

Tulip Times Club Bulletin: 27-2-2024

Volume 85 No 32



**CREATE HOPE
in the WORLD**

RI President:

Gordon R McNally

Bowral-Mittagong
Rotary
District 9705
Chartered 26 March 1940



Email : rotarybm@acenet.com.au
www.bowralmittagongrotary.com

Board of Directors

President:

Don Graham

Directors:

Trevor Fair - Secretary
Paul Leotta - Treasurer
Rod Aistrop
Robbie Allen
Denise Coad
Rosemary Kelly
Tim Bowland
Allan Falvey
Leigh Robinson

Club Meetings:

Weekly on Tuesdays, 6.00pm for 6.30pm at various Southern Highlands venues. (See below)

For the foreseeable future please advise TREVOR FAIR of your attendance or apologies for our weekly meetings. Deadline is Friday sunset. T: 02 4861 6917 M: 0403 176 958

"What's On?"

Date	Meeting Venues	Speaker/ Topic	Journalist
5 Mar	Bowral Bowling Club	Membership talk by Beverly Coffey	Will Eddowes
8-10/ Mar	Batemans Bay	PETS Training	
15 Mar	Imperial Hotel	Birthday Pizza Lunch	
12 Mar	Bowral Bowling Club		Trevor Fair
14 Mar	Joadja	Tour of Joadja. Morning tea z& Lunch	Rosemary K
19 Mar	TBA	Social Night	Ian Langford
22/24 Mar	Cootamundra RSL	PETS Training	
26 Mar	Bowral Bowling Club		
2 April	Bowral Bowling Club		
9 April	Bowral Bowling Club		
16 April	TBA	Social Night	
23 April	Bowral Bowling Club		
30 April	Bowral Bowling Club		
24/25 May	Wingecarribee Shire Council	Model United Nations	
27 May	Mittagong RSL	Science & Engineering Challenge (High School)	
28 May	Mittagong RSL	Science & Engineering Discovery Day (Primary Schools)	

2 July	TBA	Club Changeover Function	
25-27 Oct	Mittagong RSL	District 9705 Conference	

MEMBERS, CAN I HAVE DATES FOR THE CALENDAR PLEASE. Tim

Report on the Club meeting at Bowral Bowling Club on Tuesday 27 Feb 2024.

Journalist. David McCosh

Sargent Lynton opened the meeting with the customary welcome to members and guests, - three Bowral High School Interactors and their parents, - who would be formally introduced later, and then welcomed President Don to the microphone.

President Don added his welcome and asked David Rees to give the Invocation followed by the International Toast.

International Toast.

It was a momentous day in Khartoum, the capital of Sudan, on 27 February 1912 when Lord Kitchener cut the ribbon to open the newly constructed rail line from Khartoum to El-Obeid which was constructed by the British not only to assist the Anglo-Egyptian forces deal with Mahdist rebels but also to open up transport routes for commerce.

El-Obeid was the centre of the Gum Arabic industry. Gum Arabic is a food additive and is collected as hardened sap from the *Acacia* tree. Sudan provides 70% of the global supply.

Lord Kitchener went on to become the Secretary for War in World War I. In 1914 Lord Kitchener became the face on the WW I recruitment poster “Your Country Wants You”. This poster was renowned for it’s clever design. Kitchener’s finger points at you whichever angle you look at it. He tragically died in 1916 when his naval ship, en route to Russia, hit a German mine.

Sudan has a population of 48 million which grows at the rate of 1 million per annum.

The Blue Nile flows out of Ethiopia and the White Nile out of Central Africa. They meet at Khartoum on the way to Egypt. Sudan is dependent on the seasonal flows of these rivers.

The north of Sudan is predominantly desert except for the Nile Valley. Water is critical. Dams have been built but diversion to irrigation creates problems. Evaporation is an issue. Silting impedes river flow. The deserts are so dry they do not support oases.

Civil war and poverty are chronic, yet, some good news, the last case of polio was in 2009.

As with Brunei, Sudan has only one Rotary Club, located in Khartoum.

The Khartoum Rotary Club was chartered on 27 June 1938. In 2008 the Club had 35 members, today President Esam Mohammed has only 16 fellow members.

The Rotary Club of Khartoum is in District 2452. That District covers Armenia, Bahrain, Cyprus, Georgia, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, Sudan and United Arab Emirates. Of those countries only Armenia and Georgia have a common boundary with significant distances between all other countries. It looks like pieces of a jigsaw puzzle and the left over pieces were put into District 2452.

Sadly a Club in isolation and decline, please be upstanding and toast President Esam and the members of the Rotary Club of Khartoum.

RYPEN, - (Rotary Youth Program of Enrichment)

This year our Club is sponsoring three Bowral High School students to RYPEN. After an introduction by Youth Director Robbie Allen, each student gave a summary of their individual expectations and what they hoped to gain from the experience.



Chloe Ward - new experiences, hoping to gain leadership skills, and guidance towards purpose in life.

Jackson Pridgeon - increase his confidence in diverse groups, leadership skills, and to be helpful in social and work environments.

Joshua McKay – improve communication skills, new ways to look at problems, and to generally learn ways to be more helpful.

The students thanked the Club for the opportunity to attend RYPEN, and President Don encouraged them, wished them well, and said we all look forward to having them back at a later meeting to hear their accounts of their RYPEN experience.

Directors Reports.

Club Meetings.

Denise Coad updated the meeting with the results of the recent Board project to find a permanent home for our weekly Club meetings. Much time and energy has been spent on searching for a venue that can consistently and reliably meet member preferences. At a meeting last night, it was decided that the Bowral Bowling Club is our venue of choice for three meetings each month, and the fourth will be at another venue, - something different, possibly a social event. Bowral Bowling Club has plans for changes to the Clubhouse and to the catering which should be of benefit to the Club.

RAWCS project.

Rod Aistrop announced that planning had started for a Club project to Vanuatu in August that would involve the construction of school buildings. Those interested in participating should keep in touch with Rod as plans progress.

Membership

Tim Bowland and **Allan Falvey** have prepared a letter and email, to be distributed to recent arrivals in the Southern Highlands, describing the activities of our Club and encouraging contact with us to learn more. Assistance will be needed for some members to do a letter-drop. See Letter below.



Email: rotarybm@acenet.com.au
Website: bowralmittagongrotary.com

Dear Resident,

Welcome to your new home! We trust you are as excited to live in the Southern Highlands as we are.

We would like to invite you to enquire about the Rotary Club of Bowral-Mittagong. It's a great way to meet new friends and become part of this community. Rotary is one of the leading volunteer organisations in the Southern Highlands. Our club is committed to improving the lives of people in our community, and we would be delighted to have you contact us to find out more.

We have included a brochure in this envelope detailing some of the activities. We hope you will take time to read through it and consider joining us for dinner to see what we are all about. The members enjoy the camaraderie and like to have fun. It's a great way to get to know likeminded people in your new community.

Please feel free to contact me. I would be happy to answer any of your questions.

Sincerely

Don Graham

Club President Phone: 0409 714 818



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Journalists Required!

There are only four Journalists reporting our weekly meetings for this publication, - Tulip Times! All of them are also very involved in major annual Club programmes, - journalist duty is a 'sideline'. On several occasions there has been a call in Club meetings for journalist volunteers, - with no response. Our goal is to have 6 journalists. A journalist then reports on a meeting once every six weeks or 8 times a year. The bulletin is assembled by the Editor (Tim), with backup by Will. from the journalists report. It is not a big ask! Talk to Tim!

Social Program

Rosemary Kelly announced three activities being planned. (Watch this space!)

Trivia Night – proceeds to Rotary Health.

Movie Night – participation with the Empire Cinema.

Inter-Club 10Pin Bowling event – resumption of what was an annual event prior to COVID.

Joadja Tour: Rosemary is planning a Tour of the Joadja estate, for members and their partners and friends, on the 14th March (Thursday). Tour will start at 10am and go for three and a half hours. Included will be morning tea and lunch. Cost \$59. Rosemary needs a min of 20 to make it happen. Please contact Rosemary on 0400 421 574 or email: frankandrosemary@bigpond.com RSVP: By Tuesday 5th March. A decision will be then made regarding numbers. No late correspondence can be entertained.

Other briefs.

Pres. Don

- Changeover meeting scheduled for 2nd July.
- Lynton and Rod loading firewood this week, \$300 a load – goes to General Revenue.
- Blaze-Aid – Possible project April/May next year. Probably less than 2 weeks.
- Incoming Exchange student. We are committing to hosting a student on the next intake. We have three host families committed and will work on finding a host(s) for the fourth semester.

Leigh Robinson

- District Changeover 22 June
- Community Leaders – Trevor will attend a Zoom Conference on organisation and responsibilities.
- Dinner Dance – 17th May 2025 at Centennial Vineyards. Leigh is happy with the support he has received so far with ten volunteers for the organising committee.
- Domestic Violence packs to Moss Vale Police station. None have been distributed yet. Reminder: Please let Leigh have any old mobile phones.

Will Eddowes

- Investigating the possibility of reviving the Club business visits that were popular pre-COVID.
- Seeking interest in a Club visit to the old Shale mining site at Joadja. By a show of hands there was good member interest in such a visit. Rosemary had the preliminary costs of \$39/person in a group tour of a minimum of 10 people, or \$59/person including Lunch with drinks. Weekday visit.

Ian Langford

Please note the following dates in your diaries. Both events at the Mittagong RSL Club.

Monday May 27th Science and Engineering Challenge (High School Students)

Tuesday May 28th Science and Engineering Discovery Day (Primary School Students)

Following Bob Millers Member talk...

Sargent Lynton gave a short Fines session and the raffle was one by Robbie Allen who then drew the 9♣.

The meeting closed at 8.15pm.

Member talk – Bob Miller.

Bob Joined our Club in September last year and is currently President Elect for 2024/25. His talk focused mainly on the past twenty years during which, as Mine Manager with a workforce of around 150 mining personnel, he reopened and managed the extension development and production at the Airley Coal Mine. The mine is situated about 40 kilometres north-west of Lithgow in the Capertee Valley.

By way of introduction, Bob spoke of his family, - his wife Sue, their two daughters and four grandchildren. Earlier in his career he had been a Rotarian here in Mittagong, but travel around the country to various mining locations had made continuity in a club difficult and he had resigned. He gave an account of his career in the mining industry from 1967 to 2014 leading up to his appointment as Mine manager on the Airley Coal Mine extension project. His account commenced with qualifying as a mine surveyor, a spell as Site Engineering Manager, two years with Rio Tinto, and two years in Ulan prior to the mine being purchased by Exxon. Exxon transferred the family to Huston, Texas where Bob was given an international role involving extensive travel to different sites internationally, a role that changed with the Alaskan disaster of 1989. In 1992 he resigned, and the family returned to Australia to settle in Mudgee. Later, with mining colleagues, he set up a Risk Management company consulting to mining companies in Australia, south-east Asia and New Zealand. After a short period in NZ, with the closure of coal mining operations in NZ, he returned to NSW where an interesting opportunity was presented to him. The Charlotte mine in northern NSW was running out of ore and was closing down. Over 100 experienced mine personnel were to be laid off. Airly Mine, - in Care and Maintenance since 19xx but still with an existing mining lease owned by Centennial Coal, - was recognised as having good potential. In 2004, after a proposal to transfer the experienced personnel from Charlotte and reopen Airley was approved by the owners, Bob was appointed Mine Manager and work began.



Airly Mine Overview

Bob's talk started with an overview of the Aims of the Extension Project followed by in-depth description of the achievement of those aims over the twenty-year period of his management.

Aims of the Airly Extension Project

- Extend mining approval by 25 years
- Continue mining in current lease (ML1331)
- Extend mining into to eastern area (A232)
- Maintain run of mine production at 1.8Mt per annum
- Maintain approval of Coal Preparation Plant and Reject Emplacement Area
- Reduce environmental impacts by controlling subsidence
- Continue rail transport – no road haulage of coal
- Employ up to 135 staff and 20 contractors
- Continue exploration activities
- Provide for the rehabilitation of the mine site
- Develop infrastructure to import water during dry periods

His descriptions included the design challenges faced,.....-

Design Challenges

- Wide variation in depth of cover
- Weak rock strata (shale, claystone) in immediate roof overlain by strong sandstone
- Sensitive surface features
- Meeting requirements of surface and groundwater downstream users
- Changing demographics and community expectations
- State Conservation Area surrounded by National Parks (Gardens of Stone, Capertee & Wollemi)
- Managing risk, productivity and profitability
- Strict compliance with mining consent and environmental approvals

.....the pristine beauty of the valley which had to be preserved within EIS Development Consent Performance Criteria,.....

Mesa Topography



overcoming public opposition to the development, the mining plan and extraction methodology, the methods of measuring and controlling subsidence.....

Remote GPS Subsidence Stations



..... and the action taken when fracturing of the strata was detected, and in all these areas, acknowledgement of the quality of mining personnel he managed, and the support received from both the miners and the residents of the valley.

Bob's talk was backed up with a comprehensive set of slides that together with his talk gave us a fascinating insight into a highly successful mine project, the opposite of what more often gets published in the press. A selection of the slides is included here.

Bobs Talk ended at 8.10pm. Followed by question time, Fine session and Raffle. Don thanked all for coming and closed the meeting.

PS Have you got an old mobile phone? Leigh is collecting them to be repurposed for victims of Domestic Violence to use as burner phones.

Please bring them into a meeting where they will be collected, cleaned and given to the police for distribution to victims.



February: Graham Castle, Denise Coad, John Elder, Allan Falvey, John Hoelle
March: Vanessa Aylett 9/3, Tony Glenn 1/3, Luciano Liberale 22/3, Bruce Sutton 24/3

The Gallery



Report from Asher in Japan.

Report from Exchange Student Asher Aylett - Japan



Dear Tim and the Bowral-Mittagong Club,

Upon arrival in Japan, the Sakaguchi family (My host family), counsellor, and club president greeted me with a hearty welcome. My host family then proceeded to drive me home to Kishiwada, which is an hour away from Sakai City where the Kansai Airport I arrived in is located. Since then, I have been regularly attending my school, Kenmei Gakuin, and every weekend my host family and I travel to different and amazing locations nearby! So far on my exchange, we have visited Adventure World in Wakayama, explored a local Danjiri museum, bathed in a Sento bathhouse, and even made an offering to ancestors in a nearby graveyard!

My host mother, Tomomi, has been lovely to me and I feel welcomed and accepted in Japan already in my first month here! My host counsellor, Tokito, never ceases to compliment my progress in speeches and supports me with my language learning however he can. My host brother, Daigo, has many friends here in Japan and has introduced me to so many new people! It's been amazing meeting and making friends with so many kind people here in Japan and I hope to continue meeting new friends during the entirety of my exchange! Daigo is also a Rotary



Youth Exchange student, heading to Australia quite soon! His district hasn't been decided yet, but I hope he will be assigned to Bowral to support the Bowral-Mittagong club!

At Kenmei Gakuin, I have already joined the Tennis club, and I also hope to join the traditional Japanese and INTERACT clubs. The traditional Japanese club performs ancient and sacred Japanese rituals, such as a tea drinking ceremony and wearing the famous Kimonos. A definite must-join in my opinion! The INTERACT club focuses on supporting the community through many ways, such as cleaning streets and helping causes. The club has been known to visit countries, such as South Korea! I hope to support them and come along on their Asia-wide trips!

My Japanese learning progress has come quite far since I arrived in Japan! My speech at the Rotary District 2640 Orientation went extremely well! I was complimented personally by Satoru Toyooka, my club president! I was very happy to hear my Japanese speaking skills are improving! I am grateful for the support my Japanese club of Sakai Seiryro has given me! I was able to meet some new and old faces, such as Macy, my fellow Australian youth exchange student and her host sister/Japanese out-bounder Honoka!

To summarise, this first month has been the most enjoyable time of my life! And it's only the first month in! I just can't wait to experience as much as possible that Japan has to offer. I also regularly update my blog for those wanting to keep up with my journey as I go. Thank you so much for the opportunities you have given to me and the effort you put into my journey. You won't regret it.

Kind Regards,
Asher Aylett

