



K O O N G G A

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

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Rotary monthly theme: March: Literacy

This week

Kate Rudman - Rotary Youth Program of Enrichment

Kate is a Year 10 student at Ku-ring-gai Creative Arts High School whom we sponsored to RYPEN at Collaroy in early February. Kate will speak to us about her experience at the program.



Bobbin Head Cycle Classic - 16 volunteered. Well done all!

Chris Hoch reported that he, **Bob Elsworth** and **Tony** handed out flyers for 'The Bobbo' at the **Tour De Hills**, run by the Rotary Club of Castle Hills. (Well done, fellows - we know it was a wet day.) With only about 450 riders (compared to over 1,500 registered for The Bobbo), the Tour De Hills has raised over \$40,000 already.



Nick Watt - Rotary Youth Leadership Award

Nick is from Avalon, where he attended the public school before going on to Shore. He is a patrolling lifesaver with the Palm Beach Surf Lifesaving Club and has held various leadership positions there, at school and at university. He is in the second year of study for a law degree and has an internship at the Australian Media and Communications Authority.

Our club sponsored Nick to attend RYLA earlier this year, to help him develop his communications and leadership skills. He will tell us what he learned and how he foresees it helping him.

Bob Elsworth - '10 on me'

As our newest member, Bob will give us an insight into his background, family, career, experiences and achievements. You won't want to miss this opportunity to get to know more about Bob, perhaps including some hidden talents and surprising facts.



As a new Rotarian, for me the prospect of attending any conference was in the same category as the thought of having root canal therapy at the dentist. Both could be uncomfortable, with moments of boredom and occasional pain, and I would leave having learned very little.

I went to the District Conference with the main aim of supporting our club. However, I left the Conference "sockless" - having been knocked out of my socks by the events of the day.

While I find the activities and energy of my fellow club members inspiring, I felt that the conference was "inspiration on steroids". Seeing the bigger picture of the projects that Rotary is involved in, such as Shelter Box in action, was truly amazing. Being exposed to experiences such as seeing a young boy in his home in Cairns on a live video link having his Cochlear implant being tuned by an audiologist at North Rocks, also on a live video link and both of them interacting with the theatre full of Rotarians was both emotionally stirring and an insight into what was possible when Rotarians get behind a project.

I came away with an even greater enthusiasm for the projects that our club is involved in. For me, the one-day conference was a wonderful experience - an emotional and intellectual roller coaster that reinforced my desire "to be part of all this". (Also the food was OK and I met a lot of nice people.)

Rob Hall

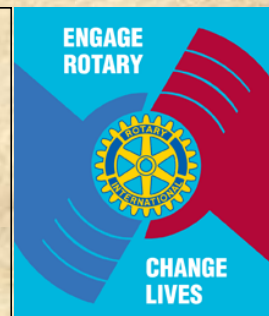
Last week: guests & announcements

President Tony welcomed **Geoff Martin** from the Rotary Club of Toowoomba East. Have a look at its website at <http://www.toowoombaeast9630.org/> and get a few project ideas - such as its collection of 100,000 five cent coins (\$5,000): what a clever idea!

Tony called for volunteers to stuff envelopes for the

In this issue

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The club meets every Monday 6.30pm at West Pymble Bicentennial Club, 2 Prince of Wales Drive, West Pymble. Visitors welcome. www.kuringgairotary.org.au

Rotary International Theme 2013-2014

Bobbin Head Cycle Classic

Ross Egan gave an update on preparations for the Bobbo, including:



- Volunteers are needed for all sorts of tasks now: just put up your hand.
- Nicky Dawson has contacted 20 corporate teams - a magnificent effort. Thanks, Nicky.
- Malcolm Braid and his team are painting the town green with advertisements.
- Rider registrations for the event have reached more than 50% of the target.
- Ross and others will be setting up for the event in the days before it. (See: volunteers needed above.)

Welcome to Ku-ring-gai

Bob Ivey has produced a 'Welcome to Ku-ring-gai' letter, inviting new residents to visit our club. It is being distributed to local real estate agents and will complement a 'welcome basket' of information provided by Ku-ring-gai Council. Well done, Bob.


If you become aware of someone moving into your street, give them a copy of the letter (which can be downloaded from our website).

Last week: club forum

President Tony congratulated the members inducted during the current Rotary year for the excellent work they have been doing, notably Jack McCartney and Bob Elsworth in relation to The Bobbo and Rob Hall arranging guest speakers. Tony urged all members to invite more women and Asian people to our meetings, with a view to having the club's membership reflect the diversity of the local community.

Perhaps revealing Labor Party sympathies, Treasurer Graham Maslen said the club needs to spend more and save less of the money it raises. He called for new project proposals for the club to support. The club looks forward to seeing his deficit budget and 3/4 year accounts at the next forum.

Rob Hall has been discussing with Assoc. Prof Sheryl van Nunen how the club can help to increase the awareness of tick induced allergies. Rob was invited to put a proposal to the board.

 Primus Pilus (look it up) Graham Timms called for Centurion stragglers to catch up with those who have already renewed their allegiance. Supporting him, Greg Newling pointed out that the Rotary Foundation doesn't have enough personnel to handle a flood of demands for tax receipts in June each year.

Joy Newling reported as follows: Instead of going through the whole of the Youth Plan, I am only going to comment on a couple of items and Clarke Road School.

Most of you will know about MUNA, Model United Nations Assembly, a Rotary program held over 2 days where students (years 10-12) debate issues from different countries' points of view. This year MUNA is being held at Knox Grammar School on 5 and 6 April and so far we are sponsoring teams from PLC and Killara High

School. I have also approached Ku-ring-gai Creative Arts High School and Turramurra High School.

We have just donated \$500 to assist Quentin Remot Smith, a 17 year old student from Knox. Quentin took part in our local MUNA, was chosen to go to the Australian MUNA in Perth and at the last minute was offered the position of representing Australia at the MUNA International meeting in The Hague. He left Australia on 4 January for nearly a month. Barry Edmondson of Rotary Club of Turramurra was co-ordinating additional funding for Quentin and Knox, RC Wahroonga and RC Turramurra came to the party as well. Sean Dawson, Gary's son, knew Quentin and said he was a great debater with a clever wit. What a wonderful opportunity he has had! It is hoped that Quentin will attend one of RC Turramurra's meetings soon and talk about his experience. Watch this space!

We have also donated \$1100 to help a disabled individual attend Studio ARTES one day per week for a year. Currently it is very hard for some individuals to receive funding support to attend to learn skills, build social connections and develop their creative potential. Even if they earn under \$4 an hour in a disability enterprise doing assembly work, as far as NSW funding goes, they are seen as being meaningfully employed and ineligible to receive any funding support to attend Studio ARTES.

At the P&C meeting at Clarke Road School 2 weeks ago, two of the teachers talked about the mini iPads being trialled in 2 classes. 12 mini iPads have been purchased, together with a trolley with bulk recharging facility etc and some apps specific for children. They are already seeing improvement in vocabulary and speech. In other matters at Clarke Road, they have welcomed 11 new students. They may also be adding another class in term 2. Curriculum is the focus this year, a speech therapist will be visiting 1 day a week in terms 1 and 2 and a digital piano has been donated. They have improved communication between the teachers and parents, either through a communication booklet or a small recording device which goes home with a student at the end of the day and returned with comment from the parents the next day. Finally, a lovely story from a relative of a little boy aged 5 who has just started at Clarke Road school. He has been walking for only a few months. He enjoys going to Clarke Road so much that one day last week he was trying to unlock his front door and get out on the verandah to wait for the mini bus to come and take him to school. A little different to some students at main stream schools that you may know!

Greg Newling reported that the Board has approved payments to: ShelterBox \$2,000; Rotary Oceania Medical Aid to Children \$1,000; Rotarians Against Malaria \$1,000.

The Lao Water Project is still under review by The Rotary Foundation, which is being very cautious with its funds. The Board has agreed that, as the exchange rate has changed and we had budgeted \$US3,000 when \$AUD was at parity, we will pay probably \$3,300 as our contribution to this project which has an overall cost of \$US81,000. This project involves us with 5 other clubs in our district, 6 clubs in Western Australia and at least one club in Cambodia or Laos.

The Board has also agreed to reallocate \$1,560 from another budgeted project. We will instead use those funds for School for Life in Uganda.

Greg urged all members to bring their partners to the meeting on 12 May (the day after Mothers Day) to hear Annabelle Chauncy, David Everett and representatives of SewAid.

Ross Lambert said that, in order to complete the Nerin-gah Hospital kiosk renovation, the club needs:

- Wall paint and ceiling paint;
- Floor covering (commercial grade carpet);
- Kitchen sink with Cupboard under;
- Mixer set;
- Four metres of white wall tiles;
- Six light fittings;
- Six metre bifold door;
- Front door; and
- Some furniture (lounges, chairs and tables).

Before you start dismantling your house, ask around to see who you know can donate some of those items. Perhaps someone will want to donate money to buy them.



THE CALL IS OUT

WE NEED INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY MENTORS TO WORK WITH KIDS WHO HAVE ASPERGER'S OR HIGH FUNCTIONING AUTISM.



THE LAB

The Lab is expanding its operations around Australia!!

Would you like to mentor & provide IT support to young people with Asperger's & high functioning Au-tism?

Go to www.thelab.org.au/jobs to see the job descrip-tion and fill out an application.

Currently we are seeking expressions of interest pri-marily in Chatswood however there are Labs opening in Northern Territory, Victoria, ACT and Queensland in the coming months.

Bob Ivey enquired about the club's plans for restaurant nights. President Tony said that Bob Elsworth is mak-ing arrangements and also planning 'Dinners For 8' (which was met with great enthusiasm).

Michael Tyler proposed regular joint meetings between the club and Crosslands Rotaract, with a view to hear-ing what the Rotaract Club is doing and learning what might attract their members to become Rotarians in due course. He also advocated various ways in which the club might consider changing its meetings, to make the way it operates more attractive to potential members.

Lou Coenen, Graham Timms and **David Forsythe** enquired about the progress of the experiment with As-sociate Membership of Rotary clubs. President Tony

said he would find out. He noted that the Rotary Club of Turrumurra has assembled 75 volunteers for The Bobbo.

Malcolm Braid proposed that the club should support President Tony to become District Governor in 2016. Tony didn't say no!

Geoff Martin said he'd asked his son whether he would like to join Rotary, but his son preferred to remain with Apex, because the members drink more beer!

Your family is coming to visit

- Have you got the spare room ready?
- Will you be at the airport to meet them?
- Have you decided the menu for Tuesday?
- Do you know what this is all about?

It's about your Rotary family, which is coming to visit you from 1 – 4 June. So are you going to welcome them or simply ignore them? Are you going to do things with them (like attending the Rotary International Conven-tion) or simply leave them to their own devices? The choice is yours, but you'll probably never get the same opportunity again and you'll regret it forever if you miss it.

Rotarians (and others) are still needed to:

- Act as volunteers helping to greet visitors and run the Convention;
- Provide homestay for visiting Rotarians;
- Host Rotarians for dinner on Tuesday, 3 June; and
- Attend the Convention (at a registration fee dis-counted by US\$50 until 31 March).

Sign up today for the experience of a lifetime!



Next week

Member/volunteer briefing

Next week's meeting will comprise a comprehensive briefing for all members and other volunteers about what they're required to do at the BHCC on Sunday, 23 March. Please make every effort to attend and bring your partner, family, friends and everyone else that you have arranged to assist with this, our major annual fund-raiser. **Don't forget to book them in via the club's website.**



Calendar of events

March	17	Bobbin Head Cycle Classic member/volunteer briefing
	23	(Sunday) Bobbin Head Cycle Classic
	24	Bobbin Head Cycle Classic review
	31	Gareth Hall - Pros and cons of self-managed superannuation funds
April	7	Roger Cherry - Who are those people? The plaques of Circular Quay.
	14	TBA
	21	(Easter Monday) No meeting
	28	TBA
May	5	Club forum
	12	Annabelle Chauncy, David Everett and Tony Castley- School For Life meets SewAid
	15	(Thursday) Bobbin Head Cycle Classic presentation (St Ives)
	19	TBA
	26	Richard Field – Okavango: miracle in the desert
June	1 - 4	Rotary International Convention - venue: Olympic Park, Homebush
	3	Rotary International Convention Host Hospitality Night
	9	(Queen's birthday) No meeting
	23	Club Changeover

Club officers and committee chairmen 2013-14

Board of directors

President	Tony McClelland
Vice President	John Aitken
President Elect	Tony McClelland
Secretary	Geoff Hungerford
Treasurer	Graham Maslen
Director - Membership	Roger Desmarchelier
Director - Public Relations	Michael Midlam
Director - Club Administration	(Vacant)
Director - Service Projects	John Aitken
Director - Rotary Foundation	Graham Timms

Service committee chairmen

Club Service	(Vacant)
Vocational Service	Michael Midlam
Community Service	Ross Lambert
International Service	Greg Newling
Youth Service	Joy Newling
Bobbin Head Cycle Classic	Peter Kipps
Sergeant-at-Arms	Greg Newling

Club committees 2013-14

Bobbin Head Cycle Classic: John Aitken, Ross Egan, Peter Kipps, Tony McClelland, Michael Midlam, Adele Mitchell, Graham Timms

Club History: Malcolm Braid, Tom Jackson

Club Service/Club Administration: Geoff Hungerford, Graham Maslen, Michael Tyler (Koongga Editor)

Community Service: Lou Coenen, Gary Dawson, Roger Desmarchelier, Ross Egan (Daffodil Day), Bob Elsworth, Rob Hall, Chris Hoch (Red Shield Appeal), Geoff Hungerford (Markets) Caroline Jones, Nick Kenyon, Ross Lambert, Loïc Lacombe, Jack McCartney, Michael Midlam (Bowel Scan), Frank White (Markets)

International Service: David Forsythe, Graham Maslen, Adele Mitchell, Greg Newling, Peter Tang

Membership: Roger Desmarchelier, Dilys Geddes, Linda Lam-Rohlfs

Public Relations: Michael Midlam

Program: Rob Hall, Ross Egan

Rotary Foundation: Graham Timms

Vocational Service: Michael Midlam

Youth Service: Malcolm Braid, Emyr Evans, Greg Goodman, Bob Ivey, Tom Jackson, Linda Lam-Rohlfs, Joy Newling, Ted Price