



# K O O N G G A

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

Volume 56 No. 41 26 May 2014

Rotary monthly theme: May: Australian Rotary Health

## This week



### Richard Field - Okavango: miracle in the desert

How is it that one of the great wetlands of the world, with a vast diversity of habitats and wildlife, can exist in the barren heart of the Kalahari Desert? Where does the water come from, and why does it decide to stop in the middle of the Kalahari? How can it be that the Okavango Delta has far more surface water during its long dry season (when no rain falls) than during the wet season when all the rain falls?

In this talk, safari guide and former resident of the Okavango, Richard Field, will examine the miracle of the Delta, looking at its origins and the incredibly dynamic and complex way that this wonderful ecosystem functions. He will also share some of fascinating stories from his time spent living in the Okavango and discuss how, through great foresight and wisdom, the government of Botswana has successfully managed to balance the preservation of this precious resource, whilst maintaining a thriving and very profitable tourism industry.

## Last week's guests & announcements

President Tony welcomed our guest speaker, Nigel O'Rorke, Gary Keating, Ian Jackson and Joyce Cribb.



Chris Hoch found his final volunteer for the Red Shield Appeal. Well done, all volunteers!

Greg Newling reiterated his recommendation that all members attend the Rotary International Convention, starting with interesting pre-convention events next week. Greg said that about 18,000 people have registered for the convention (5,000 from Australia and others from 149 countries). There will be about 90 breakout sessions - something of interest for everyone. The calibre of the convention speakers and entertainers is outstanding. The event will



be very exciting and inspiring opportunity for all Rotarians. It will never be cheaper for you to attend a convention.

Greg reminded all registrants to check which of the two opening sessions they are allocated to.

## Tables for 8 (or so)



chez Braid – plus 25% (incl. photographer)

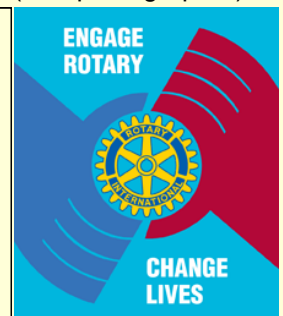


chez Hungerford – minus 12.5% (incl. photographer)

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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](http://www.kuringgairotary.org.au)



Rotary International Theme 2013-2014

## Microsoft - the years ahead

Nigel O'Rorke, Consumers Channels Group Director of Microsoft Australia, spoke to us about Microsoft's future direction. Here are the highlights of what he told us.

In February, Microsoft appointed its new CEO Satya Nadella – only the third CEO in Microsoft's 39 year history. Satya has been with Microsoft for 22 years, spearheading major strategy and technical shifts across the company's portfolio of products and services, most notably its move to the cloud and the development of one of the largest cloud infrastructures in the world supporting Bing, Xbox, Office and other services. The direction Satya will drive Microsoft is clear from his statement soon after his appointment as CEO:

"Our industry does not respect tradition; it only respects innovation. This is a critical time for the industry and for Microsoft. Make no mistake, we are headed for greater places, as technology evolves and we evolve with and ahead of it. Our job is to ensure that Microsoft thrives in a mobile and cloud-first world."

Technology is transforming and there are four mega trends which Microsoft sees:

- **Mobile:** growth in phones and tablets. Smart phones are now the leading device in emerging markets
- **Cloud:** internet is ubiquitous, providing connectivity anytime and anywhere.
- **Social:** explosive growth in social media users connecting and sharing ideas.
- **Big data:** higher volumes of relevant data and superior business intelligence tools.

Consumer channels are transforming: the growth of online sales is increasing, the shift is to digital transactions. Retailers/operators are transforming to more emphasis on experiential interactions.

The future of technology is moving towards:

- **Ubiquitous computing** – 'Computers' will be everywhere. Embedded 'computers' will drive items such as jewelry (and other wearables), cars and appliances. Literally everything that we interact with could have computational ability and the ability to be connected to the internet with IP addresses that allow items to exchange information, preferences and data. Microsoft today has an embedded strategy that will help facilitate this. Windows powers many devices that most people aren't aware of.
- **Ambient intelligence** – as more items integrate computers and information is exchanged, more sophisticated algorithms will allow our devices to become more 'intelligent' and perform tasks on our behalf with no oversight. We can see this today at a basic level with our devices like Windows Phone - that can track where we are and proactively give us weather updates or stock information. We are at the tip of the iceberg and we will begin to move towards our devices acting on our behalf, based on our preferences, controlled through security and privacy protocols, but benefiting our unique needs without our active involvement.

Microsoft is leveraging its services and technology to help drive these developments in a responsible manner, including the work that it is doing with Bing to create search references that understand consumers' preferences and become more and more relevant. Microsoft will not just be an active participant in this future, but a leader in where technology is going.



chez McClelland – minus 25% (incl. photographer)

## (Half) marathon man

In case you missed it, Peter Tang ran a time of 1 hour 51 minutes 53 seconds in the Sydney Morning Herald Half Marathon. This placed him in the top 20% in the male 60 - 69 age group and in the top 40% of all the runners. Well done, Peter! Is there anyone else in the club who could even come close to him? See the photos at [http://www.marathon-photos.com/scripts/event.py?template=MPX2&event=Sports/2014/SMH%20Half%20Marathon&new\\_search=1&match=7141](http://www.marathon-photos.com/scripts/event.py?template=MPX2&event=Sports/2014/SMH%20Half%20Marathon&new_search=1&match=7141)

## Bobbin Head Cycle Classic presentation



President Tony presenting our club's cheque to a surprised and emotional Sally and Marten Wynd from Eagles RAPS.

Here is an extract from an email received from Sally the next day:

"A very big thank you from all of the Eagles management committee and especially from Marten and I. The others were overwhelmed when we told them last night and wanted us to pass on their sincere thanks to all of you. Words escape me. The more I think about it, the more amazing it becomes. The money will be of a tremendous benefit to the kids."



## Calendar of events

June	1 - 4	Rotary International Convention - venue: Olympic Park, Homebush
	2	No meeting (Rotary International Convention)
	3	Rotary International Convention Host Hospitality Night
	9	(Queen's birthday) No meeting
	16	Restaurant night: Killara Golf Club
	23	Club Changeover
	30	TBA
September	8	District Governor's visit to North Shore clubs
November	10	Restaurant night - venue: TBA

## Club officers and committee chairmen 2013-14

### Board of directors

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

### Service committee chairmen

<b>Club Service</b>	(Vacant)
<b>Vocational Service</b>	Michael Midlam
<b>Community Service</b>	Ross Lambert
<b>International Service</b>	Greg Newling
<b>Youth Service</b>	Joy Newling
<b>Bobbin Head Cycle Classic</b>	Peter Kipps
<b>Sergeant-at-Arms</b>	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-Rohlf's

**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-Rohlf's, Joy Newling, Ted Price