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### Meeting Apology

Please use the club website **before 3 pm** on meeting day to apologise or add a guest, or you will be required to reimburse the club for your meal cost.

<http://www.kuringgairotary.org.au>

## This week

Michael Midlam Iceland

## Last Week

Graham Timms wine presentation and Greg Newling presenting Rotary Foundation

## Joint Meeting St Ives

Wed 8th. St Ives Rotary combined meeting at Pymble Golf Club)

No Monday meeting that week

## Membership Fees Now Due

President Roger expressed his thanks for the ten members who have paid their fees in the first week.

## Daffodil Day

Daffodil day collection Pymble Station Friday 24 August 6am to 9am

## Restaurant suggestions?

Judy Houghton advised we are having a Restaurant meeting in late September, and asked for restaurant recommendations for a Monday evening

## Youth Insearch

Youth Insearch needs assistance with relocation

## Clarke Road School

Monday 30 July is the last night to bring in Woolworths "Earn and Learn" stickers to help Clarke Road School. I delivered another 27 sheets on Wednesday and they were very grateful. Thanks to everyone who has contributed, Joy Newling.

## Membership

Michael Tyler

Michael advise we have a slight change to approach

i) retain members

i) increase membership

iii) Next Rotary awareness 27 August

## Len & Jean Jackson

Jean and I are currently in Cloncurry and will be heading for Mt Isa tomorrow morning. We are both healthy and the trip has been wonderful. Hope to be back in Sydney for Christmas . . . this year . . .

Kindest Rgds, Len and Jean Jackson,  
on their 12 month round Australia trip

## Bo Hospital

Get Fit and Help Bo Children's Hospital

Bo Children's Hospital are aiming to have a team of runners and walkers in the Pub2Pub Fun Run & Walk on Sunday 26 August. The 13 km event starts in Dee Why and finishes at Newport. Organised by the Rotary Club of Brookvale, this is the event's 20th anniversary. Register at [www.pub2pub.com.au](http://www.pub2pub.com.au) and start raising money now. All fundraisers who raise \$150 or more will go in the draw to win a 7 night Bali Getaway.

## Graham Timms Black Shiraz

### The black shiraz

One of the most interesting things about grapevines (well, it is to me) is that of all plant species, they have one of the shortest chromosome chains. In other words, they mutate at the drop of a hat.

That's why there are literally thousands of grape varieties that can be made into wine and why you can't grow grapes from seed - you have to grow them from cuttings.

Sometimes, very rarely, a new mutation will emerge that produces really interesting grapes. Mostly the mutations produce rubbish but for example fifteen years ago in a vineyard in western Australia a white skinned cabernet was discovered and the Australian wine research institute is still working with it. I've tasted the white wine it produces. It's very interesting.

All of this is a lead in to our new wine.

About forty years ago a farmer in Canowindra decided to get in on the start of the grape boom and planted a few acres of wine grapes. Being a farmer he didn't know much about grape growing and he used cuttings from some old vines growing around the Murga schoolhouse when the school was closed down. Heaven knows how old the original vines were or where they came from but everybody knew that they were shiraz and everybody knew that they produced good wine grapes because people used to pick the grapes for home brew.

Because he grew wheat he planted the cuttings on some useless land that he had - a granite outcrop in the middle of a paddock that he couldn't put the plow through.

The cuttings grew and he built rudimentary trellises, read a book about pruning and kept them in order.

## Graham Timms Black Shiraz

Back in the seventies you could sell any type of grape to anybody so he had no trouble selling his grapes and in fact in the late 1980s Orlando decided to offer him a twenty year contract and every year they sent in a machine and took the grapes away and everybody more or less forgot about this small vineyard in the middle of a wheat paddock

A few years ago our Cellarhand, Johnny, told us about his time working in this vineyard, about having to plant the cuttings with a crowbar, about the weird colour of the leaves and the grapes. He called it 'the black vineyard' because the leaves had this really odd black sheen on them. The grapes themselves were a really dark purple, almost black, colour but mostly, he called it the black vineyard because "it was a real bastard to work."

We went and had a look. The grapes were certainly a clone of Shiraz. The bunches hung like Shiraz and the leaves were shaped like shiraz but the colour was all wrong and the taste of the fruit (we sneaked a few bunches) was, or at least it always seemed to us, to be much more intense; sort of Shiraz on steroids.

We tried to get our hands on some of the fruit but it was no good. Orlando had the contract and they weren't letting any of it go.

The contract expired at the end of 2009. Orlando wanted to renew but the farmer was old, the vineyard was too hard to work and he had cancer. While he still could he wanted some of his grapes made into wine for him so he called us and we agreed to do a contra deal. We'd make the wine for him at no charge and cover all the costs if we could have half the grapes.

2010 was a good vintage. The yield wasn't high but the quality was excellent. Before we started we agreed with the farmer that if this was going to be his last vintage it was going to be the very best we could make it.

Over

## Graham Timms Black Shiraz

So instead of sending in machines we picked by hand. The pickers were given detailed instructions to ignore any damaged or imperfect bunches. When we got the fruit back to the winery we laid it out on sorting tables and picked over it again. In the end we crushed less than three tonnes - about a third of what was in the vineyard (which gives you some idea of what junk goes into a normal commercial wine.)

A three tonne crush produces around two and a half thousand litres of skins and juice so we transferred it into two fifteen hundred litre open stainless steel tanks for fermentation.

For two weeks every four hours, twenty-four hours a day (yes, we did get up at 3am) we pushed the fermenting skins down below the liquid - it's called plunging the cap - with a stainless steel plunger and then, when the fermentation was finished we recommissioned our old hand operated wooden basket press. It's bloody hard work but it gives you perfect control of the extracted wine.

We bought three brand new American oak and three brand new French oak barrels (Ap john eighteen month air dried medium toast - \$850 for the American, \$1,200 for the French) and filled them with the resulting fifteen hundred litres of new wine. Every six months we emptied the barrels into holding tanks, cleaned them and refilled them with the wine. This is called racking. In April this year the wine was bottled.

By the time the wine was bottled the farm had been sold and the new owners had no intention of maintaining the vineyard. The old farmer was in a hospice but I'm pleased to say that he got a chance to taste his wine before he died. It made him very happy but I understand that the heirs are still arguing about who gets the remaining thousand bottles.

## Graham Timms Black Shiraz

We dressed our share up with fancy lables and it's going to be Christmas and birthday presents for a long time. My business partner has persuaded me to put forty cases on sale because otherwise we can't enter it in wine shows but the price he is charging - \$40 - is extortionate for a Canowindra wine. That's not to say it's not worth it but nobody in the district has ever charged that. As far as I'm concerned it's not for sale.

Anyway, that's the story. It is undoubtedly the best wine we have ever made. It comes from a clone of shiraz that we have never seen before and probably will never see again. The vineyard no longer exists. The wine is still ridiculously young but drinking beautifully and we think that in ten years time it will be astonishing.

Please enjoy.

Each members was offered a taste, which was excellent

## Greg Newling Rotary Foundation

This year are participating in a project in Uganda using over \$17,000 from

The Rotary Foundation

(Our Club contribution to the project is \$3,300)

The mission of The Rotary Foundation is to enable Rotarians to advance world understanding, goodwill and peace through the improvement of health, the support of education, and the alleviation of poverty.

Polio Plus: Our Priority



- The Rotary Foundation is OUR Foundation
- It is funded mostly by Rotarians for Rotarians to do good in the World.
- It operates in more than 200 countries, and is one of the Worlds largest private NGO Foundations.
- We can go where governments, business and religious groups cannot go.

Rotary Foundation Centurion Member

Rotarian who contributes at least AUD\$100, annually

Tax Deductible

Centurion is the Aussie version of the Rotary EREY program

Districts and Clubs manage the Centurion program

District Chair: Vicki de Carle

## Greg Newling Rotary Foundation

Major Donors

Level 1. \$10,000

Level 2. \$25,000

Level 3. \$50,000

Level 4. \$100,000

Arch Klumph Society \$250,000

Tax deductible: District Manager: PP Margaret Dean

In recent years an ever increasing number of Rotarians in our district have become Major Donors .

Anyone who becomes a Major Donor before October 2013, will have this presented by the World President Elect at the Tri-District Dinner October 15th 2012

Rotary Centers for International Studies in peace and conflict resolution

- For a Masters degree at one of six Universities in Thailand, USA, Japan, UK, Argentina, Sweden, Brisbane Australia. 15-24 month course, 60 fellows per year.

- Professional Development Certificate for 3 months at Chulalongkorn University in Thailand. 50 per year.

- One of The Foundation's really important programs helping World Peace

For students to study abroad

and serve as ambassadors

of goodwill, Cost each:US\$27,000 paid

by The Foundation from the District

Designated Fund

2012-13 is the last year for the current program

Consult Committee Chair PP Martin Silink, Lane Cove Club

Clubs look for Applicants January-May

Application close May 31st

District selection is in August

Applicants to be Australian Citizens, not related to a Rotarian

## Donations in Kind

One of the ways of increasing world understanding is through the work of Donations In Kind (DIK). RAWCS - Eastern Region (Rotary Australia World Community Service) has a DIK warehouse in Prospect in Sydney which is a clearinghouse for serviceable equipment which is no longer required but which can be used to support Rotary projects in developing countries.

**Equipment** - The manager of the DIK warehouse, PP Miriam Jacka, is always looking for equipment. Typically the equipment that is most needed are items for schools and hospitals/medical centres. Please keep a lookout for such items:

Educational equipment, eg. school desks and chairs and other educational item, etc.

Health related items, hospital equipment, beds, bedside tables, instruments, linen, etc.

All equipment must be serviceable. Check with Miriam Jacka regarding the suitability of equipment before sending it to the warehouse. As the warehouse is not open all the time also please check with Miriam for a suitable time to deliver equipment.

Please note that the donating club is responsible for arranging the transport to the warehouse in Prospect.

Please read the guidelines regarding delivering donated items or arranging to send a container overseas.

**Books** - These are not managed by DIK but donations are coordinated by the DIK "Book Arm", the Ranfurly Library Service.  
Please contact Barry Moscrop - 02 9692 8460 or email Barry Moscrop.

**Volunteers** - DIK hold regular working bees to check and sort the donated equipment and to load the containers ready for shipment. Please consider this as a club project and come down on a working bee for a day, at weekends. Barbecue facilities are available at the warehouse. Ring Miriam and arrange a date for a club working bee.

**IT Expertise** - Miriam is also looking for volunteers with IT (Information Technology) expertise who can check out and renovate donated computer equipment.

Please contact PP Miriam Jacka (phone 0450 110 336 or email Miriam Jacka) for more information.  
2-6 Colyton Rd. Minchinbury  
(Adjacent to McDonalds Restaurant)

## Donations in Kind



# Combined Rotary Meeting



Wednesday  
8th August

Featuring Guest Speaker : Richard Green



Richard and his wife Carolyn

St Ives Rotary club has the pleasure of hosting a combined Rotary meeting on the 8th August, 2012. The meeting will feature a presentation by Richard Green, an entrepreneur and renown landscape photographer and fortunately for us a resident of the North shore of Sydney.

Richard Green trained as a physicist in England where he began research work for a PhD in the innovative field of computer graphics. In 1971 this work led Richard to form a company specialising in staging major international conferences and exhibitions in computer and communications technology.

Richard's company became very successful and in 1987 the business was sold on the UK Stock Exchange, by which time it had over 120 staff and offices in London, New York and Singapore.

Richard decided to take early retirement, obtained a helicopter pilot licence and emigrated to Australia to pursue his passion for wilderness photography. In Sydney Richard met Carolyn, a graphic artist, and for over 20 years they have made regular helicopter trips to the most remote and unknown wilderness areas of the Australian continent.

Richard started exhibiting his work in 2007 and his work can now be seen at shows in regional galleries across Australia; Richard's work is also represented in collections in England, the USA, Canada, France and Germany.

Due to popular demand to attend this presentation, the meeting will be held on the 8th August, 6:30pm for a 7:00pm start at Hornsby RSL. The fee for attendance is \$35, which includes a 2 course dinner and entry into the raffle for a beautiful book entitled REMOTE & WILD – Seeking the unknown Australia. This \$165 book which features his work is being donated by Richard. Those not familiar with his photography can see it and details of the helicopter on [www.richardgreen.net.au](http://www.richardgreen.net.au).

Richard will have additional copies of the book available to purchase on the night, and he has generously offered a 20min flight over the Harbour Bridge for 4 people in his incredible helicopter. We will be auctioning this flight with all proceeds tax deductible and used to support research into a cure for Cerebral Palsy.

For all enquiries, please contact Russell Crofts of St Ives Rotary Club on 02 9983 9924.



## 2012-2013 Kuring-Gai Rotary Calendar

2012/13	Calendar	
	30	Speaker. Michael Midlam on Iceland
August	6(8th)	. (Wed 8th. St Ives Rotary combined meeting at Hornsby RSL NO MEETING MONDAY 6 AUGUST
	13	BM. 2012.13 Budget and Plans to Board and Members
	20	Speaker. Fiona Plant. "Spine, Health, and Quality of Life
	27	Rotary Awareness Night. School for Life Speaker
September	3	BM. Speaker. Sandy McGregor
	10 (11th)	Tues 11th. Debate with Turramurra at their meeting. NO MEETING MONDAY 10TH SEPTEMBER
	17	3x 10 on me
	24	Restaurant evening
October	1	Labour Day public holiday
	8	BM
	15	
	22	Club Forum Night
	29	Carers Night
November	5	BM
	12	
	19	Rotary Awareness Night
	26	
December	3	BM. AGM
	10	
	17	Christmas Party
	24	Christmas Break
	31	Christmas Break
January	7	Christmas Break
	14	BM. Bowling Night
	21	Club Forum Night
	28	Theatre Night
February	4	BM
	11	Pride of Workmanship (vocational)
	18	
	25	
March	4	BM
	11	Rotary Awareness Night
	18	
	25	
April	1	Easter
	8	BM
	15	
	22	Club Forum Night
	29	
May	6	BM
	13	
	20	Rotary Awareness Night
	27	
June	3	BM ( Trivia Night 1 June)
	10	Queens Birthday public holiday
	17	
	24	Changeover Night