



Tulip Times

**The Rotary Club of Bowral-Mittagong
District 9710 - Chartered 26 March 1940**

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President: Linda Knight 0418 126 240

Secretary: Sue Adams 0438 249 703

Meetings: 6:00 for 6:30

Highlands Golf Club, Old Hume Highway

Mittagong NSW 2575

Visiting Rotarians	Ross McConnell, E Club of Brindabella	
Guests		
Next meetings....	Tuesday 21st Feb 2017	Tuesday 21st Feb 2017
Location	Highlands Golf Club	Highlands Golf Club
Program	Bowral Hospital Re-development	Rotary Youth Exchange
Speaker	Steve Hall	James Kelly
Intro/Vote of Thanks	Rosemary Kelly	David Rees
Dinner Fees	David McCosh	Louie Liberale
Journalist	Trevor Fair	Jacinta Sheridan
Regalia	Terry Mortensen	Michael Lendrum

If you are unable to do duty, please find a replacement and advise Trevor Fair by email trevorf@oxleypartners.com.au

Welcome

President Linda opened the meeting and welcomed our speaker, Ross McConnell. As a mark of Valentine's Day she read the following from Robbie Burns with a somewhat dodgy Scottish accent:

O my luve's like a red, red rose

*That's newly sprung in June:
O my Luve's like the melodie
That's sweetly played in tune.
As fair art thou, my bonnie lass,
So deep in love am I:
And I will luve thee still, my Dear,
Till a' the seas gang dry:
Till all the seas gang dry, my Dear,
I will luve thee still my Dear,
While the sands of life shall run.
And fare thee weel, my only Luve!
And fare thee weel a while!
And I will come again, my Luve,
Tho' it be ten thousand mile*



Graham Hicks read the International Toast for Manitoba, Canada. It seems Red Sided Garter Snakes are the main local feature!

Manitoba is a Province of Canada right in the middle of the country. It runs from the American border north to Hudson Bay and has 110 000 lakes.

Much of the province is magic wilderness and national parks with polar bears, black bears, wolves and moose.

Among the tourist attractions is the Narcisse Snake Pens where an estimated population of 70 000 Red Sided Garter Snakes hibernate in limestone caverns. They are fairly harmless with a very low toxic venom and small fangs but are of interest because of the massing of snakes, especially when they wake up and breed.

They form up in large balls of 30 or more snakes and thrash about until the act is over then they untangle and go on their way.

There are so many snakes crossing the adjacent highway that many were killed by cars until fencing was installed to

funnel the snakes into pipes passing them safely under the road.

The Snake Pens are located 10km north of the Provincial Capital Winnipeg where there are 8 Rotary Clubs including Winnipeg-Charleswood which was Chartered in District 5250 in 1985 and has 33 members led by President Lloyd Talbot.

The club is a strong supporter of Shelterbox and End Polio Now. It sponsors a Rotary Peace Fellow studying conflict resolution at the University of Queensland Rotary Peace Centre. He is currently in the Solomon Islands doing an internship at Honiara Prison working with prisoners from the strife 10 years ago.

Winnipeg vista



Announcements

President Linda referred to the packed church for **Chris Benton's** funeral – a great tribute to **Chris** - and asked for any outstanding donations to be given to **Sue Adams**.

Also, anyone wishing to visit the **Eden Brewery** at **2.00pm on March 9th**, please let **Sue Adams** know ASAP so we know numbers.

Ian Langford called for volunteers for the upcoming **Discovery Day and Science and Engineering Challenge** on the **20th and 21st March**. 2 High Schools have so far enrolled but it's early days.

Guest Speaker

Mark Wallace introduced **Ross McConnell** from the club of Brindabella as guest speaker.

Ross has an illustrious Rotary career and is immediate past president of his club. He has many other interests including ballooning, scouts and is a board member of the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme.

He is also the District Fellowship Officer and spoke to us about **Rotary Fellowship and Rotary Action Groups**. The wide range of fellowships enable Rotarians with a particular hobby or interest to network with those having a shared interest from any other club.

Ross displayed a banner showing **72 interest groups**, such things as:
 Amateur Radio
 Cooking
 Horse Riding
 Magicians
 Wellness & Fitness etc

Ross McConnell enlightening Fellowships



Thursday evenings and has the advantage that they can get international speakers – and that they can turn up in their pyjamas! He thanked **Ross** very much for an excellent talk and encouraged us to join Fellowships.

Sergeant’s Session

Lynton Kettle conducted a Valentine’s Day Sergeant’s Session. The wine drinkers were fined as prime candidates for one of the fellowship groups. Will Eddowes was fined as a blood donor because he had rashly admitted that they were never able to get the full quota out of him. ‘Over-the-fence’ lovers, Jim Gasson and Brian Elliott were fined. Now that Jim has had his cataracts fixed, he is able to see the true price of the wine that Brian buys for them. It was good to have Lynton performing again in his own inimitable style!

Biloela is starting a scout group using Fellowship. District Conference is offering to provide a link to **International Fellowships** which can lead to travel opportunities. Apparently very few Rotarians come to Australia for Fellowship but this can be encouraged and has been used to put together a medical team going to Fiji.

Rotary Action Groups (RAGS) are designed for group activities to help the community. **Ross** referred to our practice of linking to overseas clubs with the International Toast and suggested that the same approach could be used to start an international action group or for a fellowship. For some obscure reason they have 10,000 plastic ducks and are proposing to run duck races – presumably as a fund raiser.

Mark Wallace, in thanking **Ross**, told us that Fellowship and RAGS had been publicised in RDU. He thought that Rose Conley might be interested in Geocaching (treasure hunting) and Gerry Kroon might practice duck shooting with the plastic ducks. The Bindabella e-club meets on



President Linda reminded us that the meeting on the 7th March is at the Mill. Let Trevor know in the usual way. She closed the meeting with some wise words from the immortal Will:

*Doubt thou the stars are fire
 Doubt the sun doth move
 Doubt the truth to be a liar
 But never doubt I love*



Suitcase Stories 2017

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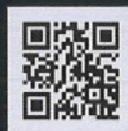
**MITTAGONG PLAYHOUSE,
114-116 MAIN STREET , MITTAGONG**

Saturday 4th March: 2pm & 7pm

Tickets: \$30 Adult / \$20 Concession / \$15 Students

BOOKINGS

www.trybooking.com/254157



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For further information: 02 4861 1588