



# K O O N G G A

Bulletin of the Rotary Club Of Ku-ring-gai Inc - Chartered 6th February 1959

2013-14 Volume 56 No. 08

19 August 2013

## This Week

## Thank You From ROMAC



### Laos Aid Project Hugh Hamlyn-Harris

This year our International Service Committee intends to support a project comprising

provision of the following aid in Laos:

- Supply and installation of a water system;
- Training of villagers in improved health, hygiene and agricultural practices;
- Construction of a dormitory with kitchen and toilet for weekly boarders from outlying villages, at Ban Xai School; and
- Supply and installation of a toilet and water supply at Pong Hor School.

Hugh is an engineer who is a member of the Rotary Club of Lindfield. Late last year he spent two months in Laos working on the project, in which we will work with the Rotary Clubs of Lindfield and Mosman, and at least one other club, with funding from our District Foundation Committee and The Rotary Foundation.

Come and hear about this project from someone who has first hand knowledge of the area, the project, and the difference it will make.

## Welcome Julian Kulchycki-Lacombe!

It's not often that Koongga can help celebrate the arrival of the first child of a member of the club. In fact, it's doubtful whether it's ever happened before. So we're delighted to welcome Julian Kulchycki-Lacombe, born on 6 August. Congratulations Sofia and Loïc!



The club has received the following letter from Rob Wilkinson, Eastern Region Manager of ROMAC:



ROMAC  
Rotary  
Oceania Medical  
Aid for  
Children  
A Program of the Rotary Districts  
of Australia and New Zealand

“On behalf of the Board of ROMAC, I would like to sincerely thank you and the members of The Rotary Club of Ku-ring-gai for your very generous donation to ROMAC of \$1,000.

We are extremely grateful that you have decided to support our efforts to save and/or improve the lives of disadvantaged young patients from overseas, by making some of your funds available to us. I can assure you that our patients, the doctors who treat them and the Australian hospitals in which they are treated (and in which most of our income is spent) are also very appreciative.”

## Thank You from Lifeline



Last week the club received a letter of appreciation from Lifeline

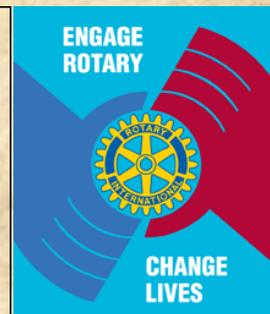
thanking us for our involvement in the Book Fair held at Knox Grammar School last month.

To quote, “The continued support of your club for our organization is greatly appreciated and makes a significant impact upon the success of the Book Fair. Loading those hundreds of boxes of books into trucks, even with the help of conveyor equipment, is heavy physical work. And then the unsold boxes have to be transported back at the end of the Book Fair. A huge task, which would not be possible without the help of volunteers, such as yourselves.”

The book fair raised an amazing \$120,000 for the continued work of Lifeline, a significant contribution toward the \$600,000 needed each year to continue the essential and highly valued services provided by Lifeline. The 24-hour telephone Crisis Support Line operating out of its centre, which currently answers around 3000 calls a month, is just one example of one of the essential services provided by Lifeline.

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The club meets every Monday 6.30pm at West Pymble Bowling Club, 2 Prince of Wales Drive, West Pymble. Visitors welcome. [www.kuringgairotary.org.au](http://www.kuringgairotary.org.au)

Rotary International  
Theme 2013-2014

## Last Week

Acting President John Aitken started last week's meeting with a toast to Rotary International. Better get back from overseas soon, President Tony. The mice are at play!

## Last Week's Speakers: '10 on me'



### Gary Dawson

Gary Dawson is a country boy, born in Quirindi. His mother contracted polio while pregnant with him, resulting in his hearing impairment, which was diagnosed when he was 9. (At an earlier age

he said 'yes' when a doctor asked whether he could hear the ticking of a watch held to his ear, but only because he thought that was the answer sought. It left him with a lifelong skepticism of testing equipment.)

Gary grew up on his parents' farm, where his father engaged in environmental vandalism, clearing the land to grow wheat. (But his father was a very active Rotarian.)

Science attracted Gary and after school he won a BHP scholarship which enabled him to study metallurgy at university.

By 1986 Gary joined CIG (now BOC), working in its marketing department. He was retrenched in 1993 and after 9 months secured his current job in quality assurance at Bromic. The group manufactures products for plumbing, heating and refrigeration. Gary said that most people own Bromic products, for example gas hoses and LPG regulators. Bromic supplies gas valves for Fisher & Paykel stores. In Australia the group mostly assembles products manufactured in Italy and China.

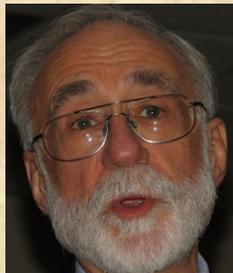
Gary married Nicky in 1993 and their son, Sean, was born at the Sydney Adventist Hospital (the San) in 1995. Our club sponsored Sean to attend the National Youth Science Forum in Canberra this year.

Gary's first rule for success in life is 'choose your parents wisely. He joined Rotary because of its sense of community, the realization of how lucky he is compared to others and because of Rotary's campaign to eradicate polio.

### Lou Coenen

Lou is a member of the Travelling Coenens, a family that seems to spend most of its time jetting around the world visiting family and friends, as well as for work. Highlights of the past 18 months have been Lou and his wife Rita enjoying a gastronomical adventure trip they won at 'Taste of Sydney', Lou going to teach in Germany and Rita travelling elsewhere.

Meanwhile their daughters, Sherry (a theatre lighting designer who has worked on West End shows such as Moby Dick and Matilda), Jill (a national level sports acrobatic gymnast and early learning teacher) and Rachel (a special effects makeup artist who worked on 'Wolverine', 'The Hobbit' and 'I, Frankenstein') and their respective partners have been indulging in exotic travel



of their own around Europe, the USA and the Pacific.

Lou is a commercial consultant, providing technical direction for a web content management business and a retail web auction business. He's also a guest speaker, mentor and academic. At the University of Western Sydney he teaches marketing and entrepreneurship. At Fulda University of Applied Science in Germany he teaches global business strategy and international business.

Recently Lou co-authored 'The Virtual University - Where to From Here?' about the effect of 'Massive Open Online Courses' on education.

Lou told us that since converting at plant-based diet (no meat, but fish once a week) 2 years ago, he has reduced his weight by about 20%, his cholesterol is down by 25% and he's using 50% less medications than he was.

### Caroline Jones

Caroline drew on her British, Belgian and Australian heritage to talk about 3 aspects of her life: family, scholarship and adventure.

Her great grandfather was a Leicester solicitor who visited Sydney while touring the world as a young man. Perhaps it was him that Caroline inherited her love of adventure, joining the mountaineering society while at university and climbing the Three Sisters (despite being afraid of heights), as well as caving, kayaking and cross-country skiing.

Caroline's love of scholarship is derived from her Scottish great-grandmother. Caroline has completed a history PhD and has worked as an editor for the University of Queensland Press and in advertising. She's also a contributing author for the British Library.

It was Caroline's Belgian grandfather, a decorated First World War veteran (who married her grandmother while on leave from the fighting) who moved to Australia and established his family here.

Caroline keeps busy marking history examination papers, visiting her daughters Sarah (a dentist), Anna (a physiotherapist) and Helen (a vet), doing Rotary work and learning German, Spanish and Italian (to complement her existing French).



## Next Week's Speaker

### Jan-Maree Ball

#### Aussie Hero Quilts

Jan-Maree writes a blog to encourage people to make quilts and laundry bags to send to Aussie service men and women currently serving overseas and to express gratitude for their service. As she says "We care about the people - not the politics or the mission. Our quilts are not works of art, but works of the heart."

Come and hear Jan-Maree talk about how she started AHQ and its effects on serving personnel.



## Community Service Plans

The Community Service Committee comprises: Roger Desmarchelier, Nick Kenyon, Gary Dawson, Loic Lacombe, Linda Lam-Rohlf, Lou Coenen, Chris Hoch, Caroline Jones and Ross Lambert.

### Neringah Hospital



We have a number of projects planned for this year, the first of which is the strip-out and refit of the old kiosk at Neringah Hospital at

Wahroonga, to provide a place for patients and their families to relax together.

This palliative care hospice holds many memories for a number of Rotarians and I'm sure that many of us will be connected with it in the years to come. Not that this is the reason why we want to do something very special with the kiosk. It just makes the project that much more meaningful.

We will be commencing the strip-out on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> August starting at 9am till 1pm. We will have a series of Saturdays after that to complete the work, so bring your barrows, sledge hammers and brooms and join us this coming Saturday 24<sup>th</sup>.

### Hat Day

Hat Day is Australian Rotary Health's community action and awareness day. We are supporting Hat Day on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> October, 2013 and there will be a suggested \$5 donation per person for the night.



### Street Commodore Car Show



Details are yet to be finalised for 2014 Street Commodore Car Show. However we will be providing the catering

again, just like this year, as a community fundraiser.

### The Lab

The Lab is a Melbourne-based pilot project for 10 to 16 year-old young people with Asperger's Syndrome who enjoy working with computers. It offers one-to-one tuition by technology professionals in areas such as programming, 3D, digital design and gaming. The pilot program has spread from Melbourne into Sydney and in partnership with Just Better Care Pty Ltd has created a sister program in Hornsby. The proposal is to widen the reach of 'The Lab' and set up multiple branches initially on the north side of Sydney. Over time we would involve other Rotary Clubs and establish new branches in western and southern Sydney. We very much look forward to bringing life to the joint project of The Lab and its future expansion.



Ross Lambert  
Chairman

## 1000 Photos Project



To showcase the variety of projects that clubs are involved in across Rotary District 9685, each Rotary club and each Rotaract club is invited to submit one photo a month during 2013-14.

From the many photos taken by clubs each month, each club is asked to select one that shows the club in Rotary/Rotaract action. The photo should capture the fun and vibrancy of the club and its members. It needs to have some Rotary/Rotaract identification.

The end result will be over 1000 photos capturing the spirit of Rotary District 9685.

## Gordon Market Result

In July the Gordon Market raised \$3,969.90 for the project accounts of our club and the Rotary Club of Turramurra. Not a bad result for the middle of winter!

## Sports Report

Peter Tang distinguished himself in last week's **City To Surf**, running a personal best of 1:17:26 and coming 173rd out of 1,444 in his age group.



Not only that, he raised \$1,000 for charity from his work colleagues. Well done, Peter! Maybe you should ask the club to sponsor you next year.

Did any other club member or their partner run in the event?

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Meanwhile, over in Torino, Italy, President Tony's partner, **Janet Pendleton**, won 2 gold medals in the **World Masters Games** rowing regatta. The event was dominated by Australian crews, in hot competition with each other as well as the rest of the world. Janet's crew won the F coxless fours by 3.74 seconds, followed by 2 other Aussie crews. In the F eight, her crew won by 0.45 second from another Aussie crew, followed by a crew from the USA.

## Not a Rotarian but want to help?

Are you looking for a way to put something back into the community? You don't need to be a Rotarian to help us with our projects. We can always use a bit of extra personpower. Come and visit us at one of our regular meetings. Contact us through our website or call our Secretary, Geoff Hungerford on 9498 3950.