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RI President: Jennifer Jones

IMAGINE

ROTARY

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Board of Directors President:Leigh Robinson

Directors:

Secretary: Trevor Fair Treasurer: Trevor Fair Carolina Torregrosa

lan 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 Trevor Fair.

Date	Meeting Venues	Speaker/ Topic	Journalist
26 Jan	The Liberale Home	Australia Day. *Note Thursday*	Pamela Brown
31 Jan	Bowral Bowling Club	ТВА	Ian Langford
07 Feb	Kookabar	TBA	Trevor Fair
14 Feb	Bowral Bowling Club	Valentines Day Social Meeting	David McCosh
21 Feb	Annesley	TBA	Will Eddowes
28 Feb	Bowral Bowling Club	TBA	Tim Bowland

President's Post January 2023

We are halfway through the Rotary Year, and we are hardly off the ground, there will be a lot happening in the next 6 months and more in the second half of the year. Dominic is busy preparing a new program of guest speakers which promises to be both interesting and entertaining.

Tuesday night was a fun evening with bowls and companionship rampant. The first non-meeting event will be the Australia Day Lunch, to be held at Luciano and Robyn's home (43 Oxley Drive, Mittagong) which promises to be a great partners day. Valentine's Day happens to fall on a meeting night, so 14 February will be a partners evening at the Bowral Bowling Club.

This year, the District President Elect Training Session (PETS) will be combined with the District Assembly. The event will be held over the weekend of 31 March and 2 April in Orange. Please advise Trevor if you would like to join the 5 or 6 members who have already said they would like to go. If you are not able to go to the Orange weekend, there is another District Assembly/PETS weekend in Merimbula 2 weeks before Orange.

Easter will be an interesting time as we cater for the EH Car Club's national rally. This will entail providing 4 breakfasts (3 in Mittagong/Bowral and 1 at Pheasant Wood) and one dinner in Mittagong. This event will need a generous donation of time from the members who are in town over Easter.

May, as usual, will be a busy time with the Science and Engineering Challenge and Discovery Day, MUNA (13th) and then, this year, the RI Conference in Melbourne. Thankfully, to enable us to recover from May, June will be relatively quiet for us with our Changeover Dinner on Tuesday 27th.

How's all that for starters? Of course, the second half of the calendar year will bring us the Southern Highlands Food & Wine festival, the Bowral Classic, Tulip Time and the Bong Bong Races. All these occasions involve direct service to our community or an opportunity to raise funds that we can apply where needed locally, interstate and internationally. Hopefully we will again be involved in all these events – weather and COVID permitting.

I look forward to enjoying the coming events with each of you.

Leigh

The first meeting of the year is preceded by a game of Bowls at the Bowral Bowling Club. This tradition was initiated by PP Chris Benton, who we remember fondly in this edition.

Journalist: Tim Bowland.

Barefoot Bowling Report



The weather was warm and dry. Perfect for bowling. There was a good roll up including guests and partners and special guests Kendal (the daughter of Chris Benton PP, the instigator of the Barefoot

Bowling night). Kendal was accompanied by her partner Ryan.

Rosemary and Denise were seen strategizing on the green. Robbie came wearing a moon boot and could not bowl, so observed from a shady spot with a chardy.

The players split into teams and a lot of fun was had by all. Those balls would not go straight!!!! so it was a bit hard for most to get near the puck.









The Final score.

The After Party

Welcome: Lynton (The Master of Ceremonies) Opened proceedings as only he can do.

Apologies: Jo Chalmers, Rose Conley, Jim Gasson, Tony & Julie Glenn, Don & Christine, Graham John Hoelle, Ian Johnson, David McCosh,

Roz Benton

Invocation: Spoken by Ian Law.

Pres Leigh welcomed our special guests, Kendall and Ryan

Benton-Collins, daughter and son-in-law of Chris and Roz Benton. He was pleased also to announce that we now have 40 members in the club, quite the inverse of what's happening in so many other clubs. These numbers reflect on the fellowship and intensity of the effort put in by members in all fields of Rotary endeavour. Leigh reported that **Tony and Julie** are not well, and that **Eric** is going in for surgery. **Casten** is cycling through the Adelaide Hills. The 14th February is Valentine's Day. It will be a social night and partners night to celebrate Valentine's Day. There are Foundation and annual reports available for members to read.

We received advice that there is a 5 Peaks cycle challenge being held in Canberra. There is a PETS and District assembly being held in Orange on the 31st to 1st April. Several members going and all members are encouraged to attend.

Club Reports:

MUNA

Rob de Jongh is moving to set up MUNA on the 13th May. Council has approved it and pointed us to a grant that we can apply for which will more than cover expenses.

Clown Doctors



Lynton Kettle introduced **Neill Wallace** and **Paul Stevens-King**. Paul has been a strong advocate for the Clown Doctors over the years and is now passing the baton to Neill Wallace.

Paul said that doctors are coming over from south Korea to learn about the program and to take it back home. For each dollar contributed to the Clown Doctors there is a \$9.90 is returned in social benefits. Paul thanked the club for their support over the past 20 years.

Neil told us about his long history with Rotary ie Camp Quality. Raising money for Variety in silly cars.

Neil is having a fundraiser on the 1st April at a place with old carousels and music machines. It's a fund raiser to keep the clowns going. All funds come thru private funding.

Neil said 150 local families interact with by the Clown Doctors each year.



Challenge Southern Highlands and RAWCS

Rod has just returned from a road through the NT and WA.



Challenge Southern Highlands, Rod spoke about the progress being made at Welby Garden centre. He said the club had an investment of \$5k in timber. He is looking for a team of Rotarians to get some progress happening. There are plans for a new coffee shop with the aim to train people with disabilities as baristas. Rod is having a Gala Fund Raising event at the garden centre on the 4th March, 5.30pm onwards. Guest speaker will be Costa George Ardis. Cost is \$140 for food music and drinks.

RAWCS projects

Rod has looked at projects in the South Pacific in places we normally go. There are no new projects but there is the project in Fiji which we have been to four times in the past. There are approx. another 120 homes under construction that need assistance. Rod is looking at having a meeting on Thursday to discuss the project

Remembering PP Chris Benton – who introduced the Bare-Foot Bowling.

Speaker Lynton Kettle with Ian Langford – who developed the 'photo memories', a sample of which form the collage on the last page.

Chris was a PP who started the Bowling night many years ago. Chris passed away from cancer at far too young an age. He moved to Bowral in 1995 and opened the Bank of Queensland. Chris was quietly spoken but got involved right away in many local organisations. He met Roz on a double decker bus tour of Europe. Chris was a League fanatic following the Townsville team. He was a very active member of the club and participated in RAWCS projects. Ian Langford reminisced about a trip to Egypt with Chris. He just had to buy something from every vendor!



Chris has passed on his love of animals. Years ago, he saved a pig that had connections with the Babe movie. It grew rather large at the end of the day. Kendal his daughter has taken on Chris's love of animals.

Kendal thanked the club for inviting her to this special meeting and remembering her father so fondly.

Kendal and husband Ryan

Fines: by Lynton

Rod for his shirt, David Rees for being tardy with his recollection, Louie for hosting Australia day lunch, Les V for riding a non-electric bike, Rosemary for flying business class to the UK.

Pres Leigh thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 8.05pm.

















