



# K O O N G G A

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

Volume 56 No. 43 16 June 2014

Rotary monthly theme: June: Rotary fellowship

## This week

Our meeting this week will be held at **Killara Golf Club** 556 Pacific Highway Killara at the usual time of 6.30 pm for 7 pm.

**Important:** Please **give notice of your attendance/absence and your guests by 11.55 am on Monday** 16 June.

## RUPERT'S MAN REVEALS ALL

Our guest speaker is **Malcolm Noad**, who started his career as a copy boy and ended up as a director and number 2 at News Limited in Australia, before becoming the Chief Executive Officer of the Canterbury Bulldogs and chairman of the National Rugby League.



Don't miss this opportunity to find out what really goes on behind the scenes of two of our nation's major institutions!

## Last meeting: guests & announcements

President Tony:

- Welcomed our guest speaker, Richard Field, and Eunice Price.
- Announced Malcolm Braid as next year's Sergeant At Arms, supported by Ross Egan as his deputy (*so you'd better be on your best behaviour, folks*).
- Called for nominations for President-Elect 2015-16 (*which doesn't necessarily mean that you won't stand for re-election, does it, Tony?*).
- Thanked Roger Desmarchelier for arranging Changeover, featuring a jazz band and President Tony leading the dancing.

Bob Ivey:

- Announced addition to the club's website of a new feature on the Lao water project, including a video -

view it at <http://www.kuringgairotary.org.au/index.php/projects/international/lao-water-project>

- Drew attention to the Pink Umbrella Foundation, which supports Rotary projects, particularly those of Rotary World Community Service ('RAWCS'), with grants.

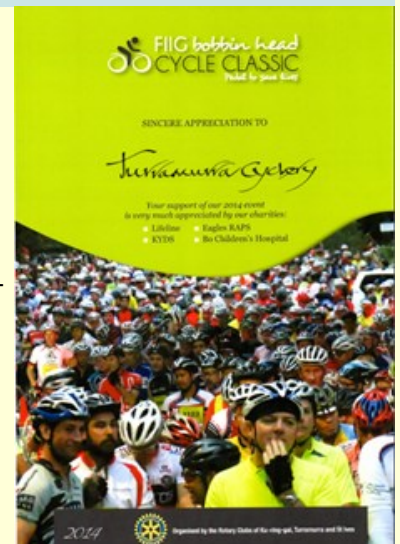


Rob Hall provided an update on the club's 'Tick Awareness' project. An information brochure has been designed and work is proceeding on a distribution plan and a professionally produced informational video.

## Bobbin Head Cycle Classic certificates

Following the very successful Bobbin Head Cycle Classic in March, the event organising committee has sent this certificate of appreciation to over 100 bike shops around Sydney, with an appropriate covering letter.

Malcolm Braid  
Team Leader - Bike Shops



## Rotaract ski trip



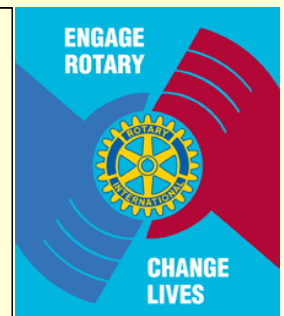
Hi All,

This July we are holding another ski trip. The annual Lower North Shore Rotaract ski trip is an enjoyable weekend away, open to all friends and family of Rotaract. You will develop new skills in skiing or snowboarding and have a fun weekend. This is one of our club's major social events of the year. Last year it was described by one of the participants as the "Best weekend away of 2013".

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



Rotary International  
Theme 2013-2014

The 2014 ski trip will be even better. If you are interested please fill in our online form at:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1\\_hWwHgckke74b9iOyIIYV8QFy7gj\\_QrvCkYw8AW-1GE/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1_hWwHgckke74b9iOyIIYV8QFy7gj_QrvCkYw8AW-1GE/viewform)

#### Trip details:

**When:** 6pm 18<sup>th</sup> July 2014 to late 20<sup>th</sup> July 2014

**Where:** Thredbo.

**Transport:** A bus will pick participants up from Chatswood, Sydney Central and Canberra. We are happy to make additional pickup points available on request.



**Cost:** minimum cost for transport, accommodation breakfast and dinner is \$250. Plus there are a number of packages to include ski, snowboard, equipment and clothing hire, and 2 day lift pass etc, - they are paid on top of minimum cost. You can expect to pay total about \$543

(snowboarder) or \$533(skier).

Please refer to our online form for further details. The link to the form with details and to register is above.

If you are interested, please register by the 22<sup>th</sup> of June 2014. Please extend our invitation to your club members and friends.

If you have any questions or would like to find out more information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,

Jannah Bakker

0416 566 388

Lower North Shore Rotaract Social Director

### Last meeting's speaker



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

Richard Field was born in South Africa but moved to Australia with his family as a youngster. A visit to the Kruger National Park inspired him to become a guide there. While studying at Sydney University, he undertook work experience in the Okavango Delta with 'Map' Ives and, after graduating, returned to work there as a safari guide.

The Okavango is the largest inland delta in the world and is located in the middle of the Kalahari Desert. The delta is caused by the Great Rift Valley, which spits Africa. It stops the water going elsewhere. Because the Kalahari is so flat, it causes the water to seep slowly, instead of rushing as in a river.

There is more water in the Okavango during the dry season than in the wet season. This is because it takes 3-4 months for the water to reach the delta from the source rivers in Angola.

The water is still pristine, partly because the catchment area was a war zone and its development is hampered by remaining mine



fields. The water flows through Namibia, which is sparsely populated - 1.7 million people in an area the size of France.

The Okavango Delta is in Botswana, a stable country which was never colonised. (It lobbied the British to protect it.) It was one of the poorest countries in the world - before the discovery of diamonds.

The water in the delta is very pure. It has little mineral content, as it is filtered through the Kalahari sands and papyrus stands. However, islands of minerals are formed from the water around termite mounds. The termites come out in the first rains in November, mate and start new mounds, which gradually develop into islands.

The delta is a good place to see a wide range of animals, particularly leopards. There is an elephant population of about 60,000. The peculiarities of the habitat lead to unusual animal behaviour - for example, a wild dog which took up with a pack of hyenas and black backed jackals. There is no poaching because the area is too remote.



The region is under pressure because of a proposed Namibian hydro-electric scheme that would cut the flow of water and prevent the flow of sand into the delta.

The best time to visit the Okavango is June - October.



## District Changeover 2014

District Governor Graeme Davies and District Governor Elect Ian Scott Invite

you to celebrate with us

**Saturday 28 June 2014**

**6:30 for 7pm**

Castle Hill RSL Club 77 Castle Street, Castle Hill

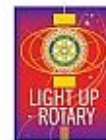
\$55 per person includes two course meal, arrival drinks and wine on each table

To register go to [changeover.rotarydistrict9685.org.au](http://changeover.rotarydistrict9685.org.au)

Club bookings are welcome - [see the website for details](#)



Please pay by  
Wednesday 18 June



Come to Changeover and:

- Celebrate our successes across the whole District
- Support our District Governor and our District Governor Elect
- Experience the Rotary family at a District level
- Catch up with your Rotary friends and make new Rotary friends

*Organise a bus for your club!*

## Rotary International Convention

My third Rotary International Convention exceeded my expectations. I felt very proud to be an Australian Rotarian, hosting so many Rotarians from over 150 countries and territories and diverse backgrounds.

Greg's and my experience started at the domestic airport where we volunteered for 3 days before Convention actually started. When you wear a bright yellow vest, everyone thinks you know everything so we fielded many questions from the general public as well as visiting Rotarians, from at least 13 different countries! Many had holidayed beforehand at places like Cairns, Port Douglas, Hamilton Island, Melbourne and Uluru. All had great experiences and there were no complaints!



John Aitken



The opening plenary session opened many attendees' eyes I think. When you see about 9,000 people, who don't have to be there, coming together to make a difference, it is very moving. When Prime Minister Tony Abbott pledged \$100 million

towards polio eradication, I felt proud to be Australian.

Other highlights for me included:

- Presentation on Tuesday by Ade Adepitan MBE, broadcaster in the UK, Paralympic medalist in wheelchair basketball for England and polio survivor. Ade gave us his moving story and showed film of a march he led in his birth country, Nigeria, through the main streets to the Sultan's Palace to highlight the plight of polio survivors and rid the country of polio. To see people of all ages with withered limbs from polio in homemade wheelchairs, on skateboards and anything that could carry them was amazing and humbling and brought tears for me. We are "this close" and if we can rid the 5 remaining countries of polio, and there are no more cases, the world will be polio free.



- Maya Ajmera, founder of the Global Fund for Children, was another inspiring speaker. Maya is the 2013-14 Global Alumni Service to Humanity Award Recipient and she was passionate about helping children all around the world, transforming their lives.

- Hosting 4 Rotarians and partners from the US and 2 from New Zealand, and Tony and Linda, to dinner on Tuesday night was good fun and another highlight. So much talking and laughter, swapping stories, comparing language and forming new friendships. Greg drove 4 of them down to Bobbin Head, talked about the BHCC and showed off our beautiful area. They thought it was wonderful, as they also thought was



the view from end of Blues Point Road on the way taking them back to their hotels in the city. Would you believe we bumped into one couple on the train the next morning, and another on the train at night, completely unplanned!!

- The trains were fantastic – to get on a train for free and just be in the company of Rotarians from all around the world was another one-off experience. One morning we sat near some French Rotarians and practised our French. One lived near Nimes in southern France where my Australian cousin, Lyndall, works as a physiotherapist and lives nearby with her French husband, Michel. Again, such a small world!

How do you choose from 90 breakout sessions over 3 afternoons? I found it a hard choice but in brief, in 2 sessions I learnt new ways to attract new members. Rob Hall will attest to the fact that in one session, it was stated clubs needed more women members as they get more done! Now where have I heard that before.....? Much applause and laughter from the women in the room.

The most inspiring breakout session for me was called "Rotary at Work: Engaging People with Disabilities in your Workforce." Two passionate Rotarians from Canada, one deaf, talked about an initiative growing in Canada showing businesses how they can benefit from hiring people with disabilities while helping them to live full and meaningful lives. They have shown that they can be very loyal, hardworking employees with less time off. There were inspiring examples given and you can find out more at [www.rotaryatwork.com](http://www.rotaryatwork.com). I came away thinking how fantastic it would be to have something similar in Australia.



The House of Friendship had a mind boggling collection of stalls covering Rotary projects, commercial enterprises, Rotary merchandise and souvenirs and refreshments. I didn't get to see every one but one that stood out was

"Days for Girls" which is producing reusable sanitary supplies for girls in developing countries. Some of the stories of what they go through are horrific. Perhaps we can support them in the future.

Shelterbox School Boxes were new to me. They distribute educational supplies to communities affected by disasters and humanitarian crises. The refugee camp in Syria is a current example. The blue boxes hold 50 individual packs of books, etc and are packed by volunteers and can be deployed where needed around the world. Did you know there are over 5 million children affected by the Syrian crisis in Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey?

The closing plenary session was a mix of speeches, recognition of the Convention and Host Organisation Committees and Sergeants-at-Arms and volunteers,

introduction of President-Elect Gary C Huang and his family and his address. Ron Burton, RI President for 2013-14, gave closing remarks and then we had wonderful entertainment by the Ten Tenors and Marina Prior! I had goosebumps and a lump in my throat during "I Still Call Australia Home!"

I left Convention after 4 days with feelings of pride, helplessness, gratitude for where and how we live, inspiration to do more, and determination to continue to encourage our club members to attend Conventions whenever they can. To my fellow Convention-goers, thank you for your company and friendship, we made a good team!

Joy Newling



### Convention photos



Left: our Sergeant gets a bright idea.

Below: SewAid stall at the Convention, including Convention carry bags made by SewAid recipients.



Lower left: Gemma Sissia, founder of School of St Jude, with Annabelle Chauncy, co-founder of School For Life.



### Geoff Hungerford's Convention

My overall impression of the Convention is confirmation of the global primacy of Rotary in the service space.

I attended all the plenary sessions except the last and could not help but be impressed by the quality and competence of the speakers.

In my view the standout speaker was Bruce Aylward who was extremely comprehensive in his presentation on the progress in eradication of polio.

I attended breakout sessions with interest and support for the School of St Jude (I have the DVD) and Shelter Box (I have the USB).

My photos show breakfast with our homestay guests - Bill Zierer (USA) and Sherman Siew and Elsie Low (Malaysia) and our Home Hospitality Night dinner guests (in association with Malcolm and Margaret Braid).

Geoff Hungerford



### Speed tourism

Volunteer Caroline Jones to visiting Rotarian at Kingsford-Smith Airport: "Welcome to Australia!"

Visiting Rotarian: "I would like to see Uluru this morning."

### From our readers (both of them!)

Hi everyone,

I wish I could have been at the Convention in person - but definitely was in spirit. RI got good coverage in Adelaide news.

I like the sound of the "fun planner"- and certain people wearing a tutu for ladies night!

Hope everyone is well and inspired after such a huge and successful event.

Keep smiling - Rasma Andrejewska

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Hello Michael,

Your Koongga (9 June) was exemplary. You and your writers made it all very real and the enthusiasm came right off the pages. Well done to you all. - Brian Jessep

## Calendar of events

June	23	Club changeover
	30	Panel discussion - the impact of the International Convention on our club
July		TBA
August	4	Club forum
	7	TBA
	18	Restaurant evening - venue TBA
September	8	District Governor's visit to North Shore clubs
October	6	Public holiday – no meeting
	20	Club forum
November	10	Restaurant night - venue: TBA
December	22	No meeting
	29	No meeting

## 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