



Report for Feb 15, 2022; Volume 83, No: 28 Rotary Club

of Bowral-Mittagong

District 9705 Charter Date 26 March 1940

President: Will Eddowes Secretary: Trevor Fair



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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 22 - Kookabar Café - \$35/person each week

All future weeks will be notified as we find out, between Covid, pricing and a suitable location it is proving more and more difficult, but Denise and Luciano are committed in finding a long term solution

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: David McCosh

"Pascal's Parlor"

Once again this week, our meeting was essentially a Club social meeting held in the comfortable, hospitable, and well-frequented Kookabar Coffee Shop, and in the care of Rotary's favourite chef, Pascal. Denise reported later in the meeting that talks are continuing with the new manager of our old home base, the Mittagong Highlands Golf Club, and the signs are positive that catering will soon be in place for us to return on a regular basis. In the meantime, meeting venues will be decided on a week-by-week basis.



Welcome

Sargent Lynton opened the meeting welcoming Barbara Marvello and Bruce Sutton introduced by Jo and Luciano respectively, before calling the Club to welcome President Will.



President Will first informed us of the late apology by Trevor who had just received a Covid vaccination and was not feeling too good as a result. We all wished him a speedy recovery.

Invocation. Will called on Jim Gasson to deliver the Invocation.



International Toast.

Rod Aistrophe then delivered his own International Toast to the Rotary Club of Odessa.



After the Second World War **Ukraine**, like all of eastern Europe was forced into the Soviet Union when the Russians refused to return to their own borders from the lands occupied during the war.

Ukraine regained its freedom and independence with the collapse of the USSR and its break up. Since then Russia has continuously attempted to impose itself on the country to keep it in its sphere of influence.

In 2013 the new illegitimate President Victor Yanukovych refused to sign a political and free trade agreement with the European Union and announced his intention to drag the country back towards Russia with economic and military ties. Massive street protests with loss of life followed as the people refused to return to Russian domination.

Next week the Ukrainian people will celebrate the *Revolution of Dignity* of 2014 which resulted in the president fleeing into Russia where he remains in exile.



Two weeks after he was deposed Russia invaded and still occupies Crimea.

4 weeks after that separatist movements started civil wars in two provinces in the east of Ukraine bordering Russia which has armed and supported insurgents. It was over one of these areas that the Malaysian Airlines Flight 17 was shot down.

As part of this unrelenting program to re-establish control over their territory the 41 million people of Ukraine now face the threat of invasion. The world waits to see where this will go from here.

There are 62 Rotary Clubs in Ukraine which, with Belarus is in District 2232. All were established after the fall of the Soviet Union.

On the south coast on the Black Sea is the third largest city in Ukraine, Odessa with a population of just over a million.

The city is served by the Rotary Club of Odessa which was Chartered in 1995. It has only 9 Members who are led by President Oleksii Tishchenko.

Would you all please give thought to the people of the Ukraine who are facing such a terrible threat and raise your glasses and make our International Toast to the President and Members of the Rotary Club of Odessa.



Announcements.

1. Food and Wine Festival : 26th & 27th February (Sat/Sun)



Ian Langford distributed the roster requesting members to complete as many of the 32 shifts as each could manage for the weekend SH Food and Wine Festival being held at the Moss Vale Showgrounds at the end of next week. (An updated roster was distributed to members by email following the meeting). Ian has produced a short description of the duties we have been asked to provide:

There will be one entry gate to the festival and everybody will have prepaid on line so there is no cash or EFTPOS and all that is required is to scan their entry ticket. The gate will have 2 tents or marquees each with two volunteers scanning the tickets and handing out a plastic wine glass. It will be quicker than the usual paying procedure and promises to be a slick fast operation. The club will be paid for this work.

There also will be parking with entry by a gold coin donation. What we collect is kept by the Club. We will need one person at the Car Park entry with a bucket to collect the donations & two (or if available three) people to direct cars to form up the parking rows.

The festival is open from 11am to 6pm on Saturday and 11am to 5pm on Sunday. The roster has allowed an extra 15 minutes at the beginning of the first shift and an overlap at the changeover between the shifts.

Please be generous with your time & feel free to volunteer for both days or for a full day & if your spouse/partner wants to help please consider this.

It should be fun with a festival atmosphere not to mention the chance to try out some local wines and food including Rotary's Poffertjes (Dutch Mini Pancakes) stall which Brian Ritson is running confidently.

There are six roster shifts unfilled, please contact Ian if you are able to assist.

2. Beyond Blue Car Rally 25th March

Brian Ritson advised us that we have been asked to provide a breakfast for competitors and friends at the start of the Beyond Blue Car Rally which will start from the Bong Bong Race Course on Kangaloon Road next month. "Breakfast" is planned to be Bacon and Egg Rolls, fruit, and Coffee. The current estimate is 200 participants and it will be one early morning shift ending at 9.30am.



3. Grass cutting assistance.

Cheryl McClean, former Rotarian now in poor health, seeks some assistance with grass cutting at 20 Trelm Place, Moss Vale (off Suttor Rd) for a couple of hours. Brushcutter is probably best. **Contact Will Eddowes.**



4.Habitat Project, Balmoral.

Habitat for Humanity, Australia, is a volunteer organisation working for the building strength, stability and self reliance through shelter. They have a project in Railway Street, Balmoral, to complete a base for a water tank and shed. Help is required on Tues 22nd Feb 9.00am to 3.30pm. **If you can help, please contact David Rees.**



5.Empire Cinema Premier 31st March - the film "The Duke".

Mary Ramsay announced that the Empire Cinema has offered us the premier of the film The Duke starring Jim Broadbent and Helen Mirren for the evening of the 31st March. Mary is forming a team of three to organise the evening and of course we need all members to fill the theatre. Brian Ritson volunteered to source the wine and thanked Mary for once again volunteering to take on the again on top of her already busy life.



6.International Women's Day breakfast - Tuesday 8th March (7am to 9am)

The breakfast is to be held at the Gibraltar Hotel. All are welcome, women and Men.



7.A RAWCS project for 2022 - Olkola Aboriginal Cultural Centre



Rod addressed the meeting with an early proposal for consideration by the Club.

Covid has caused all overseas Rotary Australia World Community Service projects to be suspended until further notice ruling out a trip away to the Pacific again this year meaning 3 years in a row without a fix.

From our enquiries I understand that the Koroipita Village Project in Fiji, to which we have sent four teams over the last decade, is planning on commencing new house construction later in the year but the pandemic situation will dictate whether a Team will get there and when. It is a possibility.

Those of us who love to get away on a building project helping people less well off than us are missing these trips BADLY.

So we have been looking to a remote area project within Australia in an aboriginal location where we can do something that will bring benefits to our own people and satisfy our need to build.

PP Robert de Jongh has enquired of his daughter Clare in her role in the Public Service in Canberra as to opportunities and her enquiries through her work has put us onto a potential project in conjunction with the Centre for Appropriate Technologies Ltd., based in Alice Springs.

The Centre, CfAT has a track record of providing appropriate, generally low tech, low maintenance solutions to problems in remote aboriginal communities dating back to 1980. Their website at <https://cfat.org.au> has their story and achievements.

CfAT has provided information on three projects on Cape York Peninsula in Queensland. All three have aspects which are suitable for us to attempt. The largest is at Dixie, about 300km by road and about 200km northwest of Cooktown. It is right in the middle of the peninsula and it is remote.

The project is the Olkola Cultural Knowledge Centre where the traditional custodians of the area, the Olkola people building a facility to teach their customs to new generations and to the public. There is already a Ranger Station and the roof of the new Centre has been erected. They own 900 000Ha of freehold land and jointly manage two national parks.

The Project includes working with the Olkola Rangers in construction of timber framed and clad kitchen, ablution and other buildings, the Cultural Centre Building and erection of a 9m steel lattice tank stand with tank and plumbing and electrical rough in (and fit off if we have the right skills), etc. Skills transfer will be a spin off benefit of the Project.

Extensive planning, concept and more detailed drawings have been produced pro bono by the large engineering consultancy Arup and much of the funding is already in place. Their program has these buildings going ahead in June and July this year and it is expected that it might require a number of Teams working consecutively to complete the work.

Assistance with airfares, food and accommodation is available should we wish to take it.

The other two are smaller mainly ablutions, communal space and a Ranger Base building and may be easier for us to undertake with our normal Team skills levels.

The question is, are we interested. Interested enough to form a Team of between 6 and 10 of practical hands on people, not necessarily all with trade skills but with the ability and willingness to do building stuff and the durability to see out 2 weeks in the winter tropics. We may also need a licensed plumber and electrician to finish off.

If you are interested please email me back and if there are enough starters we can try to put a Team together, get more details and make a proper plan.

If you are interested please email ROD and if there are enough starters we can try to put a Team together, get more details and make a proper plan.

Rod has prepared some documentation to be emailed on enquiry...

Will then closed the meeting with thanks to Pascal and Abby at 8.15.



**Southern Highlands
Food & Wine Festival**

FEBRUARY 26-27, 2022
MOSS VALE SHOWGROUNDS, NSW

We're back and better than ever!

We're at a whole new venue, with a whole new look. We can't wait for you all to see, taste and discover the delights of the region in February. Expect a fabulous array of local vendors, including restaurants, winemakers, distillers, brewers, bistros, cooking demonstrations, live music and a farmers market growers area.

The poster features a light beige background with several illustrations: a bunch of red tomatoes in the top left, a brown chicken in the center, a bunch of purple grapes in the top right, and three bottles of wine (one tall and thin, one medium, and one short and wide) in the bottom right.



"A RIDICULOUSLY CHARMING
★★★★★ BRITISH COMEDY" ★★★★★
★★★★★ ★★★★★ ★★★★★ ★★★★★

THE DUKE
A PRICELESS TRUE STORY

JIM
BROADBENT
HELEN
MIRREN

The poster features a bright yellow background. At the top, there are five rows of star ratings. Below the ratings is the title "THE DUKE" in large, bold, black letters, with the subtitle "A PRICELESS TRUE STORY" in smaller black letters. In the center, there is a collage of two faces: a man's face (Jim Broadbent) and a woman's face (Helen Mirren). At the bottom, there is a photograph of the two actors sitting on a wooden bench. The man is wearing a dark suit and a hat, and the woman is wearing a red cardigan and a blue skirt. In the bottom right corner, it says "IN CINEMAS 2021".