



CHARTERED 16<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 1928. CLUB NO. 18035, DISTRICT 9685.

Meeting Thursdays 12.30 for 12.50pm at North Leagues Club, Abbot St Cammeray.

(Please Note: No meeting on the last Thursday of each month). ISSUE NO 3936 Thursday 2nd November 2017



President Silvio Gmur

## Board Members for Rotary year 2017-2018

**President:** Silvio Gmur    **Secretary & Administration:** Ross Waugh  
**Community Service:** Jenny Thomas    **International Service:** Samantha Lee & Jiji Lee, Co-Directors,  
**Youth Service:** Peter Lulic    **Membership & Public Relations:** Jenny Thomas  
**Rotary Foundation:** John Taylor    **Treasurer:** Doug Garner  
**Guest Speakers:** Geoff Prichard    **Vocational Service:** Kevin Thomas  
**District Conference & Verification Officer:** Denis Booth    **Bulletin Editor:** Mal Sharpe

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

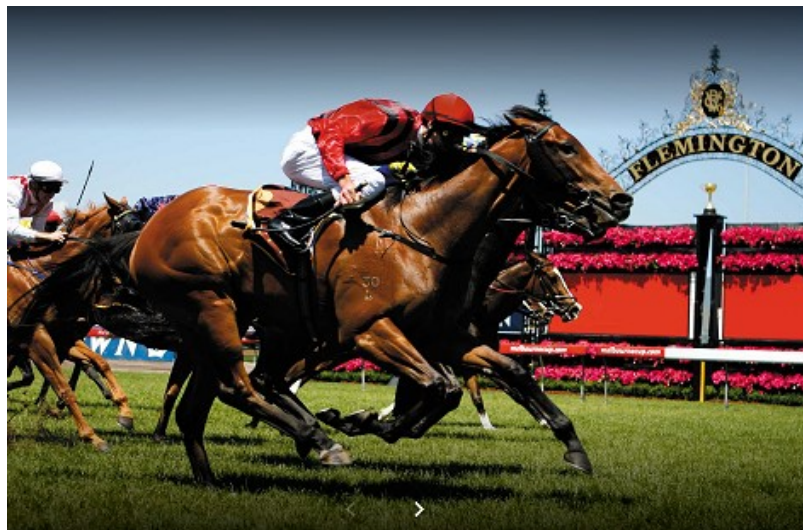
**GET READY FOR THIS WEEK'S MELBOURNE CUP CALCUTTA EVENT!**

**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2017 Meeting.**

Invite your Partners and Friends to make this a Fun Day for all. - Enjoy a complimentary Glass of Bubbly on arrival! **Meeting commences 12.15 pm for 12.30 start.**

All being well we will have 24 horses to auction, so get in early and bid for your favorite horse to ensure you are on a winner!

The takings will be pooled and split up into 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> placings. A small proportion of the total purse, as always will go toward funding community projects.



**LAST WEEK'S PRESENTER,**  
**by distinguished Rotarian Lily Lee.**

**“MEMORIES OF WAR AS EXPERIENCED BY A CHINESE GIRL.”**

(2nd Sino-Japanese War). We had the great pleasure to hear from Rotarian Lily Lee of her memories of war as a 5-year-old child from 1944 to 1945.

Her story was enlightening and informed us of facts of this particular war most of us were ignorant about. Lily recalled herself as a lucky child, as she was brought up in the south of the country, far away from the horrors of war. She clearly remembers the day in August 1945 when she heard fire crackers all over the town and people started shouting "The war has ended! We won!"

Thanks Lily for an interesting and inspiring talk!

Lily Lee is also an accomplished writer having published two books in English on cultural topics of Chinese Women.



**Rotarian Lily Lee**

**“North Sydney Rotary Club Christmas Elves”,**

Sincere thanks to the volunteers who assisted Jenny Thomas with the work of preparing the gift request tags for 30 “Trees of Joy!” which will be displayed in corporate offices and public places all over the lower North Shore. Last year we collected 3000 Christmas presents for the underprivileged which were distributed to various charities on the Lower North Shore and the City. We are working towards repeating this achievement



**RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Award)**

**APPLICATIONS EXTENDED TO 30 NOVEMBER!**

Successful applicants aged 18 – 27 years of age will be fully funded by North Sydney Rotary Club to attend this Prestigious leadership event for young people. Ask your Friends, Family and Acquaintances for candidates!



**Rotary Youth Leadership Award**

**January 7 – 13, 2018 at Elanora Heights**

[www.facebook.com/rotarynorthsydney/](http://www.facebook.com/rotarynorthsydney/)



**“For Good Food, Good Fellowship and the Opportunity to serve through Rotary, we give thanks”.**



**ROTARY:  
MAKING A  
DIFFERENCE**

## Club Meetings & Events

Date	Speaker	Subject
2-Nov-17	Melbourne Cup Calcutta	Invite Partners and Friends for this exciting event!
9-Nov-17	District Governor Peter Ward	District Governors Visit
15-Nov-17	2017 North Shore Local Business Awards	Our Club sponsors this award. Venue Norths
16-Nov-17	Club Forum Project 90+ Discussions	Meeting in downstairs Bistro
18-Nov-17	Crows Nest Markets	Come along to check out our Club's fund raiser activity
23-Nov-17	General Club Fellowship	Meeting in downstairs Bistro
30-Nov-17	No Meeting	
2-Dec-17	Seniors Luncheon	Crows Nest Community Centre
7-Dec-17	Club Forum Project 90+ Discussions	Meeting in downstairs Bistro
14-Dec-17	<b>Noel Phelan Sydney Maritime Museum</b>	The Story of MV KRAIT

Date	Birthdays	Date	Anniversaries
13-Nov-17	Ted Sheedy	27-Nov-17	Brendan & Christine Walsh
22-Nov-17	Brendan Walsh	29-Nov-17	Silvio & Andrea Gmur
24-Nov-17	Silvio Gmur		

Date	Front Desk & Room Set Up Attendance Required from 12:00pm
2nd November	Jeff McDougall & Tony d'Arbon
9th November	Philip Brook & John Taylor
16th November	Denis Booth and Ross Waugh
23rd November	Jeff McDougall & Tony d'Arbon
30th November	No Meeting

## Visitors & Apologies for 19th October 2017

### Guests

**Guest Speaker:** Lily Lee

### **Leave of Absence:**

Robert Lau

Kevin Thomas

### Apologies

Wilfred Chee

Doug Garner

Jeff McDougall

Malcolm Nicklin

Ken Pratt

Brendan Walsh

### **Humour by Geoff Prichard**

#### **The Blonde and the Lord...**

A blonde wanted to go ice fishing. She'd seen many books on the subject, and finally getting all the necessary tools together, she made for the ice.

After positioning her comfy footstool, she started to make a circular cut in the ice. Suddenly, from the sky, a voice boomed,  
"THERE ARE NO FISH UNDER THE ICE!"

Startled, the blonde moved further down the ice, poured a thermos of cappuccino, and began to cut yet another hole. Again from the heavens the voice bellowed,

"THERE ARE NO FISH UNDER THE ICE!"

The blonde, now worried, moved away, clear down to the opposite end of the ice. She set up her stool once more and tried again to cut her hole.

The voice came once more,  
"THERE ARE NO FISH UNDER THE ICE!"  
She stopped, looked skyward! and said,

"IS THAT YOU LORD?"

THE VOICE REPLIED,

"NO!!!

THIS IS THE MANAGER OF THE HOCKEY RINK!" \_

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**ROTARY CLUB OF NORTH SYDNEY OUTWARD BOUND EXCHANGE STUDENT AND RECENT ROTORACT GRADUATE REPORT ON THE 2017 ROTORACT SAILING CRUISE OF THE DALMATIAN COAST**

Sitting at a corner table in an outdoor café in Dubrovnik, Croatia, I take in the scenery. I am wedged in a narrow alley between a 400-year-old Cathedral and a baroque style apartment block with green venetian shutters. Under my feet, the large flagstones are worn smooth by thousands of feet tramping up and down, stunning in the reflective sunshine and relatively lethal in the rain. The live gypsy swing band has the entire streetscape humming and tapping along to the music. Like the people around me I am smiling at the magical moment, and it is the perfect setting to reflect on the massive adventure I just returned from.

Many of you reading this may have already been privileged enough to explore Croatia for yourselves, and know of its undeniable utter beauty and rich cultural history, and it would be difficult to adequately describe it to those of you who are yet to tick it off your travel list. Therefore, I believe that it will be of more interest for me to share some honest musings from my trip rather than just to re-write a tourist agency's brochure on "5 Reasons You Must Visit Croatia". However, this may end up being one and the same, I'll let you be the judge.



Now for some context. While Dubrovnik is clearly stunning, my original purpose for being in Croatia was to attend the 2017 Roteract European Sailing Trip (REST), held along the Dalmatian coast and run by Roteract club Ljubljana. Having recently joined the Northern Beaches Roteract club off the back of my enriching RYLA experience, I found out about the Roteract trips and set my heart on joining the sailing adventure before beginning my exchange in the nearby Czech Republic. The trip itself was in its 5<sup>th</sup> year, and consisted of a fleet of 10 Hansa 554 yachts containing 90 international sailors from predominately mainland Europe, 10 skippers, 7 nights and several picturesque destinations. We started and ended the trip at Split, and visited the islands of Brač, Vis and Hvar. In order, each of them are uniquely known for the Roman imperial palace of Diocletian, medieval monasteries, ex-Yugoslavian secret military complexes and stunning British and Austrian fortress towns.



Like all Rotary and Roteract events I have attending, I left with a handful of lifelong connections forged, plenty of postcard worthy photographs, and a greater understanding of local and regional history and culture. Therefore, I shall try to present more of a critical assessment of the environment I was able to immerse myself in.

Having now being a Rotary International exchange student, a RYLA participant, a Roteract European Meeting (REM) conference attendee and REST sailor, I have noticed a common trend across all of these experiences, which is increasingly reinforced. In my experience, individuals who are drawn to pro-social, community-oriented, cross-cultural organisations such a Rotary and Roteract, tend to have similar characteristics and moral principals that gravitate around the inherent values of the organisations. They are open-minded, curious, altruistic, mindful and generous beings irrelevant of their background, and it is predominantly this prevalence of like-minded and -valued people that keeps driving to continue my connection with the organisations.

I am really looking forward to benefiting from some of these forged friendships when I start my semester-long university exchange in Prague next week, and can visit both old and new Rotary and Roteract connections on my free weekends, who share this. However, for the first time attending any event, this set of values was not entirely reflected in everyone involved. Interestingly, it became quite clear that there was something of a divide within the overall sailing group, but not one defined by geography or nationality, rather one based on values. Many in the group, largely not Rotary or Roteract affiliated, were revved up to enjoy a week of non-stop partying and this created a level of disengagement within the overall group. I suppose the blatant commercialisation and marketing of European coastal sailing trips as a Contiki extravaganza is to be expected, as who doesn't want to enjoy themselves on sapphire seas with others, but I had hoped that this trip would be different.

This may have been naive of me, and I felt determined not to have to justify my intent on making memories that I would remember in the morning and exploring the physical and cultural landscape of each destination. However, this unexpected situation provided me with a unique opportunity and there were many positives to come out of this 'creative abrasion'. It helped to reaffirm my values, practice inter-cultural negotiation and conflict resolution, and prove to myself that I can make truly top-notch burritos for a boat load of hungover people while in a kitchen that is rocking about 30 degrees in either direction. Additionally, the revellers regular loud returns from their night of

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partying ensure that I woke up to see more sunsets that I believe I have ever seen in my entire life, and each one was uniquely and unforgettably spectacular.



It was not only sunrises that blew me away, but also the Mediterranean sunrises, which could often be clearly visible from horizon to horizon, and reflected on the lime-washed buildings and calm ocean in the brightest technicolour. I attempted to even try and paint a few but could never quite capture their phenomenal brilliance. This overwhelming chaos of colour was a common feature across the whole trip, and to be found in many of the natural and architectural structures of the locations we visited.

In the towns, the green wooden Venetian-style shutters on the white sandstone buildings, with their red terracotta rooves, and lines of vibrant laundry arching the narrow alleyways was dreamlike and almost fantastical. It felt like walking through a movie set of a town almost, but the almost cartoon nature of the cities was balanced by the gravitas of its natural back drop. For example, there was something that felt larger-than-life and almost sacred about floating in the permanently royal blue Adriatic and watching the imposing grey-blue mountains crest along the coastline.

In fact, upon reflection I realised that I have never experienced these two contrasting environments in the same moment. In my mind, drawn in kindergarten-esque scribbles, the ocean and mountains were on opposite sides of what nature could look like, as it was never a feature of my NSW/ACT, Germany or England based life experience. It was such a simple and easily accommodated moment of cognitive dissonance, but it highlighted to me how much I still took for granted and the value of challenging and expanding my worldview.

Opportunities like this, often provided through Rotary and Roteract, have had an immense impact on helping me build the skills I need to improve and evolve the way I relate to myself, other people and the world around me. It is easy to get overwhelmed and want to shrink from the craziness of the diverse and dynamic world we live in, especially if you dare to leave the house, let alone your hemisphere. However, as a direct result, I find I am increasingly capable of making the most of the situation, regardless of how left-field it may be, and that is something worth toasting. So, *'živielli'* to those of you still reading, for I am off to finish my beer and see what the afternoon has in store for me.