

# HORIZONS

## Central Blue Mountains Rotary

*Effective - Energetic - Enterprising - Empowered*

Rotary District 9685 - Australia

Wednesday, July 24, 2019



The team with social worker participants

Photo: Ian Scott

## Family and Community Conflict Resolution in Mongolia

A project officially launched in Mongolia on 16 July, 2019, after a year of planning, with the assistance of a Rotary International Global Grant and the Rotary clubs of Ulaanbaatar and Central Blue Mountains....see page 4.



# up front

## Rotary Connects the World



Thursday, 11 July 2019

I love to travel! I even enjoy the mundane process of getting from here to there. But last year, my wife, Gay, and I had one of those experiences that would strain the optimism of even the most cheerful traveler. We found ourselves with six hours to wait, at an airport where we were not scheduled to be, on a day we had not planned still to be traveling, having woken up that morning at a hotel unknown to us the night before. It was one of those days.

As we waited at John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York City, Gay and I took a walk to people watch. We went from one end of the terminal to the other and back, looking at every gate, every destination, every group of people waiting for their flights.

Each gate was its own island of humanity. When we walked down the center of the concourse, we were in New York, moving along with everyone in one river. But when you veered off into those seats, you left that current and landed on an island. You were already in Delhi or Paris or Tel Aviv.

As we started our walk, I thought: "All these different people, all these different countries, all in one place. This is like Rotary!" But as we walked past gate after gate, I realized something. It was not like Rotary at all. Because everyone in that river was heading for an island. And every island stayed an island. The people heading to Taipei might be talking to one another, but they were not talking to the people heading to Cairo or Lagos.

Contrast that with Rotary. Rotary allows us to connect with one another, in deep and meaningful ways, across our differences.

It connects us with people we would never otherwise have met, who are more like us than we ever could have known. It connects us with our communities, to professional opportunities, and to the people who need our help.

Connection is what makes the experience of Rotary so very different from walking along that concourse at JFK Airport. In Rotary, none of us is an island. All of us are in Rotary together, whoever we are, wherever we are from, whatever language we speak or traditions we follow. We are all connected to one another — part of our communities and members not only of our clubs, but also of the global community to which we all belong.

This connection is what lies at the heart of the Rotary experience. It is what brings us to Rotary. It is why we stay. Please join your fellow Rotarians on this journey as Rotary Connects the World.

*Mark Daniel Maloney*  
Rotary International President



# SAVE THE DATE!

Enjoy dinner with Rotary  
International President  
for 2019-2020,  
Mark Daniel Maloney



## Monday 23rd September 2019

The Deckhouse, Clarke Road, Woolwich  
6.30pm for 7.00pm

\$70 - two course meal - Welcome drink on arrival  
Dress: Business attire

Registrations: by 15 September  
[www.trybooking.com/523543](http://www.trybooking.com/523543) - Seating is limited.

*This is an opportunity for Rotarians and guests to meet  
and hear from our international leader.*

*For more information contact PDG Gina Growden  
0412 128 106 or [gina.growden@bigpond.com](mailto:gina.growden@bigpond.com)*

*Please turn to the next page*

# WhatsOn....

## July

**Wednesday 24** - Robyn Thomson - Resilience Management (Beyond Risk Management)

**Friday 26** - Lawson School breakfast club

**Saturday 27** - Catering van at Woolworths, Katoomba

**Wednesday 31** - Karen West - Organ donation awareness for teens

## August

**Friday 02** - Lawson school breakfast club

**Wednesday 07** - Dr James Hunter - Maritime Archaeology

**Wednesday 14** -

**Wednesday 21** - Foodbank pick up and delivery

**Thursday 22** - BM Grammar School Athletics Day

**Saturday 24** - Catering van at Woolworths, Katoomba

## Man on the Moon was an Honorary Rotarian



*Former U.S. astronaut Neil Alden Armstrong was an Honorary Member of the Rotary Club of Wapakoneta, Ohio, U.S.A. Armstrong died August 25, 2012. He was 82.*

If you receive an email about ham pork and spiced meat don't open it.  
It's SPAM

## Guest Speaker 24 July



*Robyn Thomson*

Robyn Thomson is a Resilience Coordinator working at Sydney Airport within a security and resilience team. Her key role is to look after emergency management facilities and equipment as well as help build our incident management system.

Having received her Bachelor in Aviation (Management) in 2017, Robyn is currently in the process of completing a Masters in Aviation.

She says business continuity and resilience frameworks present the new era in risk management.

"Where once organisations were concerned solely about how to minimise the potential for risk events occurring, resilience management explores the 'what if': what needs to be done if a worse case scenario takes place."



*Please turn to the next page*

# Vocational Training Team Puts a Year of Planning into Action

The launch was hosted by Mrs Ulziikhutag Nachindagva, head of the Family Development Division of the Authority for Family, Child and Youth Development, and along with staff, also present were Mrs Inchinkhorloo Ragchaa, the Judicial Mediation Officer from the Judicial General Council, Rotary Assistant Governor for Zone 9 in District 3450, Ms Munkhjargal Ayurzana, Rotarians, representatives of NGOs, and the Press.

The role of Professor Namjil in asking Australian family mediation specialists to pass on their learning to help families was acknowledged, as was the work Dr Katherine Johnson put in to develop a project to meet that need.

Noted also was the work of Rotary, through the clubs of Ulaanbaatar and Central Blue Mountains, who developed the global grant proposal that gave the project a vehicle to deliver the training, and financing through support from districts, clubs and individuals matched by the Rotary Foundation.



Dignitaries included the Australian Ambassador to Mongolia, His Excellency Dave Vosen and Mrs. Tungalagtamir, Head of Population Development Department, Ministry of Labour and Social Protection.



Earlier this year, a group of Mongolian professionals in mediation, family law and community conflict resolution visited Australia to gain knowledge of Australian legal and organizational frameworks for family law and community dispute resolution.

Now, the Mongolian section of the project will provide skills in conflict prevention and management at the judicial, government department and community level.

Past District Governor Jennifer Scott, who is the Training Team Leader, said Mongolia is only one generation from being herdsmen and we are training in very basic conditions in a gur (tent) camp.

The participants are psychologists, social workers, child protection officers, lawyers and teachers - all working with the department of family youth and children.



The ger camp, is 2½ hours by car from Ulaanbaatar, "It's very basic, has no hot water and sometimes no water at all, but we are training and smiling.

"One essential ingredient was desperately needed though, and a Ulaanbaatar Rotarian came to the rescue with many packets of filter coffee.

"This is typical of the hospitality of the Mongolian people involved in the project and their families, whether from government departments and agencies or Rotarians; they all contribute their time and resources with great generosity," Jennifer said.



"We are training them in conflict management and basic mediation skills," Jennifer Scott said. "These participants will form a core of skilled people who will intervene to prevent and resolve family conflict."

*story and images: Ian Scott*

*Please turn to the next page*





# in the Gobi

*The Gobi Desert is the largest desert in Asia and fifth largest in the world. The desert stretches in two countries territory.*

*It extends out to Mongolia's south and on the other side it reaches out to northern and northwestern parts of China.*

*A Mongolian vast zone of desert and desert steppe covers almost 30 percent of the Mongolian territory.*



*This is what Past District Governors get up to when they visit Mongolia.*

*They just can't resist taking time out to stand in the Gobi Desert or ride a camel.*



*Please turn to the next page*

# Mountain Ghost

It had been about 100 years since the Ghost was last in Mudgee. It really is a lovely town with nice buildings, good parks, good restaurants and of course the Vineyards.

## MUDGEE

### the perfect escape for a gourmet country adventure

The Mountain Ghost's better half had been suggesting a wine tour of the Bordeaux region of France for many years. The Ghost had suggested a beer tasting tour of Katoomba, so the compromise was a visit to Mudgee last weekend.

What a great decision. The weather was perfect, the traffic was light and the people speak English not French.

It had been about 100 years since the Ghost was last in Mudgee. It really is a lovely town with nice buildings, good parks, good restaurants and of course the Vineyards.

The Ghost took a slightly longer drive from Lithgow via Rylstone and Kandos (home of Kandos Cement) and the little village of Lue. Café on Louee at Rylstone was a good stop for coffee. Rylstone is definitely worth visiting in its own right.

What the Ghost liked about Mudgee was that if you did not want to tour wineries there was so much else to do.

The Ghost and Mrs Ghost went for a cheese tasting (great cheeses locally made), the Olive Farm (great olives and dips) and the famous Mudgee Honey Haven. Plus the usual arts and crafts and local produce.

The Ghost was spoiled for choices to eat. He settled for lunch at the Lowe Family Vineyard and it was fantastic. Blue Wren and Gilberts also offer great lunches and Di Lusso Estate wines have the best pizzas in Mudgee. Oh by the way these places also sell great wine too.

There are just too many wineries for the Ghost to visit and review so he just may have to make another trip. Some of the ones he visited were Lowes, Short Sheep Micro Winery (this is a must visit) Moothi Estate Winery, Craigmoor and Robert Stein Winery which also has a museum of vintage motor bikes.

The Ghost also visited Pieter Van Gent winery and was able to buy the famous white port. Also First Ridge Wines have some unique Italian wines. This was an interesting winery as built from a shipping container and had great views.



*First Ridge Wines - This was an interesting winery built from a shipping container. It had great views.*

There are also some excellent places to eat in Mudgee itself. The Ghost stayed at a B & B just out of town that someone recommended, but of course it is now an AirBnB.

As always The Ghost likes to give a bit of history when he can. Mudgee was originally called Menah and gazetted in 1838. The name Mudgee was supposedly derived from the local Aboriginal name Moothi meaning "Nest in the Hills".

The discovery of gold in the surrounding areas gave Mudgee a huge boost. The poet Henry Lawson lived in the area for a big part of his life. Today, the town has a population of 11,000. It took the Ghost only about 2½ hours to get to Mudgee.

Two things you can do to help Mudgee – visit and spend some money locally, and secondly pray for rain. Everything is very dry. The Mountain Ghost hopes you like Mudgee.



*Gilberts*



# What actually does an Ombudsman do?



*CBM Rotary President Justine Murphy with guest speaker Richard Mills, a former Ombudsman.*

*Photo: Yung Kim*

Last Wednesday we were privileged to have a former Ombudsman as our guest speaker.

Mr Richard Mills, now retired, was Chief of Staff to the Defence Minister, head of the Cabinet Office in the Prime Minister's Department, and Deputy Commonwealth Ombudsman.

Now...everyone wanted to know: What actually does an Ombudsman do?

Well, according to Richard Mills, and he should know, Ombudsmen are independent. They are impartial and their services are free.

As an independent officer of Parliament an Ombudsman has great powers, similar to those

**“Ombudsmen investigate complaints about the actions of public authorities - but not Ministers. Ombudsmen have powers like a Royal Commission.”**

of a Royal Commission. He has responsibility to investigate the actions of public authorities including State Government departments, prisons, hospitals, schools and technical colleges, local governments and public universities.

In other words, Ombudsmen investigate complaints when something has been handled badly or unfairly, making someone suffer as a result. This is sometimes called maladministration.

“Almost two million public sector employees make decisions every day in health, education, welfare, immigration, tax, law enforcement, garbage disposal etc. Sometimes they make mistakes, make poor judgements, or even act unlawfully. They may be biased or arbitrary,” Richard Mills said.

“If you think a government department has made a decision that causes you some grief, you could ask them to review their decision. You could ask your local MP to make a representation on your behalf, maybe go to a tribunal, or even go to court. Or you might go to the Ombudsman and ask for your complaint to be investigated.

“Last year, the Commonwealth Ombudsman investigated about 40,000 complaints.

“On an occasion when the Ombudsman asks an agency to investigate a complaint, and the agency lacks diligence in investigating itself, the Ombudsman can even investigate the agency's complaints procedure.”

“Is having an Ombudsman a good idea? of course it is,” Richard said. “People have a basic right to complain if they feel infringed in some way.”

Can women be Ombudsmen?, Richard said they can, and they are. But in this crazy world of correctness, the title remains the same. They are not called ombudswomen or ombudspersons.

The word Ombudsman is of Swedish origin and the Ombudsman institution was in fact first established in Sweden in 1809. The term “Ombudsman” is an English translation of the Swedish word *ombudsman*, meaning representative.

Richard Mills suggested that Rotary could assist in helping people who are having difficulty with a government agency by suggesting they contact an Ombudsman. It's their legal right.

—Peter Hartley