

Stephanie A. Urchick  
2024-25 President  
Rotary International



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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
06 Aug	Bowral Bowling Club	Kathryn Baget-Juleff Community Life and Libraries	Trevor Fair	David McCosh
13 Aug	Bowral Bowling Club	To be advised	Graham Castle	David Rees
16 Aug	Imperial Hotel	Pizza Birthday Lunch	NA	NA
20 Aug	Annesley	To be advised	Will Eddowes	Bruce Sutton
27Aug	Bowral Bowling Club	To be advised	Denise Coad	Dom Williams
03 Sep	Bowral Bowling Club	To be advised	Ian Law	Beverley Coffey
12 Sept- 30 Sept	Tulip Time Festival	Roster members on gates (Will Eddowes)	NA	NA
04 Oct- 07 Oct	Southern Highlands Garden Party	Roster Members on the gates (Will Eddowes)	NA	NA
19 Oct- 20 Oct	Bowral Classic	Organiser Mary Ramsay	NA	NA
25 Oct- 27 Oct	Mittagong RSL	District 9705 Conference	NA	NA
22 Nov	Bong Bong Racetrack	BB Races BBQ & Car Parking	Don	

**Venue:** Bowral Bowling Club. **Journalist:** Ian Langford.

**Sergeant Lynton Kettle** called the meeting to order and invited **Ian Donges** to recite the invocation and propose the International Toast.

**Invocation:** For good food, for good fellowship, for the privilege to serve, we give thanks.

## International Toast.

In honour of the current Games of the XXXIII Olympiad being held in Paris, **Ian Donges** picked one of the twenty-one Paris Rotary Clubs, namely “The Rotary Club of Paris Académies” or “The Thinkers”.

It’s lunchtime on a Monday at Le Procope, the oldest café in Paris, and an impeccably dressed waiter offers each of the assembled Rotarians a Champagne cocktail. He then presents the prix fixe menu, which features a choice among three starters, three hearty main dishes, and two rich desserts.



A visiting Rotarian from California wonders aloud if lunch will be followed by a nap. “On mange bien à Paris” (“We eat well in Paris”), says Jocelyne Greco of the Rotary Club of Paris Académies, with a sympathetic smile. That’s especially true of the members of the Paris Académies club, who eat well each week at one of the city’s most storied establishments.

Le Procope has been a gathering place for Parisian intellectuals since 1686. Voltaire drank coffee here — 40 cups a day by some accounts — as he argued with his friends about literature and politics. His marble-top writing desk has a position of honour in the restaurant’s entryway. George Sand, Victor Hugo, and Oscar Wilde are among the many literary figures that spent time at the café. Thomas Jefferson and Benjamin Franklin ate here often when they were the U.S. ministers to France; it was also a favourite meeting place of French revolutionaries Maximilien Robespierre and Georges Danton.

The café’s framed portraits and crystal chandeliers give it the feel of an elegant private home. Bookshelves filled with well-worn volumes line one dining room; hand-printed wallpaper dating to 1830 covers the walls of another. The restaurant is also a museum: Display cases house Napoleon’s famous hat and the last letter Marie Antoinette composed before she lost her head.

It’s an appropriately venerable setting for a Rotary club whose 38 members include artists, architects, physicians, professors, the president of the Sorbonne, and a former inspector general of the libraries of France but no farmers!

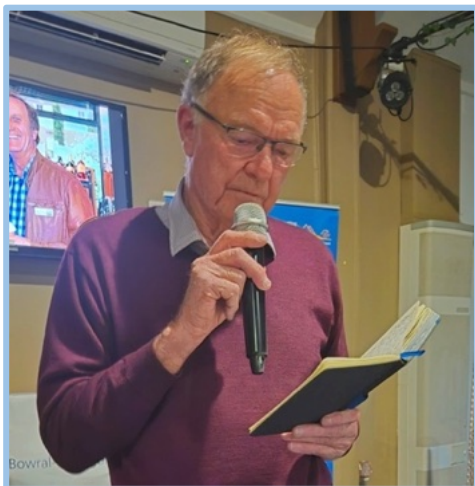
“This is more a cultural club, not a business club,” says member André Goezu, an artist who is known for his engravings. “We are intellectuals.” Paris Académies meetings often begin with a game in which members try to name the originator of a famous quote. Recent agendas have included discussions on Brexit and the French economy, and guest speakers give talks on diplomacy, chemistry, and art.

The club’s annual fundraiser is a classical music concert at the Bibliothèque Polonaise de Paris, which houses the collected works of three Polish artists who called the city home: poet Adam Mickiewicz, composer Frédéric Chopin, and painter and sculptor Boleslaw Biegas. Last year’s event, with performances by musicians from a well-known Paris conservatory, drew a sell-out crowd and raised 3,000 euros.

For their latest club project, Paris Académies members helped with the restoration of paintings and drawings at the Musée Jean Moulin, a museum dedicated to the artist who was one of the leaders of the French Resistance during World War II.

Some of their activities will sound familiar to many Rotarians: They give to The Rotary Foundation; they hold an annual drive for a local food bank; they host international students — most recently, from Japan and Canada; and they’ve formed partnerships with clubs in Belgium, Germany, and the United States. Visiting Rotarians will also recognize the sense of fellowship at meetings.

Please be upstanding and drink a toast to President Alain Rozié and members of the Rotary Club of Paris Académies.



**Sergeant Lynton Kettle** then invited **President Bob Miller** to the microphone who welcomed Mary Ramsay and Jim Gasson to the meeting. Bob thanked members for their patience while the Bowral Bowling Club was still undertaking their refurbishments.

**President Bob** reported that **Barbara Humphries** is still in Liverpool hospital and although there is a way to go yet, she is on the mend. She hopes to return to Bowral Hospital later in the week. **Leigh Robinson** has also stayed away due to a chest complaint.

**President Bob** thanked those that helped at the Chevalier College barbecue and those going to the Southern Tablelands Science & Engineering Challenge in Goulburn on Friday. He also thanked David McCosh for standing in as editor during Tim Bowland’s travels.

**Mary Crammond** and **Geoff Mann** have talked to the Salvation Army about supplying some Shelter Bags for the homeless sleeping outside in the Southern Highlands. This would be funded by The Rotary Club of Bowral-Mittagong.



**Mary Ramsay** updated the members on the preparations for the Bowral Classic Cycle Event to be held on Sunday October 20<sup>th</sup>. The Club will be providing a barbecue over the Saturday and the Sunday. However, on the Sunday when the cycling takes place, it's bigger than ever in this fifth year we have helped at the event.



Mary emphasised that we will need everyone to help to cover all the marshalling as there will be 14 smaller shifts and 19 double shifts that will need staffing. Mary will be putting out a schedule in early September but in the meantime could everyone please reserve October 20<sup>th</sup> in their calendars so they can help on the day.

**Ian Langford** reported that the Tulip Time Festival gate roster was 99.6% full with only one shift not allocated. The Tulip Time Garden Party on 4<sup>th</sup> to the 6<sup>th</sup> October also only had one shift not filled. Ian thanked **Will Eddowes** for looking after the roster during Ian's time in hospital. Ian asked people who had offered to help in a large number of shifts to consider whether they would be able to meet such a big commitment as if they had any difficulty and had to cancel it would leave a large hole in the roster. Please talk to Ian if you have any concerns.

**Rosemary Kelly** reported on the food survey she carried out last week and has talked with the Bowling Club about the food options. Tonight's Prawn Linguine with cherry tomatoes, red onion, Tomato sugo, parsley and chilli seemed to be appreciated by nearly all members judging by the clean plates.

**Ian Johnson** thanked members who had helped suggest guest speakers and the program is nearly full to Christmas.

**Rosemary Kelly** explained how the beef that **Darryl Flegg** donated to the club was utilised for the needy through the Uniting Church food pantry. Rosemary emphasised that there is a regular need every week for donated food but especially cereals, long life milk and spreads such as jam, Vegemite and peanut butter.

**Guest Speaker – Robert de Jongh.**

**Ian Donges** then introduced the guest speaker who tonight was our own **Robert de Jongh**.

Robert gave a fascinating summary of some of his life, family and career under the banner of “Snippets of My Life”.



Robert included snippets from his childhood getting into the movies with money collected from discarded bottles (and being caught short when the price went up and he used his bus money) to his growing interest in geology “things”. However, they geology interest evolved into a mining engineering career. We heard about some episodes with a seismic crew, University and boxing. However, having been “challenged to a duel” by a member of the University Fencing Club he was smitten with fencing and gave the boxing away. He was smitten by a young woman of the University Fencing Club who was from WA and who Robert went onto marry after an often-distant relationship involving train trips overnight from Kalgoorlie to Perth for the weekend and back in time for work on Mondays.

Robert outlined some of the jobs and mines he worked at in Australia with humorous anecdotes about losing calculators or being stuck in holes drilled for explosives. He then branched out overseas and has ended up working all over the world as shown in the map below.



Robert then answered questions when it was revealed that in 1999 he had just missed out from being selected for the Australian Olympic Team as only the top four were selected and Robert was number five in Australia.

**David Rees** gave a vote of thanks to **Robert** which was applauded with acclaim.

**Sergeant Lynton Kettle** fined many members including Robert and all those who went to Vanuatu but didn't use Robert's mining explosive skills to remove a large rock hampering the digging of a septic tank. Mary R for pocket phoning, Bruce for seeing his cardiologist and then goes for a nice juicy steak, chips and red wine and Ian J for taking 5 days to recover from a three-year-old granddaughter's birthday party.

**Janine Brundle** had the raffle which was won by **Mary Ramsay**.



The Big Bogan at Nyngan



**Ian Donges's** "Where Am I?" Tim Tam quiz was won by **Brian Pattinson** for guessing Nyngan.

(Where some people will go and what they will do just to get their photo back into the Bulletin!! 😊)

**President Bob Miller** closed the meeting by reminding members that 31<sup>st</sup> July was the anniversary of an explosion at Mount Kembla Coal Mine in 1902 that took the lives of 96 workers.

The incident happened when a large section of the unsupported roof in a goaf collapsed with considerable force, pushing air and methane gas into the main tunnel. The rush of air and gas stirred up the coal dust clinging to the roof and walls of the mine. The coal dust made contact with an exposed flame light. The gas ignited and, combined with the now airborne coal dust, set off the initial explosion that blew down the main tunnel with such force that it destroyed everything in its path. This initial explosion set off a series of explosions throughout the mine, giving the miners no warning and no chance to escape. The explosion produced odourless carbon monoxide gas that filled the tunnels, accounting for more loss of life than the explosion itself.

At the time of the explosion, 261 men were in the mine. By the final count, 96 miners – some as young as 14, had been killed, including two rescuers who succumbed to the gas during their attempt to rescue mine workers.

A royal commission concerning the disaster, held from March to May 1903, confirmed the gas and coal-dust theory accepted by the earlier coroner's jury. Rather than holding any individual official of the Mount Kembla Company responsible, the Commission stated that only the substitution of safety lamps for flame lights could have saved the lives of the 96 victims. However, flame lights continued to be used well into the 1940s.