

# The Club Bulletin: 9th August 2022

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Bowral-Mittagong  
**Rotary**  
District 9705  
Chartered 26 March 1940



**RI President:**  
**Jennifer Jones**

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## Board of Directors

**President:**  
Leigh Robinson

**Directors:**  
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Treasurer: Jo Chalmers

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Ian Law  
Will Eddowes  
Carsten Prien

## Club Meetings:

Weekly on Tuesdays, 6.00pm for 6.30pm at various Southern Highlands venues. (See below)

**Meeting Apologies by Sunday for the following Tuesday. Please TXT Sec. Trevor.**

Next 4 Weeks	Meeting Venues	Speaker/ Topic	Journalist
16 Aug	Bowral Bowling Club	Geoff Prichard Australia's most famous Spy	David McCosh
23 Aug	The Scottish Arms	Social Evening *Pay on the night*	Will Eddowes
30 Aug	Bowral Bowling Club	Andy Butterfield and Josephine Bridge Climb	Tim Bowland
30 Aug	Bowral Bowling Club	Laurence Mooney The funny side of being a comedian	Pamela Brown

## International Toast - given by Ian Johnson

Bastet was the ancient Egyptian goddess of protection, pleasure and good health. In imagery she had the head of a cat and body of a woman and would ride through the sky each day with her father Ra, the Sun God. After dark she morphed into cat form and guard her dad from snakes while he slept.

Ian told us this because yesterday was International Cat Day and to remind us that cats were worshipped as Gods, and they have never forgotten it.

One of the Egyptian centres of cat worship was Memphis near to Giza, which is nowadays a suburb of Cairo, a city of 10 million people on the Nile.

The Rotary Club of Giza Karnak is one of 125 in Egypt and serves the communities of southern Giza. The Club recently took part in the restoration of a derelict school where the 34 Members created a new playground within the courtyard walls of the Mazoura School, celebrating

**Our club members visit Giza in 2010**



its opening with their District Governor. It was a welcome addition for the families of Mazoura and is becoming the centre of revival of shopping and commerce in the town.

The Club was chartered in 2010 in District 2451 and its President is Ahmed Nour, also a cat lover.

Ian invited us all to raise our glasses in recognition of International Cat Day and make a Toast to the President and Members of the Rotary Club of Giza Karnak.

**Venue:** Kookabar Café hosted by Pascal and Chloe Timores.

**Journalist:** Ian Langford.

**Sergeant Lynton Kettle** called the meeting to order and welcomed our Guest Speaker Viv May, Administrator for Wingecarribee Shire Council, Eric Conley, Honorary member PP Ken Adams and all members present. He then introduced and welcomed **President Leigh Robinson**.

**President Leigh** acknowledged the Gundungurra People, the traditional owners of this land where we meet and to pay our respect to their Elders, past, present and future

President Leigh announced the apologies and then invited all present to stand and recite the Invocation

**Ian Johnson** gave the International Toast.

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## **Announcements:**

### **President Leigh:**

#### **1. Public Sundials Survey**

Bowral Public School has a current project surveying where there are public sundials in the Southern Highlands and has asked Rotary to let them know of any sundials that we are aware of in the area. If you know of any, please tell Leigh.

#### **2. U Turn the Wheel**

Rotary Club of Moss Vale has asked whether anyone can help them with their U Turn the Wheel project for high school students. There is a variety of dates as Sue Tyler has advised that UTW is on again after the Covid interruptions but under different arrangements. This year the course will be run at the various schools rather than the Mittagong RSL Club. Rotarians will assist wherever possible. Dates so far seem to be

Moss Vale High School Tue 16<sup>th</sup> August, (possibly 90 students),

Chevalier College year 11 Mon 29<sup>th</sup> August (possibly 150 students),

Chevalier College year 12 Tue 30<sup>th</sup> August (possibly 150 students).

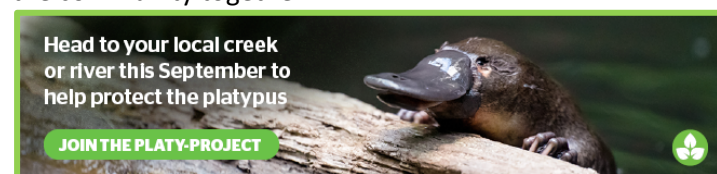
Other schools' dates to be advised. If anyone can help I suggest they contact Sue Tyler (0428 844 473) or Moss Vale secretary Jim McAlpine (0411 106 267).

#### **3. Platy-Project Month of Action**

Ophelia Davenport from the Australian Conservation Foundation (Australia's national environment organisation <https://www.acf.org.au>) has written to Rotary to let us know about a big nature project coming up that she would love Rotary District 9705 groups to consider taking part in. It's surveying platypuses as part of the Platy-Project Month of Action. In the month of September they are trying to get as many people as they can to head down to their local creek or river, find a quiet place on the bank, try to spot a platypus and record what they see (or don't see).

See <https://www.acf.org.au/platy-project>

President Leigh who is also on the D9705 Environmental Envoy Team is liaising with the Team Leader PDG David Brawn to see how we can help. How does this help the platypus? Even though the platypus is one of our most unique and iconic animals, there are big gaps in our knowledge about the creature, including where it lives and how big platypus populations are. With platypus numbers declining, the lack of existing platypus data is a huge barrier to getting the protection it needs from extinction. ACF has been working with researchers at the University of NSW to try and fill this data gap along the east coast of Australia, but we really need help from lots of people in the community. Groups could get involved by doing some platypus surveying events sometime in September. Surveying can also be done individually. ACF has developed easy to use toolkits and an interactive map to make the process really simple. Not only would it be helping nature, but it's an easy, and relaxing activity that can bring the community together.



#### **4. Food and Wine Festival – 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> October Moss Vale Showgrounds**

Last time we were invited to help with the gates and the parking for which we were paid because the RFS had been prevented from community involvement during the pandemic. Whether we are invited again this year or not is unknown but Leigh said consideration needs to be given to whether we run a Poffertjes Stall again. This year Des will not be available and last time there was another stall selling Poffertjes which seriously restricted our sales.

## **5. Bong Bong Picnic Races - Friday 18 November**

Parking is in hand with Don Graham. Ian Johnson volunteered to manage the BBQ.

Further information about Cherry Tree Hill and an ancient Rotary project was provided by Ken Adams who described the site as the hill on the Country Club Golf Course that can be seen from the Bowral/Mittagong main road.

## **6. Rotary Tea spoons.**

President Leigh has found a box of souvenir Rotary tea spoons which he encouraged members to purchase for a suggested \$5 each. Rose Conley bought one for a café in Moss Vale which uses souvenir spoons. Bring your money to the next meeting to relieve Leigh of what to do with a load of spoons!

## **7. Zone 8 Regionalisation Project:**

President Leigh attended one of the information webinars and as he promised last week he now has the wording of what we are going to vote on. Our region, or Zone 8, which includes Australia, New Zealand, and the Pacific Islands, has been selected as one of two potential regions from across the globe to pilot a regional approach to governance. This vote is to decide whether to go ahead with the pilot change or stay as we are. The wording of the vote is "This Club approves participation in a pilot to develop, test and evaluate a new regional approach to supporting and governing Rotary and Rotaract Clubs and members in Zone 8 from July 2023 to June 2026." Club presidents will vote on behalf of their club and assuming two-thirds of the clubs in the district vote in favour of the Regionalisation Project, District Governors will be asked to endorse the proposal.

As Governors are the officers of Rotary International and will play a critical leadership and advisory role during the pilot, their vote indicates their commitment. For more information see,

[www.creatingtomorrowrotary.org/](http://www.creatingtomorrowrotary.org/)

and see the links to fact sheets. Also see page 44 of the August issue of the Rotary Down Under magazine

## **Ian Langford:**

### **8. Tulip Time Festival 16<sup>th</sup> Sept – 3<sup>rd</sup> Oct**

Ian reported that there were only 4 shifts left to fill in the Tulip Time Festival gates roster. Thanks to all for their readiness to help this year and as most shifts have been filled by Bowral Mittagong members we will maximise the funds raised and retained in our club.

## **Denise Coad:**

### **9. Social Meetings**

#### **Birthday Pizza Lunch at Imperial Hotel**

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> August 12:00pm

#### **The Rotary meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> August**

Scottish Arms, East Bowral

Members will order and pay for their meals individually. Don't pay on-line for that week.

## **Will Eddowes:**

### **10 First Responders weekend**

Will reported on the First Responders retreat weekend at Sylvan Glen, Penrose and all went well and smoothly. We catered from Friday afternoon through to Sunday lunch. There were 14 attendees plus the two organisers to be fed and Will was amazed that he was capable of assembling some delicious pavlovas. Will thanked all who had helped over the weekend and to Des Rudolph (who had cooked the chicken casserole and beef stroganoff) and Leigh thanked Will for managing the project. This year we were paid \$1,000 and the cost of the food.

## **Rod Aistrophe:**

### **11. Southern Tablelands Science & Engineering Challenge held in Goulburn**

Rod reported on the successful event held last week. Robbie Allen and Ian Langford helped with activities and Rod did his usual magic with the banners. Some schools didn't make it due to Covid and an ACT school not wanting to travel "interstate". In the end there were 5 schools competing.

### **12. RAWCS trip to Fiji**

Rod is applying for a Rotary Australia World Community Service (RAWCS) trip to Fiji to work on the Koroipita Village for probably March/April next year.

Pascal then served up an excellent meal.....



## Guest Speaker: Viv May Administrator for Wingecarribee Shire Council



After dinner, **Trevor Fair** introduced and welcomed **Viv May**, Administrator for Wingecarribee Shire Council. Viv May is a highly qualified Local Government Administrator with over 40 years of local government experience including 27 as General Manager of Mosman Council. Viv's special interests in local government include waste management, sustainability, international strategies, service delivery reform, and effective stakeholder engagement. In 2021 Viv was appointed as Administrator for WSC following the suspension of the Councillors. Viv is expected to remain in this position until 2024.

Viv was awarded the Public Service Medal for service to the Mosman community in the 1999 Australia Day Honours List.

Viv gave a precis of his background, his time with Mosman Council and in 2016 Strathfield asked him to sit in as GM, the Auburn Council, then Cumberland Council where he was there for 18 months. Out of the blue the Government asked Viv to go to Armidale and then March 2021 to Wingecarribee Shire Council.

The appointment of Viv May as an Administrator for Wingecarribee Shire Council followed the suspension of the Councillors by Minister for Local Government, Shelley Hancock in March 2021. In September 2021, the NSW Government announced that a Public Inquiry would be held into Wingecarribee Shire Council. Shelley Hancock, has also suspended the councillors, reappointed the interim administrator and deferred the 4<sup>th</sup> December 2021 council election until the public inquiry was completed.

On Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2022, the Minister for Local Government, The Hon Wendy Tuckerman, announced that she has accepted the key recommendations from the Commissioner's report.

Mr Viv May PSM will remain at Wingecarribee Shire Council until the local government election in September 2024.

Viv formed the view that the Council was a debacle and had been in a bad way long before 2016. He saw that restoring public confidence was most important. He found a culture of ego, entitlement and personality with a "who you know" not a "what you know" as the basis for decisions. Councillors used code of conduct as a weapon against other councillors.

Viv described the difficult process of getting an independent General Manager. Council had a favoured person and this influenced the recruiters. Viv made the recruiters start again and he is very pleased with the appointment of Lisa Miscamble. Lisa has extensive experience in local government, most recently as General Manager at Hunter's Hill Council as well as executive roles at Campbelltown, Camden, Canada Bay and Marrickville Councils and she has moved to the Southern Highlands to take on this role.

Commissioner Ross Glover issued the Public Enquiry 259 page report which was scathing of the Council and the Councillors and made 9 main recommendations. The report can be seen at

<https://www.olg.nsw.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Wingecarribee-Shire-Council-Public-Inquiry-Commissioners-Report.pdf>

and the recommendations are on the last 15 pages from page 245.

The Enquiry was a huge drain on the staff. The Commissioner requested 4,000 folders and 26,000 pages of documentation. Viv has taken on board all the recommendations from the enquiry. He also sees work either started or in the near future will include restructure of the council, land use planning, planning for the current population of 52,000 rising to 66,000 by 2041. Also the Moss Vale bypass which will reduce traffic volume on Argyle Street by 30% and work on flood mitigation to reduce Mittagong Creek volume



by 40%. Viv wants to see kerbside collection to be continued and extended, the Station Street upgrade completed and more housing.

Viv's talk was packed with information, it was lively and he was a very convincing speaker. He recommends we look at the Commissioner's report and the recommendations. Many other documents and reports can be found at

<https://www.olg.nsw.gov.au/public-inquiries/wingecarribee-shire-council-public-inquiry/>

**Will Eddowes** gave the vote of thanks and all members showed their appreciation.

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#### Raffle:

Viv May was then asked to pick the winning raffle ticket and **Dominic Williams** was the lucky winner of a bottle of wine.

**Sergeant Lynton:** A quick fines session followed. After **Don Graham** was fined last week for becoming a grandfather. He was fined again this week for another grandson! **Ian Johnson** has been building a "massive" big reservoir at his new house hoping to beat climate change and floods. This led to Ian cross fining **Lynton Kettle** as discussion erupted on definitions for retention versus detention basins and master plumber **Ken Adams** was called upon to

adjudicate. Ken was fined for being in the club so long that he knew where the Cherry Tree Hill project was. **Ian Langford** was seen in the early hours of Monday in a bitterly cold wind wearing shorts on the way home from the gym. **Trevor Fair** has a big new Toyota. Past Shire President **Jim Gasson** failed to get his free meal because current Administrator Viv insisted on paying for his meal, bought raffle tickets and rounded up with a donation. **Rose Conley** had front page coverage in the Southern Highland News for helping local school children read. Well done, Rose. All those who helped with the Sylvan Glen catering who were talked to by Kim were fined.



#### President's Corner

In recent weeks Australia has lost some wonderful celebrities such as Archie Roach, Judith Durham and Olivier Newton-John. The loss of these people who entertained us so much is being felt by individuals of all generations. The world of Rotary is suffering similar losses through the depletion of membership in several ways. The aging membership accounts for some losses but the major factors in membership losses are those who have lost interest in the work of Rotary or who have insufficient energy to continue their membership and those of the younger generations who we have not yet connected with Rotary. The reversal of the decline in membership of Rotary is something that will impact communities both in Australia and in the developing countries that we assist. It is incumbent upon each of us to constantly be aware of potential Rotarians who can continue our service.

The regionalisation project is planned to address issues of governance and recruitment that hopefully will assist us to ensure that the work of Rotary continues for a long time to come. Please familiarise yourself with the details of the project which we are required to vote on next month.



Thanks were given to **Pascal and Chloe** for the very pleasant evening and the food that they gave us.

**President Leigh** closed the meeting and reminded us that Geoff Prichard will be the guest

speaker next week when we meet at the Bowral Bowling Club.