



Report for Oct 26, 2021; Volume 83, No: 15 Rotary Club

of Bowral-Mittagong

District 9705 Charter Date 26 March 1940

President: Will Eddowes Secretary: Trevor Fair



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Rotary International President Shekhar Mehta's theme for 2021-22,

***Serve to change lives,***

is urging members to become more involved in service projects, saying that caring for and serving other is the best way to live because it changes not only other people's lives, but also our own.

**Future Events**

- Nov 2 Melbourne Cup Day – includes a Melbourne cup day trivia
- Nov 8 Board Meeting
- Nov 9 Club Assembly
  
- Nov 16 Tony Glenn - Caravan Trip - Mackay and Pinnacle @ Hermitage 6.00pm
  
- Nov 23 Sharelle Quinn - Last Qantas 747 Kangaroo Flight @ Hermitage 6pm
  
- Nov 30 Dr Subhasis Talapatra - Skin Cancer & Prevention @ Hermitage 6PM
  
- Dec 7 AGM
  
- Dec 14 Rotary Christmas Party – Partners Night

**Please Note: Apologise by Friday noon, attendance is the default position**

**Venue:** The Hermitage

**Journalist:** David McCosh

## Sergeant's Welcome

Sargent Lynton welcomed members and guests Eva, Caroline's daughter, and Ria McCosh to the meeting, followed by President Will.

**Invocation** – given by Tony Glenn

**International Toast** – Leigh Robinson

Last Sunday was **World Polio Day** which celebrated the success of the global project to eliminate polio and highlighted its continued persistence in Nigeria, Afghanistan and Pakistan.

The coordinated fight against polio had its roots in an article in Readers Digest in April, 1979 describing how the World Health Organisation had eradicated smallpox from the planet for \$100 million. It was read by then **President of Rotary International Clem Renouf** and was his inspiration in looking to involve Rotary in a significant disease eradication project.

He rang Dr Anthony Fauci's predecessor at the American National Institutes of Health, Dr John Sever who happened to be one of his District Governors. The President asked what disease could be eliminated with the greatest benefit to mankind which Rotary could be capable of achieving.

The answer of course was polio and at an RI Board meeting later in the year then Past President Clem Renouf had the following motion adopted:

*That the eradication of polio and alleviation of its consequences will be the primary focus of Rotary's Health, Hunger and Humanity goals.*



42 years on it still is and the job is nearly done.

The immunisation of children in the Philippines in 1979 was the first step and in 1985 Polio Plus began. Good news today was the agreement of the Taliban government to allow mass vaccination of all of the children of Afghanistan. Hopefully that will reduce the outstanding countries to 2 before too long.

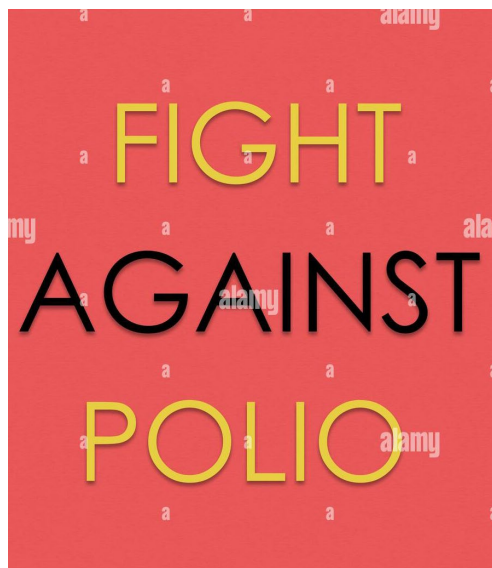
Clem Renouf's vision will see polio go the same way as smallpox did and the children of the world will grow up with one less threat to happy active lives.

He was born in 1920 and died last year. He received many awards including Membership of the Order of Australia.

He was a Member of the **Rotary Club of Nambour** in District 9620 in Queensland from 1950 until his death.

The Club was Chartered in 1949 and has 18 Members who are still very proud of his long Membership among them. Their **President is Edward Ong**.

**In celebration of the success of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative and the legacy of Past RI President Clem Renouf would you please make our International Toast to the President and Members of the Rotary Club of Nambour.**



## President Will

**World Polio Day.** Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> October, last Sunday, was World Polio Day. Rotary International has released a Youtube video update on the status of the End Polio Now project with detail of progress in eradicating the disease in the last remaining Countries. Will recommended that members particularly watch the sections on Afghanistan and Pakistan. Here is the link...

<https://youtu.be/v3S0Q12huX8>

**Hat Day.** Over \$500 for Australian Rotary Health was raised at last week's meeting!

**Working Bee at Pop-In Centre.** Will asked for volunteers to do some clearing and clean-up on Saturday. Leigh, the two Brian Ritson and Brian Pattinson, Rod, Lynton, and Don raised their hands.

**International Women's Day – 8<sup>th</sup> March.** Rob Uhl has contacted the Club and is forming a District 9705 Committee. Vicky has volunteered to represent the Club.

## Other Notices

**Brian Ritson - First Responders Weekends at Penrose. 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> November.** Brian visited Sylvan Glen to check the facilities, found them stripped down but was assured all would be in place for the first weekend. The RSL will be doing the cooking, and Brian has secured other contributions from local businesses. All volunteer hours have been filled by Club members.

Brian Requested that the Rosters be published here – Volunteers please see attachments to this Bulletin.

**Carols By Candlelight at the Bradman oval. 9<sup>th</sup> December.** A request has been received for the BBQ. Estimated attendance is 5000. Decision yet to be made by the Board.

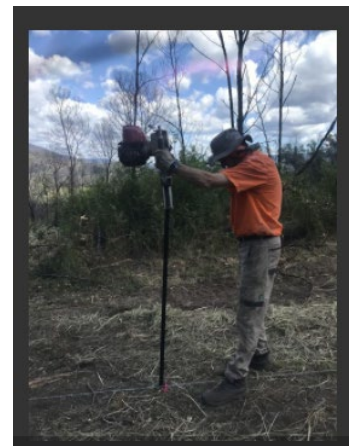


**Mary Ramsay - Bowral Cycle Classic. 11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> December.** Mary reminded the Club that this is a major fund-raiser for the Club and that it is important to maintain the high standard of service we previously gave to this event. There will be a particularly high demand for marshalling volunteers on Sunday the 12<sup>th</sup>.

Dinner was then served.

**BlazeAid – Don Graham assisted by Carolina Torregrosa.**

Don arrived in his fencing gear to give us a photo assisted personal account of the many weeks he spent this year as a volunteer on the BlazeAid project out of the camp at Cabargo. Several of our Club members had joined him on the project for various periods including Will, Ian Langford, Rod, Lynton, Robert, and Carolina. Carolina joined Don's presentation to give us her own impressions and experiences of her 8 days working on the fences and enjoying the after-work camaraderie of the camp.

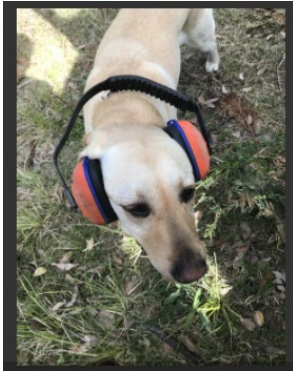


*Don using the "wakka-pakka" to put posts in*



*Variety of hills and paddock – always a straight fence!*

After a brief introduction to what “home” looked like at the camp, both the “luxury” of his caravan which he enjoyed with wife Chris and Sally the dog, and the “Pod”, portable standard single accommodation for volunteers.



*Sally reminding volunteers to use safety gear*

Rod gave us a brief history of BlazeAid, born out of the 2009 Black Saturday bushfires in Victoria. Started by a farming couple who had to enlist neighbours to quickly re-build their own fire-destroyed fences, BlazeAid has grown into an Australia-wide, non-Government funded volunteer organisation, assisting communities to recover from devastating bushfires in all States. It plans to close by Christmas, with Cabargo being the last camp. Don encouraged those who could, to find a week, -the minimum time to spend, - or more at the camp before it closes. Carolina added that the pods, although small, had their own heating and lighting, were warm and comfortable. One brings one’s own sheets and other “luxuries”!

Don described the typical day with the morning muster in the portable hall, referred to as the White Elephant, to moving out in teams to erect fences where farmers had been required to remove burnt fences and clear the lines ready for fencing. Bright clothing, radio and safety equipment, and other equipment was provided.



*Another volunteer Liz with Carolina “on the line”*

Late afternoons and evenings were “own time”, Thursday nights for campfires with guitars and other music. Tuesday and Sunday nights at the pub, - with a band on the Sundays. Camel Rock is only 15 minutes from the camp.



*Guitarists and singing round the camp fire*

There are still 50 jobs to be done before Christmas, - so plenty of work still to be done.

Raffle The regular raffle was won by Ian Law. A beautiful bunch of roses was auctioned and taken away by Rod for \$25.

The meeting was brought to an end by President Will.