

The Club Bulletin: 16th August 2022

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Bowral-Mittagong
Rotary
District 9705
Chartered 26 March 1940



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RI President:
Jennifer Jones

Board of Directors

President:
Leigh Robinson

Directors:
Secretary: Trevor Fair
Treasurer: Jo Chalmers

Carolina Torregrosa
Ian Law
Will Eddowes
Carsten Prien

Club Meetings:

Weekly on Tuesdays, 6.00pm for 6.30pm at various Southern Highlands venues. (See below)

Meeting Apologies by Sunday for the following Tuesday. Please TXT Sec. Trevor.

Next 4 Weeks	Meeting Venues	Speaker/ Topic	Journalist
23 Aug	Scottish Arms	Social Evening	Will Eddowes
30 Aug	Bowral Bowling Club	Andy Butterfield and Josephine Bridge Climb	Tim Bowland
06 Sep	Kookabar	Laurence Mooney The funny side of being a comedian	Pamela Brown
13 Sep	Bowral Bowling Club	Anatoly Rosenfeld TBA	Trevor Fair

International Toast - given by Fay Christie.

Yesterday was the **Independence Day of the Republic of the Congo**, a French colony from 1880 until 1960. The Congo River is the border between the two Congo republics and their capitals, Brazzaville and Kinshasa which sit opposite each other about 500km upriver. After independence the Republic of Congo was ruled by a socialist government which established relations with the Soviet Union, China, N.Korea and N.Vietnam and Cuban troops stationed there to keep it in power. There was prolonged civil before democratic elections were held but disputed. President Denis Nguesso, in what is effectively a dictatorship, has remained in power since 1997. The Congo has a population of 5.7 million and Brazzaville is home to 2.3 million.

The **Rotary Club of Brazzaville Bilingue**, a bi-lingual English-French Club serves the people of the capital



with 4 other Clubs. It was Chartered in District 9150 in 2016. The District has 100 Clubs in 10 neighbouring Central West African countries.

President Michrist Mboko leads 19 Members. They are active in the End Polio Now. A strong drink driving awareness campaign is permanently running.

Rotarians would you please raise your glasses and make our International Toast to the President and Members of the Rotary Club of Brazzaville Bilingue.

Venue: Bowral Bowling Club

Sergeant Lynton Kettle called the meeting to order and welcomed our Guest Speaker **Geoff Prichard**, his wife **Joan** and all members present. He then introduced and welcomed **President Leigh Robinson**.

President Leigh acknowledged the Gundungurra People, the traditional owners of this land where we meet and to pay our respect to their Elders, past, present and future.

Fay Christie gave the International Toast.

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Announcements:

President Leigh:

1. Cycle Classic reminder – 20 -30 Oct
2. St Vinnies Sleepout – 19 Aug (Virtual sleepout)
3. Invitation to provide the BBQ on 22 Oct Tyree. Board decision.
4. Food and Wine festival – 29-30 Oct
5. Bong Bong Races – 18 Nov
6. Rotary community awards – Nurses Award this year.
7. Speaker thankyou awards. The Board has decided to replace Speaker thankyou pens with a donation to Australian Rotary Health.
8. Our Club is making a \$1000 donation to the Windsor Club's Flood Relief fund.
9. Adopt-a-tree plantings – 5 Nov Mandemar, 6 Nov – High Range,
<http://www.rotaryadopratre.org.au/>

President Leigh emphasised the need for full project reporting from proposal through to project wrap-up including financial analysis.

Denise Coad:

1. **Bowral Bowling Club Membership.** Denise distributed membership forms for the bowling club.
2. **Club Birthday Lunch** at the Imperial Hotel. July/August birthdays this Friday 19th noon.
3. **Next meeting** – Scottish Arms Table 16. Pay the restaurant directly – no direct debits this week.

Tony Glenn:

1. **Dream Cricket – 18th Nov.**
Tony emphasised the amount of work needed to re-introduce Dream Cricket after two years of Covid-cancellation. Also the organising experience of **Brian Pattinson** and **Rick McCarthy** has left the Board. Tony emphasised the amount of work needed to re-introduce Dream Cricket after two years of Covid-cancellation. Also the organising experience of Brian Pattinson and Rick McArthur has left the Board. There will be familiarisation meetings/clinics given on the 16th and 28th October.



This is a very rewarding activity requiring many helpers. More detail to follow.

Will Eddowes:

1. **The Rotary Shed – Working Bee This Sat.** "The Shed is in a mess!" Working Bee this Saturday (20 Aug) starting 9am

Rod Aistrope

1. **NRMA's Electric Vehicle Charger Network Thu 25th Aug 6.30pm Mittagong RSL Club**
A seminar and dinner with speaker Ms Suzana Barbir, leader of NRMA's Electric Vehicle Division, hosted by the local regional group of Engineers Australia.

Dinner and Seminar Members \$35 non-Members \$65.

See Rod's email for more detail.

Ian Langford

1. **Tulip Time Roster.**
CHECK THE DAYS/TIMES YOU HAVE VOLUNTEERED AND DIARISE.
Ian circulated the roster because slots had appeared due to recent apologies.



Dinner was then served.

Guest Speaker: Geoff Prichard OAM, Rotary Club of North Sydney

Australia's most famous Spy



David Rees welcomed and introduced our speaker, a Rotarian friend of Dominic Williams from the North Sydney Club.

Geoff grew up in Bass Hills both a 'houso' and a 'westie'. He graduated in Pharmacy at Sydney and later London Universities. After working in London, returned to Australia in 1967 where he worked for two years as a pharmacist for two years before qualifying as a real estate agent, business agent, stock and station agent and auctioneer in 1969.

For the next 25 years he ran pharmacies and real estate ventures. In 1985 he took over post-graduate education of pharmacists for the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia and was still there 18 years later. Appointed a director of Sydney 2000 Olympic Games in 1997 and from 2000 to 2007 lived on and off in Monaco.

A Rotary member for 41 years, he has been President 4 times. Awarded OAM for services to Olympics, Rotary, and the Pharmacy profession.

Geoff's fascinating address revolved around 'an incredible' Russian gentleman who was probably Australia's most famous spy, Michael Bialoguski, best known for his role in the 1954 Petrov Affair.



After a brief overview of his own career, filling in some of the detail from his introduction, Geoff recounted how he had met Bialoguski when he was an 18-year-old pharmacy student getting some work experience at Chesterfield Pharmacy in Sydney. At that time Dr Bialoguski had his surgery upstairs over the pharmacy, and after work would on occasions come down to the backroom lounge of the pharmacy for a drink and a chat. Geoff would join in and listen to the wartime and other life experiences recounted by Bialoguski. At times they would all go down to the pub to enjoy Jonny Walker Red and oysters. Bialoguski recounted extraordinary tales from his life in the Soviet Union. He told of how had passed himself off as a German doctor on the Jewish death trains on their way to the concentration camps. Placed there by the Germans to do mock health checks and reassure the passengers, he would quietly inform them of their true destination, arrange to have the guard distracted by the most beautiful passenger he could find, and signal a mass

escape from the train at a pre-arranged location where resistance fighters were waiting to help.

Geoff then gave us a brief bio of Michael Bialoguski, -born to Polish-Jewish parents in Kieve in 1917. When he was 3 years old, the family fled to Poland Where he was educated. Studied violin at Vilnius Conservatorium (diploma in 1935), followed by medicine but did not finish his studies. Joined the army but despised Communism, and for 6 months was jailed for his opposition. He fled across Russia to Vladivostok and on to Tokyo, with the intention of reaching Curacao. However, with forged papers he boarded a ship which took him to Sydney. Although multi-lingual, he did not speak English. He obtained work as a violinist and music arranger in a radio station. Here he learnt English and then joined the Australian Army working at Concord Hospital. He studied at Sydney University to qualify as a general practitioner. He married for the second time (first marriage in Poland had been short lived) and naturalised in 1947. As a GP he practised first in Thirroul and later in rooms in Macquarie Street.

studying at Sydney University, Bialoguski had sought work with CIS, the forerunner of ASIO. He was paid to gather information from Russian Immigrants. He was known within CIS as Jack Baker, or sometimes 'Diabolo' (the devil), - the medical practitioner and intelligence officer



In 1951 in Sydney, he met Vladimir Petrov, recently arrived from the Soviet Union as third secretary at the Soviet Embassy in Canberra. Bialoguski befriended him at the Russian Social Club and on

visits to Kings Cross prostitutes. He appeared to have played a double game, spying on Petrov's behalf while at the same time spying for ASIO. He was able to confirm ASIO's suspicions that Petrov was spying for the KGB in Australia. After the death of Stalin in 1953 and the execution of Beria, Petrov's former boss in the KGB, Biagoluski was able to persuade Petrov that it was not safe for he and his wife to return to the Soviet Union, but instead to defect to Australia.

In April 1954 Petrov defected, followed dramatically by his wife who was on her way back to the Soviet Union when detained at Sydney and Darwin airports. In later life Biagoluski continued to practice medicine, but also strove to become a conductor but was met with continual setbacks. In 1955 he published a book The Petrov Story, still available today.

Michael Biagoluski died in Surry in 1984 in Surrey aged 67, survived by his third wife and three children.



On behalf of the Club **Rose Conley** thanked Geoff for a fascinating insight into a lesser known and personal story around Australia's most famous spy.

President Leigh closed the meeting at 8.15, reminding everyone that next Tuesday's meeting is a social evening at Scottish Arms Hotel. - - Table 16 is reserved for Rotary - 6 for 6:30, and we order individually and pay at the bar.

No direct debits this week.

.....A few photos from the First Responders weekend

