" in international diplomacy, he was the first Australian diplomat to be posted to Afghanistan's Uruzgan Province in 2009, an experience that he turned into a highly acclaimed album of songs, Dust of Uruzgan."

Reminder – See email to Rotarians from Leo Farrelly OAM on Sept 6 with details

Hermitage meeting update.

Denise Coad had discussed with brother Bill the possibility of returning to the hermitage for our meetings in mid-October. The plan is to have weekly meetings there from mid-October through to the Christmas party. To participate, everyone must be fully vaccinated.

Meeting Speakers:

Denise has several interesting speakers lined up starting with Brian Ritson on "Snakes" at our next Zoom meeting.

Welfare report:

Rose gave us a short update.

Ian Johnson has completed his Chemo treatment.

John Ramsay is unfortunately back in hospital

Graham Hicks is back home following his accident.

Other projects:

Will reported on progress at the Pop-In Centre. Rod, Lynton, Brian Ritson and Will laid the concrete base and the shed will be constructed this week. The old shed will then be demolished.

Brian Ritson reported that planning for the Bong Bong Races is still going ahead. A decision is needed two weeks prior to the event.

Brian has also organised Rotary Donation Buckets for shop counters and asks members to approach known shopkeepers for their participation.

Rotary Shed Clean-up:

Brian Ritson has arranged for the Shed clean-up to commence this Saturday 18 Sept. Due to Covid restrictions he is organising a roster of those who have volunteered to help. All volunteers must carry proof of double vaccination.

Reminder – See email to Rotarians from Leo Farrelly OAM on Sept 6 with details

Hermitage meeting update.

Denise Coad had discussed with brother Bill the possibility of returning to the hermitage for our meetings in mid-October. The plan is to have weekly meetings there from mid-October

Trevor, skilled with Zoom features, then handed the meeting to our guest speaker:

Adam de Totth, Area Governor at Area 6, District 9705.

Guest Speaker: Adam de Totth

Adam's address to us carried a wide range of anecdotes, inspiring stories, suggestions, and motivating slogans on Rotary Membership.

He commenced by describing his own experiences starting with his time in the scouts in which interest and involvement in an activity would lead to new doors opening to new opportunities leading from one to the other. As it had worked in his professional life in science, so it has been repeated in Rotary as he has moved from one Rotary Club to another with the great benefit of meeting others, particularly those who are doing inspiring volunteer programs in the community. Rotary membership drives him, and he congratulated us on the way in which we had adapted to Zoom, stressing the importance of looking after each other in this time of pandemic.

He cited a Canberran Rotarian "Gary" who runs a cooking school, who during the pandemic started preparing meals for anyone who needed one. Today he is doing over four thousand meals a day with a network of Rotary Clubs to deliver the meals. Adam wants to open the door to the idea of delivery mechanisms locally, both as a service and as a means of strengthening membership.

Adam then moved on to "respect". He encouraged us to share how we feel about respect, encouraging us to champion and support ladies who step forward and take on roles in Rotary. He encouraged and congratulated Luciano and Carolina on taking on the Membership role in the Club and emphasised that membership should not be a big deal and that all members should be welcoming new members.

He said we all should adopt the slogan 'Come when you can; do what you can'.

Adam then gave us some statistics from his own club, Tuggergong, which had increased its membership and reduced the average age largely through the recruitment of ladies who are now in the majority in the younger half of their membership. Their average age is now 61, with a distribution of ages from 25 – 88.

He believes that there are many people who would like to do volunteer work if they were asked. We should all be looking to those we have dealings with, and to invite them to our meetings.

He ended by encouraging Rotary service partnerships with other organisations to do projects together, particularly ones in the community.



Adam de Totth at Rotary's 100 years of service

Close:

President Will thanked Adam for a thought-provoking presentation and closed the meeting.

See below for Post meeting BlazeAid

POST MEETING - BLAZAID UPDATE

Work is progressing at pace here at Cobargo. Blazaid here at Cobargo will finish up just prior to Christmas because funding will end by then.

At present, there are 11 volunteers in this camp including Chris & myself. We've been here, on & off, since late July.

This time, because of Covid restrictions, we had to sign on for **21 days*****, & this appears to be the rule for anyone wanting to join the camp until restrictions are lifted.

The people here are good people Some are quite different, not to say eccentric. Everyone has a story. Lots of laughs. It would be great to have some of our club members come down here to work.

Certainly the **3 week***** requirement is a pain but that will change when restrictions lift. Food is good. Always a vegetarian option. Accommodation is in pods & is satisfactory. Work begins at 7.45. Back in camp by 3.00pm to attend to your personal stuff. Dinner at 6.00pm.

The work can be as hard or as light as you need. There is a job for all skills.

Let me know by phone or email if you have any questions? Alternatively, I will answer questions at next week's zoom meeting.

Cheers
Don
15/9/21

*****Don texted 17/9/21 that as of last night the minimum stay requirement has been reduced to 7 days**

3 Sudoku's for this week's entertainment

8		6		1				
		3		6	4		9	
9						8	1	6
	8		3	9	6			
7		2		4		3		9
			5	7	2		8	
5	2	1						4
	3		7	5		2		
				2		1		5

RD

	7			2			4	6
	6					8	9	
2			8			7	1	5
	8	4		9	7			
7	1						5	9
			1	3		4	8	
6	9	7			2			8
	5	8					6	
4	3			8			7	

RD

6					9			4
	8	9	5				1	6
5				6		3		9
8	3	1				7		5
	2						6	
9		7				8	4	2
2		6		1				8
3	7				6	9	2	
1			3					7

RD