



# K O O N G G A

Bulletin of the Rotary Club Of Ku-ring-gai Inc  
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Rotary serving humanity

Volume 59 No. 12 19 Sept 2016 — Membership and New Club Development Month

## Guest speaker Claudia Moratti



Claudia Moratti was RCK's guest speaker on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> September and she dazzled us with insights into the ripeness of avocados and the squeeziness of kiwifruit.

Claudia is one of the team of students from Sydney University entered in the 2016 "International Genetically Engineered Machine Competition, known as iGEM for

short.

Members will recall that our fellow Rotarian, Matty Mahjoub, was part of the 2015 iGEM team. Matty's project was to create genetically engineered cells to produce needed medical supplies such as insulin however Claudia and her team have taken a different tack.

How do you tell when an avocado is ripe? That's right, you squeeze it. This bruises the fruit and leads to large amounts of spoilage. Yet judging ripeness ought to be simple because as fruit such as avocados ripen they emit ethylene which should be easy to detect. It's not.

And that's only the beginning of the problem. When ripening fruit emits eth-

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ylene it triggers accelerated ripening by surrounding fruit, hence the expression “one bad apple spoils the barrel.” Indeed, one bad kiwifruit or avocado can spoil an entire shipment. As Claudia pointed out, with some fruit such as bananas it’s simple to see when a piece is over-ripe but with kiwifruit and many varieties of avocado this is almost impossible.

The high-tec. solution employs gas chromatography but this is expensive so there is a simpler way – squeeze a sample of the fruit, and in bulk fruit handling companies at places like the Sydney Markets that’s exactly what they do. There are people actually employed to squeeze kiwifruit and avocados. The spoilage is very large.

The Sydney University iGem team is searching for an alternative by developing a cell based biosensor based on a bacteria found in a lake in NSW. The bacteria with the catchy name of NBB4 is sensitive to ethylene and by splicing it into common and easy to use bacterium, a benign member of the ecoli family, the team hopes to develop a simple sticker that can be attached to each piece of fruit that tells purchasers and intermediate handlers when the fruit is ripe.

Claudia cautions that although they are making good progress there’s a long way to go yet and quite a few hurdles to overcome, not the least being public caution over the use of genetically modified material and, as one member suggested during questions, the use of a medium, ecoli, popularly associated with food poisoning.

But it’s hard to understate the potential for the technology and the meeting concluded with the almost unanimous resolution never to take a squeezed avocado lightly again.

## **Pride Of Workmanship**

Pride Of Workmanship presentation is now 17 October

## **New computers for EaglesRAPS**

President Michael advised he went shopping and was able to purchase four new laptop computers for EaglesRAPS.

## Movie Evening

Please join us for another fun-filled Monday night at the Roseville Cinema!

### **Bridget Jone's Baby (CTC) - on Monday 19th Sept at 8pm, at Roseville Cinema.**

It's been over 10 years since we've had a run in with Bridget Jones.

Renee Zellweger played the title role in two films from the early 2000's.

The first film [\*Bridget Jones' Diary\*](#) was a massive hit, and the sequel, *Bridget Jones: The Edge of Reason...* wasn't a total failure.

While it's been a long time since we've seen Bridget Jones, we can guess what she's been up to from the title of the new film [\*Bridget Jones' Baby\*](#). Check it out!

**Tickets \$20 each -**

**Please line up your friends for a fun night and confirm your attendance at the following link;-**

### **Entry form**

**<https://goo.gl/7sesKV>**

**festivities commence from 7pm with drinks & nibbles in the upstairs lounge**

parking in the Pacific Highway after 7pm, and at the rear of the shops.

## This week

### Rotary membership Subscriptions

Your subscription of \$300 is now due, please pay at your early convenience

### Attendance System

#### ATTENDANCE SYSTEM: Handy Hint

If you have entered a period of absence and decide to attend the club BEFORE the period has ended, you click “Attending” [Save] and a “P” appears beside your name for the next meeting. BUT... the overlapping period of absence still shows beside your name which is confusing.

#### Any member can easily fix it

- If you are correcting it for another member, first click on the person’s name, to bring it to the top of the pag
- enter the CORRECT period of absence – with a finish date the date of the PREVIOUS Monday press [Save]
- Scroll down to check the result. You should see the dates of the period of absence disappear, because the program deletes periods of absence in the ‘past’

Of course if you will be away again, just enter another future date range

### Calendar of events

26-Sep	Taylor Harrison	Keeping fit and healthy
03-Oct	Labour Day	
10-Oct	TBC Pride of Workmanship	
17-Oct	TBC Pride of Workmanship	
24-Oct	Belinda Howell	Education as an export
31-Oct	Cameron Kerr	100 years of Taronga
07-Nov	Ted Price	What the doctor prescribed.. or thought they did.
14-Nov	TBC: Captain Cameron Hartman	Qantas antarctic flights
21-Nov	TBC Business Session	

<b>President</b>	Michael Midlam
<b>Vice President</b>	John Aitken
<b>Immediate Past President</b>	Graham Timms
<b>President Elect</b>	Malcolm Braid
<b>Secretary</b>	Lindsay Forrest
<b>Treasurer</b>	Chris Lewis
<b>Director</b>	Greg Newling
<b>Director</b>	Linda Lam Rolfs
<b>Service committee chairpersons and committees</b>	
<b>Administration (Club Service)</b>	Gary Keating
<b>Vocational Service</b>	Lou Coenen
<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>	Graham Timms
<b>Club committees</b>	
<p><b>Administration:</b> Gary Keating, Geoff Hungerford, Rob Hall (Program), Bob Ivey (Web and social media), Graham Maslen, Tony McClelland (Koongga)</p> <p><b>Bobbin Head Cycle Classic:</b> Tony McClelland, John Aitken, Ross Egan, Bob Elsworth, Peter Kipps, Michael Midlam, Gary Keating</p> <p><b>Club History:</b> Malcolm Braid, Tom Jackson</p> <p><b>Community:</b> Roger Desmarchelier, Gary Dawson Rob Hall Geoff Hungerford (Gordon Markets) Gary Keating Ross Egan (Daffodil Day) Chris Hoch (Red Shield) Anil Fulwaria Nick Kenyon Ted Price Cathy Jackson</p> <p><b>International:</b> Georgina Manning, Rob Hall, Graham Timms, Graham Maslen, Greg Newling, Anil Fulwaria, Emyr Evans</p> <p><b>Membership:</b> Tony McClelland,</p> <p><b>Public Relations:</b> Emyr Evans, Georgina Manning,</p> <p><b>Rotary Foundation:</b> Chris Hoch, Peter Tang, Lindsay Forrest, , Greg Newling</p> <p><b>Social Events:</b> Joy Newling, Ross Egan, Georgina Manning,</p> <p><b>Vocational:</b> LOU Coenen, David Forsythe, Peter Kipps, M Tyler</p> <p><b>Youth:</b> Linda Lam-Rohlfs, , Cathy Jackson, Gary Keating, Chris Lewis, Matt Mahjoub, Andrew Marselos, Joy Newling, Don Riddell</p>	