



Report for Sep 28, 2021; Volume 83, No: 11 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

Oct 12 Mark Balla – Rotary Club of Box Hill Central – “Toilet Warrior” – Location TBC

(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 – 26 members and guests attending

Journalist: Ian Langford

Welcome: President Will Eddowes opened the meeting at 5:35pm and welcomed all members who had logged on. Guests included Peter Worner, Bruce Sutton and we saw a glimpse of Julie Glenn passing by.

Les Vickerman recited the Invocation and then Jo Chalmers presented the International toast.

International Toast: Jo Chalmers.

INTERNATIONAL TOAST

The Republic of Armenia celebrated its independence from the USSR in 1991 last Tuesday.

The nation of 3 million people is landlocked in the Caucasus region between the Black Sea and Caspian Sea. It is bounded by Turkey to the west, Georgia to the north, Azerbaijan to the east and Iran to the south.

Armenia's history as an entity dates back to 2500 BC and has had many forms from kingdoms to a Soviet Socialist Republic and supplicant state of the Roman Empire and a dozen others.

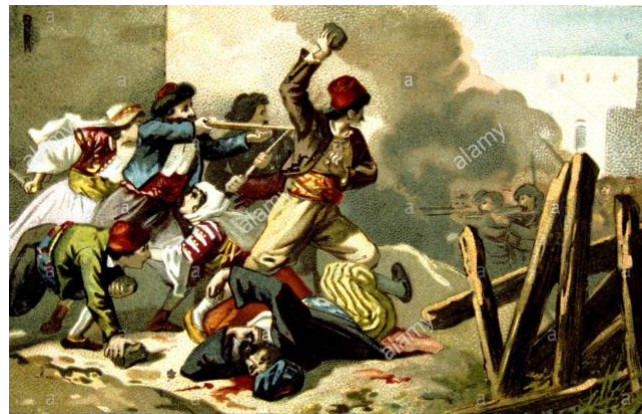
It was the first declared Christian nation in 301 AD and, although it now has only one tenth of the land area of its peak it is still Christian and a thriving multi-party democracy with a high standard of living.



Iron fountain in Gyumri

We toasted the Rotary Club in Yerevan, the capital, a few years ago so this evening we will toast one of the other six Clubs in Armenia.

During the First World War the Turks killed over a million Armenians as they cleared them from their homelands in eastern Turkey in a genocide the Turks still deny and the Armenians won't let them forget.



The **Rotary Club of Gyumri** was Chartered in District 2452 in 1998.

Gyumri is in the north west of the country only 10km from the Turkish border. Prior to 1988 the city had a population of over 200 000. The Spitak earthquake of magnitude 6.8 occurred at the end of that year. This is similar to the one in Victoria last week but its epicentre was about 50km from Gyumri on a major tectonic plate line and only 5km deep. The surface shift along the fault line was up to 1.5 metres. Around 50 000 people died.

Much of the city was destroyed and the population has declined to 112 000.

The Club has 21 Members led by President Vahagn Ghukasyan.

They are continuing supporters of End Polio Now and run Blood Donor Days and assist in maintaining the National Bone Marrow Registry.

In recognition of the Independence Day of Armenia would you please join me in our International Toast to the President and Members of the Rotary Club of Gyumri.

Journalist (IL) added: The international toast was followed by a heated debate of the definition of landlocked and whether this applied to Armenia. It looks totally landlocked on my version of Google maps with no coast lines at all.

We received a lovely post meeting reply to 14/9 International Toast to San Pedro, Sula:

----- Forwarded Message -----

Subject:RE: International Toast

Date: Fri, 17 Sep 2021 18:28:37 +0000

From: Ruben Wolozny

To: Rod Aistrope

CC: Will Eddowes ; Trevor Fair

Dear Rod:

I was delighted to receive your message in regard to your Club recognizing our Independence. Please make sure you save some of those spirits (whiskey) for when we meet in person.

It is rare to find someone who has not had covid in Honduras. All of us in the family had it back in January and, even though I am not a doctor, I am sure I was attacked again more than once recently and, thanks to the double vaccine, I pulled it off nicely.

Please stay connected. Meantime, please receive our sincere appreciation to you and all in your Club.

Regards,

PROUD TO ANNOUNCE THE BEGINNING OF WHAT WILL BE OUR STORE IN LA ENTRADA, COPAN



Notices: President Will reported on current matters including:-

- **Australian Rotary Health** is promoting its “Lift the Lid on Mental Health” campaign during October with its annual Hat Day. See <https://hatday.com.au/> and [ARH-Hat Day](#) . Although the official Hat Day is 10th October, our Club hopes to be back at the Hermitage by the 19th October and that night will be our “Hat Day” .
- **International Day of Peace.** On Tuesday, 21st September the Rotary Club of Canberra Burley Griffin and Rotary District 9705 conducted a successful virtual celebration of the International Day of Peace. The event was held as a Zoom Webinar and there were approximately 180 registrations. DG Leo Farrelly OAM spoke and Australian Diplomat and singer/songwriter Fred Smith was the keynote speaker. He has had an exceptional career. More can be seen and heard on the District Home page at <https://rotary9705.org.au/>
- **Habitat for Humanity Australia.** President Will has been in touch with Habitat which is committed to providing recovery services to people affected by the bushfires to see if we can be of any help. Nothing to report yet.
- **Operation Cleft.** An ambassador from Operation Cleft (<https://www.operationcleft.org.au/>) has offered to speak to the Club by Zoom. This is being followed up.

Denise Coad - Program.

- Denise reported that the next Zoom meeting would be on the 12th October in 2 weeks when Mark Balla from the Rotary Club of Box Hill Central with his Toilet Warrior talk will be the guest speaker.
- It's hoped that by 19th October we will be out of lockdown and be able to return to the Hermitage. This will obviously depend upon the State Government plus any restriction required by the Hermitage. It's expected that a maximum number will be imposed based on floor area and that attendees will be required to show that they have been vaccinated against Covid-19. The Hermitage might also require a minimum number to make the evening viable for them. The 19th October will be a social evening as well as our Hat Day for Australian Rotary Health.
- The following meeting on the 26th October will be a Club Assembly.

Membership – Luciano Liberale.

- Louie introduced potential new member, Bruce Sutton.
- Bruce then talked a bit about himself. He is an accountant who has lived more than 20 years in Fiji with KPMG and was a member of the Rotary Club of Suva. He was the President for 1999/2000 but this was cut short by the military coup. They had to hold the Changeover in the Australian High Commission as gatherings of more than 2 in public were banned. Bruce returned to Australia in 2012. He was born in Bowral and his father and grandfather lived in Bowral. Welcome Bruce.

Welfare Report – Rose Conley.

- Ian Johnson is between Chemo courses and seemed to be doing well.
- Graham Hicks has been back at home a couple of weeks and is recovering well. He has been having coffees with Ken Adams and Ian Langford.
- Rose reported that potential member Paul is looking forward to when we are back at live meetings.

Pop In

- The new shed is assembled and completed after the base was poured the previous week. Will has learnt that cheapest isn't always best if you want screw holes actually to line up.
- Thanks go to Rod Aistrope, Leigh Robinson, Brian Ritson, David Rees, Jim Gasson and John Bunter.
- Will needs to agree with Vicki Kelley what has to be moved into the new shed before the old one is demolished.
- Will and Rod are talking with Kate Fair and Vicki Kelley about the play area to be created for children.



Club Shed.

- Brian and others have done a fantastic job of cleaning up the shed. Brian thanked the others who helped and also all those that volunteered but weren't needed.
- Jim Gasson also did a great job sorting out and repairing the wiring of the trailer.
- Leigh thanked Brian for providing lunch. Most thoughtful!



Bowral High School – Robbie Allen.

- Interact has been meeting on Zoom due to the lockdown. Robbie has not been able to attend as only those with an Education Dept. email address are able to join in.
- The Wombat mural has been approved and a Trivia night is being planned.
- The school has received a \$5,000 grant for Breakfast Club kitchen equipment.
- Robbie Allen will let Chris Sands know that the Rotary Club has also offered \$1,000 but we need to know who the cheque is made out to, Bowral High School or Interact.
- No sign yet of when Breakfast Club will resume.

Other Projects.

- No progress on lady who needs a gate.
- No progress on fire victim's decking.
- Brian Ritson talked about the Duncan Hill barbecue at the Bowral Golf Club. Nothing firmed up yet and very dependent upon Covid19 health rules. Originally lunch for 100 but now food supplied from 1pm to 6 pm. Under current health rules there is no way you could have 100 people in the comp. Brian is in negotiations but the Golf Club needs to have a Covid19 plan first.
- Sadly Dream Cricket is not going ahead this year.
- Bong Bong Picnic Races are postponed until a future date maybe early next year.
- Rotary Youth Program of Enrichment (RYPEN) is postponed.

BlazeAid – Don Graham,

- Don reported from the Graham Caravan which has been Chris and Don's abode while they are helping at the Bega BlazeAid centre.
- Bega Valley Shire is all open and not in lockdown. Don's even had a haircut.
- They need volunteers as soon as possible as funding finishes at the end of the year and this is the last BlazeAid site to be running nationally.
- When they started they had 300 jobs but they are now down to 52 which they are trying to finish before Christmas.
- Don said that he applied for an Authorised Worker permit which was approved and allowed him to travel beyond Wingecarribee Shire LGA and set up in Bega Valley Shire. There is no minimum stay required but Don said at least a week would be needed to have any effect.
- It's fun and it's appreciated by all those being helped. Call Don for more information.

**Moral of the story –
if you want to help
before BlazeAid
funds runs out of
time, OR you want a
haircut....sign up!!!!**

Guest Speaker – Brian Ritson on the Topic of Snakes.

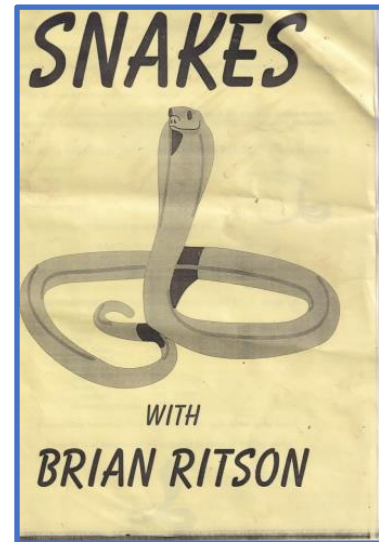
- Denise Coad introduced our own member Brian Ritson who used to be a local snake catcher. Brian wants the past tense to be emphasised there.



- Brian then gave a fascinating and informative talk on catching snakes especially in the local area.
- He told us about the different types of snakes. Blind Snakes are rarely seen and live underground; Pythons are non-venomous; Colubrids are not considered dangerous as their fangs are located at the rear of their mouth although some are venomous; Filesnakes are aquatic and non-venomous; Elapids are the largest and most frequently encountered, all are venomous to some degree but are not considered dangerous to humans. The remaining are the most deadly in the world and they are the Front Fang snakes.
- Brian explained about a rating system giving a score based on venom toxicity, venom yield, fang length, temperament and bite frequency. The maximum score is 25 and Brian listed snakes ranging from Taipan rated at 21 down to Red Bellied Black rated 9 or Small Eyed snake rated at 6.

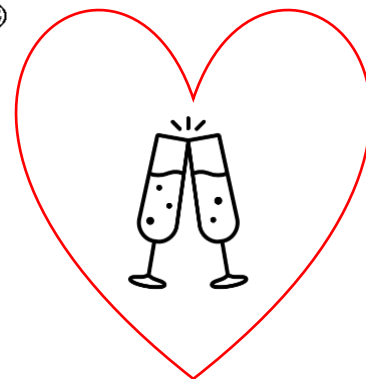
- He explained about how the venom is measured using the LD50 scale of the 50% lethal dose amount needed to kill 50% of mice into which the venom is injected. A common Black Snake (aka Red Belly) has a LD50 of 700 whereas the Inland Taipan has a rating of 218,000!
- Over 80% of bites occur when trying to kill or catch a snake. Also 80% of locals have never seen a snake in the Southern Highlands.
- Brian recounted one job he had been to in Hill Top where a family had an outside Spar Tub. They had an electric insect zapper which killed insects in sufficient quantity to encourage frogs to sit under it for an easy take away meal. However the frogs were also a tasty meal for snakes. Brian found the copper head was nesting in the children's toy box!
- Brian's late wife Judy did a nursing course about snake bites when he took up the role of snake catcher. He described the symptoms you get if time goes by before medical help arrives from headaches, vomiting, and transient hypotension in less than an hour to paralysis of large muscles and limbs and progressive loss of respiratory muscle functions if it's more than 3 hours.
- Brian explained about the local common snakes but snakes can arrive from anywhere if they get caught in a vehicle for example. Brian had an inland taipan in a load of timber from Queensland which arrived when he was building in Hill Top.
- Early remedies were numerous and sometimes drastic such as application of native herbs, animal excreta, barnacle juice and holy water. Also eating the snake's venom gland, amputation of limbs with an axe and injections of ammonia or strychnine or even pouring gun powder onto the wound and lighting it. [Sounds like cures Trump would recommend].

- What you should do is not to panic, keep calm, send for help and bandage semi constriction over the wound and 200mm above and below the wound. Rest stay immobile and try and elevate the wound. The snake is more afraid of you and there has only been one death locally in recent years.



President Will thanked Brian for his professional talk and once again demonstrating the hidden talents our Club Members have. John Hoelle added some of his experience of similar work he did in Queensland.

EXCITING NEWS: Dom Williams and Fay Cristie announced their engagement at the meeting. CONGRATULATIONS TO BOTH OF YOU FROM ALL OF US – TERRIFIC NEWS 😊



Will thanked all for attending and closed the meeting at 6:55pm

Belated Birthday wishes to our September members:

Trevor Fair 14/9

Lynton Kettle 16/9

Ken Adams 19/9

David Rees 28/9

Graham Hicks 17/9

Jacinta Sheridan 17/9

Also celebrating the below October birthdays :

Mike Dealtry 13/10

Les Vickerman 14/10

Rosemary Kelly 31/10

Terry Mortensen 7/10

Hopefully we can all share in a celebratory drink for the engagement and birthdays . and as a famous Queen once said....

