



Rotary

Meeting Report 30 June, 2020, Volume: 82 No: 1

Rotary Club of Bowral-Mittagong

District 9710 Charter Date 26 March 1940

President: Rod Aistrope Secretary: Trevor Fair

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**For the immediate future, the style of meeting is a bit uncertain.
It depends on how many people are coming.**

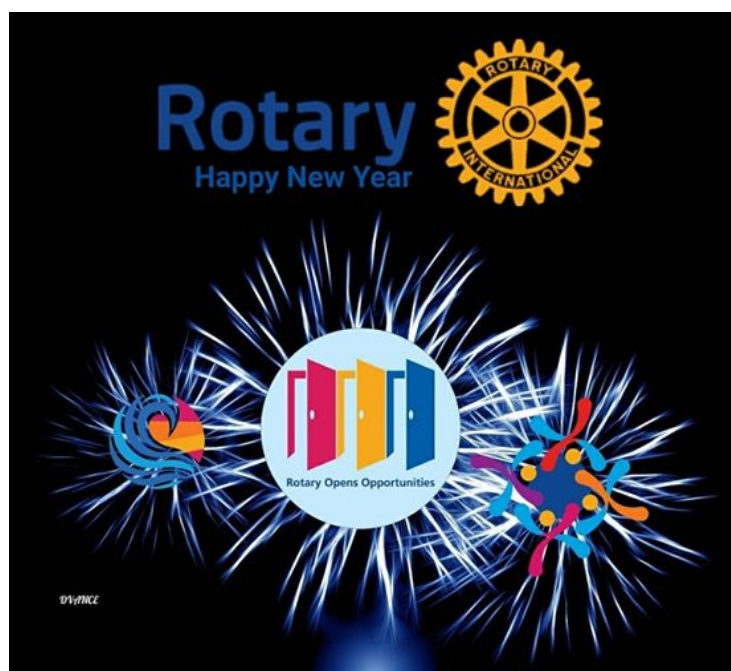
Please bear with Rod and Trevor for now. Some meetings may be via Zoom.

We need 20 members to have a face to face meeting at SHW, otherwise we Zoom.

Trevor will advise by email as soon as he can.

**If you are coming to a face to face meeting, you MUST RSVP by Monday 10 am or you will not be fed!
EFT to General Account (account ends 636) – no cash please.**

Subscriptions are also due.



Rotary International President Holger Knaack's theme for 2020-21, ***Rotary Opens Opportunities***, asks Rotarians to create opportunities that strengthen their leadership, help put service ideas into action, and improve the lives of those in need.

ROTARY CLUB OF BOWRAL- MITTAGONG CHANGEOVER 30 June, 2020

We had a great turnout for the Changeover, with lots of guests and partners. **People are still excited to go out!**



Sergeant Lynton opened the meeting with the observation that "it has been a hard year". For some inexplicable reason, people seemed to agree.

PP Brian Elliott invoked us to Give Thanks for the Privilege to Serve.

Being the ranking Rotarian, PDG Brian Pattinson made the following remarks before proposing a toast to Rotary International.



As most of you know the first meeting of Rotary was held in Chicago, Illinois on 23 February, 1905.

Rotary's wheel originated at that time as a

wagon wheel. The cogged version became official in 1920 and the keyway added in 1929 to signify the wheel was a "worker" and not an "idler" wheel.

The first motto of RI adopted in 1911 was "He profits most who serves best".

The first club in Australia was chartered in Melbourne in 1921. In 1989 "Service Above Self" became the principal motto of Rotary.

I was invited to join Rotary in 1972 as a charter member of the Rotary Club of Dubbo West and moved to Bowral in 2006.

As a PDG, I became a member of the D9710 College of Governors but as I have not been an active member I am not up to-date with all the current Rotary activities and the latest information usually presented in a toast to RI.

Rather, tonight I want to talk about some of the people inspiring people who have influenced me in my Rotary journey.

During the past 4 weeks Liz and I have both turned 80. So, 1940 was a good year. Ask Ken Adams as he is about to join us soon.

This was also the year that the Rotary Club of Bowral was chartered, on 26 March. Unfortunately, we were not able to celebrate this significant milestone for our club because of the Corona Virus lock down.

In the lead up to his year as President of RI in 1978/79, Clem Renouf from the Rotary Club of Nambour, our club invited him to Dubbo where the theme of his inspirational address was "What can one man do?" This

question has stuck with me for 42 years so let me tell you of just a few such examples.

I have come to know that this sentiment is so very true. Those who step up to make themselves available through Rotary programs are inspirations to us all. They have joined a service club and that is what they do, serve.

I failed to mention that on my first visit to this club in early December 2006 it was a hot summer evening, so I came suitably attired with an open neck shirt as worn by the more than 2,000 Rotary members I had known about at that time. On the way out, Ken Adams gently mentioned that as I had noticed, this club had a strict dress code – coats and ties at all meetings and of course there were no women members.

This was because on that night there was a visiting female Rotarian from Armidale in attendance getting a make-up. The club received a letter from the Armidale club introducing Rose Conley as a prospective member and one month later on 2/01/2007, Rose and I were inducted to membership of this club, paving the way for other women to join for the first time.

Thank you Rose for taking this brave step and thank you PP David Rees and your Board for making this belated decision.

I might add that it was only a short time later that the dress code gradually also disappeared.

DreamCricket commenced in 2010 and as our club member Wally Chad had a factory in India, we had established a

sister club relationship with the Chennai Sun City Club. This led to the establishment of DreamCricket in Chennai in 2012, in Sri Lanka in 2013 and in Nepal in 2014.

This came about through the Wally Chad connection.

Dr Roly Bigg through the Movement Disorder Foundation has provided over \$100,000 to towards the development of Dream Cricket in Australia and beyond over the past ten years. Rina Hore has provided the Bradman facilities for DreamCricket at no cost and has led with inspirational ideas. She now chairs the committee for the third consecutive year.

In our own club it is easy to take for granted the exceptional work done by our members-

Pres. Robert De Jongh A difficult year with no meeting place & the corona virus. Congratulation and thanks

PP Trevor Fair Club and Past District Secretary, bulletin editor & almost everything else

PP Ian Langford Treasurer, Sc & E Challenge, sound video & photos, perfectionist! Assistant Governor.

PP Tony Glenn Wise counsel, font of all knowledge, Past Assistant Governor

PP Rod Aistrophe S&EC raising \$17,000 each year + Goulburn. Weekly toasts, community & O/S projects

PP Ken Adams Every job in Rotary, DreamCricket, S&EC, District Shelter

Box, Tulip Time founder

PP Ray Coulton Organising FAIM Trips, fund raising, BBQs, assisting with all projects

PP David Rees Unable to hear but first to put up his hand at mention of BBQs. School Breakfast Club

PP Rosemary Kelly Enthusiastic, hard worker, caring fun person

PP Lynton Kettle Never ending wood supply. Makes us laugh while he takes our money

PP Ray Williams Outstanding set up of ClubRunner. Bali community water project. Story of his plane

PP Brian Ritson Generous to a fault. Always bringing surprise donations for the club & its members.

PP Graham Hicks Established Model UN Troubled by his poor health

PP David McCosh Dealt with a difficult period in our club with good grace

All of these people have shown what one person can do!

The common link between all of us is the Rotary connection that has provided the opportunity for the service, the fellowship and yes – even the chance to have a lot of fun together along the way.

You are the key that drives the wheel of the Rotary Club of Bowral-Mittagong.

I would like to congratulate you all on that service and to propose a toast to Rotary

International of which our club is a part and of which we are all members.

Please be upstanding as you are able and join me in a toast to Rotary International.

“To Rotary International”.

Southern Highlands Wines then provided a delicious meal. Thankyou Marco and staff.

A few other matters:

Tony Glenn talked about the ‘old days’ (not so long ago) when an influential group of members refused to consider women members. There was enthusiastic applause when he said that we were much better for our diverse membership, with Racing Rose Conley leading the way 13 years ago, and recently rejoining us. The Club now consists of 25% committed women and this years Board is 40% women.



Frank Kelly represented Oz Harvest and thanked the Club and the Uniting Church for our support during the year by way of non-perishable goods and money. Oz Harvest is supporting 80 families in the Shire, stretching as far as Colo Vale, Tahmoor and Hill Top.



PRESIDENT ROBERT'S LAST DUTY – HIS ANNUAL REPORT, ALONG WITH REPORTS FROM DIRECTORS

There is an old Chinese curse that says “May you have an interesting life.” Well, it’s certainly been an interesting year, but despite the problems we still managed to work on several very worthwhile projects, in particular:

- Bowral High School Breakfast Club
- The Engineering Challenge and Science Discovery Days
- Tulip Time
- Dream Cricket
- Eles School toilet block on Eles Island, Vanuatu
- Model United Nations Assembly
- Bong Bong Picnic Races
- Bowral Cycle Classic
- FireAid 2020
- Emergency Services Barbecue
- Bowral Youth Refuge Pergola

Between all of that we sponsored the chartering of the Southern Highlands Rotaract Club.

Unfortunately due to the COVID-19 pandemic many of the fundraising activities and service projects for this year have been cancelled.

Another very unfortunate casualty of the pandemic was the club’s 80th birthday

celebration. I look forward to when we can celebrate that event, probably next year. Before proceeding onto the areas of service I’d like to thank all those members who put “Service above Self” as they worked as volunteers on barbecues, cooking and serving breakfast at Bowral High, staffing the gates at Tulip Time, assisting with Dream Cricket, putting up the pergola at the Bowral Youth Refuge or working on construction in Vanuatu. I think you are all extraordinary and I truly thank you for your efforts.

Regarding the areas of service, I’d like to start with special thanks to our Club Treasurer, Ian Langford and our Club Secretary, Trevor Fair, for their truly remarkable contribution to the running of our club. Thanks, Ian and Trevor.

Ian has provided me with a summary of the Project Account for 2020. The details will be made available in the Tulip Times Bulletin, but in summary, in the last year we raised over \$69,000, and made donations of over \$51,000.

I’d also particularly like to thank the ladies in our Club who do a fantastic job in all our areas of service.

Each of the Directors for the Avenues of Service have spent substantial time and effort on their respective portfolios and their reports are set out below.

Finally, I’d like to finish by saying that it has been an honour and privilege to serve as President of the Bowral – Mittagong Rotary Club in what has been a somewhat difficult year.

Thank you.

Community Services – Rosemary Kelly

It was a very quiet year for Community Service, what with the bush fires and the Coronavirus, but we did manage to do some projects.

Youth Refuge – This was a project for the construction of a pergola which was started in the previous Rotary year by Jacinta and her many helpers and was finally completed in February. Jacinta also personally provided an outdoor table and benches which was very much appreciated. Thanks Jacinta.

Uniting Church Canteen – Our members have donated very generously all year to supply food to the church to help feed those of our community who have hit hard times, hopefully we will continue with this in this next Rotary year.

White Ribbon Day – We were asked once again by the White Ribbon Committee if we would assist raising money by running our barbecue at Corbett Plaza. Although it was a very quiet day, all monies raised were donated to them.

Emergency Services Barbecue – Even though the Emergency Services failed to show up, we still put in a great effort in trying conditions. All the food was subsequently taken to Hilltop for distribution to those affected by the bushfires.

FireAid 2020 – This was a terrific day and a privilege for our club to participate in the fund raising for people affected by the bush fires in our community. All money raised was donated to Fireaid 2020.

Exeter Barbecue – Once again we were asked to use our barbecue skills.

Councillor Scandrett approached us to help to say thank you to the Emergency Services personnel who assisted in the bush fires at Exeter. Even though it was a very cold and wet Saturday it was a great success.

International Service – Ian Johnson

In September 2019, members of our club travelled to Vanuatu to complete the construction of a toilet & shower block for Eles School on the Island of Nguna. Nguna Island is a short boat trip off the north-east of corner of Éfaté Island, the main island of Vanuatu.

Those who attended were:

Name	Club	Duration
Ian Johnson	Bowral - Mittagong	2 weeks
Lynton Kettle	Bowral - Mittagong	2 weeks
Rod Aistrope	Bowral - Mittagong	2 weeks
Ray Coulton	Bowral - Mittagong	2 weeks
Don Graham	Bowral - Mittagong	2 weeks
Will Eddowes	Bowral - Mittagong	2 weeks
Robert de Jongh	Bowral – Mittagong	1 week + 1 week on Santo Project
Mara de Jongh	Partner	
Colin Duff	Wollundry - Wagga Wagga	2 weeks
Ken Johnson	Guest	1 week
Jaynie Symon	Guest	1 week

We were approached by Steph Neilson from the SHARM Foundation of Port Villa, to complete this work at Eles School. The SHARM Foundation has carried out work in Vanuatu for a number of years.

Our work consisted of:

- Excavate a hole at the rear of the existing partially constructed building & install a septic tank & seepage line.

- Complete the tie down & fixing of the roof structure.
- Install 5 toilet systems & one shower.
- With the help of local labour, construct one partition wall and render all existing concrete block walls .
- Install a water tank on the ground & header tank on the roof.
- Install a pump to lift water from the water tank up to the header tank.
- Construct & hang doors to all toilets & showers along with catches.
- Install guttering to front & back of block to drain into the water tank.
- Install two hand basins & connect to water supply.
- Painting of all walls, doors and timber work.

We also contributed to the cost of materials for this project.

Vocational Service – Will Eddowes

In October 2019 we had a successful visit to the Red Cow Farm. Nine members and friends attended this remarkable garden in Sutton Forest. Since 1990, Ali Mentesh and Wayne Morrissey have built this garden on 2.5 hectares from scratch. A visit was organised to the Boral Cement Works in Moss Vale. The visit was a casualty of the lock-down but through our contact with Boral we were asked to put on a lunch BBQ for 400 workers during their Summer maintenance program. In less than a week we assembled a team and cleared \$4000 profit. We are very grateful to Boral for this opportunity. A booked visit to Australian Bioresources in Moss Vale (The Mouse House) in June had to be cancelled due to lock-down but can hopefully be revived next year. Discussions for a proposed Pride of Workmanship joint event with Berrima and Moss Vale clubs for May had hardly got under way before lock-down. The scope would need to be reviewed if we attempt to revive it in 2021. Hopefully there will be more activities in the coming year as the lock-down eases.

Youth Service – Don Graham **INTERACT**

The Interact Club is based at Bowral High School and is going from strength to strength thanks mainly to Christine Sands who is the very active & enthusiastic teacher in charge. The club has more than 30 members. They have held various fund raisers throughout the year including for overseas projects. We usually sponsor 3 of its members to the Rotary Youth Programme of Enrichment (RYPEN) but the September 2019 intake was cancelled due to the District merger and the May 2020 intake was cancelled due to the Pandemic. Thanks to Robbie Allen, who

attends their weekly meetings on behalf of our club.

BREAKFAST CLUB

The Breakfast Club, which is held twice a week during term time at the Bowral High School, was suspended once the Covid-19 pandemic arrived. It is hoped to start again once it is safe to do so.

RYPEN

Both of the September 2019 and the May 2020 events were cancelled. At the time of reporting we have heard nothing from the District as to whether RYPEN will be run this year. Mogo was the usual venue. It was damaged in the fires earlier this year. Following the District merger, Wagga is the likely venue for future events.

RYLA

In January this year we sponsored Lily Dulhunty for the 5-day leadership camp. Lily gave an interesting account of her time at RYLA at our scheduled weekly Rotary meeting, supported by members of the newly formed Southern Highlands Rotaract Club

FOUR-WAY SPEAKING COMP

This competition was run in August 2019 at the Bowral Bowling Club and was won by Frensham

MUNA

This event is usually held in May at Wingecarribee Council Chambers. Renovations at those premises were to be carried out at the time of this year's event, so we negotiated with Chevalier College to hold the event in their Arts Centre. Richard Krohn resigned as Chair in December 2019 & I took on the role. Unfortunately, in March 2020, the event was cancelled due to the Pandemic. We will be looking for a new Chair Person to run MUNA in 2021.

SCIENCE & ENGINEERING CHALLENGE & DISCOVERY DAY

The 2020 Science & Engineering Challenge & Discovery Days were

organised for the last week of May. Eight high schools and twenty-three primary schools had been invited to register when it became apparent that the Covid-19 pandemic would mean that the events couldn't be run. Much to the disappointment of the schools, the 2020 event was cancelled. It is hoped to run the Challenge and Discovery Day in 2021.

INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE

There were no incoming or outgoing exchange students in the period July 2019 – June 2020.

PP Brian Ritson introduced Des and Nerida Rudoph who extremely generously donated \$5,000 to the Club on behalf of Samuel Gee Pies and Pastries in Mittagong (Editor's note: I can vouch for their delicious products). On behalf of all members, Thank You!



Finally: President Rod sets the scene for 2020-21:



Thanks to Past President Robert and his Board whose year was disrupted by the virus but congratulations on the many things achieved in those first 8 months.

Keeping the Club together with meetings by Zoom has been important to us all. These are certainly uncertain times and we don't know how much or what we will be able to do and when.

But ... the Club is sound and financially strong. We have assets of over \$100 000 and our cash reserves for projects are over \$57,000 with \$34,000 of that not committed to particular things.

So there are things which we will be able to do without having to raise funds for the moment.

We will still be doing the things we always do like Dream Cricket, the Bowral Cycle Classic, Bong Bong Races, Tulip Time, MUNA, RYLA, RYPEN, Summer Science Schools, Global Youth Exchange, the Science and Engineering Challenge and Discovery Day and barbecues, the celebration of our 80th Birthday, film and Quiz nights and everything else. We just don't know which and when yet.

The Welby Community Garden will become a reality over the next few months and will have opportunities to build garden beds, a potting shed and amenities. We might be able to hold work party meetings there giving us a chance to

show that we are still in action and maybe introduce new members while we do a project.

I am very pleased to introduce the new Board. Thanks to them all for taking on the leadership of the Club. Every Member of the Club will have an opportunity and obligation to take on tasks to be engaged and responsible for the Club and to take the load off the Directors and share it around.

Six months ago I set a target of 45 Members including 20 women by the end of this Rotary Year. That is going to be harder but it is still my target.

I will be relying on the Board and every Member to get us through the next few months so that we emerge stronger after the virus is gone.

President Rod presented a small gift and flowers to Robert and Mara



Your new 2020-2021 Board

