

Stephanie A. Urchick
2024-25 President
Rotary International



Tulip Times Club Bulletin: 2-07-2024
Volume 86 No 01

Bowral-Mittagong
Rotary
District 9705
Chartered 26 March 1940



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www.bowralmittagongrotary.com

Board of Directors

President:
Bob Miller
Directors:
Trevor Fair - Secretary
Paul Leotta - Treasurer
Don Graham -Immediate PP
Rod Aistrope
Robbie Allen
Will Eddowes
Rosemary Kelly
Tim Bowland
Mary Crammond
Leigh Robinson

Club Meetings: Attendance & Apologies

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

Contact: TREVOR FAIR of your attendance or apologies

Deadline is 5pm Friday. T: 02 4861 6917 M: 0403 176 958 email: trevorfair5@bigpond.com

Please be considerate and respond. Unannounced members and guests may miss out on a meal.

“What’s On?”

Date	Meeting Venues	Speaker/ Topic	Journalist	Invocation & International Toast
8 July	Moss Vale Civic Centre	NADOC BBQ 12pm-3pm “Raising the Flag”		
9 July	Bowral Bowling Club	Club Assembly	Trevor Fair	Vanessa
16 July	Annesley	Member Talk/Beverly Coffee	David McCosh	Beverley
19 July	Imperial Hotel	Pizza Birthday Lunch	NA	NA
23 July	Bowral Bowling Club	To be advised	Ian Law	Rob de Jongh
30 July	Bowral Bowling Club	To be advised	Denise Coad	Ian Donges
12 Sept-30 Sept	Tulip Time Festival	Roster members on gates (Will Eddowes)	NA	NA
4 to 7 Oct	Food & Wine Festival	Roster members on gates (Will Eddowes)	NA	NA
20 Oct	Bowral Classic			
25-27 Oct	Mittagong RSL	District 9705 Conference	NA	NA
22 Nov	Bong Bong Racetrack	BB Races BBQ & Car Parking	Don	

CHANGEOVER Edition

Journalist: Will Eddowes Venue: Annesley

MC Rod Aistrope opened the meeting welcoming guests,

Immediate past District Governor. **Andrea Grosvenor**, Past Area Governor **Haseena Tweddle**, Rotary Club of West Liverpool member **Vinod Reddi**, **Michelle** and **Andrew Bullock**, **Pamela Brown**, formerly of this club, now moved to Yass, and all member partners here tonight.

Rod acknowledged the **Gundungurra** people as the traditional owners of this land.

He then gave the Invocation and said:

This has been another great year for the club with a net gain in membership.

Pres. Don Graham's report is on the tables and is being circulated by email to all members.

At a recent poetry night at **Robbie Allen's** house, pp **Jim Gasson** was voted winner by popular acclaim. The prize was 5 minutes of fame at the changeover dinner by reading his entry "**How McDougal Topped the Score**" by Tom C Spencer, written in 1898. Jim gave a perfect rendition to great applause.

International Toast

The toast to Rotary International was delivered by Past District Governor **Brian Pattinson**:



Rotary International is only such a great organisation because of the achievements of individual clubs. The life of Bob Aitken epitomises the life of a great Rotarian. There is an article about Bob in the latest RDU following his funeral at the catholic Cathedral in Glenbrook. In 1959, Brian was transferred to Eldersmith's wool dept in Parkes and Liz taught at the primary school and lived in an Aitken family property. Bob Aitken lived there and Brian soon realised he was an exemplary Rotarian. Often referred to as Mr Rotary due to his commitment, his honours were numerous including the *Australian Rotary Health Medal* and the *Service Above Self Medal*. He led Rotary Down Under as managing editor for 30 years and took a personal interest in promoting the activities on which RDU reported. He was also involved

in many local and international activities himself.

At the funeral were representatives of *Polio Plus*, *The Australian Rotary Health Fund*, *Sydney Rotary International Convention and History and Archives Committee* among others. There were messages from past RI presidents for Bob's international achievements.

Brian wanted to share his story with us tonight to show what one person was able to achieve, and what was possible because of his connection with Rotary International.

Brian then listed some of the many achievements of our club as examples of what we can and have achieved and raised a toast to **Rotary International**.

Response to the Toast

Past District Governor Andrea Grosvenor responded:

After also giving credit to Bob Aitken, Andrea spoke of the 1.2million world membership of Rotary nearly 200,000 Rotaracters as part of RI. The structure of areas, district and international is there to serve local clubs – not just a bureaucracy to support. As an international body we can undertake such projects as End Polio Now and other international health programs. We have partnerships with the Gates Foundation and WHO, for instance. Andrea listed Rotary's seven areas of focus:

Peace & Conflict Resolution;	Maternal and child health;
Clean Water and Sanitation;	Disease Control;
Education;	Economic Development;
The Environment.	



Being part of Rotary gives us the strength of the brand and access to resources to enable us to do great things. The Bowral-Mittagong Rotary Club helps to create 'Hope in the World' and Andrea commends our club for its contribution.

Presidents Report

President Don thanked Andrea and gave a special thankyou to the following:

Trevor Fair – just incredible in many roles, **Rod Aistrope** - RAWCS organiser and master fund-raiser, **Rosemary Kelly** - finding and looking after guest speakers, **Tim Bowland** - who has given the club a net increase in membership over the year, **Ian Langford** – for the ongoing success of Science & Engineering and Tulip Times operations, and **Robbie Allen** for liaising with exchange students and running our support for the Interact Club at Bowral High – and the many others who contributed to the success of the club.

He reserved a special thank you to his wife, **Chris Graham**, for her support. While looking after any family issues, she has always been available for support.

He didn't go through all the activities that the club has supported through the year.

Brian Pattinson had mentioned several and the detail is in the President's report.



President Don awarded Honorary Membership of the club to **Jim Gasson**. Jim has many talents and is a great contributor to meetings – apart from assisting and organising at almost every BBQ for many years. **President Don** then presented a Rotary umbrella to Jim. Jim's response was that 'if you stay alive long enough, you get one of these!' Jim claimed to be a master procrastinator but also mentioned his last umbrella was for competing in a duathlon in Dapto. Best wishes to our new president, Bob

Miller, who has also been a great cycling mate over many years.

President Don awarded 'Rotarian of the Year' to **Trevor Fair**.

Trevor will join **Ian Langford** and **Tony Glenn** with this honour which is rarely awarded. "He 'oils the wheels of the club' and does so much to make things run smoothly as well as being Secretary or Treasurer or both".

Don said that whenever he asks Trevor if he wants a hand, he gets the reply "Na – all good" and it's done. He does 'everything' in the background.



Trevor thanked **President Don** and explained that he plugs holes in the dam by sticking in a finger - but he is running out of fingers to plug the holes and may need help.

Induction of President Bob Miller



After dessert, **MC Rod** announced the 'business end of the evening' and handed over to **President Don Graham** for the induction of the new president

President Don started by saying (for the benefit of the incoming president, we assume) that the job is not hard, but it is constant. You must be available and diplomatic but, in the end, it is rewarding.

President Don transferred the chain of office to incoming president **Bob Miller** and on his lapel, pinned the presidential badge of office.

President Bob Miller expressed his profound gratitude to ex-president Don and applauded his commitment and achievements in the past 12 months.



He appreciated the support of members and the faith they show in his leadership for the club. He wants to build on the legacy of the club's talents and for members to be part of an organisation that fosters self-improvement.

Sue Miller then presented a bouquet to **Chris Graham** to much applause

President Bob continued with the introduction of the new Board:

The Club Board for 2024-25

Executive Team

Bob Miller - President
Don Graham – Immediate Past President
Trevor Fair – Secretary
Paul Leotta – Treasurer

Board Directors

Rosemary Kelly – Vocational Services
Rod Aistropé – International Service
Robbie Allen – Youth and Education
Tim Bowland – Membership and Public Image
Mary Crammond – Community Services
Will Eddowes – Funding and Services Projects
Leigh Robinson – Regional Services and Foundation

President Bob concluded by congratulating **Jim Gasson** and thanking him for introducing him to Rotary in 1992 –it is a privilege to have Jim as a friend.

M.C. Rod Aistropé congratulated the new president, thanked PDG **Andrea Grosvenor** and Past Area Governor **Haseena Tweddle** and all other guests for attending. He then closed the meeting.



Gallery

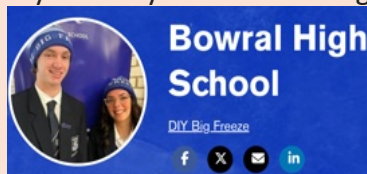
Postscript:

Ian Langford is recovering from bypass surgery in Wollongong Hospital and expected to move to Bowral Private Hospital later this week.

Birthdays in July - Mary Ramsey 10/7, Dom Williams 31/7

BHS Interact Club Ice Bucket Challenge in support of Motor Neurone Disease (MND)

If you really want a challenge this winter, check out this link and join the Big Freeze!!



<https://support.fightmnd.org.au/fundraiser/amandasutton/diy-bigfreeze>

(Congratulations BHS Interact for another already-successful project!...Editor)



Umbrella was left at Annesley on Tuesday. Don Graham has it.