



Report for Feb 1, 2022; Volume 83, No: 26 Rotary Club

of Bowral-Mittagong

District 9705 Charter Date 26 March 1940

President: Will Eddowes Secretary: Trevor Fair



E: rotarybm@acenet.com.au

W: www.bowralmittagongrotary.com

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

February 3rd – Men's Health Clinic at Mittagong Information Centre

February 4th – Men's Health Clinic at Bowral Pool Carpark

February 8 - The Hermitage – Tina McPherson (Still holds the ODI Bowling Record 1973 at Lords)

February 11 – Birthday lunch for Nov-Feb birthdays 12pm @ Imperial

February 15 - Club Assembly

March 8 – International Women's Day Breakfast at Gibraltar Country Club, Bowral @7am

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

Venue: The Hermitage, Mittagong

Journalist: Denise Coad – Apologies to Members. I thought I was "booked in" for February 15. I will have to rely on my memory as I did not take down the Notes. I will do my best !

Sergeant Lynton:

Opened the Meeting. There was a great turn out of Members, Partners and Guests all keen to hear the Guest speaker Wendy Lotter.

A guest of Louie was Carston Prian, who Louie played soccer with years ago and they are still good friends.

Rose's guest was her neighbour Barbara who would like to be a new Member.

A prospective Member was Ally Estens who has a horseriding school at Moss Vale.

We also had Ian Law and his wife Sue come along.

Partners were: Robyn Liberale, Stephanie Robinson, Mara de Jongh and her Sister Frances from Perth, Eric Conley and Rosemary Eddowes

Welcome:

President Will welcomed Members, Partners and Guests

Invocation: Brian Ritson

International Toast: Rod Aistrop is on Holidays so no International Toast this Meeting.

Editor Added: However there was a lovely International Day celebrated this Friday 4th February which I thought was quite applicable to Rotarians and our worldwide goal to changing lives...

4 Feb - International Day of Human Fraternity

One of its purposes is to achieve **international cooperation** in solving international problems, including by promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion.



“As we commemorate the International Day of Human Fraternity, let us commit to do more to promote cultural and religious tolerance, understanding and dialogue.”

-UN Secretary-General António Guterres

President Will:

Reminded Members who would be volunteering at the Rotary Mens Health Caravan on Thursday and Friday. It should be a very worthwhile project as men are normally much more reluctant to go to a doctor than women. This simply checks blood pressure, blood sugar and cholesterol but is aimed at men who would not otherwise visit a doctor.

Will also mentioned the tragedy affected Tonga and suggested if any of us / those reading the TT Bulletin wished to donate.



The Rotary Australia World Community Service (RAWCS) gave President Will this link to make donations to Tonga:

- Go to <https://rawcs.org.au>
- Then select Explore Projects
- Click on 42-2021-22: Tonga Volcano Eruption and Tsunami Disaster (RARF)
- Click Donate now & follow the prompts

Guest Speaker – Wendy Lotter

We were all looking forward to meeting Wendy, and hearing her talk. She has visited our Club previously, and is known to a lot of Members.



Here is her story:

Aunty Wendy Lotter is an esteemed Aboriginal Community Elder. A proud Yuin woman, with strong affiliations with nations throughout NSW, Queensland, the Northern Territory and ACT, Wendy was born in Walgett, in northern NSW, and moved to the Southern Highlands 37 years ago. For more than two decades, she has worked as a social welfare expert, helping indigenous children, and as owner of Platypus Dreamin' Aboriginal Education Program, she is driven to raise awareness of Australian indigenous culture. "The first thing I always say to people who tell me they don't know much about the true history of our First Nations peoples is 'talk to people who do. Ask questions, research', and when you have done that, you can come and talk to me." @lotter58_

My name is ... Wendy Lotter.

My life in five words is ... cultural, compassionate, friendly, knowledgeable family.

My favourite thing to do here is ... educate people about my culture. Walk around the bush and meet all types of people.

When we have friends visiting, we always take them ... on bush walks with lots of talking.

When it comes to indigenous culture, this is the one truth I know that we lived here and practised our wonderful culture, and everyone should know this.

I have been a social worker for indigenous kids for two decades because ... they are our new generation. I want them to understand that 'no one can knock you down, only you can' so think about consequences before actions always. My father said this to me throughout his life.

I started Platypus Dreamin' Education Program ...because I understand not all people have an understanding of my culture. I want them to see, try, enjoy and experience it.

Some things I teach include ... mapping (illustrating Connection to Country), ochre (its significance and use), bush medicine, dance, music, White Australia policies.

There is a growing interest in cultural and indigenous tourism in Australia. Now is the time to ... experience our culture and research what is happening around the particular area you are interested in.

With NAIDOC, Heal Country, Heal Our Nation, July 4-11 celebrating our indigenous peoples, can you share some local areas special to our Gundungurra peoples? Carrington Falls, Roberston; the Boxvale Walking Track, near Mittagong and Gundungurra Lookout, behind Bowral are wonderful places to discover the medicinal bush plants used by our people for centuries.

To truly improve our indigenous people's wellbeing and to build a cohesive future, as a nation we need to ... consult all people. Consultation is the key.

Teaching Australia's true indigenous, colonial and post-colonial history in schools is ... mandatory in government schools but it is still in the early stages. Schools need to educate themselves on the protocol when addressing indigenous people, especially Aboriginal Community Elders.

When it comes to being a proud Aboriginal woman ... I am honoured to have had my parents, and my Mob give me an understanding of my culture and to teach me that while we are all proud Aboriginal or Torres Straits Islanders, we are different too.

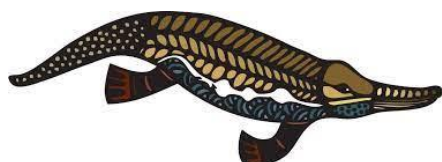


The most precious piece of affirmation I ever received ... was after a program I taught at a local school where we spoke about Aboriginal symbols and their uses. One of the kids later went to a Sydney art gallery, saw an Aboriginal painting and said to his Mum: 'I know that's a walking track and there are the waterholes.' When his mum said, 'How do you know this?' he said, 'Wendy told me!'

And finally, please finish this sentence. Esteemed indigenous leaders never die, they just Surround me. My parents have passed but when I need advice, I talk to them and think about what they taught me. So, they never die because I feel them every day.

Wendy brought along different samples of Bush Medicine for "tasting and smelling. We enjoyed rubbing, crushing and smelling Lemon Myrtle and Tea Tree and then Wendy came round and put some white ochre powder on our hands to rub in. It was a very interactive session enjoyed by all.

Wendy was thanked by David Rees and given a gift pen as appreciation for her time.



Birthday Celebration 11th Feb @ Imperial

Ian Langford 23/Nov

Robbie Allan 25/Nov

Ian Johnson 26/Nov

Leigh Robinson 7/Dec

Rose Conley 25/Dec

Carolina Torregrosa 20/Jan

Denise Coad 9/Feb

John Elder 13/Feb

John Hoelle 24/Feb

Raffle:

Won by Robbie Allen and Robbie won the \$500 – well deserved.



Meeting Closed 8.00pm

Next week's Guest Speaker: Tina McPherson