



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: Peace and conflict prevention/resolution

This week: Edwina Throsby: Creating TEDx

Imagine a day filled with brilliant speakers, thought-provoking video and mind-blowing conversation.



A TEDx event is a local gathering where short live talks and videos recorded at previous TED ('Technology, Entertainment and Design') conferences are shared with the community. TEDx events are planned and coordinated on a community-by-community basis. The content and design of each TEDx event is unique and developed independently, but all of them have features in common.

The format is a suite of short, carefully prepared talks, demonstrations and performances that are idea-focused, and cover a wide range of subjects to foster learning, inspiration and wonder – and provoke conversations that matter.

Every TEDx event either shows only TED Talk videos to its audience, or shows both TED Talk videos and live speakers from the community.

All TEDx events present multiple issues and a diversity of voices from many disciplines. After all, what's the fun without a little variety?

A TEDx event is organized by volunteers from the local community, and it lacks any commercial, religious or political agenda. Its goal is to spark conversation, connection and community.

Edwina Throsby is the 'curator' of TEDx Sydney, charged with assembling the range of presenters required. It's a demanding role and she will tell us how she manages to pull together such a fascinating event.

Last week's guests & notices

President Elect Michael Midlam welcomed our guest speaker, Ku-ring-gai Mayor Cheryl Szatow, Anil Fulwaria, Joyce Cribb, Frances Forrest, Adrienne Hall, Laurel Jackson and Anne Maslen.

Bob Ivey reminded members that they will be charged for attendance at club meetings if they fail to

register their non-attendance on the club website by 9.25 am each Monday (at which time the number of attendees is automatically sent to the Killara Golf Club). Bob demonstrated the use of the Attendance system and emphasised the need to complete each entry by pressing the 'Update' button (soon to be renamed 'Save').

Malcolm Braid requested members to sign up for 'Dinners for 8' (on 8, 9 or 10 April) on the list he circulated.

Tony McClelland said that registrations for the Bobbin Head Cycle Classic were 250 short compared to the same time last year. He requested members to continue their marketing efforts (and ask everyone they talk to to join Rotary).

School For Life Foundation opens its second school



Last Tuesday the School For Life Foundation opened its second school in Uganda - Mbaazi Riverside Primary School. Look out for more details about this milestone in the Foundation's progress in future editions of Koongga.

District 9685 Conference

It's two weeks to go before the District Conference and you can still register to attend it. See all the details, including the line up of guest speakers and other special events at the Conference website <http://>

In this issue

- This week: Edwina Throsby: Creating TEDx
- Last week's guests & notices
- School For Life Foundation opens its second school
- District 9685 Conference • Trek 4 Timor
- Rotary Australia World Community Service at The Entrance
- Connect with Korea – Touch the World
- Last week: Mayor Cheryl Szatow: Council amalgamation
- Next week: Bobbin Head Cycle Classic Briefing
- Calendar of events • Club officers • Club committees

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



Trek 4 Timor

Rotarians Libby Bleakley and Teresa Beck (both Australian Federal Police members) start their trek to Canberra to raise funds for Sentru Formasau Ba Juventude (Learning Centre for Youth & Community) in Timor-Leste on Thursday, 3 March.

You can support them with a tax deductible donation. See the advertisement later in this edition of Koongga.

Rotary Australia World Community Service at The Entrance

Fancy a weekend at The Entrance on 14-15 May? Why not combine it with a few hours mixing with other Rotarians and learning about Rotary Australia World Community Service (RAWCS)? See the advertisement later in this edition of Koongga.

Connect with Korea - Touch the world



EARLY REGISTRATION SAVINGS END 31 MARCH

The countdown to the Rotary Convention is on! Join the more than 40,000 Rotarians who have already registered and experience the biggest event of the Rotary year, the convention in Korea, 28 May - 1 June

Convention Committee Chair Ian H.S. Riseley has

helped

secure an outstanding group of [speakers](#), including a world champion of public speaking, a famous spiritual guru from India, and the CEO of an organization that works to keep children out of institutional care and living with families. Watch the [video](#) to learn more about the [convention program](#).

Come to Korea to get inspired to do more good and *Be a Gift to the World*.

Take advantage of early registration savings until 31 March. [Register](#) today!

Last week: Mayor Cheryl Szatow: Council amalgamation



Mayor Cheryl Szatow gave a detailed account of Ku-ring-gai Council's reasons for opposing the state government's proposal to merge Ku-ring-gai and Hornsby Councils. The following summary comes from the Ku-ring-gai Council website.

The financial advantages or disadvantages of the proposal to the residents and ratepayers of the areas concerned

- Ku-ring-gai Council is financially sound. Over the last 10 financial years Council achieved operating surpluses every year.
- The NSW Government's Treasury Corporation (TCorp) rated Ku-ring-gai as being in the top 16 financially strongest out of 152 NSW councils.
- The Net Operating Result for 2014/2015 was a surplus of \$22.5 million after allowing for depreciation on assets.
- IPART has confirmed that Ku-ring-gai Council meets seven Fit for the Future benchmarks by 2016/17.
- Should a merger proceed current council rates will not be affected for the next 4 years. However from Year 5, assuming land values in Ku-ring-gai remain higher than in Hornsby, property rates in the former area of Ku-ring-gai would increase while rates in the former Hornsby area would decrease.
- Previous analysis submitted to IPART showed rate increases by between 5% and 17% in a merged council - or \$67 and \$220 pa on average.
- A merger would expose Ku-ring-gai Council to the financial risks of a \$50 million project to make Hornsby Shire Council's quarry safe and useable for recreation.
- Forecast savings from the proposed merger of \$70 million over 20 years is small in comparison to the overall budget of the councils, representing less than 1.5% in savings.
- The merger proposal includes transferring part of the Epping Town Centre to Parramatta Council. This could be detrimental to the financial sustainability of the merged council with the loss of 20,000 residents.

The community of interest and geographic cohesion in the existing areas and in any proposed new area

- The two areas are very different, with Ku-ring-gai being urban while Hornsby has significant rural land and includes extensive remote communities and river set-



tlements.

- Ku-ring-gai Council covers approximately 85km². In contrast Hornsby Shire Council is approximately 455km² (over 5 times the size of Ku-ring-gai).

- Both Ku-ring-gai and Hornsby Councils already have large populations. Ku-ring-gai has a current population of 120,978 and projected population of 157,040 by 2031. Hornsby has a population of 149,082 and projected population of 193,810 by 2031. (without Epping)

- The merger proposal will create a Council with a 540km² area and population of 270,060 with projected population of over 350,000 by 2031.

The existing historical and traditional values in the existing areas and the impact of change on them

- For over 100 years Ku-ring-gai values have been heritage, urban planning and protecting the environment. Under a merged entity these values may be lost or eroded.
- Council has substantially progressed major projects for revitalising Lindfield and Turramurra Local Centres underpinned by strong community support. There is no guarantee these projects would continue in a merged council.

The attitude of the residents and ratepayers of the areas concerned

- Nine months community consultation has shown:
 - 79% indicated a preference to stand alone
 - 21% preferred to merge with Hornsby Council
- This is the result of an independent survey conducted between April and May 2015.

The requirements of the area concerned in relation to elected representation for residents and ratepayers at the local level, the desirable and appropriate relationship between elected representatives and ratepayers and residents and such other matters as considered relevant in relation to the past and future patterns of elected representation for that area

- Councillor representation for the Ku-ring-gai community would significantly reduce in a merged council proposal.
- A merger would result in less say for Ku-ring-gai residents in decisions about how money is spent and in planning future development.

The impact of the proposal on the ability of the council to provide adequate, equitable and appropriate services and facilities

- Ku-ring-gai is relatively compact for the delivery of efficient services and access to community facilities. Hornsby Shire is characterised by very large distances, dispersed population settlements and a broad mix of land uses, all of which affect the relative availability of services, facilities and the cost of delivering those services.
- Ku-ring-gai Council has higher revenue per capita than Hornsby Shire, with greater capacity to provide services. A merger would equalise services, resulting in either a reduction of services or increased rates.

The impact of the proposal on the employment of the staff by the council

- Substantial disruption to services and productivity during the transition period;
- The Fit for the Future program would provide \$10 million for transition costs if Ku-ring-gai and Hornsby merged. However research in Queensland suggests this will not cover the transition costs.

The need to ensure that the opinions of each of the diverse communities of the resulting area or areas are effectively represented

- Ku-ring-gai Council has undertaken a rigorous process of communication and community consultation regarding the merger proposal. This included an independently conducted and statistically valid survey. Hornsby Council has not consulted its community on this issue since a survey was conducted in 2013.

Other factors relevant to the provision of efficient and effective local government in the existing and proposed new areas

- Ku-ring-gai Council delivers best practice environmental management. Examples include its climate change adaptation strategy, community engagement programs, aboriginal heritage management program and natural areas strategic planning.
- Under a merged Council, Ku-ring-gai's Environmental Levy will cease and cannot be renewed.
- The Levy funds the annual delivery of over \$2 million of environmental initiatives. Its cessation would result in a significant reduction in environmental management services, resulting in poorer environmental outcomes.
- This will not necessarily be counteracted by increased spending from any savings/efficiencies in a merged council.

Next week: Bobbin Head Cycle Classic briefing

The Bobbin Head Cycle Classic is almost upon us. It's time to get all participants in its organisation and management on the day together for a thorough briefing about the arrangements for the event. There are changes since last year, so as many as possible need to attend to learn what's new and get a refresher on everything else. Bring your family and friends!



ROTARY SUPPORTING YOUTH IN TIMOR-LESTE

Trek-4-Timor

Sydney to
Canberra

3-12 March
2016



Let's build
the
Learning
Centre



Policewomen to walk a different beat

Two off-duty policewomen will start a 357km trek from Martin Place in Sydney to Parliament House in Canberra from 3-12 March... a 10-day "Trek-4-Timor".

Rotarians Libby Bleakley and Teresa Beck (both Australian Federal Police members) are walking a different beat to raise funds for the **Sentru Formasaun Ba Juventude** (Learning Centre for Youth & Community) in Timor-Leste.

Tax-deductible donations can be made through the Rotary Club of Blackheath's website www.rotaryclubofblackheath.com.au by clicking on our emblem, or alternatively through the Sentru Formasaun Ba Juventude Facebook page.



Our Patron -
His Excellency
Xanana Gusmão



Rotary



Invitation

RAWCS meeting - 14th and 15th May 2016

District 9685 is hosting a weekend for Rotarians and friends at **The Entrance**.



District 9685 is hosting a weekend for NSW & ACT Rotarians and friends

WHEN: May 14 and 15

- Saturday afternoon 2pm to 4:30pm
- Saturday evening from 6:30pm - featuring special Guest Speaker and Pink Umbrella Foundation grants
- Sunday 9:00am RAWCS Eastern Region General meeting

WHERE:

- Diggers at The Entrance

WHY:

- To be inspired and motivated by active fellow Rotarians.
- To understand some elusive service opportunities available to all Rotarians.

Please join us for a great weekend!

with
RAWCS
YOU
CAN MAKE
DIFFERENCE



I always thought someone should do something about that.

Then I realised **I am someone**

For more information email: D9685 RAWCS Chair, Jan Pryor: janpryor08@gmail.com

Calendar of events

March	7	Bobbin Head Cycle Classic briefing
	11	(Saturday & Sunday) District Conference, Canberra
	14	Graham Wilcox: The struggle for unity - a story of the federation of Australia
	20	(Sunday) Bobbin Head Cycle Classic
	21	Neil Howie: Rotary International Foundation
	28	No meeting (Easter Monday)
April	4	
	8	9 & 10 (Friday - Sunday): Dinners for 8
	11	
	18	Ken Zulumovski: Gamarada Universal Indigenous Resources
	25	No meeting (Anzac Day)
May	2	
	9	
	16	No meeting (meeting deferred to Wednesday 18 May)
	18	(Wednesday) Bobbin Head Cycle Classic presentations
	23	
	30	
June	6	

Club officers and committee chairmen 2015-16

Board of directors

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

Service committee chairmen

Administration (Club Service)	Michael Midlam
Vocational Service	Lindsay Forrest
Community Service	Roger Desmarchelier
International Service	Georgina Manning
Youth Service	Linda Lam-Rohlfs
Social events	Joy Newling
Bobbin Head Cycle Classic	Tony McClelland
Sergeant-at-Arms	Malcolm Braid
Assistant Secretary	Lindsay Forrest
Assistant Treasurer	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), Chris Hoch (Red Shield), Nick Kenyon, Ted Price

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

Membership: Tony McClelland, 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, Stan Glaser, Gary Keating, Chris Lewis, Matt Mahjoub, Joy Newling, Don Riddell