



Tulip Times

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

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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 29 November, 2016	Tuesday 6 December, 2016
Location	Golf Club	Golf Club
Program	My Life and Job – Member talk	AGM
Speaker	John Elder	A/President
Intro/Vote of Thanks	A/President	A/President
Dinner Fees	Darryl Flegg	Tony Glenn
Journalist	Ray Coulton	Will Eddowes
Regalia	Cathy Hussey	Rosemary Kelly

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

Reporter – Our Learned Friend Tony Glenn



Guests: Tom and Jenny Carroll (Wingecarribee Mens Health, Linda and Graham McLaughlin (Principal Tangara School) and Tony McElhinny (Challenge South Highlands)

DG Steve Hill, AG Matt Froome, FoR Keith and Margaret Young

President Linda opened the meeting.

President Linda invited **DG Steve Hill** to propose the toast to Rotary International. DG Steve achieved that with brevity and sincerity.

There was no **International Toast** which was missed by a number of us.

Community Director Rosemary Kelly reported on a request from **Bowral Adult Day Care Centre** which will see Members attend in the new year to undertake essential grounds work.

President Linda again reminded the members of the fundraiser film night arranged by Gerry Kroon on **Thursday 24 November – Start at 6.00pm**. WE ARE SHORT ON NUMBERS DUE TO COMPETING EVENTS THAT EVENING. **The film is The Founder** based on the life of the founder of McDonald's. Members and partners are encouraged to attend and bring along as any friends and acquaintances as they can arrange. PLEASE MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO BRING ALONG ADDITIONAL FRIENDS AND ACQUAINTANCES

The purpose of this evening is to celebrate **100 Years of Rotary Foundation** during November that being "Rotary Foundation Month" in the Rotary calendar.

RIP John F Germ sought assistance from Rotary Clubs for the presentation of a number of Paul Harris Fellows. At the encouragement of Our Director for Foundation, Simon Knight, our

members nominated a number of worthy community representatives as follows:

PP Lynton Kettle introduced to us Tom Carroll (well known to the many of us who attend the November Men's presentations):



"As a result of having prostate cancer in 2005, and after his retirement in 2006 as a pilot for Qantas flying Boing 747-400's, Tom became involved with the local Prostate Cancer Support Group (PCSG). Tom became the local convenor, and has been active since in providing support to men in the Southern Highlands area who have prostate cancer and would like to talk to someone who has been through a similar experience. Tom is also the Secretary of Wingecarribee Health Association for Men (WHAM). Tom has been very involved in WHAM's mentoring program, as well as fund-raising to help facilitate WHAM's activities.

In 2014, Tom (as convenor of the PCSG) was approached by urologist Dr Nestor Lalak, who had the idea of the Men's Health Month – a series of talks by local specialists, GPs and associated health professionals concentrating on various aspects of men's health. Tom was very willing to get involved, and since then he and WHAM have worked to make the idea a reality. Dr Lalak approaches the doctors to present different topics, Tom and his WHAM colleagues (mostly Tom), put the evenings together (a series of four presentations over the four weeks of November). 2016 is the third year of the series of presentation - there is any number of topics to cover – ranging from men's prostate health/problems to dental health and mental health to diet and exercise.

Each year the number of men (and women) attending has grown, with numbers consistently above 100 each session.

Tom is passionate about men's health and breaking down the barriers to men taking a greater interest in their own well-being."

PP Rod Aistrophe introduced us to Tony McElhinny (well known to all us through the various projects that we have undertaken for the Welby Garden Centre):

"I have known Tony McElhinney for 5 or 6 years since our Club built a shade house at Welby Garden Centre - many Members had a hand in that project and other projects we have done since.



Tony has a Commerce Degree from Western Sydney University and worked in finance and managerial roles before becoming General Manager of Paraquid which he took through a period of significant change and led its transformation into a modern sound business.

In 2002 he joined Challenge Southern Highlands as General Manager.

When Tony took over as General Manager, Challenge employed 35 people with varying levels of disabilities with annual turnover of a million dollars operating the Welby Garden Centre.

Since then Tony has diversified the range of income earning operations to include a half dozen manufacturing and packaging activities, wrapping and delivering newspapers and garden

maintenance as well as expanding and raising the quality of the garden business.

By increasing the range of work and the spread of clients, Tony has ensured a more stable and sound underpinning to the business. At the same time operating income has doubled and reliance on government support has dropped from 25 to less than 14% of total revenues. There are now 15 management and training staff.

More importantly, Tony has secured employment for 45 people with disabilities doing worthwhile work and earning their own income, building and enjoying their own community and having rewarding full lives.

The Welby culture of support and respect for each other encourages enthusiasm, innovation and job satisfaction and a sense of ownership of their enterprise in a safe environment which has been created under Tony's leadership.

The construction of Challenge House is now under way and will provide safe accommodation for people with disabilities transitioning from living with parents to living in group housing in the community. This has been Tony's vision and some 6 years in the making and will come to fruition in mid next year.

It has been a privilege to be caught up in and share his dedication and service above self to the disability community, seeing how he makes a real difference in so many people's lives.

I am proud to commend Tony McElhinney as a Paul Harris Fellow."

Finally and not least Simon Knight introduced us to Linda McLaughlin, who was nominated by President Linda and Maragert Young (many of us know Linda through previous Club projects at the School):

"Linda McLaughlin holds the position of Principal at the Tangara School for special needs children in Renwick.



Linda is truly dedicated to this role and epitomizes our motto of "Service above Self".

Simon concluded with a visual presentation accompanied by the following words:

"This evening we are celebrating 100 years of the Rotary Foundation.

The Rotary Foundation transforms our donations into projects that change lives both close to home and around the world. As the charitable arm of Rotary, it taps into a global network of Rotarians who invest their time, money, and expertise into Rotary priorities, such as eradicating polio and promoting peace. Foundation grants empower Rotarians to approach challenges such as poverty, illiteracy, and malnutrition with sustainable solutions that leave a lasting impact.

These "special schools" as they are known colloquially, are schools that cater for the educational needs of children with intellectual and other associated complex disabilities.

Linda has experienced a great sense of satisfaction and purpose working in this area of education. At Tangara School she has lead the school staff, students and families in a series of strategies to renew the school program.

She believes that inclusive practices and extra curricula activities are essential to the school program for special needs children. Linda is part of a terrific team of staff that supports students to have great individualised educational programs and:

- swim in the school pool,
- participate in horse riding for the disabled,
- have specialized art and music classes,
- have integrated activities with local primary and high school students
- participate in Art competitions,
- take part in the Tulip Time parade and ANZAC Day ceremonies,
- enjoy visiting school orchestras and;
- participate in Dream Cricket.

Visitors to the school, like Linda and me, are always impressed by the array of activities that engage students in its beautiful setting.

The school staff strives to achieve the aim of:

"Every Student, Every Opportunity, Every Day".

In many ways, our Rotary Foundation is the foundation of Rotary as we know it. It has created a mechanism for cooperation and partnership among clubs, and between Rotary and other organisations; it has enabled us to be even more ambitious in our work and to reach goals of historic proportions, such as the eradication of polio. Can a single Rotary Club like ours change the world? I doubt it, but Rotary International through the Foundation can and is. It is impossible to quantify the good that has been done over the past century as a result of the Rotary Foundation.

Just this month the Association of Fundraising Professionals in the United States recognised the Rotary Foundation with its annual award for Outstanding Foundation. The award honours organisations that show philanthropic commitment and leadership through financial support, innovation, encouragement of others, and involvement in public affairs. The judges cited Rotary's comprehensive campaign to eradicate polio as a major driver of the selection. They also mentioned that Rotary applies a methodical, purposeful approach to support a wide variety of causes, from providing clean water to educating the next generation of peace professionals.

To celebrate this centenary Rotary International suggested we give Paul Harris Fellow awards to outstanding members of our local community who epitomise the Rotary motto "Service above Self". A nomination to become a Paul Harris Fellow represents a donation of US\$1,000 to the

Rotary Foundation. We asked our members to nominate people deserving of this recognition. We have four nominations, three of them are with us tonight, and one unfortunately who could not make it.”

The recipients of the Paul Harris fellow Awards are exemplary members of this community and unquestionably justify the recognition which this Club has bestowed upon them.