



Tulip Times

**The Rotary Club of Bowral-Mittagong
District 9710 - Chartered 26 March 1940**

E: rotarybm@acenet.com.au

W: www.bowralmittagongrotary.com

President: Linda Knight 0418 126 240

Secretary: Sue Adams 0438 249 703

Meetings: 6:00 for 6:30

Highlands Golf Club, Old Hume Highway

Mittagong NSW 2575

**Apologies must be made BEFORE 11AM EACH TUESDAY
to Trevor Fair (trevorf@oxleypartners.com.au),
or by text to 0403 176 958 or to his office on 4868 6100**

Visiting Rotarians		
Guests		
Next meetings....	Tuesday 6 December, 2016	Tuesday 13 December, 2016
Location	Golf Club	Golf Club
Program	AGM	TBA
Speaker	A/President	TBA
Intro/Vote of Thanks	A/President	
Dinner Fees	Ray Williams	
Journalist	Will Eddowes	John Elder
Regalia	Rosemary Kelly	Lynton Kettle

If you are unable to do duty, please find a replacement and advise Ray Williams by email rayjenw@bigpond.com

Reporter – Ray Coulton



A fairly limited gathering of only 3 tables – quality not quantity ??- enjoyed A/President **Rosemary**'s handling of the meeting, as **Linda** is currently in India. We formally welcomed **John Elder**, who is to be the guest speaker and then toasted the Rotary Foundation.

Led by Mark Wallace, we also offered our regular toast to an international Club, this time the **Rotary Club of Nouakchott Sahel Renaissance**.

"Today the west African state Mauritania is celebrating its independence from France in 1960.

In the 11th Century AD the Arabs spread across north Africa overwhelming the native Berbers. In the late 19th Century the territory was incorporated by France as they expanded their colonial empire.

The country is mostly part of the Sahara Desert but in the south the Sahel, the low rainfall transition between desert and savannah grasslands sweeps across the land and right across Africa to Sudan.

Since independence Mauritania has undergone a series of military and civilian governments racked by coups but the election of 2008 has brought stable if harsh government.

Despite laws prohibiting slavery for the past 30 years it is estimated that about 600,000 Mauritians live their lives as slaves.

A quarter of Mauritania's 4 million people live in the capital Nouakchott on the Atlantic coast.

The **Rotary Club of Nouakchott Sahel Renaissance** is one of 2 in the capital and was Chartered this year in District 9010.

The District has 84 Clubs also covering Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia and next year in a significant breakthrough will have its first woman District Governor, a Tunisian.

President Ahmed Sidi Elemine leads 21 Members in service to their community."

Announcements for the good of Rotary:-

Our Christmas Party is to be held on 20th Dec.; please book in soon with **Trevor**- it is \$50 pp and can you pay before the night. Trevor will email us all with account details for EFT'ing the funds.

We had a brief report on the BBQ for the Arts Foundation last Friday, and Ian L later stressed that, whilst the numbers were down, there seemed to be a lot of interest from people who were there, about Rotary. **Rosemary** also recorded with great regret that **Melanie** has resigned, so we are looking for a volunteer to take over the job of organising guest speakers, etc. Also noted that it is **Robbie**'s BIG 60th. The International toast was proposed by **Mark Wallace** to the 3-barrelled club in Mauritania.

David R.- announced that the Breakfast Club finishes this Thursday- there is a Thank You afternoon tea at the school and the Interact's Changeover: members are urged to attend. Also, members who are involved are asked to hand in some formal identity at the school. The NYSF is being held in January and there are some changes, one of which is that any member who has particular expertise or knowledge is invited to give a presentation to the multitude.

Gerry - has offered to run the Australia Day party again- needs numbers before Christmas. He was disappointed that the film night only made \$1700, but he thanked those who supported this project. Also, he and Tom had an all-in Rock and Roll party out at Harbison last week, and he was thrilled at how much the people there enjoyed it. "More more more" was the cry, so they are planning another one for 13th Jan, and all are welcome, especially as Gerry is also doing the cooking for everyone there.

Mark W- reported on the award ceremony of the PHF to Father Terry Herbert at the Chevalier Hall, in front of maybe 1,000 people- reckons it was very moving.

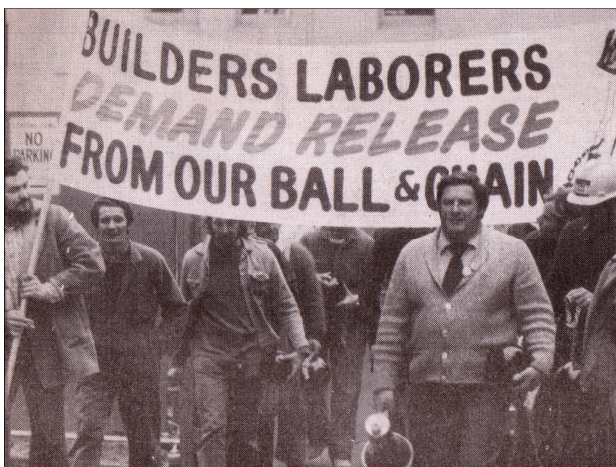
The profit from the Race Day BBQ was a little less than \$2K- some discussion about this and

there is to be a meeting in the early New Year to review how the event went, with a view to fine-tuning and improving as required.

JOHN ELDER then entertained us as our guest speaker.



He has had an amazingly varied life, which culminated in his role in the MBA as their main trouble shooter, visiting the various building sites that were in dispute.



He had to try to negotiate with all the heavies of the BWU of the 1970's - Jack Mundy, Norm Gallagher and all the other Soviet hard-liners.



These were times of great disruption and violence, and especially as the BWU picked up with the anti-Vietnam protests, the growing Women's movement and radicalised Uni students.



He also noted the riots associated with the 1971 Springboks tour and, generally, all of these protest movements became an integral part of the BWIU.



AGM NEXT WEEK - be wary of Lynton's advice: that the last person in the door next week will probably be our President next year !!

Press release from SH Tourism FYI

Tulip Time 2016 closes with record numbers

The 56th Southern Highlands Tulip Time Festival has been hailed a great success, with a record-breaking number of visitors enjoying this year's program and picturesque gardens.

More than 39,000 people flocked through the gates of Corbett Gardens during the 13 day festival which ended on Sunday, representing a 3% increase over the previous record of 38,000 which was set in 2015.

Very interesting times, which led to John becoming the CEO of the MBA, a Commissioner of the NSW Industrial Commission and later to his gaining of a doctorate for writing the history of that troubled industrial era. A great talk, in keeping with our traditions.

Editor's Note: John's very interesting talk is attached in full for your enjoyment.

Tony won the raffle with the 10 of Clubs - we hope he enjoys the wine.



Lynton took over and told lies about most of the people in attendance. Rosemary's wise saying for the week- "To be the best, you must be able to handle the worst".

Council's Tourism & Events Manager for Destination Southern Highlands Steve Rosa said "we are rapt with the record-breaking result considering that we were affected by bad weather throughout the Festival."

"This year's fun theme of 'Alice in Wonderland', the creative garden beds and the wide array of events on offer provided plenty of entertainment and attracted visitors from near and far, showcasing the best of what the Southern Highlands has to offer," he said.

Events held throughout the floral festival included 'The 2ST Community Breakfast', 'The Mad Hatters Tea Party Picnics', SHYAC's theatre & musical performances of 'Alice in Wonderland', 'Music in the Gardens', the annual Street Parade, and 'Cinema at Sunset' all proved major drawcards.

"Expanding the range of events and activities across the festival ensured that we really did feature something for everyone," Mr Rosa said. "Musical events across both weekends featuring local artists were crowd favourites. The continuation of 'Greeters' in the Gardens and at the Bowral Railway Station along with the expanded entry and exits to Corbett Gardens greatly enhanced the visitor experience."

“And families just loved the ‘Alice in Wonderland’ SHYAC performances along with the giant outdoor evening cinema featuring Disney’s original animated 1951 film of ‘Alice in Wonderland’.

This year saw a huge increase in visitors utilising public transport – in particular train services - with City Rail providing additional coach services to accommodate the crowds. The NSW Heritage Rail complemented the commuter services with a 10 carriage Tulip Time Steam Train on the first weekend of Tulip Tme, bringing over 300 passengers to Bowral from Sydney as well as a Motor Rail service from Paterson in the Hunter Valley.

The local residents of the Southern Highlands threw their support behind this year’s Charity Partner, Cure Brain Cancer Foundation helping to raise over \$60,000, as well as contributing to a 25% increase in attendance by locals to Tulip Time over the 13 day Festival.

The iconic Tulip Time Street Parade also lived up to its reputation as a traditional favourite with 36 entrants making their way up Bong Bong Street in front of a big crowd. The Bowral Garden Club was rewarded for their hard work, winning ‘Best Float’ with their purple themed Alice in Wonderland entry and the Wingecarribee Animal Shelter winning ‘Best Walking Group’. Also pleasing was the introduction of the inaugural Tulip Time ‘Golden Mile’ Street races after the Street Parade by Athletics NSW and it is hoped that this event will grow in coming years to become a signature event of the Tulip Time program.

“I’d like to pay special mention to the Destination Southern Highlands team, Council’s Parks and Gardens team, and all of the members of the Tulip Time Working Group who helped organise this family-friendly event,” said Mr Rosa.

*“Special thanks also go to our charity partner **Cure Brain Cancer Foundation** and all of our local community groups, businesses and sponsors for their support,” Mr Rosa added.*