

## Australia Day Get Together Gerry & Miel Kroon – 5 Martha St

Next Meetings	Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> Jan 2019	Saturday 26 <sup>th</sup> Jan In lieu of 29 <sup>th</sup> Jan
Location	Bowral Bowling Club	5 Martha St, Bowral
Program	Bare foot bowls	Australia Day
Speaker		
Intro / Vote of Thanks		
Dinner Fee Duty		
Journalist		
Regalia Duty		

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



### UPCOMING EVENTS

**Australia Day – Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> January**  
 In lieu of the meeting of 29<sup>th</sup> January

**Gerry & Miel Kroon have again agreed to be host.**

**5 Martha Street Bowral**

Rosemary Kelly is co-ordinating the catering.  
 The 3 categories which attendees can make a contribution are;

Nibbles  
 Salad  
 Dessert

If you would like to attend please EMAIL Rosemary nominating which of the above you would like to bring.

[frankandrosemary@bigpond.com](mailto:frankandrosemary@bigpond.com)

## Welcome

President Lynton welcomed all and thanked PDG Graham for herding the members into the dining room.

## Invocation - Brian Elliott

## International Toast - Robert de Jongh



New Years Day was the national day of the Commonwealth of North Mariana Islands which is not strictly an independent nation but is an internally self governing area in political union with the USA.

The Marianas Islands were first inhabited by humans between 6000 and 8000 years ago at the start of the Pacific migrations.

Portuguese explorer Ferdinand Magellan claimed the islands for Spain in 1521. They held the islands until they lost the Spanish-American War in 1898 when they ceded Guam to the US and sold the northern islands to Germany which administered them from German New Guinea. Japan took them over during the First World War and held them until the end of the Second War.

Afterwards the US controlled them under a UN Trusteeship until they declined independence and negotiated their Commonwealth Arrangement in 1975.

The islands are on the edge of the Marianas Trench, at 10 900 metres below sea level in the Challenger Deep, the deepest gully on the planet. The Rotary Club of Saipan was Chartered in 1968 in District 2750 which also includes Guam, Micronesia, Palau and part of Tokyo city.

President Gregory Borja leads 45 Members who were active in distributing relief supplies to people affected by Typhoons Mangkhut in October and Yutu in November just past. They followed up by delivering over 200 Thanksgiving meals to the elderly at the end of November.



## Announcements

**Lynton** - Ray Williams update - Please do not try and contact him as communication is difficult. Arrangements are crystallising for the funeral. Date is tentatively either the 1st or 2nd Feb.

May arrange a working bee to keep his home tidy.

Rod thanked Rosemary, Lynton and Tony for the updates.

Nick Padol passed away on Sunday. Memorial service is being held this Saturday at 2 pm at Exeter Hall.

Nick was a representative rower in his day, and was a strong supporter of the Slow Food Movement in the Highlands.

- Gerry update - is off the trial program as it did not provide results as expected.

Michael Lendrum - a walking example of sun damage. Please slip slop slap.

### **Rosemary Kelly** - Australia Day

Please get numbers to Rosemary ASAP. Will need reasonable numbers to make it worthwhile. Need salads and desserts.

BYO chairs, drinks, and glasses.

- Hampers to St VdP - letter of appreciation

**Ian Langford** - Subs are due.

**Don Graham** - RYE exchange student from Japan. Preliminary notice. Looking for hosts, and would like 2-3 hosts prior to confirming.

Julie Bourriguad letter. Looking to getting her to speak at the meeting. See attached.

### **Brian Ritson**

Grand daughter is looking to become model for Instagram.

## **Member Talks**

### **Ian Langford - My trip to Sweden**



While working at Pilkington's UK, applied for a job in Australia. 1981-82 was a really cold winter in UK, and unfortunately all clothes were packed. Needed to be trained on auto glass prior to going to Australia.

Suddenly whisked off to Sweden as an interim stop. Was assured that everyone speaks English. Had stopover in Copenhagen, prior to travelling to Sweden via ferry.

Landskrona was the next destination. Caught a train to Gothenburg. The train had a snow plot and triple glassed windows.

Picked up Avis Volvo in car park, but would not start. However local garage got it going. Was told not to stop the car as it would not start again.

Finally arrived at destination Lysekil.

When flying out had to drive to Gottenburg in - 35° temperature. While waiting at the airport tourists came back from the Mediterranean.

8 days later flew in to Australia to 40° temps.

Endurance test for work. Introduction to Australia.

Ed: detailed notes attached.

### **David Rees - Red, the Colour**

My love is like a red, red rose -

Robbie Burns, immortalised the red rose as a symbol of romantic love - now perpetuated for St Valentine's Day

Shakespeare wrote of red and love, as did Barbara Cartland.

Why red? First kiss, or uncomfortable sloppy kiss from Aunty. Red is for danger. As are all warning signs.

Red is danger. Red is keep away.

Red bellied black snake, spider. Red is the colour of death or hurt.

Red is connected to strong emotion.

Red can also be derogatorily, as in red brick, not worth a red cent, red tape, red herring, and red handed.

Perhaps the saying should be - All's red in love and war.

### **Joker Raffle - Rod Aistrophe 3 Diamonds**



### **Heads and Tails**

2 prizes from Brian Ritson

John Hoelle and Jim Gasson prize winners.

Next Week - bare foot bowls and then dinner at Imperial Hotel.

## Correspondence from Julie Bourrigard

Better late than never. The last monthly report. -

December 1st I went to Lauterbrunnen with a couple of friends. - Went to Zürich with my host mum to watch an orchestra perform, conducted by an old friend of hers at a church. - Saw a friends band play with my host sisters. - Visited the Paul Klee museum. - Completed an unofficial B1 German exam at my German course. -

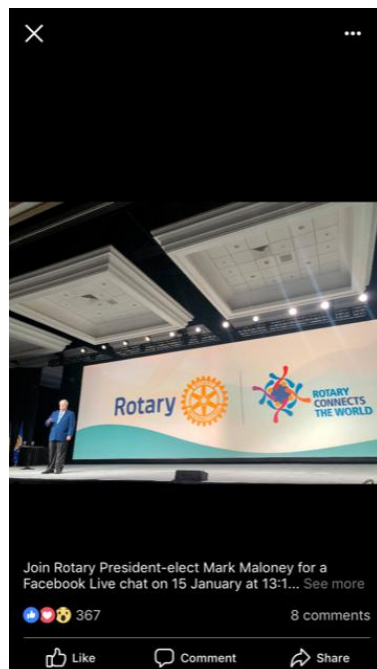
Went to a Swiss friends birthday party with my host sister. - Finally got my photo taken at the Basel drei lände ecke Grand Tour sign. - The first snow day! The last German course.

Did my Rotary presentation and they gave me a banner and Basler Leckerli - Went to the Christmas market in Basel. - Last day of school. I said goodbye to my class and went to the climate strike protest with my host sisters. \*My later classes were not compulsory as the teachers excused students. - Went to Germany for 8 days over Christmas with my host family. Had a very German Christmas. -

Spent New Years with my host family then celebrated with my host sister + friends. - Spent the first day of January packing my suitcase and getting rid of what i no longer needed. - Went to the snow for two days in Bergün. - I went to the airport to say goodbye to most of the January bounds who were leaving. Then I met up with some Swiss friends to say a final goodbye. - Then January 5, the hardest day of my entire exchange. My YEO picked me up at 6.40 and we headed to Zurich airport.

I said goodbye to the friends that came to the airport and then 5 Australians boarded the plane and left Switzerland (after the snow caused an hour delay). I spent 356 days as an exchange student living in Switzerland. I would do it all again in a heartbeat because Basel is my home and saying goodbye was the hardest thing I have ever had to do.

### RI Theme for 2019-2020



President Lynton, members and guests -

## **1) INTRODUCTION**

- a) 3 weeks of my life – sort of endurance test 37 years ago.
- b) Northern winter of 1981/1982 / V Cold - Sea frozen in UK. Painting in -13 °C
- c) Getting ready for Australia for two years
- d) Crate in advance with most clothing
- e) Quick education of Automotive Glass Industry visits to factories in United Kingdom (Birmingham, St Helens), Germany (Witten, Wesel nr Düsseldorf) and at last minute

## **2) SWEDEN**

- a) Don't worry – they all speak English / no preparation / no maps.
- b) Evening of Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 1982 – Fly to Copenhagen
- c) Plan was Ferry to Landskrona, Drive to Lysekil during public holiday (about 4 hours, 350 km).

## **3) COPENHAGEN**

- a) Get in late.
- b) Hotel concierge with ferry times to Landskrona. Lie in
- c) Landskrona is about 50km north of Malmo.
- d) New concierge next day - Ferry closed/bankrupt
- e) Ferry to Malmo / rush / Hydrofoil
- f) Ice, overturned boat

## **4) MALMO.**

- a) Where am I? About 50 km from where I should be. Taxi? Bus? Train? Wrong Train? No English

## **5) LANDSKRONA (4&5/1/82)**

- a) Train-Heavy Snow about an hour.
- b) Wind up phone for taxi. Last one there – No English spoken.
- c) Just around the corner Pilkington. – Safe hands.
- d) Supposed to drive to Lysekil (about 4 hrs inc ferry -350 km) on 6/1/82 but road closed!!

## **6) GOTENBURG**

- a) Train to Gothenburg,
- b) Snow plough, triple glazing, candles in the windows, level crossing deep deep snow.

- c) Local Manager & wife had dinner – no drink, no conversation.
- d) Public Holiday - Country totally shut down.
- e) Multi Storey Car Park – Avis Volvo wouldn't start – Swedish handbook – headlights.
- f) Break down vehicle too big for car park. Battery. Got started but couldn't stop.

#### 7) **DRIVE TO LYSEKIL** (140 km, 2 hrs)

- a) Between sticks, fast on ice, studded tyres
- b) Need toilet and lunch!! Quickest lunch. Only just started.
- c) Ferry keeping ice broken in fjords. Ferry with engine running
- d) Arrived at Lysekils to pick up key for hotel annexe at taxi rank – no go!
- e) Car dead.

#### 8) **LYSEKILS**

- a) Friendly Norwegian looked after me and we went out for a snack
- b) Cold – wore pyjamas under clothes, steel capped shoes.
- c) Next morning Eric Behmar in fancy Saab – tow – smash lights. Dumped car at garage for new battery.
- d) Factory car park with leads to engine heaters and battery chargers.
- e) Work
- f) Frozen sea, boats frozen in, dark by 3 pm
- g) After a couple days time to drive back to Gothenburg with new battery

#### 9) **GOTENBURG**

- a) Airport – nearly closed. Minus 35 degrees
- b) Waiting for plane from Heathrow
- c) Tourists from Mediterranean holidays
- d) Eventually plane arrives and turn around complete, de iced & ready to go.

#### 10) **HEATHROW**

- a) Last plane in before airport closes.
- b) Snow over the wings.

#### 11) **AUSTRALIA**

- a) 8 days later flew to Melbourne with Sue and two year old daughter with a stopover in Singapore).
- b) Two weeks later, in Victoria for Australia Day long weekend.
- c) Hottest day in Victoria for 40 years. Over 40degrees
- d) Rise of over 70 degrees in two weeks

①  
Oh My Love's like a red, red rose,  
That's newly sprung in June.  
O my love's like the melody,  
That's sweetly played in tune.

So wrote Robbie Burns. He as much as any immortalised the red rose as a symbol of romantic love, a practice perpetuated today each February when it is supposed to be good form to present a loved one with a single red rose. That other icon of romance, the love heart, is also coloured red.

Shakespeare wrote of red lips in Venus and Adonis, as romantic a couple as you will find. Barbara Cartland, that bastion of romantic love seems to enjoy pink, which after all is still a shade of red.

The question in my mind is why Red? For surely this colour represents emotions and signals that are the antithesis of romantic love.

When we were young and experienced our first romantic kiss or perhaps a sloppy one from grandma or an aging aunt, what did we do? Did we clasp our hands to our breast, throw back our heads and emit a lingering sigh while disembodied violins burst into Musetta's waltz? NO WE DID NOT! While our minds were off with Eros and Co, our bodies engaged that giant killer called embarrassment, at best, causing our faces to flush, going, to use the cliché, as red as a

beetroot or at worse, erupting dormant hormones to wreak havoc in our pubescent bodies.

Red is Danger. Red is Keep away. This will cause you harm.

We see this every day at the stop signal in traffic lights, the stop signs and give way signs are red. All manner of warning signs are red. If you do not obey this colour, you will be harmed. Nature has evolved red splotches on animals to say the same thing, Warning, warning. I am not good for you. The red bellied black snake or the red backed spider are good examples. There's nothing romantic being bitten by a red back spider whilst in the privy.

Red is a colour of death. It is the colour of blood. Literature is replete with red used as a symbol of death or hurt. Referring to the queen of England, Kipling wrote in "The Widow of Windsor" "She 'as ships on the foam, she 'as millions at home An' she pays us poor beggars in red". Blood was spilled aplenty during Queen Victoria' reign.

Speaking of the Russian army during the Crimean war, Sir William Russell, wrote "They dashed on towards that thin red line tipped with steel". The thin red line was of course the British soldiers in their red uniforms. I have often wondered why these jackets were red. The tale is told that red was chosen to

conceal the blood gushing from wounds so that the next soldier would not take fright. If that sort of logic is followed through, then the soldiers should have been issued with brown corduroy trousers as well. Perhaps the real reason was to signal to the enemy, DANGER, here cometh the British Soldier and heaven help you if you lose.

If Shakespeare wrote romantically of red lips, then Wilfred Owen wrote, during the First World War "Red lips are not so red as the stained stones kissed by the English dead". There's nothing romantic about millions of rotting corpses.

We speak of seeing red, or a red rag to a bull, meaning to cause or experience, rising anger; a red neck is one who is quick to anger. By tradition, a red headed person has a fiery temper. Red is deemed to refer to strong, negative emotion.

Red is also used derogatorily. A redbrick is one who has graduated from a university other than Oxford or Cambridge. Something that is worthless is not worth a red cent. One is angered if one is caught up in red tape, thrown a red herring or worse, caught red handed. One shouldn't be with a scarlet woman or even in the red light district. I have heard it said that women should not wear red for this would inflame the passions of men, so all you ladies out there who have

red lips and rouge be warned, it is your incitement of our passions that is the cause of all the problem.

These are not signs of all that is wholesome and romantic.

Yet, as is typical of the English language, we assign opposites to confuse the whole issue. If much blood was spilled in the Crimea, along that thin red line, this period also gave us the Red Cross organisation. Perhaps there IS something wholesome if not romantic about medical people dedicating their lives and skills to assist those who are sick or injured. Although prior to 1864, the Red Cross was still a symbol of war, used by the crusaders, and much later in the white ensign of the Royal Navy. Incidentally, the Turkish, equivalent of the Red Cross is the Red Crescent

To welcome someone, to honour a person, we roll out the red carpet. If our first kiss turned our faces red, we think romantically of the blushing bride. Some of us see life through rose coloured glasses. If you are in good health then you are in the pink and even though the red rose was a symbol of the house of Lancaster during the Wars of the Roses, a bloody period in British history, the beauty and fragrance of the red rose is a fitting symbol of romantic love. Perhaps instead of all's fair in love and war the saying should read ALL'S RED IN LOVE AND WAR.