

## Tulip Times Club Bulletin: 23 May 2023

Volume 84 No 41



### Board of Directors

#### President:

Leigh Robinson

#### Directors:

Sec/Treasurer:

Trevor Fair

Ian Law

Will Eddowes

Jo Chalmers

Don Graham

### RI President:

Jennifer Jones

### 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 text Trevor Fair.**

Date	Meeting Venues	Speaker/ Topic	Journalist
30 May	Imperial Hotel	Social Evening ** see Page 3**	Pamela Brown
06 Jun	Bowral Bowling Club	Member Story/Lynton Kettle	Will Eddowes
13 Jun	Annesley	Trivia Night	Tim Boland
20 Jun	Bowral Bowling Club	David Marshal/Ruby's House for Youth	Ian Langford

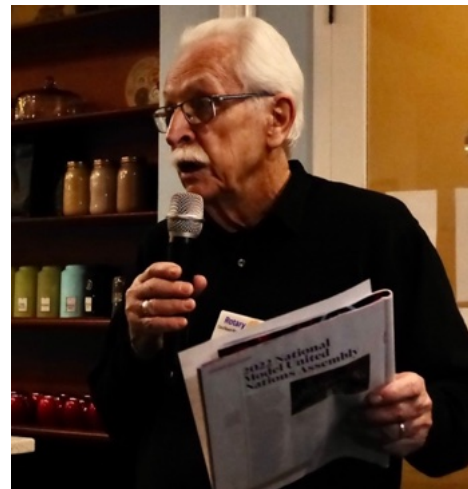
### Venue: Bowral Bowling Club

**President Leigh** still has not recovered from surgery and sent his apology. PP Tim Bowland led the meeting in his stead. However, P Leigh sent this "post" lest we might forget him!!

### President's Post for 23 May 2023.

I notice that there has not been a President's Post for quite some time and as this may be the last opportunity for this Rotary Year, I feel that I must provide a swan song, - but I will be brief.

Everybody wants our money! When I look at the daily papers or watch the television news, I am constantly reminded that this is the case. The demands on households of all socio-economic areas are constantly increasing. Apart from the rise in the cost of living, we are told that community giving is at an all-time low. I understand that the Salvation Army Appeal last weekend was way down from the normal. Apart from the many calls to donate to our own charity, - The Rotary Foundation, - we constantly are made aware of the needs of national and local communities, organisations, families, and individuals. Even within the diaspora of a Rotary Club there is an array of abilities to give. Some of us give our



time and energies while some contribute financially. An awareness needs of those around us and act accordingly is essential. The Rotary Club of Bowral-Mittagong and its members have a proud history of giving of effort, of goods and of financial support whenever and wherever a need is identified.

I guess that the long and the short of it is that while everybody wants our money, it is up to each of us to establish in what ways we can contribute and just how much time, effort and money, we are able to give. Whatever we do, there will still be ongoing need somewhere.

**Sargent Lynton** opened the meeting with the announcement that our speaker had apologised for being unable to attend, and that **President Leigh** had asked **PP Tim Bowland** to Chair the meeting as he was still recovering from his ankle surgery.

**Dominic Williams**, - at short notice, - agreed to lead a discussion on **“The Voice to Parliament”**.



At the same time Lynton asked the club to join him in congratulating **Dom** on his forthcoming marriage next week to long-time partner **Fay**.

**Lynton** acknowledged the member apologies, then called on the meeting to welcome Tim to the microphone.

**Tim** announced the Invocation, acknowledged and paid his respects to the Gundungurra People, and welcomed our visitors, Graham Castle, Bev Donges, Eric Conley, and Robyn Liberale.

Tim then congratulated all those who had contributed to the success of the Science and Engineering Challenge + Discovery Day, adding that participating had opened his eyes to how much effort goes into staging this outstandingly successful event.

Tim had a message from P Leigh. He is expecting to have the stitches in his ankle removed this Thursday and hoped to be back for the next meeting.

By email to the editor, **P. Leigh** also reminded all Club members of his previous requests, namely -

#### **Firewood Sales.**

Please pass the word on to your friends and associates that we have the best and cheapest firewood in the Highlands with all monies raised going to Rotary programs. Just call the **“Firewood # “ 0493 147 790** and leave a message. “The Firewood” will call back!

#### **Charity Dinner 2024.**

Leigh is calling for volunteers to serve on the committee.

#### **Changeover Dinner 27th June at Annesley.**

Please confirm attendance and guests to Trevor ASAP.

#### **Council of Resolution – Club vote.**

Members were emailed a proposal from RC of Canberra Burley Griffin regarding a resolution to support the prohibition of nuclear weapons. All clubs in the District are required to vote. President Leigh would appreciate input to assist in developing our Club’s position.

#### **Rotarian of the Year**

Nominations to **Brian Pattinson** please.

And two notices just come in from Leigh....

- **The District Budget** for 2023-2034 was passed at a rescheduled AGM on Sunday 21st, after a quorum of Clubs was assembled, 92% to 8%.
- **The Regionalisation Pilot** trial which is set to begin on the 1<sup>st</sup> of July 2023 has been funded by the RI Board in readiness for commencement. Clubs will be updated monthly once mainstream work commences.

#### **Antony Liberale Golf Day**

Rotary Club of Bowral – Mittagong



### **Charity Golf Day**

**in memory of Antony David Liberale**

Louie reported on the very successful golf day held at Highlands Golf Club last Sunday. Louie thanked those who had helped and participated in the day, and as in previous years, friends have been generous in their donations towards the Children’s Cancer Institute. Louie will report later the total funds raised.

A special gift to Louie and Robyn was the participation of three of Antony’s schoolfriends who travelled from beyond the Highlands to be at this commemorative event.

Later in the meeting Ian Donges recounted how the “golf” day turned out for him. From a breakfast sausage on arrival, to Grappa, red wine, panini, prosciutto more wine on the course, and more Italian spoken than English, - he found the golf rather challenging!!

## Science and Engineering Challenge Report.

(See page 4 for photographs)

Tuesday evening and there were a few exhausted members at the meeting having come from two very busy but happy days running the Science and Engineering and Discovery Day events at the Mittagong RSL.

Ian Langford, reporting on our 14<sup>th</sup> annual Southern Highlands Challenge, gave thanks to everyone who had contributed, - Rotarians, their partners, Uniting Church members, Engineers from Engineers Australia and their partners, and the generous financial contributions of our sponsors.

He related how difficult it had been, 14 years ago, to raise enthusiasm amongst our schools, and to goad the busy teachers into responding in a timely fashion to the legal and procedural requirements needed to run such an event. Today the event is run at maximum capacity with limits placed on the number of participating schools and pupils.

Ian gave special thanks to **Rod Aistrope** for his remarkable fund-raising success, raising more than the \$19,000 needed to stage this event. To the schools involved, there is no cost, - not even the children's lunches. Also, special thanks the Mittagong RSL for hosting our events at no cost.

**Rod Aistrope** responded that since its inception here in the Highlands 14 years ago, Ian has been the driving force behind the event. Early each year he assembles a small committee of Club members and local Engineers to work through to the event in late May. Rod is lobbying for interested new members to join.

Rod further announced that with some surplus funds this year, he will place a paid advertisement about the Challenge in the Highlands News recognising all our sponsors.

*(Sponsors banners can be seen in the photographs taken at the event, displayed on the next page)*

*An interesting footnote: Olivia Jackson, the University of Newcastle S&E Challenge Team Leader, and two of the teachers present at today's event had, when they were themselves at High School, participated in a Science and Engineering event!*

Dinner was then served.

Following dinner **Dominic Williams** led a discussion on the Voice proposal. The report is on page 5 of this edition.

### Fines and Re-cycling

**Lynton** once again conjured up enough humorous and improbable fines that **Ian Johnson** managed to raise everyone's attention to **the re-cycling project** he is building for the Club. He announced he was setting up an account on the collection machine so that any of us will be able to deposit our own re-cyclables for the Club and asked that we start collecting our hard plastic milk bottle tops, sorted by colour, and with the liquid-proof inserts in the tops removed.

Tim then closed the meeting with a quote from the diary of Anne Frank.

**"How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world."**

**\*\***

### Please note...

**Due to many members being away at the Conference in Melbourne next week, our regular meeting will be held as a social get-together at the Imperial Hotel - usual time 6 for 6.30pm in the Pizza section. Trevor has booked a table in his name.**

**"Buy your own or share with a mate."**



# The Science and Engineering Challenge..... and Primary Schools Discovery Day.



And the winners of the Challenge were....everyone in fact, but the team with the most points was.....



**Chevalier College,**

seen with members of our sponsors,

Jemena Gas Networks/  
Zinfra,  
and staff volunteers of  
Komatsu and  
Northrop Consulting Engineers.

Each day's climax...  
**Bridge testing - to destruction!**

and below, on  
the second day....

**Discovery Day. For Primary school kids**

Team representatives receiving certificates  
from DGN Rob Uhl.



Congratulations **Ian Langford**, our hard-working Chairman of the Science and Engineering organising committee.



## Meeting discussion led by Dominic Williams on the proposed Indigenous Voice to Parliament.

Main Speaker and discussion moderator:  
Dominic Williams QC, Rotarian



**Dominic** was introduced briefly by **Lynton Kettle** as a Barrister, a Farmer, a pilot, and a long-serving Rotarian. He transferred to our club in 2020. By way of stating his credentials to lead the meeting, Dominic explained that he had for 15 years been a board member and chairman of an Indigenous Community Development Fund, having in that time consulted with the Banyala Aboriginal Community in Arnhem Land. He planned to speak briefly on the Voice and then open the floor for discussion.

Dominic outlined the steps taken by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island people since, -through the referendum of 1967, - they were included in the Australian Parliamentary vote. Out of the Uluru Statement of the Heart in 20xx came the wish for an entrenched body in

### What work has been done so far.

Parliament to advise on Aboriginal affairs. This would be called the Voice.

Particularly the Voice would work towards “closing the gap” between aboriginal and other Australians in demographics including,

Life expectancy, health, prison numbers, etc.

The current government now plans to hold a referendum later this year in which Australians will vote on inclusion of the Voice in the Constitution.

Currently the Polls indicate that around 63% are in favour of inclusion.

Arguments against inclusion currently include,

Every Australian should be treated equally.

The Voice will become divisive.

Not enough detail in the definition of the Voice.

Aboriginals are themselves have divided opinions,

Why is it necessary to include in the Constitution?

Why not legislate first, - include after testing.

These and other questions will be raised and discussed in the coming months prior to the election. Dominic, with all his experience, argues convincingly that the Voice came out of the greatest meeting of Aboriginal people at Uluru, and that it is all about lifting all Australians to the same level.

Several members spoke from the floor.

**Ian Donges** thanked Dom for his clear and thought-provoking words, and the meeting showed its appreciation in the customary way.

Still confused? Start with,

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2023\\_Australian\\_Indigenous\\_Voice\\_referendum](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2023_Australian_Indigenous_Voice_referendum)

The Voice was proposed in the Uluru Statement from the Heart.

It was presented to the nation five years ago on 26 May 2017 by delegates to the First Nations National Constitutional Convention, held over four days near Uluru in Central Australia.

The 250-member convention was held after the **16-member Referendum Council** had travelled around the country and met with over 1,200 people.

The Uluru Statement from the Heart calls for, “... *the establishment of a First Nations Voice enshrined in the Constitution and a Makarrata Commission to supervise a process of agreement-making and truth-telling about our history.*”

In the five years since the release of the Uluru Statement from the Heart, a **Joint Select Committee has considered the proposal.**

An Indigenous Voice Co-design process outlined, in detail, **options for how a Voice could work.**

Further work will continue in partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people about what will go forward and ultimately **the Australian people will be asked to support an Indigenous Voice to Parliament being enshrined in our Constitution.**