

Tulip Times Club Bulletin: 5-12-2023

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Bowral-Mittagong
Rotary
District 9705
Chartered 26 March 1940



RI President:

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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)

If you are an apology please text or phone Denise Coad 0416009395 or email

denisecoad@bigpond.com by 5.00pm Friday before the Tuesday meeting. By default, it will be assumed that members are attending.

"What's On?"

Date	Meeting Venues	Speaker/ Topic	Journalist
8,9,10 Dec	Corbet Gardens	Food & Wine Festival	N/A
12 Dec	Bowral Golf Club	Christmas Party	Will Eddowes
2024			
9 Jan	Southern Highlands Winery		David McCosh
16 Jan	Bowral Bowling Club	Chris Benton Lawn Bowls meeting Partners and friends welcome	Tim Bowland
23 Jan	Café Annesley		
26 Jan	Ian & Bev Donges	Australia Day gathering	
30 Jan			Ian Langford

The Week That was.

December 1st. Family and Domestic Violence.

“Say YES to Respectfull Relationships”



December 2nd Angels In Our Town Parade



2nd December. Youth Exchange Students

Exchange students Asher Aylett going to Japan &

Penelope Hampson going to France in January.

Penelope attends Frencham school in Bowral.

They were spotted in Corbet Gardens with Pres Don



The Rotary Club of Bowral-Mittagong Meeting
held Tuesday 5th December 2023.

Venue: Bowral Bowling Club.

Journalist: Ian Langford.

Menu: Roast Turkey, mashed sweet potato, baby peas and crisp prosciutto. This was followed with plum pudding and custard.

Sergeant Lynton Kettle called the meeting to order and welcomed the many guests attending: The guest speaker Huw Lawford, his wife Trish Lawford and their daughter Emma Lawford-Smith, Vanessa Aylett, Anil and Praz from Nepal, Ria McCosh, Robyn Liberale, Blake (from Pepperfield), George Cox

(guest of Ian Donges), David Patten (guest of Lynton Kettle), and Ken and Michael (guests of Luciano Liberale).

Fay Christie was also welcomed back after a long absence and as Mary Crammond is now "part of the furniture" she was not formally welcomed.

Sergeant Lynton introduced our **President Don Graham** to the microphone. Don explained that business announcements would be got out of the way first and quickly tonight as the speaker will be requiring more time than usual.

Announcements.

Will Eddowes.



Will announced that he wanted to organise a "Shed Day" to tidy shelves etc. and throw out a lot of items that are never used. He was proposing next Monday or Thursday and 9:00am, Monday 11th seemed to be the favourite. Some hands went up including those of Rosemary Kelly, Graham Castle and Robbie Allen plus a few others. Anyone who can help, please contact Will Eddowes (0423 356 190).

Ian Langford,



Ian explained that the Food and Wine Festival gates roster was now 100% covered and the first shifts start at 5:00pm this Friday, 8th December. There will be some security staff with us to inspect bags and to confiscate any alcohol being brought in. The licence only allows alcohol to be purchased within the gardens. The ticket company staff will also be on site and Ian has been assured that the scanners are easy to use. We will see if that's right on Friday!

As it could be hot over the festival, volunteers should ensure they are appropriately dressed and bring with them water, sunscreen and if needed, a hat. Also please get to your shift early enough to learn what's required and if applicable how to use the scanners before your shift starts.

Robbie Allen. Robbie explained that the Interact Club wished to borrow the Rotary Club's barbecue trailer. Luciano Liberale volunteered to tow the trailer to and from the venue.

Rosemary Kelly.



Rosemary thanked everyone for the contributions towards the Christmas Party Hampers and said that there might be enough goodies for four hampers and certainly enough for three. She said bring plenty of cash to the Party for raffle tickets. Funds raised are for the Uniting Church Christmas charities.

Rosemary also passed on the thanks from the Uniting Church for our support of their pantry. They have noticed that in recent times, demand for food etc. has increased. If you miss bringing contributions to a weekly meeting, you can deliver it directly to Church Pantry.

Rosemary thanked members for attending the "Angels in our Town" procession on Saturday in some very threatening weather which managed to skirt around us. She thought there were about twelve of us there.

Denise Coad. Denise outlined the upcoming events. Next Tuesday is the Rotary Christmas party at the Bowral Golf Club and then a break until the 9th January 2024. The first meeting next year will be at the Southern Highlands Winery on 9th January and then the following week on the 16th January will be traditional annual "barefoot" bowls in memory of the late Chris Benton. On the 23rd of January we will be back at Café Annesley

and then all meeting on the 26th for an Australian Day barbecue at Bev and Ian Donges home. Let Denise know if you will be going to the Australia Day barbecue so catering can be planned.

Mary Crammond. Mary reported on our efforts last Friday in Corbett Plaza promoting awareness of domestic and family violence in the area. The police attended and also helped.

Tim Bowland. Tim reported on efforts to contact new residents in the area about Rotary. **Allan Falvey** is able to pass on a letter about the Club to people moving into the area and buying a house.

Luciano Liberale.



Louie reported that the Children's Cancer Institute Australia will be having an event at the Southern Highlands Winery on the 17th February 2024. President Don reminded the Club that about \$300,000 has been raised, mainly by Louie over 30 years to help the Children's Cancer Institute to work towards their target of eliminating children's deaths from cancer.

Louie also let the club know that his nephew, Damien Liberale has been selected as a Commandant with the Royal Australian Navy. Congratulations.

President Don Graham then invited **Dominic Williams** to recite the **Invocation** and the **International Toast**.

International Toast:



Tomorrow, the 6th of December is the Independence Day of Finland it having achieved independence in 1917 from the then Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic.

Finland was ruled by Sweden for many centuries prior to the 18th century after which it predominantly came under Russian rule.

The subject of independence arose on several occasions however, Finland needed to develop a national identity and national institutions. Governing bodies for Finland were developed after 1809, with the approval of Tsar Alexander I. In 1812 Helsinki was named the capital city. Its own currency was adopted in 1860 and the Diet of Finland (Parliament) met regularly from 1863.

National identity grew and the population was encouraged to use the Finnish language (instead of Swedish) and eventually independence was formalised, the final trigger being the Russian Revolution.

There are 10 Rotary Clubs located in Helsinki, the first chartered on 10th June 1962. The others chartered predominantly in

the 1990s. The oldest is the Pohjois-Helsinki-Norra Helsingfors Rotary Club (Northern Helsinki Rotary Club) comprising 18 members led by President Petri Johenin.

The Club actively supports The Rotary Doctor Bank of Finland which is funded by all Finnish Rotarians. The medical bank has operated in Tanzania since 2002 in the hospitals of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania. Volunteer doctors and dentists are sent to Tanzania (for periods of at least 6 weeks) through the Medical Bank with financing provided by the Finnish Rotary Clubs and grants from the Ministry for Foreign Affairs.

In recognition of the Northern Helsinki Rotary Club and the collective of the Finnish Rotary Clubs and their works with the Medical Bank, please be upstanding and toast the members of all Finnish Rotary Clubs and their success in sustaining a joint international project.

Guest Speaker.

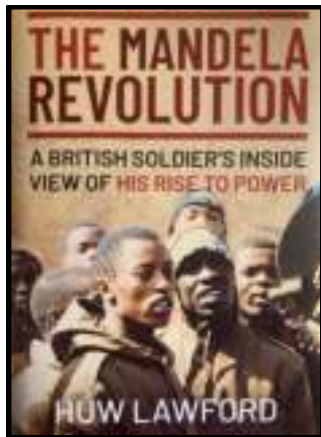
Rosemary Kelly then introduced our speaker for the night, **Huw Lawford**.



She told us that Huw joined the British Army in 1978 as a University Cadetship Officer reading economics and politics at Hatfield College, Durham University from where he graduated in 1981.

He was commissioned into the Royal Regiment of Artillery the following year. Huw has had many tours of duty all over the world, he was selected to join the team being formed to deploy to South Africa on the election of President Mandela in 1994.

Huw is going to speak to us tonight on the book he has written called the Mandela Revolution, A British Soldiers inside view of his rise to power.



Huw gave us a succinct summary of the task ahead for Nelson Mandela to unite a nation through reconciliation and integration when it was so divided due to its history and the years of apartheid.

Huw gave a potted history of South Africa which covered the arrival in 1652 of van Riebeeck and traders, not as colonists but as a service port with trading posts. The Hottentot, nomadic tribesmen with cattle, coexisted initially with the trading post and in 1657 several members of the Dutch East India Company decided to stay on in the new land when their contracts were due. They then marked out land and farmed moving eastwards. The only rule was that the farmers could trade with the Dutch East India Company but not directly with visiting ships. 1688 brought the arrival of the Huguenots and continued expansion eastward. These farmers were more independent – Boers. The Hottentot were driven off the land or forced into labour.

In same period from the arrival of van Riebeeck to 1780 there had been a similar expansion of people; this time from the Great Lakes of central and eastern Africa. These were the Bantu peoples and included the dominant tribes of the Tswana, Xhosa and Zulu.



Boers meet Xhosa. The Xhosa were a totally different challenge compared to the Hottentot. Organised, well-armed and quite clearly had claimed the eastern side of the Great Fish River. Stand-off for many years.

What could possibly go wrong? The British.

After Napoleonic Wars, British rule. Then English is to be the language and the administration. English settlers in 1820. In 1836 the Great Trek started to form their own lands, the SAR (Transvaal and OFS). Inevitable clashes and this time with the Zulu

There followed a period of move and counter-move between the British and the Boer, with annexation and handing back of territories and of course with the discovery of diamonds and gold

80 years of conflict with Blood River in 1838, Anglo-Zulu war in 1879, the First Boer War in 1880-81 and the Second Boer War 1899-1902. Ultimately this led to the formation of the Union of South Africa.

In 1948 the defeat of FM Smuts and the formation of the National Party government of DF Malan followed on in 1961 by the Premiership of Verwoerd, who many see as the architect of apartheid.



This brought segregation, resistance, formation of the MK and APLA, retribution and long, insurrection. At the same time border wars in SW African (now Namibia) and Angola with white conscript SADF. This lasted from 1966 until 1990.

Continued civil unrest especially in the townships. Although primarily a Police responsibility the SADF (South Africa Defence Force) were brought in when things got really difficult.



Eventually a leader who broke the mould FW de Klerk and then the release of Nelson Mandela in 1990. The general election of April 1994 and the inauguration of Nelson Mandela as President in May 1994.

1990-93 negotiations identified the need for a new defence force that:

- no longer presented a threat to its own people,
- reflected in its composition the ethnicity of its people,
- built on existing structures not to start from fresh.

This would require integration of all parties' security forces to form a new 'national defence force'. The challenge was to integrate Regular vs Irregular, defenders of a regime and those wishing to bring it down and unified forces vs politically motivated fractious forces.

The Quandary. Would we or you accept this? Political necessity over military common sense and most importantly it had to be integration and not absorption.

It was decided that the practical aspect of the integration would benefit from the presence of a 3rd party acting as a mentor, an umpire or referee to ensure the principles of fairness were applied, not one side was seen to dominate, and that the overarching political imperative was understood, applied and achieved.



The British Military Advisory and Training Team South Africa was born (BMATT).

This was Huw's job to **Validate** the criteria and standards for the South African National Defence Force, to **Monitor** Assessment, Selection and Training across all four Arms of the South African National Defence Force and to **Adjudicate** if disputes arise between the parties involved in the integration process.

Huw described how BMATT went about this task, talked about some of the characters involved and ultimately the success of the operation.

Huw finished by describing the 1995 Rugby World Cup final against New Zealand. On June 24, 1995, at Johannesburg's Ellis Park Stadium, South Africa won the Rugby World Cup 15-12 over its arch-rival New Zealand. The match stands as a hugely symbolic moment in South African history. It marked the nation's first major sporting event since the end of its segregationist apartheid regime in 1991. And in a masterful act of statecraft conducted squarely in the international spotlight, President Nelson Mandela orchestrated a show of unity in one of the world's most bitterly divided nations, using the slogan "One Team, One Country."



Huw then answered questions mainly from a strong contingent of past South Africans or those who had lived in South Africa before **David McCosh** gave a vote of thanks and

presented Huw with a certificate of a donation to Australian Rotary Health.

His conclusion was to agree with his father's saying "In the Army never volunteer for anything."

[Note: A program that was shown on SBS last Sunday but can still be streamed on "SBS on Demand" called "*How Sport Changed the World*" describes how Mandela turned the division about the Springboks to unity. Look at about 50 minutes into the program and then to the end of the program to catch the relevant part.]

The raffle was drawn by Huw and Tim Bowland had the winning ticket (nut not the Joker).

Christmas Cracker or Bon Bon "jokes" included Q. What athlete is warmest in winter? A. A long jumper. Q. Why did the tomato blush? A. 'Coz it saw the salad dressing. ...and so on!

Next week is the Christmas Party at the Bowral Golf Club.



December Birthdays

Rose Conley 25/12 Barbara Humphries 19/12
Paul Leotta 19/12 Leigh Robinson 7/12

