

**Tulip Times Club Bulletin: 01-04-25**  
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Stephanie A. Urchick  
2024-25 President  
Rotary International



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



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**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
8 April	Bowral Bowling Club	Tina Tziallas	Barbara Humphries	David Rees
15 April	Annesley Bowral, Retirement Village.	Judy Hannon MP Wollondilly	Ian Langford	Don Graham
22 <sup>nd</sup> April	Bowral Bowling Club	Matthew Neuhaus	TBA	TBA
20 <sup>th</sup> May	Annesley Bowral, Retirement Village.	Nurses Award Night	TBA	TBA
23 <sup>rd</sup> May	Imperial Hotel	Imperial Pizza Birthday Lunch from 12:00 Noon.	N/A	N/A
24 May	Wingecarribee Shire Council	Model United Nations Assembly (MUNA).	N/A	N/A
25 <sup>th</sup> , 26 <sup>th</sup> 27 <sup>th</sup> May	Mittagong RSL Club	Science & Engineering Challenge & Discovery Day	N/A	N/A
1 July	TBA	Club Changeover		
12 <sup>th</sup> to 30 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Corbet Gardens	Tulip Time Festival		
29 Sept	Corbet Gardens	Food & Wine Festival		
19 Oct	Bowral	Bowral Cycle Classic		
21 Nov	Bong Bong Picnic Racecourse	Bong Bong Picnic Races		

**NB The journalist and International Toast Roster may have changed. Check for your name.**

# THE ROTARY CLUB OF BOWRAL- MITTAGONG TULIP TIMES BULLETIN

**JOURNALIST:** Trevor Fair.

**VENUE:** Mittagong RSL Club

Weekly Meeting held on April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025.

**Sergeant Lynton** called members and guests to order. When Lynton first joined this club he said there were as members the mayor, the town planner and the chief engineer.

Welcome to **Mayor Jesse Fitzpatrick** and honorary members **Mary Ramsay** and **Jim Gasson**.

Guests included **Kate Fair**, **Susan Law** and **Richard Earnst**.

**Allan Falvey** gave the Invocation and International Toast. The theme was April Fools' Day.

For good food,  
For good fellowship,  
And the privilege to serve,  
We give thanks.

## INTERNATIONAL TOAST

Today is April Fools' Day, as we all know and may have already experienced, however it is unclear where the day of practical jokes originated. Well, I don't have the answer tonight however, there has been a number of April Fools' pranks that have stood out over the years.

In what may be the first televised April Fools' Day hoax, the BBC aired a segment in 1957 that featured spaghetti-growing trees in Switzerland. The broadcast claimed that the dreaded spaghetti weevil had been eradicated, leading to a bumper crop of spaghetti. The BBC even aired clips of people "harvesting" the spaghetti. CNN later called it "undoubtedly the biggest hoax that any reputable news establishment ever pulled."

The BBC was back at it in 1965 when it interviewed a professor who had invented "Smellovision", a new technology that allowed for the transmission of aromas through a television screen. Following a demonstration, numerous viewers called the BBC to confirm that they had detected the scents.

Here in Australia in 1978: "We are going to float an iceberg from Antarctica into Sydney Harbour," said adventurer and entrepreneur Dick Smith. He added that when the iceberg reached the harbour, he was going to carve it into small ice cubes and sell them as ultra-pure "Dicksicles", which he promised would improve the flavour of any drink.

Slowly the iceberg made its way into the harbour. Radio stations provided blow-by-blow coverage of the scene. Only when the iceberg was well into the harbour was its revealed as a prank. It started to rain, and the firefighting foam and shaving cream that the iceberg was really made of washed away, uncovering the white plastic sheets beneath.



*Rotary Club of Philadelphia's PE Carrie Sharpshair,  
with Rotary International's next president Mário  
César Martins de Camargo.*

In the USA in 1996 Taco Bell announced that it had purchased the Liberty Bell and renamed it the Taco Liberty Bell. The restaurant chain claimed that the acquisition was to help with the U.S. debt. (The Liberty Bell is actually owned by the City of Philadelphia, through the National Park Service). The news upset many Americans, and the City of Philadelphia was forced to hold a press conference that refuted Taco Bell's claim.

That brings me to, The Rotary Club of Philadelphia which was chartered on April 30, 1911, only the 19<sup>th</sup> in the world. The club has been the home to two Rotary International Presidents; Glenn Mead, the first International President (1912-1913) and Guy Gundaker (1923-1924). Soon after the Club began, the very active Philadelphia members founded other clubs in Harrisburg PA; Washington DC; Baltimore MD, and Camden NJ. Decades later, many of the more than 50 clubs in the Greater Philadelphia area can trace their roots back to the Rotary Club of Philadelphia.

Glenn Mead and Guy Gundaker and others campaigned relentlessly to elevate Rotary's "objects and purposes" and were successful in leading Rotary to become the unselfish and respected institution that has led to its present enviable status worldwide.

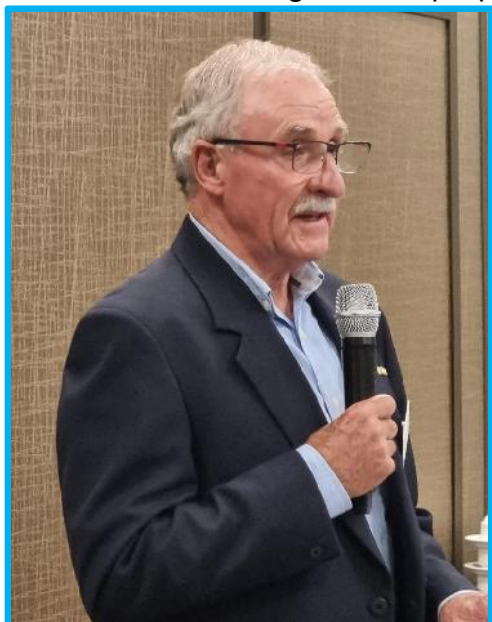
The Rotary Club of Philadelphia now meets at 6:00 PM on the first Thursday of every month at the Pyramid Club at 1735 Market Street. Colin McMorrow is the current President, Ken Myers, the immediate Past President and Carrie Sharpshair the President-elect.

The Club causes include, Supporting Education, Promoting Peace, Fighting Disease, Providing Clean Water, Saving Mothers and Children, Improving Local Communities and Supporting the Environment

Please raise your glasses and toast to the Directors, Officers and Members of the Rotary Club of Philadelphia.

## President Bob Miller

- The RSL Club being our venue for this evening was brought about by the fact that the Bowral Bowling Club is preparing the facilities for a school audience to be entertained by the Wiggles.



- Good evening to all and I trust you have recovered from our 85<sup>th</sup> Birthday celebration central to last week's meeting and this evening enjoying the privilege of our Mayor, **Jesse Fitzpatrick** sharing some of his valuable time with us. What humorous and sincere contributions made by those long serving members through the story telling segment of the meeting. I expect our recently joined members were somewhat confused by the experiences they were sharing (especially during the era of all-male members).
- Thank you, **Rosemary**, in your role as Past President for coordinating the meeting and applying discipline where required and in particular preparing the beautiful birthday cakes. Please accept an apology for my absence and in particular the antisocial behaviour in having missed the Christmas Party as well as our 85<sup>th</sup> birthday.
- The dilemma we faced two weeks ago was with the announcement that our monthly venue Annesley would be no longer available. The situation has been salvaged with a new catering contractor being engaged for evening dining events. The contractor Vinny who runs a restaurant in Bowral has taken up the challenge and we have the opportunity in two weeks to evaluate the evening meal.
- An announced change in the management team at the Bowling Club effective at the end of March has us in anticipation of having to meet representatives of the new management

team at the Club. No contact has been made to date but we are assured we have reliable bookings for the next month.

- We will be meeting a request from the Bowral High School to assist with their Cross Country Sports Carnival scheduled for this Thursday 3rd April at the Bong Bong Picnic Racecourse.
- We have experience with the capability of the staff and those students selected to undertake the cooking and serving requirements. Our task is to get the barbecue unit gassed up, supply utensils, deliver to site and erect the marquee. We have become familiar with the site and facilities at Bong Bong following several years assisting with the Picnic Race Day and more recently the Greyhounds NSW "Adopt a Greyhound" event.
- Adding to our list of challenges our Southern Highlands MUNA 2025 committee is scheduled to meet on the same day. Committee members have had some homework to complete including securing additional volunteers, one to accompany Ian Law on the registration table and the other to assist with Diplomatic Message Vetting. The Mayor was briefed on the fact that two judges this year are the High Commissioner for Pakistan and the High Commissioner for Fiji.
- MUNA (Model United Nations Assembly) is scheduled for Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> May.
- Whilst we are checking our calendars, the Science and Engineering Challenge and Discovery Day follow immediately following MUNA. I expect we will have Ian, Rod and others involved in meetings as a lead up to this important event.
- There has been a follow up meeting hosted by the Bowral High School last Friday with two officers from the NSW Police Youth Command, two representatives from Bowral High and **Krischan Keller** representing PCYC. **Robbie** attended a breakfast meeting at the school last week and identified what is required to introduce the Fit 4 Life weekly sporting/fitness function followed by breakfast to be conducted on Tuesdays (replacing the current breakfast) providing opportunity to engage with high school age students. Rotary has been asked to provide two volunteers each Tuesday to assist with food preparation and the fitness session.
- The first session is scheduled for 6<sup>th</sup> May, week 2 of term 2.
- We are awaiting the opportunity to visit Picton High School where we understand this model has proven very effective, a programme born out of an incident in the past where four Picton High School Students tragically lost their lives in a road accident. One of the issues at Bowral is getting students to the school in time for the event and the school is pursuing support from a local bus company.
- A superb effort from the Club and in particular **Leigh, Mary, David Stranger and Ian Donges** in securing delivery our first shipment of shelter bags for the homeless in New Zealand. I understand that we have more enquiries from Queensland with a package being prepared as we speak.
- Four men ran a BBQ without any input from the other gender. Wingecarribee Shire Council tree planting event at Bundanoon ran very smoothly.

## **Announcements.**

**Rod Aistrop** - due to the earthquake in SE Asia the club has received a request for assistance.

**Vanuatu** - The co-ordinator from NZ is liaising with the local contacts to determine the logistics.

**Braille Music Festival** – The club has decided to donate \$2000 to this year's event.

**Rosemary Kelly** - Nurses Award currently received 6 applications and Bob and Rosemary will review.

**Ian Langford** - Tulip Time 2025. The first meeting for the year is scheduled for 15th April. Ian provided a brief background of the festival and Rotary involvement. The 2025 Festival will be held from the 12<sup>th</sup> September to the 30<sup>th</sup> September.



**Dom Williams** – In the past a Melbourne Rotary Club sponsored a MUNA team to the USA. **Dom Williams** would like to present his jacket to our local stalwart **Robert de Jongh**. Further Dom provided a brief outline of the MUNA structure.



**Leigh Robinson** - Environmental Issues - planting trees at Woodlands previously, this year the tree planting is being held at Penrose to support the Glossy Black Cockatoos. The property forms a corridor and other wildlife. The 600 trees will form part of a continuous 1200m corridor to the river. The eucalyptus and allocasuarina tube stock have been grown by the Menai Wildflower Group using seed gathered from the Southern Highlands.

#### **Guest Speaker**

**Mayor Jesse Fitzpatrick** was introduced by **President Bob**. Jesse is well protected by his PA Jessica who ensures that access is appropriate.

Jesse Was appointed to council on 9th October 2024. Married with young family and his aim for the shire is to create a lovely area to raise a young family.

#### **Jesse Fitzpatrick.**

You may think that I get to get a free rein to talk about Council matters however it is only at events like this where I can ad lib on my passionate topics.



The future for the shire is more than roads, rates and rubbish. However, the focus should be a longer term goals once the basics have been sorted. As a legacy from previous councils, the three main treatment works are all being upgraded at once. This is a significant commitment which should have been staged over a longer timeframe.

Discretionary items that can be influenced by council include specialist estates, tourism, and the mountain bike course on the old Welby tip. Council contributes to first world services including water.

Average rates are \$1900 per house. Council does well with this fee base however to achieve the desired services requires government funding (should be sourced from fuel taxes, registration fees etc.?). It is unfortunate that some of these travel based taxes are not distributed to road maintenance.

Wingecarribee Shire is an aging population. Twice the average age of the state. There is nothing more important than rebalancing the population demographics. This council is committed to focusing on attracting younger families.

## Q & A

The Bowral Pool has a good future.

Walking trails - thoughts on the trails - Council is aware of the low cost high impact of walking trails and is supportive of these types of endeavours.

Facebook sessions are as much use for Jesse as they are for information.

Car boot sale at Bong Bong Racecourse- requires a DA. Seeking council input to assist with this event. Even the mayor has experienced difficulty in getting events operational due to the narrow interpretation of when a DA is required.

This current council is seeking to collaborate with the community with a common sense approach. Attempting to break the disconnect bubble.

Council is aiming to beat the state average for processing DA's at the 1 year anniversary. Jesse is confident that this goal will be met.

At present the Mayor is the intermediary to council. Hopefully in the future a better structure will be in place.

**Lynton** offered the vote of thanks.



**Raffle:** **Rosemary Kelly** drew the five of Diamonds, won the bottle of wine but missed picking the Joker.

**Quiz:** **Ian Donges** – “Who am I” was AC/DC member Brian Johnson guessed correctly by **Robert de Jongh**.

**Leigh Robinson** has collected some laptops for recycling to school children and they need to be sent to Nowra Rotary Club. If anyone is likely to be going to Nowra (and hopefully Vincentia) in the near future can you please give Leigh a call on 0418 400090. Personal delivery will be less expensive than postage.

**Next week:** The meeting will be at the **Bowral Bowling Club** – **Attendance and apologies by each Friday please.**



# Can you help out here?



**Bring in your old laptops and phone (with Chargers) so they can be recycled to help our domestic violence campaign.**

***Also, Bring in some items each week to add to the Uniting Church basket  
Non Perishable food, Toiletries ETC***



**May Birthdays:** Rod Aistrop 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Will Eddowes 26<sup>th</sup>, Jim Gasson 22<sup>nd</sup>,  
Brian Pattinson 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Imperial Pizza Lunches:** 23<sup>rd</sup> May from  
12 Noon

