



# 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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## **This week: Hugh Mackay: Community**

Hugh Mackay is a social researcher and the author of sixteen books – ten in the field of social psychology and ethics, and six novels. His latest book, *The Art of Belonging*, was published in 2014, and his 6th novel, *Infidelity*, was published in 2013.



In recognition of his pioneering work in social research, he has been elected a Fellow of the Australian Psychological Society and awarded honorary doctorates by Charles Sturt, Macquarie, NSW and Western Sydney universities.

A newspaper columnist for over 25 years, Hugh is currently an honorary professor of social science at the University of Wollongong, an adjunct professor in the faculty of arts at Charles Sturt University, and a patron of the Asylum Seekers' Centre. He was previously deputy chairman of the Australia Council, chairman of trustees of Sydney Grammar School and the inaugural chairman of the ACT government's Community Inclusion Board. In 2015, Hugh was appointed an Officer in the Order of Australia.

Always a stimulating speaker, Hugh's talk on the subject 'Community' is bound to be informative and thought-provoking.

## **Last meeting's guests & notices**

### **President Graham:**

- Welcomed Pony Cheung, Emily Cheung and Rita Coenen; and
- Reported on the successful visit to the Parents' Café at Fairfield High School (see Koongga 26 October) and said that it was proposed to invite the Parents' Café to cater for the club's Christmas Party.

### **Roger Desmarchelier:**

- Noted that our club had previously donated \$2,000 to

## **Rotary monthly theme: The Rotary Foundation**

the Parents' Café to help with its administration, that Fairfield High School has 60 nationalities amongst its 1,100 students and that, on the day that our club visited the Parents' Café, it had catered for an evening function at Newington College;

- Requested members to provide contact details of local businesses that can be asked to sponsor (by way of advertisements) production of a carol book for Carols By Candlelight (underwritten by our club, as last year); and
- Called for a volunteer to take over distribution and collection of Bowelcare kits to/from pharmacies.

### **Bob Elsworth:**

- Took names of volunteers to distribute flyers for the Bobbin Head Cycle Classic at the 'Gong Ride on Sunday, 1 November;
- Handed out flyers for members to distribute to their own contacts; and
- Emphasised the importance of promoting the BHCC by word of mouth.

**Tony McClelland** promoted the 'Fun Club' (aka The Book Club) and invited anyone interested in joining to contact Roger Desmarchelier.

**Malcolm Braid** requested members to let him know what foreign foods they will bring to the International Night on Monday, 16 November.

## **National Youth Science Forum**

Emily Cheung, a student at Abbotsleigh, is our nominee to the National Youth Science Forum. This week she spoke at our meeting. This is what she said:



My current school subjects are Four Unit Maths, Extension English, Physics, Chemistry and Design and Technology.

I did do Biology for the first couple months, but unfortunately, I had slightly too many units on top of the 10 hours of co-curricular activities I do a week.

But apart from school, I enjoy dancing, photography, watching TED Talks, and baking, as I am quite the food enthusiast.

Firstly, I would like to explain my passion and love for the

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The club meets every Monday 6.30pm at Killara Golf Club, 556 Pacific Highway, Killara. Visitors welcome (Tel: 9498 2700). [www.kuringgairotary.org.au](http://www.kuringgairotary.org.au) 'Be a gift to the world' is the Rotary International President's theme for 2015-16

subject that is science. Science allows you to have a deeper understanding of the world, which, in my opinion, leads to a greater ability to enjoy it. Science is a common language, a way to express ideas with other people throughout the world, about our world. And science gives us a chance to make our lives better.

As a Design & Technology student as well, I want to be able to combine design with science, as well as the other STEAM subjects, and possibly venture out into the world of Engineering. STEAM basically stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics. These are the subjects which interests me the most, and will hopefully assist me to fulfil my dream, that is, to design and create wearable technology.

Wearable technology is essentially the incorporation of computers and programs onto items of clothing and accessories to be worn on the body. Generally, wearable technology will have some form of communication capability or access to information in real time.

The most prime example of wearable technology is the Apple Watch, a 'smartwatch' which allows the wearer to have access to almost all programs and means of communication as a smartphone. Additionally, the watch also monitors the user's health, sleep patterns and heart rate.

The ultimate goal of wearable technology is to integrate technology into the daily lives of individuals, to solve issues and to make life easier for all. I want to help with this process in my life. I want to be able to help the wider community to make their lives better.

This is the reason why I am so privileged to be able to attend the National Youth Science Forum in January. For those who don't know, National Youth Science Forum (or NYSF) is a two week summer camp. The program involves listening to speakers at various forums, taking part in debates, going to seminars, and visiting different scientific and research laboratories.



Interesting fact – it has actually been 30 years since this camp began its operations with Rotary as the founding partner, which is really quite astonishing.

As “NYSF-ers” we get to meet the most incredible and outstanding scholars, researchers, professors...which is an amazing opportunity for network development, as well as an insight into the many skills and careers, and are immersed in a range of the different fields of science.

Additionally, the camp is hosted by The Australian National University in Canberra, which is the only university which allows me to pursue both Science and Design as

a double degree. Being able to see what it feel like living there for two weeks will be an incredible experience. I know my mum cannot wait for those two weeks - probably throwing parties without me being around.

I hope that by attending, I will not only extend my knowledge even further, but get to meet people my age, from across Australia, with the same passion for science that I have. And who knows? Maybe these students I have the privilege of meeting, will be the scientists I may work with, to push the existing boundaries and to provide all with a better world and a better future.

I would just like to thank you all, and thank Ku-ring-gai Rotary for sponsoring me and supporting me in my journey to success in science. Special thank you to all the wonderful people who have read my countless forms and applications to attend the NYSF, as well as the people who sacrificed their time in order to help me get into the program.

A very special thing that NYSF-ers get to do after the camp is to visit four different schools around the area and promote NYSF and Rotary for the work that they do, especially for us, youth. And as I am also a member of Interact at my school, I also have the opportunity to try and encourage as many people as I can to come and join, and participate in all the service activities we run.

I would like to leave you all with a quote that has great meaning to me: “Science never solves a problem without creating ten more.”

So thank you so much again, and I'll be looking forward to when I can come back after the camp and tell you all about my incredible experience.

Thank you!

## **Certificate for our ShelterBoxes**

Our club has received a certificate for 4 ShelterBoxes that it has funded - numbers 13891, 13892, 13893 and 13894 (see later in this edition).



You can track where and when these Shelterboxes are deployed, by going to

[www.shelterbox.org](http://www.shelterbox.org), clicking on the “Track Your Box” button, entering Australia for the country and the box number. You'll be able to see the destination, when sent and the reason for the need for our ShelterBoxes.

It's a great way to be able to feel engaged with our giving and to know where the boxes have helped people in need. Our club will also be informed when the boxes have been deployed, so we will also update you in Koongga.

## **Rotary Foundation awards**

Who do you know who would be a suitable candidate for either of the following?

**Applications are invited for Rotary Peace Fellowships awarded in 2016 for the academic year in 2017**

The Rotary Peace Fellowship is the premier educational program of The Rotary Foundation and supports Rotary's mission to advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace. It is intended for individuals who have



chosen a career related to international relations, peace and conflict resolution; who have work experience in these areas; and who have a commitment to

community or international humanitarian service and working for peace. Applicants should consider these objectives carefully before applying.

### **ROTARY DISTRICT 9685 Rotary Global Grant Scholarship in 2016**

#### **Invitation to a young person interested in international postgraduate study to apply for a Rotary District 9685 Global Grant Scholarship**

The purpose of the Global Grant Scholarship program is to support international study at post graduate level.

Rotary District 9685 supports the Global Grant Scholarship Program of The Rotary Foundation and will offer one Global Grant Scholarship in 2016. This scholarship program is funded by a District 9685 grant of US\$15,000 which is matched by the Rotary Foundation providing a scholarship to the total value of US\$30,000.

For further information about either of the above awards, including full details of eligibility requirements and application forms, contact our club's Foundation Director, Peter Tang.

### **Rotary Australia World Community Service**

Rotary Australia World Community Service (RAWCS) is a big business with an exciting future. The RAWCS management team are putting in sound strategies to enable more growth and more opportunities for Rotarians to do wonderful humanitarian work locally and internationally.



With the emergence of Rotary Australia Benevolent Society (RABS) RAWCS can now respond to humanitarian need or crisis in our own local community.

RAWCS is a growth area of Rotary. Volunteers both Rotarian and non-Rotarian working on RAWCS projects continues to increase.

The RAWCS quarterly meetings are a great opportunity to see what RAWCS is all about. All Rotarians and friends are welcome to attend. If you can make it, we would love to see you there. It is a great chance to hear about some wonderful Rotary work undertaken and meet some inspiring Rotarians.

RAWCS is all about ordinary people doing extraordinary things. You can find out much more in the latest RAWCS Rover. Download it at <http://www.rawcseastern.org.au/>

### **Last meeting: Lou Coenen: The challenges facing Australian education**

Following a corporate career in information technology, Lou Coenen became a business consultant and university lecturer. Drawing on his up-to-date experience, Lou discussed some of the challenges that are currently facing tertiary education providers in Australia – which generate revenues over \$26 Billion (2012). Besides the

policy uncertainties resulting from the different government directions, Lou highlighted five major challenges that are facing tertiary education providers – not just in Australia but also globally.



- **Competition:** The world is competing for every learner – domestic and international. The local, accredited universities directly compete against each other. Out-of-state and international universities are establishing local campuses. There are also those who offer fully accredited on-line degree programs on a diminished fee basis, as well as providing specialty courses on both fee and free courses. Finally there are those international students which actively promote Aussie students to go to their facilities overseas.

There is a wide range of available learning materials that compete with / support classic academic journals, courses, and presentations. These include on-line courses, webinars, topical and interview videos on YouTube, TEDTalks, blogs, reports, and much more that are either fee-based or free.

- **Financials:** The financials are big and complex, with 8 Australian universities having revenues in excess of A\$1 Billion and more within striking distance of that. Increasing operational costs, coupled with decreased government (and other), sources of financial support are causing financial challenges for all universities and their students. The Australian Taxation Office estimated that the Higher Education Contribution Scheme Debt which totaled \$40.9 Billion in 2014 will reach \$70.4 Billion by 2017.

- **Students have changed:** Today's learners are very different than ever before. This isn't just a "Gen Y" thing; it deals with Australians' easy access to internet communications. Gen Ys are digital natives who readily use on-line tools to seek out information, rapidly learn new interaction tools, and build large virtual relationship networks. Increasingly, however, these are the same skills that many Baby Boomer and Gen X members also possess because of their work demands. Lifelong learning and collaborative working are crucial elements of today's workplace and retirement activity.



- **New learning paradigms:** Educational experimentation with innovative learning applications is still gaining traction – partly because many of the issues relate not just to student learning but also to faculty having to quickly adapt to very different approaches and technologies than ever before.
- **Information resources:** Libraries have to morph rapidly to support scholarship – but are frequently challenged because of the rapid proliferation of diverse materials in different formats coupled with the need for remote access by their academic and learner

communities.

### New technologies

Lou went on to discuss some of the changes in educational technologies, including:

- The ever-increasing availability of on-line information which allows most people to work, learn, and study whenever and wherever they want to.
- The availability of the “cloud” which provides flexibility to store and develop existing and new materials and applications.
- These factors lead to a much more active form of learning which is focused on students “exploring understanding” the course content, rather than merely listening to the course presenter. Moreover the tools that are used are increasingly a combination of presentation, coupled with learner face-to-face and on-line collaboration. This prepares them better for the reality of life-long learning.

### Possible added-value revenues

Finally, Lou provided a number of possible approaches which could assist Australian universities in expanding their educational and financial opportunities through ATAP (Any Time / Any Place) offerings, better use of “course making” tools and making direct use of available professionally experienced and time available resources – the “cognitive surplus”. This latter group could also facilitate the academic – commercial dialogue.

- Revenue possibilities come from increasing the current target age audience of most universities - 17 yr to 25 yr olds, which only represent 13% of the Australian population - to those who are over 25 yrs, which represent over 68%.
- Financial and competitive advantage would also come from a wider diversity of revenue and reputation expanding activities that take more general course materials and tailor them to the needs of client companies who want to provide their employees with university calibre on-going training and development. These could also provide better opportunities for government and industry grants.
- Social advantage would come from being able to be more aligned to the needs of a wider diversity of life-long learners in terms of topics, availability, and cost. It also brings advanced education to a wider geographic and mobile population. Programs and courses could be developed in conjunction with non-traditional subject matter experts – the “cognitive surplus” individuals who have the experience, skills, and available time to develop.

As there was no time to ask questions, Lou invited the audience to call or email him with their enquiries.

He also recommended reading the recent Business – Higher Education Round Table (B-HERT) newsletter, especially the article on pg. 16. <http://www.bhert.com/publications/newsletter/BHERTNews33.pdf>



## Next week: Professor Michael Pailthorpe: Forensic investigation of textile clues in crimes and accidents

Mike Pailthorpe, a member of the Rotary Club of Lindfield, gained his BSc (Hons) degree in Textile Technology from the University of New South Wales (UNSW) in 1966 and retired with the title Professor Emeritus upon leaving UNSW at the end of 2000.

Mike was a senior consultant with the Food & Textiles Group of AgResearch Limited, New Zealand, from 1999 to 2010. His consulting activities covered a broad range of areas including: fibre science; dyeing, printing and finishing; textile chemistry; commercial litigation and textile forensic science.

Textiles are the silent witness at virtually all crime scenes. Textile fibres can be transferred from the victim's clothing to the criminal's clothing, and visa versa, and from other textile items at the crime scene to either the victim or criminal or both. Textiles may also be used as gags and bindings, to start fires, to clean weapons, to dispose of bodies (e.g. blankets and carpets), and so on. Mike's talk will illustrate these points with examples from some of the criminal cases that he has been involved in.

Textiles are used in every aspect of our every day lives. Thus textiles, textile failures and textile fires can be the cause of serious accidents and, sadly, sometimes loss of life. Mike will provide some examples from his commercial cases; including textile fires, insurance fraud, etc.

## Cordoba Cycle Classic



Koongga's foreign correspondents, Geoff and Patsy Hungerford, sent the above photo of the Cordoba (Spain) Cycle Classic. It isn't clear whether they participated in the event or merely observed it.

However, a search for the event's website produces nothing - unlike a search for 'Bobbin Head Cycle Classic' which comes up first whenever you search for it. It sounds as though the Spanish copycats could do with a bit of guidance from the experts.

## If a tree falls . . . ?

Q1: If a tree falls in the forest and there's nobody there to hear, does it make a sound?

Q2: If a man speaks in a forest and there's no woman there to hear, is he still wrong?

# Certificate of Appreciation



Presented to

## **The Rotary Club of Ku-ring-gai Inc**

ShelterBox Australia, an international affiliate of the ShelterBox Trust UK, recognises the support you have given to the worldwide Global Rotary Club ShelterBox Program by sponsoring

**ShelterBox Numbers 13891, 13892,  
13893 and 13894**

June, 2015

**For and on behalf of ShelterBox Australia**

A simple, stylized handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a few loops and a horizontal line.

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The ShelterBox Mission is:  
To provide on a world-wide basis, humanitarian aid in the form of material and equipment that provides shelter, warmth and comfort to people displaced by natural and other disasters.



ShelterBox Trust  
is a registered charity and a global Rotary Club  
project President Her Royal Highness The  
Duchess of Cornwall

**DISASTER  
RELIEF**

[www.shelterboxaustralia.org.au](http://www.shelterboxaustralia.org.au)

## Calendar of events

|          |    |   |
|----------|----|---|
| November | 9  | Professor Michael Pailthorpe: Forensic investigation of textile clues in crimes and accidents |
|          | 16 | International night <i>chez</i> Manning   |
|          | 23 | Club business meeting   |
|          | 30 |   |
| December | 7  | Annual General Meeting; Annabelle Chauncy: School For Life Foundation                         |
|          | 14 | Club Christmas party <i>chez</i> Tyler  |
|          | 21 | No meeting  |
|          | 28 | No meeting  |
| January  | 4  | No meeting  |
|          | 11 |   |
|          | 18 |   |
|          | 25 |   |
| February | 1  |   |
|          | 8  |   |

## Club officers and committee chairmen 2015-16

### Board of directors

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

### Service committee chairmen

|                                      |                     |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Administration (Club Service)</b> | Michael Midlam      |
| <b>Vocational Service</b>            | Lindsay Forrest     |
| <b>Community Service</b>             | Roger Desmarchelier |
| <b>International Service</b>         | Georgina Manning    |
| <b>Youth Service</b>                 | Linda Lam-Rohlfs    |
| <b>Social events</b>                 | Joy Newling         |
| <b>Bobbin Head Cycle Classic</b>     | Tony McClelland     |
| <b>Sergeant-at-Arms</b>              | Malcolm Braid       |
| <b>Assistant Secretary</b>           | Lindsay Forrest     |
| <b>Assistant Treasurer</b>           | Chris Lewis         |

## Club committees 2015-16

**Administration:** **Michael Midlam**, Geoff Hungerford, Rob Hall (Program), Bob Ivey (Web and social media), Graham Maslen, Michael Tyler (Koongga)

**Bobbin Head Cycle Classic:** **Tony McClelland**, John Aitken, Ross Egan, Bob Elsworth, Peter Kipps, Graham Timms

**Club History:** Malcolm Braid, Tom Jackson

**Community:** **Roger Desmarchelier**, Gary Dawson, Ross Egan (Daffodil Day), Greg Goodman (Bowelscan), Chris Hoch (Red Shield), Nick Kenyon, Ted Price

**International:** **Georgina Manning**, Roger Desmarchelier, Emyr Evans, Dilys Geddes, Rob Hall, Loïc Lacombe, Graham Maslen, Greg Newling

**Membership:** **Tony McClelland**, Caroline Jones, Ken Sackville

**Public Relations:** **Roger Desmarchelier**, Linda Lam-Rohlfs, Georgina Manning,

**Rotary Foundation:** **Peter Tang**, Lindsay Forrest, Chris Hoch, Greg Newling

**Social Events:** **Joy Newling**, Ross Egan, Dilys Geddes, Georgina Manning,

**Vocational:** **Lindsay Forrest**, Lou Coenen, David Forsythe, Peter Kipps, Michael Tyler

**Youth:** **Linda Lam-Rohlfs**, Joyce Enos, Stan Glaser, Gary Keating, Chris Lewis, Joy Newling, Don Riddell