

Tulip Times Club Bulletin: 4-2-25
Volume 86 No 27

Stephanie A. Urchick
2024-25 President
Rotary International



Bowral-Mittagong
Rotary
District 9705
Chartered 26 March 1940



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www.bowralmittagongrotary.com

Board of Directors

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Bob Miller
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Trevor Fair - Treasurer
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Robbie Allen
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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

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
4 Feb	Bowral Bowling Club	Rod Aistrop-Membership Talk	Denise Coad	Robert de Jongh
11 Feb	Bowral Bowling Club	Steve Hallis- Membership Talk	David Patton	Will Eddowes
18 Feb	Annesley	Club Assembly	Trevor Fair	????
Feb 22/23	Annesley	Mental Health Training	NA	NA
25 FEB	Bowral Bowling Club	TBA		Ian Johnson
23 Mar	Bundanoon	WSC planting BBQ		
1 July	Annesley	Club Changeover	TBA	TBA

NB The journalist and International Toast Roster may have changed. Check for your name.

ROTARY CLUB OF BOWRAL-MITTAGONG TULIP TIMES BULLETIN

February 4, 2025

JOURNALIST – Denise Coad

VENUE – Bowral Bowling Club

Sergeant Lynton welcomed Members and Guests.

We are now back to our routine after a week off. Our Guest Speaker sometimes has a different opinion than the rest of us - Rod Aistrope.

Robert de Jongh is doing the International Toast and Invocation.

Mary Crammond has brought along a Guest – Patrick.

Tony Glenn's back operation has been a success. After 3 days in bed he was able to walk to the coffee shop.

President Bob Miller hopes we are all rested so we can apply ourselves to the community and each other.

Our Journalist is Denise, and we are still seeking volunteers to give the current journalists a break.

We are all looking forward to Rod's presentation.

The hosting of the 300 ACT Scouts to a luncheon BBQ on Thursday January 16th at the PCYC Mittagong proved to be a success even though they were 2 hours late.

Celebrating Australia Day at the home of Bev and Ian Donges was a memorable occasion made enjoyable by perfect weather, beautiful food through Members' contribution, and meat prepared by our specialist chefs, and great fellowship.

THANKS IAN AND BEV.

Our Pizza Lunch on January 24 celebrated January and February Member Birthdays. As always, it was enjoyed by all who attended.

The Bowral Blacks Rugby Club hosted the ACT Brumbies and NSW Waratahs at Eridge Park last Saturday. It proved to be a new challenge with 3,500 tickets sold.

We did find space without environmental damage, and it all worked out well in the end due to wonderful help from Claudia Fair, Trevor, Lynton, Tim, Dennis, Robert and David McCosh.

Club Assembly is best suited to Annesley because of the floor space and ability to facilitate small groups of problem solvers. Next Annesley meeting is on the 18th February. There will be further information on the format planned for the evening.

We have received a recent request from the WSC to hold a sausage sizzle on Sunday 23rd March at Bundanoon to celebrate a public planting day.

Thanks to Denise Coad for organising and planning Australia Day. Denise wanted to pass on her thanks.

Denise Coad thanked Members, Partners and Guests who attended Australia Day. It was one of the best we have had for many years. Everyone contributed wonderful food, and we all sat out under the trees enjoying each other's company, and celebrating Australia Day in the beautiful home of Ian and Bev.

President Bob Miller we have asked WSC Mayor Jesse Fitzpatrick to join us for a Meeting.

International Toast – Robert de Jongh

Today, 4th February, is one week and thirty-nine years since the 1986 Space Shuttle Challenger disaster.

The cause of the disaster was the failure of the primary and secondary O-ring seals in a joint in one of the solid rocket boosters. The record low temperatures on the morning of the launch had stiffened the rubber O-rings, reducing their ability to seal the joints.

The O-rings were manufactured by Morton Thiokol near Brigham City, Utah, USA. NASA ignored warnings from Morton Thiokol's engineers that there was significant risk of failure of the O-rings due to the low temperature on launch day.



Shortly after lift-off, the seals were breached, and hot pressurized gas from within one of the solid rocket boosters leaked through the joint and burned through the aft attachment strut connecting it to the external propellant tank and then into the tank itself. By this stage the shuttle was travelling at almost twice the speed of sound and the aerodynamic forces tore the shuttle apart 73 seconds into its flight, killing all seven crew members aboard.

Immediately after the disaster newspapers unfairly speculated that the fault lay with Morton Thiokol.

Named for the Mormon leader Brigham Young, Brigham City was settled in 1851.

Brigham City Rotary Club is located in Box Elder County in District 5420 which covers 45 clubs in Utah. The club was chartered on 1st September 1921 and has 42 members led by President Randy Christensen.

The club's projects include supporting the Box Elder Community Pantry which is similar to our support for the Bowral Uniting Church Pantry; an annual Chalk Toss Festival which appears to be similar to Holi, the Hindu Festival of Colours; and an annual Birding Event where prizes are awarded for the number of bird species identified, and for the best photographs. Proceeds from these events are mainly directed to providing books for children in Box Elder County.

Please be upstanding and toast the President and Members of the Brigham City Rotary Club.

Ian Donges Quiz

Won by Rod Aistrope – Margaret Court (Smith)

Member Presentation – Rod Aistrope ORIGINS

Aistrope name arrived in Adelaide from England when John and Emma Aistrope arrived on HMS Rodney. Mix of Silesian Prussian, other English and Irish and 4 generations later in 1947 there I was.

Bachelor of Technology, Adelaide University in 1970 working for Kinnaird Hill de Rohan and Young, consulting engineers.

Met Mignon, a nurse studying mid-wifery on a blind date bottling wine in 1972 and married in 73 - 51 years and 3 kids and now 4 grand children later here we are.

Our eldest, Matt, 46 lives on the Atherton Tablelands above Cairns FIFO to Groote Eylandt, Tim, 44 teaches at University of Kent, Canterbury, UK and Jane, 42 in Christchurch.

In 1976 Minnie and I took off for South Africa on our way to do mandatory drive around Europe. Just started work when riots in Soweto started. Just like Tim and Alison Bowland it was something of a new experience.

Built some roads, Minnie worked in operating theatres and recovery in a Joburg hospital.



Interesting experience but one year was enough.

To Europe and up to Sweden and Norway, down through Germany and Austria to Greece, across to Italy and Spain and back up through France to London - worked in a pub in Wandsworth.

Back to Adelaide for our first born then to Rockhampton then managing a consulting practice in Port Moresby for 4 years. Joined RC Boroko and left POM with two more kids. Arrived in lovely Canberra in 1983.

Our children grew up in Canberra on a 16 Ha farm block with horses and space - lived in a shed nearly 2 years until we finished the house.

Started Aistrop Engineers in CBR in 1984 - people kept asking where are the other engineers?

Put the business on hold while running a practice in Sydney for 3½ years which taught me that I didn't want to work for someone else ever again.

Arrived in Bowral in June, 1999 and restarted the business. Rejoined Rotary, this Club that year. Here we are 26 years later and don't appear to be going anywhere else.

PROFESSIONALLY

An interesting and varied career.

Summer job setting out horizontal wheat silo Gladstone north of Adelaide. Overcame fear of heights bolting up roof purlins for cash - 25m up and everyone else gone - pretty stupid.

Fortunate to join Kinnaird Hill de Rohan and Young, consulting engineers in 1971. Very progressive in promoting projects that they would then design and manage.

West Lakes land reclamation project, a similar one at Outer Harbour for AMP called North Haven, Football Park and much later after I had gone the Ghan Railway.

I worked on West Lakes, mainly in supervision of some of the earthworks - 9 million cubic metres excavated and placed by dredging and dry excavation. Designed dog's ball bend for extra million cubic metres.

Football Park built because the SA Cricket Association wouldn't allow improvements at Adelaide Oval. 3 years on that designed all civil works, grass growing, specifications, supervision and project management - as a young engineer a lot of experience on one job. Opened in 1974 capacity 55 000 but two years later they had 66 000 for the grand final.

You know you are getting old when you outlive the monuments you build. When Adelaide Oval was finally rebuilt it was the end for Football Park. Closed in 2015 and demolished in 2019. The grass lingers on as the training ground for the Adelaide Crows.

South Africa in 1976 and early 77 - deep immersion into a very different world. Beautiful country but apartheid ruled. 3 jobs as Site Agent for a construction firm building roads and a subdivision with about 45 African and coloured workers. Again great experience but I feared revolution was coming. Fortunately FW de Klerk was brave enough to have Nelson Mandela lead a mostly peaceful transition.

Back home to Adelaide in 1978. Designed the drainage and services for the 2500 space car parks for the Noarlunga Regional Shopping Centre in the southern suburbs and supervised construction of a transport depot then off to Rockhampton for a job with the QEGB - big mistake. Never a government employee.

Port Moresby from 1979 to 1983.

Joint Manager of an engineering consultancy - first one half owned by a PNG national engineer. A new set of challenges but learned a lot in the 4 years there.

Projects included re-construction of Enga Highway from near Mt Hagen to Wapenamunda in the highlands and town planning studies for Mt. Hagen and Goroka.

Changed the client base from only government roads and bridges to private buildings and land development. Left with 3 of the 4 major buildings in POM under construction and design.

To Canberra where I did a couple of subdivisions then established Aistrope Engineers Pty.Ltd. in 1984. A bold move some would say.

Fortunately I fell in with Humes Precast Concrete in 1986 who asked me to help out with a design for bridge footings on a major road in Canberra, Hindmarsh Drive.

39 years and many bridges and other things later and they are still my biggest and best client. I have done over 120 arch bridges and about 40 deck bridges for them over the years.

We captured the market in the days when the NCDC was developing new suburbs and the city was growing rapidly.

The highlight for me remains the Molonglo River floodway relief bridges built using precast concrete arches on concrete piles and headstocks on the new highway in 1993 from the southern suburbs up to the Military College is at Duntroon. There were two south bound bridges of 8 and 11 cells done in 83 and for which we received Engineers Australia's Canberra Division Engineering Excellence Award. The north bound duplication was built in 2003.

Another interesting use of Bebo Arches was at Molong north of Orange where we realigned the Mitchell Highway over the Main Western Railway which takes the India Pacific Train. Rock was exposed in the existing cutting and we designed footings seated into the rock about 2 metres above the rails. It reduced the size of the footings and arches and saved quite a bit for the state. You're welcome.

Another day another bridge. This time at MacArthur where we did a lot of fancy detailing to reduce the amount of work on site and maximise the benefits of factory precasting. The job became an advertising brochure feature.

The last example of the big arch project which I have designed is a 105m long 21m wide by 7m high arch bridge over two rail lines for access to the Jiblebar Mine near Newman in the Pilbara.

Now-a-days I do independent design reviews of bridges and components mainly for haul roads for new mines in WA. I have another 6 to do in the next few weeks.

And just to show that I have done other things than bridges another of my enduring clients is Ace Gutters. I did a new factory for them just a couple of years ago.

OTHER INTERESTS

I have a few other interests as well including Rotary of course.

I have been on the Engineers Australia's Sydney Division Southern Highlands and Tablelands Regional Group since 1999 and chaired it for 5 years. We started our monthly dinner seminars under my watch and are now into our 20th year. Our 149th seminar will be at the end of March.

I was a Director of Argyle Community Housing with Trevor Fair for 7 years and of an Affordable Housing Development Company for 4½ years. For both of those we grew the businesses both in terms of the business structure and the number and value of properties owned and people housed. They continue to thrive today.

I have been a Director of Challenge Southern Highlands for 12 years, the last 8 as Chairman. That too has grown and consolidated increasing its assets, range of services offered to people with disabilities and the number of employees to around 150 at the Welby Garden Centre and at Growing Abilities in Goulburn. It is one of the best things I have ever done.

But the second best thing I did was joining Rotary in 1983. Being a part of a movement which does so much good in the world is such a source of pride and achievement. Knowing you all and sharing the things we do to make the world a bit better is a joy.

We have done a lot. 15 Science and Engineering Challenges and 9 Discovery Days here and another 11 Challenges down in Goulburn with near on \$300 000 raised from our sponsors so far.



I think I have been on 9 RAWCS trips with some pretty special people to some pretty special places.

But the best thing I ever did was find and partner up with my Special Lady, Mignon and raise a fine bunch of people to carry it on.

Thanks for listening.



Thank You – Ian Johnson

Raffle – Graham Castle

Won by David Patton – 3 Hearts

Leigh Robinson has been appointed Club Secretary to assist Trevor Fair in the Treasurer role.

Rosemary Kelly will continue looking at Bong Bong Racecourse for future projects.

Ian Law will continue as Chair of the Fundraising Committee

Robbie Allen met with Yuna's parents. Tomorrow Yuna will move to her new Hosts – Leigh and Stephanie Robinson

Rosemary and Lynton attended Bob Barrett's 90th Birthday.

Robbie Allen – great to see you back!

Next week our Member Presentation - Steve Hallis

Birthdays

FEBRUARY: Denise Coad 9th, Allan Falvey 10th, Graham Castle 11th, John Hoelle 24th, Steven Hallis 27th.

MARCH: Tony Glenn 1st, Vanessa Aylett 9th, Luciano 22nd, Bruce Sutton 24th.

Bob Barratt OAM, 90th Birthday

Past DG and President of our club, with his wife Barbara past President of Berrima District.

Happy Birthday Bob





Imperial Hotel Pizza Birthday Lunch

Youth Report

Last Friday afternoon, Stephanie and I were surprised by a call from Vanessa, “Yuna’s parents will be in Bowral this afternoon for a short time, would you like to meet them?”. The answer, of course, was “Yes”. Along with Bob Miller, we spent a very pleasant hour or so with Hideto and Kana, communicating through ‘Translator’ on our phones.

Later in the afternoon PE Robbie was similarly surprised by a knock on her door from the Uemuras.



The short meetings were very fortunate for Hideto and Kana to meet some host parents and Club members. It also gave us the opportunity to explore a Japanese family and to expose them to some things Australian.

Thank you Vanessa for making these meeting possible.

Leigh Robinson

The week that was

The Australia Day lunch at the Donger's ranch was a huge success. The weather was perfect, the lamb chops were delicious, the setting serene and the company could not of been better.

Thanks Donger's.



There is a new road sign on the approach to Mittagong, coming from Sydney. Thanks to Leigh, Bob and others. Thanks Moss Vale Rotary Club for their contribution to make it happen. Plus the Arborist who trimmed the trees.

Quote of the day



**The best way
to find yourself
is to lose yourself
in the service of others.**

Can you help out here?



Bring in your old laptops and phone (with Chargers) so they can be recycled to help our domestic violence campaign.

*Also, Bring in some items each week to add to the Uniting Church basket
. Non Perishable food, Toiletries ETC*