

# KOONGGA

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

Volume 57 No. 27

9 February 2015

Rotary monthly theme: Peace & conflict prevention/resolution

## This week

### Dr Michael Bendon

## The Forgotten Flotilla

Dr Michael Bendon holds post -graduate qualifications archaeology, history, linguis-



tics, maritime archaeology, education and cultural heritage. He has worked for many years as an archaeologist on numerous sites around the Mediterranean and Europe including Israel, Portugal, Germany and Greece. More recently, he has been assisting a colleague in investigations on Phalasarna, a large classical/Hellenistic maritime city in Western Crete, as well as working on the excavation of the first Minoan shipwreck to be discov-

His most recent research has revolved around two British WWII wrecks located off shore from the ancient Phalasarna site. After some five years of research, Michael has found out some amazing stories of the involvement of these craft in the Mediterranean campaigns of 1941. The talk presents a story of secretly developed vessels and the part they played in not only supporting ANZAC troops in North Africa and Crete but also in sav-



ing many thousands troops from the hands of the invading German forces. Until the publication of his recent book, "The Forgotten Flotilla", virtually nothing was known of these craft and the work they carried out.

## Last meeting's guests & announcements

Vice-President John welcomed visitor Chris Lewis and returning members Tom Jackson and Loïc Lacombe.

Ross Egan reminded members to invite family and friends to the fundraising film night on Monday, 2 March (see details later in this Koongga).

#### Greg Newling:

- Reported that he and Joy Newling introduced Joyce Enos to Eagles RAPS and discovered that Channel 7 is looking for a community facility to be the subject of a renovation TV show. Jov and Jovce are now in contact with Channel 7 on behalf of Eagles RAPS.
- members, Urged especially those who have joined the club recently, to attend the District 9685 Conference in



the Hunter Valley on 20 - 22 March to learn more about Rotary and hear some outstanding speakers. President-Elect Graham is keen for as many members as possible to attend the conference. (See details later in this Koongga.)

Graham Timms reported that Ku-ring-gai Council proposes to double the rent for the Gordon Market premises and plans to repossess the building used by Lifeline Harbour to Hawkesbury. Graham is to meet a representative of Turramurra Rotary club concerning these developments.

Vice-President John said that the development consent for the Bobbin Head Cycle



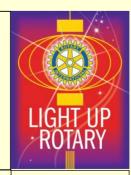
Classic has been updated and banners and trailer signs advertising the event are being displayed.

> Bob Elsworth provided an update on planning for the Bobbin Head Cycle Classic, including:

- It's less than 2 months to go to the event on Sunday, 29 March;
- Members are requested to take and distribute as many posters and flyers for the event as they can;
- The media marketing plan is being implemented by Victoria Brown from Lifeline and Rob Hall;
- Felicity McDonnell from Ku-ring-gai Youth Development Service reported that community radio station Triple H 100.1 FM is promoting the BHCC;

#### In this issue

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- Who needs Uber and Trip Advisor? Clean Up Australia Day



Rotary International Theme 2014-2015

The club meets every Monday 6.30pm at Killara Golf Club, 556 Pacific Highway, Killara. Visitors welcome (Tel: 9498 2700). www.kuringgairotary.org.au

- Help is wanted to hand out flyers at 'Look The Lake' and the 'Tour De Hills' in early March;
- 60 of the 70 promotional T shirts have been sold, making \$10 on each of them;
- Georgia Carver from Lifeline is managing social media marketing;
- Teams of Rotarians have been marketing to bike shops and coffee shops - members are requested to look for and report such shops without BHCC posters;
- Efforts are being made to market to corporate bike teams (2 of which in the 'Gong Ride raised more than the BHCC):
- The early bird registration offer which ended on 26 January was successful in attracting riders;
- Bob Ivey has been doing excellent work on the BHCC blog;
- Bicycle NSW is promoting the BHCC in its newsletter; and
- Bob Elsworth will circulate an amended .pdf flyer for members to circulated by email.

**Peter Kipps** reported on progress in attracting registrations for the BHCC, including:

- A text message sent to previous riders was mixed up
   which probably resulted in a better response than if it had been correct;
- Over 1,000 riders had registered by 1 February, indicating that the event may attract between 2,300 3,000 riders;
- 66% of registrations are for the 104km ride; 28% are for the 57km and 80km rides;
- About 43% of registrants have ridden the BHCC before;
- · Sources of new riders are:
  - 30% other rides:
  - 35% Facebook;
  - 20% Bicycle NSW;
  - 6% bike clubs (indicating that this is a hard way to attract riders).

# Bo Children's Hospital, Sierra Leone



Email to Geoff Hungerford: Hi Geoff,

I have attached the latest Newsletter for the Bo Children's Hospital which your

Bulletin Editor might like to include in one of his bulletins. (See the bulletin later in this Koonnga – Ed.)

The Rotary Club of Kuring-Gai has given wonderful support to the Bo Children's Hospital over the past few years and their contribution has helped re build a community and help save the lives of children in Sierra Leone.

Warm regards,

Denise Curry

### Share our club's news with others

Publish a photo depicting our club in action, provide a news article, share a guest speaker's details, or update

our club history - all on the Districti website.

All of these tools are available to enhance your Rotary experience and share our news with others.

Please follow these links:

- editorial@rotarydistrict9685.org.au to write an article about our club or other news
- editorial@rotarydistrict9685.org.au to tell others about our club events
- email.service@rotarydistrict9685.org.au email other clubs about our news or club events
- club.photos@rotarydistrict9685.org.au see how to publish a photo depicting our club in action
- speakers.rotarydistrict9685.org.au to share a guest speaker's details
- rotaryclubhistoryd9685.wordpress.com to update our club's history

## Revised Rotary monthly themes

At its October 2014 meeting, the Rotary International Board modified the Rotary International calendar of special observances to highlight the areas of focus. The new calendar commencing 1 July 2015 is:

July No special designation

August Membership and Extension

September Basic Education and Literacy

October Economic and Community Development

November The Rotary Foundation

January Vocational Service

February Peace and Conflict Prevention/Resolution

March Water and Sanitation

April Maternal and Child Health

May Youth Services
June Rotary Fellowships

# Last week's speaker



# Peter Tang The Pilgrim's Tale

Peter Tang told us how he and 2 friends walked the Camino Francés - the Way of St James -

from Saint Jean Pied de Port in the French Pyrénées to Santiago de Compostela in north-western Spain.

Peter is a keen runner and cyclist, but not a long-distance walker, so covering 900 kilometres in 33 days was a new type of challenge for him. The boots he wore and the backpack he carried (weighing 15 kg) were brand new - the first he's ever owned.

The route that Peter and his colleagues followed took them through 166 towns (with over 1,800 historic buildings) in autonomous regions of Spain. Along the way, they took two side trips - to the Bardenas Reales desert



and to San Juan de Gaztelugatxe (an islet on the coast of Biscay).

The walkers were each issued with a 'passport' at the start of their journey and received a certificate upon completion. (But it's in Latin, so Peter doesn't know what it says.)

A typical day involved an early start and periodic stops for coffee, beer and tapas (about which a hungry and thirsty Peter was particularly enthusiastic, noting that they were very inexpensive). Much of the walk was through beautiful countryside and it was easy to follow the route, marked with the symbol of the pilgrimage, a scallop shell. The grooves in the shell is reflect all routes leading to Santiago de Compostela.

Peter noticed that towns and village squares along the way are typically at the highest points of the land, for spiritual reasons.

The three friends stopped walking about 2 pm each day, found a simple hostel to stay in (they had no pre-booked accommodation) and then went exploring the local points of interest, such as castles. In the evenings they either cooked for themselves or ate in restaurants.

The modern pilgrim does not become detached from his normal life for long. He can stay connected with the rest of the world without even obtaining a local sim card for his phone. Peter simply relied on wifi, which was availa-

ble in all the cafés they visited.

The highlights of the trip were the people that they met, from a Chinese lady who came to do the walk and stayed to establish a supermarket to the 80 year old Spaniard who was walking the route for the 13th time.

By doing the walk, Peter raised \$20,100 for Cancer Council NSW. (Well done, Peter.)

And what did our new walking enthusi-

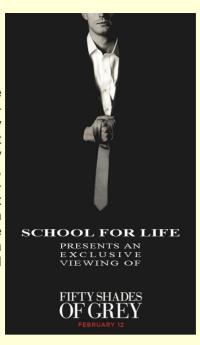
who e walk estab-rket to rold was ute for walk, 20,100 council done, done, thin thusi-

ast and his friends do next? Why, fly to Japan and walk a similar pilgrim's way in that country! But that's another story . . .  $\,$ 

# School for Life -Fifty Shades of Gray

Join us for the ultimate girls' night out at our Exclusive Premiere of Fifty Shades of Grey next Thursday 12th February at The Hayden Orpheum, 380 Military Road, Cremorne. Doors open at 7:30pm for an 8:15pm screening. Tickets are just \$30 and include a glass of champagne and goodie bag.

Annabelle Chauncy School For Life Foundation



# The woman charged with murder of her wife



On Monday, 23 February we will have a meeting that puts ABC crime dramas in the shade.

A story, grippingly told by Mark Tedeschi AM QC, barrister and Senior Crown Prosecutor, features a woman who lived as a man, murder, media mayhem and nearby Lane Cove River Park as a part of the crime scene.

And there's more - the meeting will be a joint meeting with our neighbours at Killara Golf Club, Lindfield Rotary Club.

As a special treat, there will be a special menu for the evening. Partners, family, friends and potential Rotarians are invited and you are encouraged to bring them to hear the story of these strange goings on in the flapping 20's. You will need to book them in early for this meeting.

Mark the date in your calendar and be alert but not alarmed. There will be more clues as the date approaches.

And if you want to read the evidence before the trial begins, look for "Eugenia", shortlisted in 2013 as a finalist in the Australian Book Industry Awards and the Australian Crime Writers Association Ned Kelly Awards.

# Fundraising dinner for ShelterBox

The Rotary Club of Chatswood invites you to its international dinner night to raise funds for ShelterBox. Details are as follows:



- Date: Wednesday, 25 February
- Venue: Jong Ga Jip Korean BBQ Restaurant, 13 Railway Parade, Eastwood
- Time: 6.30 pm for 7 pm
- Cost: \$40 per person
- RSVP to Dieter 0413 539 209 or dieter@ bemad.co (See invitation later in this Koongga)



## The Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel

Arrangements for the club's fundraising showing of The Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel are as follows:

Date: Monday, 2 March

Venue: Roseville Cinema

• Film starts: 8 pm

Duration: 122 minutes

Sandwiches/snacks from

6.30 pm

· Drinks at bar prices

• 206 seats to fill - each member asked to fill at least 6

Tickets: \$25 per person

· Proceeds to PolioPlus

## **Model United Nations Assembly**

MUNA (Model United Nations Assembly) 2015 is a weekend experience to educate high school students in Years 10-12 about the United Nations and its commitment to peace and issues facing dif-



ferent countries around the world.

This year MUNA will be held on the weekend of 16 - 17 May 2015 at Baulkham Hills High School.

Team registrations are open now and close on Friday, 6 March, so please get in touch with your local high schools to invite them to participate in MUNA 2015.

If you have any questions about MUNA, please contact the **MUNA Chairperson** - Phil Wishart on 0400 303 764 or <a href="mailto:phil.wishart@gmail.com">phil.wishart@gmail.com</a>.

# Castle Hill Rotary's 50th anniversary



The President, Board and members of the Rotary Club of Castle Hill invite you to dinner to celebrate the club's 50th birthday. Details are as follows:

- Date: Wednesday, 18 March
- Venue: Madison Function Centre, 682 Old Northern Road, Dural
- Time: 6.30 pm for 7 pm
- Cost: \$50 per person for canapes and a 2 course dinner
- RSVP by 16 February to 0418 466 900 or mhallen@ozemail.com.au
- Pay by 28 February

#### District 9685 Conference

The District Conference is an opportunity for all Rotarians (and their partners) to learn more about Rotary, meet other Rotarians, get to know the District leadership team, find out about other clubs and their projects, socialise and have an enjoyable weekend away.

This year's conference will be held at the Crowne Plaza Hunter Valley, 430 Wine Country Drive, Lovedale from Friday, 20 to Sunday 22 March.

The event features the following keynote speakers:

- Kerry Chikarovski: will speak on the Rotary Youth Driver Awareness program and also education issues for our indigenous youth.
- Miriam Silva: Elders agribusiness was very much a man's world when Miriam stepped in as a General Manager. Her entertaining story will make you laugh – and think!





• **Dr Luc Mulimbalimba Masururu:** will talk about the challenges and triumphs of providing health care, especially to mothers and babies, in the midst of poverty, chronic disease and conflict.

• Rebecca Barry: will show a shortened version of her documentary and then lead a discussion on being a girl in the 21st Century.



• Peter FitzSimons: brings
Gallipoli to life and down to
earth for us in this Centenary of Anzac
year. Peter's topic is 'Peace'.

In addition to the keynote speakers there will be a variety of other presentations, including one by the visiting Vocational Train-

ing Team from Turkey, and other activities. For full details and to register, visit the conference website <a href="https://conference2015d9685.wordpress.com/">https://conference2015d9685.wordpress.com/</a>

# Who needs Uber or TripAdvisor when you have Loïc, David and Patricia?

Loïc Lacombe is going to the District Conference and has offered to provide a lift there and back for one person. First in, best dressed. David and Patricia Forsythe invite attendees to their vineyard property on the Saturday evening. Well done, Loïc, David and Patricia!

# Clean Up Australia Day



Clean Up Australia Day is March 1. If you haven't put yourself in the picture yet, register your Clean Up site today!

There are already **1200 sites registered!** More are needed to make 2015 a record year.

Clean Up Australia Day is your chance to join hundreds of thousands of volunteers armed with white and yellow bags, plus gloves, to clean up their local community.

Roadsides, parks, bushland reserves, beaches and waterways, on Clean Up Australia Day you can gather people and Clean Up an area which matters to you and your neighbours.

## NEWSLETTER - DECEMBER 2014



#### An Investment in Long Term Health Security

Laurie Facer, CEO, Bo Children's Hospital Foundation

The Ebola outbreak has shown us the dangers of poor health infrastructures and underlines the importance of the Bo Children's Hospital. While the world is rightly concerned about the spread of the disease and is prepared to fund the control of this current outbreak, the real issue goes unaddressed. When organisations such as WHO and MSF manage to get the outbreak under control and deem it safe to leave Sierra Leone, they will leave nothing behind. The outbreak will have been conquered but the underlying issue that allowed the outbreak to occur will not have been addressed.

The Foundation believes that is has a simple and effective solution to not only prevent outbreaks of Ebola occurring again, but to also prevent the spread of similar and even more infectious diseases. The cost of combating the current outbreak is enormous. For the same amount of money the existing health

infrastructure could be improved to the point of preventing something like this happening again. The Bo Children's Hospital is a low cost solution designed to offer basic health care and education, it was built by the local community and is staffed and run by the local community for the local community. There is a real commitment to its success. In its first two years of operation it has treated 6,000 children and admitted 1,400 for one or more nights stay. It is working towards a sustainable future with 30% of its operational costs raised locally and with a commitment to raise this to 40% by the end of its third year.

For a considerable period of time we have endeavoured to raise enough money to complete stages 1 and 2 of the hospital to provide extra beds, an isolation ward, and improved pharmacy and laboratory. Our budget of \$40,000 to achieve this is nothing compared to what is currently being spent to combat Ebola. Recent events have shown us the real need for such a facility, not only to prevent unnecessary deaths in Sierra Leone, but to obtain health security in all countries.



Thank you for your support and be confident that your support has been directed into making a highly significant difference.



#### In Their Own Words - Stories from the Frontline

a message from Vandi Sombie. Medical Superintendent. BCH

Amidst the current Ebola outbreak, BCH has been considered a safe haven for the children of Bo and its environs. Since the outbreak six months ago the hospital has been operating successfully; not a single case has been identified and even moribund cases have been proven Ebola negative after their demise. We are considering this as a blessing in disguise.

Although the fight against Ebola has not ended in our country Sierra Leone, we do highly appreciate the profound support from our partner Rotary clubs in Australia and the UK. Due to the deadliness of the disease, every day reduces our willingness to do medical practice, but since we received some protective gear from the Bo Children Hospital Foundation this has renewed our zeal to promote child survival in our own little way.

Many caregivers and beneficiaries have expressed their profound appreciation of BCH's efforts through local radio stations. This is very encouraging, I am also regularly receiving advice and consultation from my seniors on best practice in children's healthcare which has motivated me not to relent in pushing the issues facing BCH to higher heights amidst challenges. With the support from all, we shall endeavour to carry out best practices for the survival of children of Bo and the country at large.

# Ebola Isolation Ward and Planned Hospital Upgrades Peter Matthews

The hospital currently has 11 beds, and these have been running at full capacity for the last year. Though the hospital was designed to have a capacity of 22 beds, due to a lack of finance, the areas marked on the plan shown in blue were not completed.

The completion of these areas will allow for the isolation of infectious disease patients such as those affected by Ebola. It will also improve pharmacy and lab facilities and allow for the introduction of surgical services.

The cost of the upgrade is estimated at \$40,000. At this stage we have raised about half of this, with active programs running to raise the balance. It is hoped that the work will commence early next year.



#### The SAN Hospital lends a hand

Philip Huon

To assist the hospital with the Ebola outbreak in Sierra Leone the Foundation gratefully accepted a quantity of protective clothing from the Sydney Adventist Hospital in Wahroonga. Two shipments of about 50kg each were sent to the hospital in September and November this year. Protective equipment continues to be in short supply, and any and all donations are always appreciated.





#### Fhola has become a household name

AJ Thomas

Ebola has now become a household name not only in the 3 most affected countries in West Africa, Sierra Leone, Guinea and Liberia but worldwide. It continue to leave a trail of humanitarian catastrophe. Unless the international community ramps up their efforts in containing it, within those 3 countries, the unimaginable will occur.

Since the onset of the Ebola crisis, over 10,000 cases have been reported with a fatality rate of nearly 50%.

Sierra Leone accounts for about one third of this, with 5 doctors and about 80 nurses in the midst. The WHO estimates that the numbers are a fraction of the actual casualties and may not account for victims who fall outside healthcare facilities' radar.





Prior to the Ebola crisis, Sierra Leone was recovering from civil war. Its fragile healthcare system was slowly recovering to improve its diabolical maternal and child fatality rates – the highest in the world. With a population of 5.5 million, Sierra Leone had merely 131 doctors, roughly 2.2 per 100,000. The majority of the causes of deaths and illness in Sierra Leone, even since the Ebola outbreak, could be attributed to preventable diseases such as malaria and nutritional deficiencies. This is the reason why Ebola has been particularly devastating in Sierra Leone.

The health infrastructure in these countries have been overwhelmed, healthcare workers overstretched; suspected Ebola cases have been turned away from health centres, corpses have been left lying on the streets for days, some families almost wiped out. Pregnant women and the sick have been affected the most; they have been unable to access healthcare services and some left to die at home. The need for education about Ebola precautions is vital. Due to fear of isolation, cases have been reported of families

extracting their infected relatives from hospital into Ebola free communities further spreading the disease. An example is one family from a small seaside village who lost about seven of their relatives within a month. Quarantined communities are at risk of starvation as trade and economic activities have almost come to a complete standstill.

The international response is appliated but three key challenges remain: inadequate logistics, resistance to behavioural change and inadequate technical expertise. Logistically, health workers still need mobility, among other things to be able to respond effectively. Contact tracers, surveillance and burial teams are key in breaking the chain of transmission. If there is a sick or a dead person in a home, but the ambulance or burial team cannot get there in time, it puts family members at serious risk. This horrible situation forcefully shows how the weaknesses in the country's health sector, are hindering the fight against the Ebola outbreak.

The WHO last week estimated that unless 70% of infected people were treated in the next two months, there will be 10,000 new cases each week, affecting potentially 1.4m West Africans. The UN, WHO have urgently called for more resources and healthcare personnel to contain Ebola. This is why we ask for your support.

#### The Bo Children's Hospital - A Product of Enriching Fellow Human Beings

Dr. Nuli Lemoh – Founder, Bo Children's Hospital

The Bo Children's Hospital began construction in May 2009 by local people, through the financial and practical help of committed people, individuals, Rotary Clubs, and the Sydney University International House Alumni Association. The local builders and managers, with the help of our international supporters have made the hospital unique and saved the lives of many children.

In 2005 before the hospital was built, the mortality rate of children under one year of age in Sierra Leone was 158/1000 compared with 5/1000 in Australia. In the first year of the Hospital 2000 children were seen with just two deaths. My idea to build this hospital had come after i returned from working in Sierra Leone for 9 years. During that time i realised that the very high death rate amongst children was strongly related to the absence of a children's hospital in the rural areas of Sierra Leone.



The success of the hospital is due mainly to the efforts of local people in Sierra Leone and Individuals in overseas countries like Australia and the UK. The Ebola epidemic has been and still is a great problem in West Africa, including Sierra Leone. Fortunately there have been no cases of Ebola in the Bo Children's Hospital. We are currently raising funds to build an isolation Ward in the Bo Children's Hospital. This will be an asset in the containment of epidemics of infectious diseases. Thanks to the invaluable help from all our supporters, the Bo Children's Hospital has an important role to play in the future.



### **Calendar of events**

February	16	Pride of Workmanship Awards		
	23	Mark Tedeschi QC - 'Eugenia' - the life and trial of a woman charged with murder of her wife		
March	2	(Roseville Cinema) The Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel (in aid of PolioPlus)		
	16	Bobbin Head Cycle Classic club briefing		
	29	(Sunday) Bobbin Head Cycle Classic		
April	6	Easter Monday – no meeting		
May	14	(Thursday) Fundraising night: Pymble Players: a Hercule Poirot whodunit		

### Club officers and committee chairmen 2014-15

(Wednesday) Bobbin Head Cycle Classic presentation to charities

<b>Board of directors</b>		Service committee chairmen	
President	Tony McClelland	Club Service	Joy Newling
Vice President	John Aitken	Vocational Service	Michael Midlam
President Elect	Graham Timms	<b>Community Service</b>	Ross Lambert
Secretary	Geoff Hungerford	International Service	Roger Desmarchelier
Treasurer	Graham Maslen	Youth Service	[Vacant]
Director - Membership	Greg Newling	<b>Bobbin Head Cycle Classic</b>	Bob Elsworth
<b>Director - Public Relations</b>	Michael Midlam		
<b>Director - Club Administration</b>	Joy Newling	Sergeant-at-Arms	Malcolm Braid
<b>Director - Service Projects</b>	John Aitken		
<b>Director - Rotary Foundation</b>	Graham Timms		

### Club committees 2014-15

**Administration: Joy Newling**, Geoff Hungerford, Rob Hall, Graham Maslen, Michael Tyler (Koongga)

Bobbin Head Cycle Classic: Bob Elsworth, Graham Timms, Tony McClelland, Ross Egan, John Aitken, Michael Midlam, Emyr Evans, Dilys Geddes, Geoff Hungerford, Jack McCartney, Linda Lam-Rolfs

Club History: Malcolm Braid, Tom Jackson
Community: Ross Lambert, Michael Midlam (Bowel

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Meeting postponed 3 days

scan), Lou Coenen, Linda Lam-Rohlfs, Gary Dawson, Roger Desmarchelier, Chris Hoch (Red Shield), Caroline Jones, Nick Kenyon, Loïc Lacombe, Ross Egan (Daffodil Day) **International: Roger Desmarchelier**, Graham Maslen, David Forsythe, Peter Tang, Georgina Manning, Lindsay Forest, Loïc Lacombe, Emyr Evans, John Aitken

Membership: Greg Newling Public Relations: Michael Midlam

Rotary Foundation: Graham Timms, Peter Tang

**Vocational: Michael Midlam** 

Youth: Joy Newling (acting), Bob Ivey, Malcolm Braid, Tom Jackson, Ted Price, Joyce Enos, Greg Goodman,

Linda Lam-Rolfs, Jack McCartney