

# Rotary Club of Epping

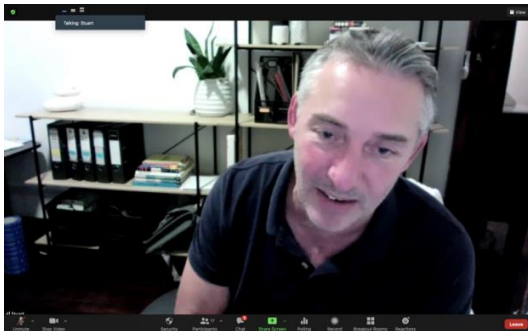


**5 July  
2021**

## Co-presidents' Corner

Last Monday saw a return to Zoom meetings. Who would have thought a year ago, as we slowly returned to 'face to face meetings' that we would be in this predicament again? Nevertheless, 18 members joined the meeting where Bruce conducted a Q&A with Licensee of the Epping Hotel, Stuart Heher. Our guest speaker shared with us his experiences living with his family (including 2 children, a cat and dog) at the pub, the change of 'drinking culture' from the Aussies' 6 schooners a day after work to the younger generation of drinkers who are more mindful of their alcohol consumption, to the effects of Covid lockdowns on the hotel trade. There was an opportunity for members to ask their own questions. We certainly learned a great deal and at the same time were able to share with Stuart our positive feedback in regards to our weekly meetings at the pub. It has proved to be mutually beneficial situation. Thank you to Bruce, our very own Michael Parkinson, for his insightful interview of Stuart.

### Narelle Barker



Stuart Heher



Our own Michael Parkinson, Bruce Jacob



### Next Monday

Due to the extension of the lockdown in Greater Sydney, we will be 'Zooming' again next Monday night, 12 July. We will open up at 6.30pm for fellowship before our guest speakers from RYDA – National Program Manager John Elliott, NSW Metro Program Co-ordinator Tracey Grinter and RYDA facilitator Megan Quintiliani speak at 7pm. It promises to be an interesting and informative meeting. I hope that as many people as possible are able to join the meeting.

Zoom details are:

**Link to Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5526138035?pwd=ZVRMTnRwTEdPYndKUUFkYUVjT2J0QT09>

**Meeting ID: 552 613 8035**

**Passcode: 866069**

The meeting is 7pm – 8pm with fellowship commencing online at 6.30pm.

**Changeover Update**

We are expecting to hold our Changeover at the Epping Club on either 9 or 16 August, but will confirm as soon as we are able.

**International**

For those members who were going to attend the 'Cocktails and Canapes by the Bay' at the home of Craig and Diana Gallagher, the new date is Saturday 16 October. Fingers crossed there will be no lockdowns or restrictions to prevent this fundraiser for San Isidro School going ahead.

**Epping Community Gardens update**

Wednesday saw the next step in the development of the Community Garden. The concrete slab pour for the garden shed. The shed will store all the gardening equipment needed for the staff and students. The garden shed has been ordered and will be ready in the next 3-4 weeks.

**Peter Garrard**



**Looking for Bright Ideas to Help Others**

Epping Rotarians are very imaginative, as past projects to help others have shown. We are now asking for suggestions for projects to support our local community or overseas that may be eligible for a Rotary Foundation District grant.

Grants for our local community can be as much as \$3,000 (to be matched by our club) and \$6,000 for projects overseas (also to be matched by our club). Projects need to be started and completed in this Rotary year. Last year a district grant was used to start our community garden at North Epping PS.

Applications for grants need to be submitted to the District Committee by 15 July 2021 so please contact me ASAP if you have any ideas.

**Monica Saville**  
**Rotary Foundation Director**

## The Mystery of the Abandoned Clothes

### An Epping Rotary Club Event



I was sorry I had not included my knitted balaclava in my kit as traces of a morning frost were still damp and cold enough to infiltrate the layers of my vest and outer garments. I was greeted by a small assembly of fellow Rotarians and friends as I climbed out of my car.

I had given the intended route some considerable thought. In these times, a track wide enough to allow two parties to pass without one infecting the other with an unintentional spray of Covid 19 seemed desirable. I had sought a path not likely to be infested with leaches and lawyer vines or moss covered tree roots and slippery stones. It was important that there should be a minimum of uphill grunt and downhill out of control sliding and that sort of thing.

'Brown's waterhole,' I suggested brightly.

This drew little response. It didn't seem to matter. Despite my concerns, those present seemed less interested with the itinerary than with the opportunity to connect with one another and to carry out some necessary muscle stimulation in the most important places and in the least painful way.

A steep fire trail led down to a whale-like rock formation and then to a creek crossing. I always experienced my greatest anxiety at this point. It was the place most likely to cause considerable wetness at best, or a compound fracture at worst. To my delight, loose stepping stones and slime covered surfaces had been replaced by a plank of wood. A member of our group had thoughtfully created this bridge the day before. It had required a considerable inconvenience to drag it out of who could imagine where and to place it across this dangerous obstacle.

The bell birds were tinkling their bells in warning to the cockatoos that were flying in formation, screeching and intimidating. They were demanding their right to inhabit the best hollow tree trunks and branches in the suburb. There was some impressive Real Estate available. Smooth, grey gums stood tall and magnificent creating an environment that is unique to this corner of the world.

There was a pile of garments on a rock beside our path. A hot pink fluffy jacket, a light grey base layer and a pair of black gloves were all neatly folded. Instinctively we looked down the embankment. Perhaps we were searching for a body. Maybe a partially clad or even naked person was lying concealed among the rainforest saplings and scrub. Could it be that a Bogle and Chandler style mystery was about to unfold? It had happened on New Years Day back in 1963 on the banks of the same river and just a few kilometres downstream from where we were now standing. We would be first on the scene and have our pictures in all the tabloids. It was an intriguing thought.

One in our party prodded tentatively at the clothing with her walking pole. Perhaps she was searching for traces of blood. Vomit maybe. Bogle and Chandler had vomited. There was none here.

We walked on. The turnaround point was soon reached. Brown's Waterhole; once a place where children happily swam and played on a sandy beach was now a place of broken plastic bottles and detergent contaminated water. But it did have a picnic table. But was it a Covid free picnic table? I hoped it was.

I distributed the Tim Tams and then hijacked a passing walker to operate a camera for us. I wanted to record the happy occasion: the Tim Tams, the picnic table and us. He took our photograph and in return, I rewarded him with a Tim Tam. He seemed pleased by this. We exchanged pleasantries. It occurred to me that for him, this might turn out to be the highlight of his day.

How little we know of our fellow humans. We pass them in the street or in this case, on a bush track. Two life journeys briefly intersecting and creating a moment that can never be erased. I liked the thought and pondered it all the way back to the pile of garments.

They were still there but they were different. Somebody had removed some of the evidence. I was again reminded of Dr Bogle and Mrs Chandler. Her handbag had been removed sometime before the police had arrived. The culprit was never found. Neither was the murderer.

Tentatively, we walked on. An uncertain menace now hung in the frosty air. I zippered up my jacket and shoved my hands deep into my pockets.

A young girl was coming towards us. Her outer garments looked familiar. She was wearing a pair of black gloves and a light grey base layer. Was she the owner of the clothes? It seemed she was. She appeared happy and unconcerned for her safety and for her remaining and seemingly abandoned possessions.

We completed the walk in less than ninety minutes and that included the short forensic investigation of the abandoned clothes. According to an average of the distance measuring devices belonging to members of our group, we had covered 6.3 kilometres. Not bad for a company where the average was 61!

Should anyone reading this like to join us, we meet every Thursday morning at 8.30am at North Epping Bowling Club. Can you see yourself in the picture at the top of this page? Then why not come along? You would be most welcome.

You can phone me anytime.

Trevor McAlister on 0449126896

## **RYDA turns 20!**



2001 was a red-letter year in many ways – digital television arrived in major state capitals across Australia, Fellowship of the Rings won the Oscar for Best Cinematography, Australia mourned the loss of cricketer great, Sir Donald Bradman and the world watched on in horror as the twin towers fell in New York. For many these events feel like they happened yesterday when in fact, they were a generation ago. Another important thing happened in 2001 – a road safety education program for teens, now known as RYDA turned a serious need into sustained action.

Read more in the newsletter <https://rse.org.au/issue-38/>

## **A Rant from Trevor**

What do you think of his most recent letter to 'Rotary Down Under'? You haven't seen the article? Then perhaps you might take a look and find out if it triggers the same response. ....

Dear Editor,

I write in reference to your article 'Capturing the Cool Kids'. It is in the last issue of 'Rotary Down Under'. While I do my best not to be critical of this fine magazine, I cannot help but to be appalled at the kind of commentary which expands on the 'bleeding obvious' and which seems to say so much without saying anything. Nowhere does Mr Brown offer one suggestion of any practical worth as to how we can gather his so-called 'Cool Kids' into our fold. Where does Mr Brown come from and what world does he inhabit? Over here in this country we stopped referring to kids as being 'cool' (or 'hot') about the time I started shaving.

Sadly, Mr Brown has not given us one strategy which our Club could use to attract the young professionals and the so called, 'cool kids' along to our meetings and participating in any of our projects.

I may be a little harsh in singling out Mr Brown as this sort of failure is regularly repeated in the pages of this and previous issues of 'Rotary Down Under'. Every one of us is concerned about the falling membership in our Clubs. But nobody ever seems able to suggest some strategies which might actually work

I actually happen to love our little group of committed Rotarians who meet every Monday evening around 6.00pm. For our size, we make a significant contribution to our community. It saddens me to see this organisation slowly withering before my eyes. We are surrounded by young families and professional people whose priority is to do their best for their families while paying off the outrageous mortgages that are expected if one is to sleep under a roof in this suburb. Many are newly arrived Australians who come from an entirely different culture to ours.

So come on please, let us have some useful dialogue that gives us some strategies which might actually turn our declining membership around and enable us to market ourselves more effectively to the so called 'cool kids' in our community.

Yours sincerely,

**Trevor McAlister**  
**(Epping Rotary Club)**

### **Julie Jones- past Epping Member now President of Woy Woy**

On Friday 25 June, Julie Jones became President of the Rotary Club of Woy Woy so Di Walker and I went to support her. It was a lovely evening where she had some of her former neighbours from North Rocks also in attendance. Julie is one of the few Presidents to have the Club changeover before the Covid lockdown.

**Deretta**



### **District Governor's Welcome**

#### **Thank you - PDG David Clark and team**

Rotary changeovers, whether in person or virtual, are an opportunity to acknowledge the tremendous effort undertaken by all involved at every level throughout the Rotary year.

The movie *Groundhog Day* springs to mind. Coming out of hibernation, Dave as DG, was on the road every day covering the entire district. Dave has made up for where COVID restricted him at the start of his term.

Thank you Narda for your support of Dave, as the role of DG isn't a one year or one person job. A lot goes on behind the scenes to keep the show rolling and a huge team of; committee chairs, assistant governors, sub committees, club presidents and executives.

The John Hopkins University survey estimated a total of expended hours at 47 million volunteer hours' worth US\$850 million. No wonder you feel like a battery recharge is required this week. DG Dave's report mentioned examples where District 9685 clubs have delivered outstanding, life changing projects. These are the tip of the Rotary service iceberg. So many people have contributed countless hours of effort and expertise to ensure that D9685 remains as the premier district in Australia and ranks highly worldwide. Thank you!

Congratulations for what was achieved in 2020-21, and now, I'm asking you to do it all over again.

#### **District Governor Lindsay May**

Who am I?



I was raised in Wollongong and a competitive swimmer and surf life saver. I've worked as a computer programmer, founded and ran a direct marketing company, sold that in 2016 then retired July 2020 to concentrate on the role of District Governor.

My introduction to Rotary was in 1977 on Group Study Exchange to Canada. Joined Lane Cove in 1978 and served in most club roles.

Assistant Governor 3 terms, Club Service Advisor, District Training Chair, Membership Chair and Rotary Foundation Chair 2009-12 and appointed to the 2014 Sydney Convention Host Organising Committee.

A Paul Harris Society member and Major Donor, I'm committed to supporting The Rotary Foundation and was a member of TRF Fund Development Committee 2018-21, tasked with raising US\$2.025 billion by 2025 for the Endowment Fund.

Over 40 years I've visited most clubs usually to talk about my yachting exploits which include 4 Sydney Hobart wins across 47 years and competed overseas in all 4 major offshore yacht races.

Tania and I want to make the most of this wonderful opportunity and get out amongst D9685 Rotarians doing what they do best, serving their communities with projects to change lives.

As District Governor, I have set 6 goals for myself;

- Meet every club in person, and Tania will join me where possible
- Engage our Grants committee with more collaborative humanitarian projects
- Increase contributions to The Rotary Foundation
- And Rotaract: We must identify and invest in our future Rotary leaders
- Achieve membership growth of **2022 by 2022**
- Celebrate your successes at district conference 18-19 Mar 2022

Tania and I are actively engaged Rotarians and encourage every member to aspire to RI President Shekhar Mehta's theme ***Serve to Change Lives***.

I believe the lives we change are not only those we touch, but also our own.



**SERVE TO CHANGE LIVES**

## **RIM ARTICLES**

Please send RIM articles to Alan at [alan.baker.om@gmail.com](mailto:alan.baker.om@gmail.com) or [secretary@eppingrotary.org.au](mailto:secretary@eppingrotary.org.au)