

Tulip Times Club Bulletin: 10-12-2024
Volume 86 No 23

Stephanie A. Urchick
2024-25 President
Rotary International



Bowral-Mittagong
Rotary
District 9705
Chartered 26 March 1940



Email : rotarybm@acenet.com.au
www.bowralmittagongrotary.com

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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
17 Dec. 2024	Annesley	Christmas Party	Trevor Fair	Don Graham
26 Jan. 2025	The Donges’s Home	Australia Day Celebration	NA	N/A
22 & 23 Feb. 2025	Annesley	Mental Health Training	NA	N/A

NB The journalist and International Toast Roster may have changed. Check for your name.

ROTARY CLUB OF BOWRAL-MITTAGONG TULIP TIMES BULLETIN

December 10th, 2024

JOURNALIST – Steve Escott

VENUE – Bowral Bowling Club

Sergeant: Lynton Kettle called the meeting to order and welcomed all members and tonight’s guest speaker **Anna Zaranski**, Dutch students **Josephine** and **Daphne** and our exchange student **Yuna**. Also welcome to **Dennis Coych** (a guest of Bob Miller as Club member Ian Donges has abandoned Dennis to undertake a trip down the South Coast) and **David Hooper** (guest of Dom Williams). Welcome to partners’ spouses **Fay** and **Stephanie** and honorary member **Jim Gasson**.

Rod Aistrope was then invited to recite **The Invocation** and present **The International Toast**.

For good food, good fellowship, and the privilege to serve, we give thanks.

As you all know tomorrow is the United Nations International Mountain Day when the world focusses on the problems caused by climate change on the mountain environment and the 15% of the world’s population who live in mountainous regions.

Climate change is degrading mountains by glacier retreat and reduced snows which are resulting in water supply shortages in the mountains and for the cities and rural communities downstream.

Timber cutting and agricultural land clearing are creating erosion and land slips on fragile soils risking loss of farming land and food insecurity.

International Mountain Day aims to develop solutions for a sustainable future using innovation, adaptation and education of younger generations to change behaviours locally and mitigate the effects of climate change.

One of the most mountainous of countries is Bhutan in the Himalayas whose capital, Thimphu is 2300 metres above sea level and runs about 11km along a 600m wide river valley.

The Kingdom of Bhutan borders north east India and China. It has a population of 770 000 and its economy is based on agriculture and livestock with a fairly small tightly regulated tourist sector.

When the previous King retired in 2008 he introduced democracy and his son divested much power and authority to an elected parliament which has developed a new Constitution. One of the Constitutional Objectives is sustainable development taking an holistic approach towards notions of progress, giving equal importance to non-economic aspects of well-being.

Progress is not only measured by the Gross National Product but by Gross National Happiness. Surely a worthy objective for all societies.

The Rotary Club of Thimphu is the only one of 162 in District 3292 located in Bhutan, the rest are all in Nepal. It was Chartered in 2012 and has 29 Members led by President Sanam Togbay.

Recently the Club was recognised for its safe water in schools project and it conducts a wilderness training program for rescue workers operating in remote and rugged terrain.

So, to kick off our own personal International Mountain Day celebrations would you all please raise your glasses in our **International Toast to the President and Members of the Rotary Club of Thimphu**.



Announcements.

President Bob Miller was invited to the microphone and he also welcomed our guest speaker for the evening, **Anna Zaranski** whose background and life experience well qualifies her to share her views on the survival of the fittest in some of the trouble spots around the world. A further warm welcome to **Josephine Inia** and **Daphne Van Braak** who have been known as our Dutch students but are now part of the local community with their support and involvement with our projects. Bob also welcomed our exchange student Yuna Uemura whose birthday is tomorrow when she becomes 18 years old.

Domestic Violence Forum

Will Eddowes and **Tim Bowland** attended the Pop-In Domestic Violence Awareness Forum at Bradman Museum on the 4th December 2024.

Will Eddowes reported that **Vicki Kelly**, Chair and co-founder of Pop-In gave the opening address. She introduced Deb Richards to MC the event. Deb is a journalist with extensive career in researching and producing for ABC TV and others.

Vicki gave a brief history of Pop-In which started operating in 2021 and has since helped over 750 women. During November 2024, they worked with 82 women.

A video was presented of Deb Richards interviewing “Jacquie” who remained in shadow to avoid revealing her identity. She said the personality of her husband changed on the wedding night. She tolerated very abusive behaviour for 10 years blaming herself and thinking it would get better. The last straw was when she lost her second pregnancy and he blamed and abused her.

Katie Burreket, a family lawyer, spoke next. She spoke about the difference between the family court and the criminal court. Independent Children’s Lawyers (ICL) work specifically for children but they are poorly funded and not always adequately trained. Safety is the primary concern of the court. There have been some improvements in family law and there are impending changes to the financial support required of each parent. Katie was concerned that any additional complexity slows down/clogs up the courts which are already stretched.

Carolyn Doherty from Argyle Housing was next. Argyle is a large organisation with access to 2700 homes in many locations. The problem is that there are around 50,000 people on the social housing waiting list. They can access some crisis housing with max 12 weeks stay but this is not a satisfactory solution. Their funding is partly by government grant but largely from donors. They have worked successfully with the local council in the Riverina (Griffith) who have helped with land and general support. Fortunately, our mayor, Jesse Fitzpatrick, was in the room!

Simon Port spoke representing Everyman, a men’s support organisation. They use one on one and group counselling sessions to help men deal with everything from bereavement to anger management etc. Interestingly he made a distinction between Anger as a loss of control and violence or abuse as a path of choice. It is important to approach clients with the right questions – it’s too easy to put people on the defensive with a question which may be seen as challenging their actions. Their funding is reducing rather than increasing.

Pauline Carrigan OAM was the final speaker. She is a passionate volunteer from Scone and the founder of ‘Where there’s a Will’, a mental health organisation. She founded this organisation following the suicide of her son 10 years ago at the age of 24. He was apparently popular and successful and she didn’t see any signs of trouble. She emphasised the importance of role models to demonstrate well-being and the importance of the community as a whole getting involved. She stressed the difference between just raising money and handing it over to an organisation like Beyond Blue compared to community involvement and responsibility.

Overall an excellent seminar with great speakers who were all involved in dealing with different aspects of domestic violence.

Angels In Our Town Thank You! Concert



President Bob said that we have received a most positive report regarding the evening of live music, entertainment and connection at Mittagong RSL on Sunday afternoon in recognition and appreciation of the work done by Angels in our Town. The Angels’ “In Our Town Thank You! Concert” was a heartfelt celebration of community, gratitude, and giving back. This special event was dedicated to honouring the generous individuals, businesses, first responders and volunteers who have supported and uplifted our community throughout the year. Guests enjoyed an unforgettable evening of live music, entertainment, and connection as they came together to reflect on the impact of kindness and unity. The concert featured

talented performers, family-friendly activities, and moments of appreciation to recognise those who embody the spirit of generosity. Robbie Allen also reported that the Bowral High School Interactors did a great job volunteering at the "Angels in our Town".



Guest Speaker.

Ian Johnson introduced our Guest Speaker **Anna Zaranski**, a fascinating lady who grew up in Europe during WW2 and many memories to offer us.



Anna Zaranski was born in Warsaw Poland in 1937. The tragic upbringing of her childhood before and during the war was recalled by Anna about events and situations that were heartbreaking and that no child should have experienced.

The recollections from Anna's childhood were very much a personal story that included facts that her father was killed by the Russians before she was born. Also she had to deal with both Russian and German persecution in the years

In the late thirties until the invasion of Poland in 1939, Anna's mother tried to provide protection for her and relatives during the years to the end of the war by taking refuge in the countryside and the church that included lack of food and shelter.

A book recommended by Anna was *The Bloodland of Europe* by Timothy Snyder. A magisterial history of the lands that lie between Stalin's Russia and Hitler's Germany - where 14 million civilians were murdered

during the years 1933-1944. For twelve savage years, on this blood soaked soil an average of one million individuals - mostly women, children and the aged - were murdered every year. Though in 1939 these lands became battlefields, not one of these fourteen million was killed in combat. They were victims of a murderous policy, not casualties of war.

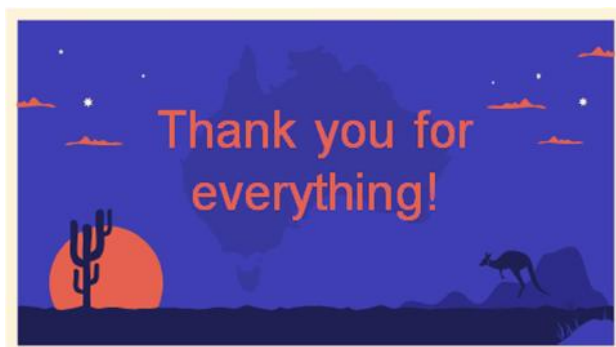
The last memory Anna described was the American soldiers providing food and rescue for Anna and her relatives when they managed to cross into the Western sector.



David Patton gave Anna a vote of thanks and indicated that Anna obviously had many more memories and anecdotes

Our Dutch Students.

Josephine Inia and **Daphne Van Braak** have now finished at Oxley College and will be travelling over the holiday period and will be having family visiting them in Australia.



Josephine and Daphne then gave a presentation of their time in Australia. The experience was part of University course set up by their professors. It was an opportunity to help at Oxley College and learn about the country and the culture.

Their “adventures” included Sydney, Tulip Time, Canberra (Parliament, War Museum), Fitzroy Falls, Kiama, The Big Spud, Bronte to Bondi walk, Jervis Bay, Art tour and a Barbecue. They also described their first day Oxley College, a wombat trail, a snake, Cave Creek, Wollondilly Cave, beaches, Taralga petting zoo, horse race and met up with a friend in Australia.



Last week all the hosts who accommodated our visiting teacher students from the Netherlands had a social barbecue get together.

Happy Birthday Yuna

Tomorrow will be Yuna's eighteenth birthday and to help celebrate she was presented with a large chocolate cake which was sliced up and distributed to all present. Yuna can now show how Aussie she is with the Akubra hat which was presented to her from the Club'



Graham Castle then asked **Anna Zaranski** to draw the raffle which was won by **Ian Langford** but he missed out on the Joker.

Next Week's Meeting is the Club's Christmas Party at Annesley



Last Year's Angel Parade



Angels in our town don't always wear wings...