



## Tulip Times Club Bulletin: 16-07-2024

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Bowral-Mittagong  
**Rotary**  
District 9705  
Chartered 26 March 1940



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### Board of Directors

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Bob Miller

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Robbie Allen  
Will Eddowes  
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Tim Bowland  
Mary Crammond  
Leigh Robinson

### 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](mailto: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
19 July	Imperial Hotel	Pizza Birthday Lunch	NA	NA
23 July	Bowral Bowling Club	Ian Graham - Habitat	Ian Law	Robert de Jongh
30 July	Bowral Bowling Club	To be advised	Denise Coad	Ian Donges
06 Aug	Bowral Bowling Club	To be advised	Trevor Fair	David McCosh
14 Aug	Bowral Bowling Club	To be advised	Ian Langford	David Rees
21 Aug	Annesley	To be advised	Will Eddowes	Bruce Sutton
16 Aug	Imperial Hotel	Pizza Birthday Lunch	NA	NA
12 Sept- 30 Sept	Tulip Time Festival	Roster members on gates (Will Eddowes)	NA	NA
04 Sep to 7 Oct	Food & Wine Festival	Roster members on gates (Will Eddowes)	NA	NA
19 Oct -20 Oct	Bowral Classic		NA	NA
25 Oct - 27 Oct	Mittagong RSL	District 9705 Conference	NA	NA
22 Nov	Bong Bong Racetrack	BB Races BBQ & Car Parking	Don	

## Journalist Graham Castle

Venue Annesley.

The meeting was opened by **Sgt Lynton** who welcomed our after-dinner speaker, Club member **Beverly Coffey**, Exchange student **Yuna Uemura** from Japan, **Daniel Aylett**, and honorary member **Jim Gasson**. Also, welcome back **Ian Langford**.

The **Invocation** and **International Toast** were given **Alan Falvey** with thanks to **Rod Aistrope**.



International toast to El Palma Murcia Rotary, founded 1989 district 2203 with 20 Members

Last weekend Spain won the European Football Championship, - a sad moment for some of our members when they beat England 2 - 1.

Also, on Sunday a Spaniard won the Wimbledon Men's Tennis Final at the 'All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club'. A stunning double for Spain which went some way towards avenging the loss of the Armada to Sir Francis Drake all those years ago.

The Wimbledon Champion was Carlos Alcaraz. He won \$4½ million for the two weeks work and now has over \$50 million in winnings. He also won Wimbledon last year, the French Open earlier this year and US Open in 2022. And is poised for success again at the US Open next month at Flushing Meadows. Alcaraz was born and lives in El Palmar and is 21 years old. **El Palmar is a suburb of Murcia** in the southeast of Spain about 75km SW of Alicante



Murcia has a population of around 670,000 and is the home of the Rotary Club of Murcia which was Chartered in 1989 in District 2203.

The Club has 20 Members and is led by President Roberto Fernandez.

The Club is a strong supporter of the End Polio Now project and recently joined with other Clubs from the area in having a mural raising awareness of the fight against polio painted on a wall on a city street.

The new mural, located on Antonio González-Conejero street, is the work of the Murcian artist Alvaro Peña



In recognition of the Wimbledon victory of Carlos Alcaraz and his hometown would you please make our International Toast to Carlos and the President and Members of the Rotary Club of Murcia.

## President Bob Miller

**Pres. Bob** welcomed our guest **Yuna** from Japan and reported on our not-so-well members in hospital, - Barbara in Campbelltown and Des in Canberra.

Welcome Ian, - back after surgery.

The Bowral classic is now a two-day event and there will be nine food stalls at Loseby park, including our Rotary BBQ. Council is seeking to charge for sites, which of course we will resist!



**Pres. Bob** again appealed to members to find or suggest speakers for our weekly meetings.

## Board Reports

**Will Eddowes** looking to complete **Tulip Time roster**, which is now 90% complete.

There are still some members who have not volunteered time for our major annual fund-raiser.

**Leigh** mentioned Central group workshops Robert Shaw Rotary Pacific.

**Mary Crammond**. Accommodation for Dutch students still required from September to December.

Dinner was then served.

## Guest Speaker:



**Beverly Coffey**, who has moved Elizabeth Bay to Moss Vale, and was inducted into our Club in December last year, was introduced by **Jeff Mann**.

Beverley gave us a charmingly presented account of her interesting life in Education as she followed her 'wandering star'.

The editor has chosen to print the full text of her talk at the end of the bulletin. (see below)

**David Patton** thanked Beverley to much appreciative applause.

**Ian Donges Quiz**. 'Who am I', Won by Robbie (John Landy).

**Robbie** introduced **Yuna** who is staying with **Daniel and Vanessa Aylett**.

**Raffle** drawn Ticket Green B53 won by Bob Miller, - who also drew the Joker!!

**Sargent Lynton** conducted a short fines session, Bob Miller for winning the raffle and the Joker, Rosemary for England's loss to Spain, Rod for opening the new bridge, Beverly Jeff and David.

**Lynton** has firewood available now.

The meeting was closed by President Bob.at 8:00pm

## **A life in Education “under a wandering star.” - Beverley Coffee**

I was born under a wandering star You may remember that line from the song *Wanderin’ Star* written by Alan Lerner and Frederick Loewe for the musical *Paint Your Wagon*. It was a reflective song that could be said to describe my journey in education over the past 50 years. The line captured a sense of independence and freedom, embracing the journey rather than settling too long in the one place.

The inspiration to explore new cultures, see breathtaking landscapes and meet people from different walks of life clearly came from my father who instilled a love for adventure and exploration as we all sat around the dinner table of our humble home in Melbourne’s eastern suburbs on those cold wintry nights in the late 50’s and 60’s. The world atlas set the scene.

My father would ensure that my elder brother and I knew all the countries of the world and their capital cities, important rivers, mountains and landmarks and not forgetting his insatiable appetite for sport, where all the world’s major sporting events took place. There was something magical about exploring the world through an atlas. How could I escape from wanting to do this?

So, I joined the teaching profession to combine my passion for education and exploration. Here is a little snapshot of some of those experiences.

Having taught in Melbourne schools for three years I couldn’t wait, like many young Aussies, to venture forth so I set off for the UK in the 70’s. Teaching in private schools in London’s Kensington and Regents Court areas to students from the local embassies of Kuwait, Iran and Jordan as well as the local English kids from the inner city was indeed an experience. But the temptation to put my communication skills to a different use took place when I was lured into Harrods Department Store to work in the food halls. This was indeed the piece de resistance for the best part of the year. Training was provided by John Cleese who in his usual funny fashion taught us the art of knowing what to say and more importantly what not to say to the esteemed customers. I think those training videos are still around today.

Dealing with the English upper class to ensure that they were happy and contented when shopping in Harrods meant that even something as small as a purchase of a box of tissues had to be taken seriously and delivered to their homes if required. I met some notable celebrities whilst there including Ringo Starr and Paul McCartney who politely slipped me a 5 pound tip.

Some years later and having returned to my beloved Melbourne a highlight of teaching abroad was as an exchange teacher to the US State of Washington on the Pacific Northwest. Teaching at a large regional primary school situated in a small town of just 2000 people amidst the sprawling wheatfields and cattle ranches of Eastern Washington was a far cry from my regular visits to the opera and ballets of inner city Melbourne. Working with the students from the many surrounding farms alongside the itinerant Mexican students whose parents worked in the potato fields and wineries was a very rewarding experience. The school was very well resourced with allied health professionals working in partnership to support the students with every need. I learnt a lot there in the US and the professional development provided served me well throughout.

Whilst there it was very easy for an Aussie to become a celebrity of the town and I remember being invited by the Rotary Club of the Tri-cities Sunrise to speak about Australia. Many of those American folk I got to know closely and I am still in touch with today some 35 years ago. The American girl with whom I exchanged also enjoyed her time in Melbourne. We exchanged everything including houses and even boyfriends which is another story for itself which I won’t go into today!



A six month experience in Alexandria, Egypt to visit some of those American friends who were teaching at the British Girls School there was a fascinating experience. I was fortunate enough to get a job teaching English to Egyptian and French families as well as travelling the country to enjoy the many cultural sites. Being immersed in the Egyptian way of life was an eye opening experience. I remember them shopping and dining late at night with a cheeky sense of humour. This was during the early 90's so things have changed a lot politically since then.

Just over 30 years ago I made the move to Sydney to work for the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney as principal in their primary schools. Over that period of time I have worked in 5 schools in various parts of Sydney commencing in 1991 in Sans Souci and living in the Sutherland Shire at Kareela. From there I had the great opportunity as a foundation principal to start a school from a greenfield site out in the south-west of Sydney at Prestons. Being on demand almost 24/7 meant living close by so I bought a new house on one of the many newly formed estates out there and lived happily for around 8 years. Being a foundation principal allowed me the opportunity to be as creative as possible designing everything from school uniforms, classrooms and play areas, furniture and implementing innovative learning programs. I also had the joy of hiring all my own staff to complete the vision.

After being in the south-west for 8 years it was time for something else to recharge the batteries. What could be better than a move to the inner city area of Erskineville where I took up the role of principal in a small very culturally diverse school with a community filled with creatives, academics from the surrounding universities and a small indigenous population. A move to an apartment in Elizabeth Bay meant an easier access to Erskineville and an opportunity to experience living in a highly densely populated part of Sydney's eastern suburbs. This would be home for around 15 years.

During these years I participated in a number of study tours to places where education was at the forefront. Two weeks around schools and universities in Scotland was a great insight into the effective teaching and leadership programs they offered. Similar tours to Singapore and Shanghai where the emphasis was on explicit instruction and finely tuned leadership programs for effective schooling offered an insight into the Asian systems.

In 2013, I took up the principal role at North Sydney where working alongside the Jesuit order of priests was both intellectually stimulating and rewarding. The community was surprisingly very multi-cultural with a large population of South American, British, Asian and Eastern European nations mainly from the Banking, Legal and medical fields. Many happy experiences took place in this delightful very appreciative community.

Two very interesting opportunities I enjoyed over the past few years were to spend in schools in Finland and Canada shadowing the school principal for 3 weeks and billeted in their homes during that time.

It was an opportunity to experience education from two world class systems and compare these to Australia. Those school principals then came and did the same at my school in North Sydney.

I was impressed with the Finnish school system where all students attended government co-educational schools in primary and secondary years. There were only a few international schools that were private. It seemed to be a very fair system based on much trust. Students attended innovative schools set in some quite spectacular architect designed buildings and were given opportunities to be independent without the added supervision and regulatory controls that we

have in place here in NSW especially. I observed that the primary aged students played outside at the edge of a forest and were climbing trees and wandering through the forested areas seemingly without supervision. The school I attended majored in music education for those students who had the talent and motivation to develop their skills into a gift. Students took themselves to and from school either on a bike or perhaps walking but parents were largely not present unless it was for a scheduled meeting. I think the nation performs very well in the international tests due to their teachers being very well educated with masters and PhDs degrees and highly respected in the community. They also do not have the diverse communities that we try to deal with on a daily basis. They seem to be happy schools.

A notable Finnish professor of Education Pasi Sahlberg, who now resides in the University of NSW in Sydney was asked what he thought of the Australian education system and his answer was “ It is an excellent outstanding system for some” meaning that we all do not have equal access to an excellent education here across the nation. Severe shortages of highly educated teachers and resourcing are ongoing problems for our schools.

I also experienced a similar time spent in schools in Ontario Canada where I shadowed the principal for 3 weeks and lived with her and her family in downtown Toronto. The State of Ontario has been a world leader in the development of leadership programs for school management and the schools I visited reflected that. It is an excellent system of schools more aligned to what we have here in Australia with both private and government schools to choose.

We are coming to an end!

For the past two and a half years I have been in the principal role at a large very multicultural school in Bossley Park in Sydney's south west again. With the current shortage of leaders wanting to be in schools and given my senior rank I received a call from Head Office to ask if I would be a real trooper and take up the position at Bossley Park. I didn't mind this move as I knew that I was planning to move to Moss Vale and the commute would be doable for a couple of years anyway. It's a challenging school with a 70% Assyrian Catholic population who are very traditional and many being from a refugee background. The staff are quite young and inexperienced so there are challenges there to raise the standards. It will take time and patience.

So I am loving living here in the Southern Highlands in Moss Vale as it is a wonderful change to the very built up areas of Elizabeth Bay and Potts Point. The psychological space is refreshing and the communities delightful.

Will this be my forever home I ask?

I am not sure as the Wandering Star is still somewhere overhead. My nephew Leo, who is like the son I never had, is begging me to join him and his partner Angelika in Vienna some day. Who knows.....watch this space.