



# KOONGGA

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

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## Guest Speaker Monday 24 April

**What does it take to survive?:** On Monday 24<sup>th</sup> April, we will be having a timely visit from Tetsuya Okada from **Risk Frontiers** at Macquarie University.

Tetsuya is a PhD student who has been asking the question, “what are the qualities of a community that help community members deal with a natural disaster?”.

He will be talking about his research in Australia and Japan.



### Rewiring...

On Monday 1st May, Man of many hats, Malcolm Carver will be our guest. He is an Artist, and an Architect and was a former Principal of Scott Carver Pty Ltd..

He is now obsessed with watercolour painting, drawing and teaching around the world in workshops whilst travelling in search of new imagery for exhibitions and sketch books.

He is also something of an inventor and is a tad coy about the topic of his talk— “Rewiring”—but it is certainly not going to be about DIY electrical repairs. Oh, yes, he is also married to our member, Wendy Carver.



## Members presentations—Emyr Evans

Travellers' Tales: On **Monday 10<sup>th</sup>** April, Emyr, Michael (Tyler), David (Forsyth), Roger Desmarchelier each spent a **strictly enforced 5 minutes** (probably using Tony McClelland's phone). Actually Tony's timing was not used and one speaker was stopped at 250% over time.

### Emyr Evans

I worked as a Music Examiner with Trinity College London for some 20 years and they would send me around the world to do the work. I visited India quite regularly – loved South Africa, went to US, Canada and UAE, much enjoyed New Zealand, spent some time in Thailand, experienced the vibrancy of Singapore and Hong Kong, visited Malaysia, and of course here in Australia where I started as a rookie examiner in Cairns - and worked my way down the Queensland coast. What a baptism and I hadn't ever done much flying!



But I'd like to relate to you a quite terrifying incident which occurred in Queenstown in Northern Ireland but before I go into the detail I'd like to provide you with a bit of background.

The terrifying incident took place some 15/16 years ago when the NI province and the British government were still working towards the Easter Agreement with Ian Paisley from the Protestant side and Gerry Adam from Sinn Fein, both reluctant to work towards a peaceful conclusion. Z u

I often looked for Rotary Club on my travels and I found myself attending a Rotary Meeting in Belfast and how authentic is the account I cannot verify, but the person next to me at dinner related an incident which involved Gerry Adams, later the President of Sinn Fein, when he was young man working in a pub. Apparently his time keeping was very bad and the publican warned him that if he didn't improve he'd sack him which happened. The police telephone the publican at 2am shortly after this to say there was an old car outside his pub and did he know whose car it was? The upshot was that the old car was packed with explosives and the pub had to close for six months.

When I first went to Northern Ireland I couldn't understand how it was that so many men walked with limps. Catholics and Protestants had been snitching on each other of course.

Vehicles were continually tested for bombs and the whole climate was one of despair and there were few days when the news didn't include details of people being beaten, knee capped and even having their homes trashed and bombed. Protestants and Catholics to put it mildly just didn't get on.

## Members presentations—Emyr Evans & Roger

The Belfast Town Hall is a handsome building and I had gone looking for the office of the Northern Ireland Arts Council and after finding the way, found myself passing the side of the Town Hall. On reaching the Arts Council Office I heard a huge blast which turned out to be a bomb which had been placed on the windowsill of the Sinn Fein Office. I missed it by some ten minutes and I'd have been a gonna. Well I was still alive but still felt very jumpy.

Back to the terrifying incident I had found myself working in Queenstown. Members of the British Army were often on manoeuvres I was told, faces were blackened and arms at the ready, and they would suddenly appear from nowhere and I didn't find myself in a very comfortable situation.

The staff at the hotel were very friendly as most of Northern Irish people are and they invited me to join a small party involved with the disco at the weekend taking place at the hotel, and I accepted. At about 9pm there was a bit of a commotion and not realising what was going on I thought little of it except that some local folk had got a bit too excited rather too early on a Saturday. The noise and commotion persisted and people I was with suddenly shouted GET UNDER THE TABLE. Needless to say I obeyed immediately and there was what I thought a rather long time before shouting and commotion subsided.

Apparently what had occurred was that some hotheads had been banned and had returned to seriously intimidate people, and had acquired snooker cues where they attempted to dislodge bottles of spirits. The bar staff attempted to close the spirit shelves but in vain.

It was one most terrifying incident in my life.

### Roger Desmarchelier

The trip in 2006 to Alaska was one of the highlights of my travelling . It was 7 old friends and partners celebrating our 60th birthday year. We chartered a luxury cruiser for a week, the MV Sikumi, with 7 passengers and 8 crew and motored amongst the whales and other sea life, while also fishing for Halibut and catching large crabs. The gourmet chef made full use of what we caught.

The adventurous part was participating in a rescue exercise that required us to go into freezing waters, wearing a cumbersome survival suit. That suit almost choked me as the buoyancy restricted my breathing



## Members presentations—David Forsythe

and I needed to be rescued quickly before passing out. I survived.

So in summary. A not to be repeated trip as a few of my fellow travellers are not around any more as well as the adventure parts in beautiful Alaska.

### David Forsythe

THE MOST HAPPY PLACE - OSLO NORWAY - BUT ..... CONFUSING

Norway has recently become the most happy country in the world. When we were there it was No 2.



Here we were in Norway in July 2016, a country with extreme sovereign wealth, but not showing it extravagantly as we perhaps would. It soon became evident to us that two major money making industries must account for this wealth – North Sea oil and the taxi industry. But nothing said to us they were happy because of their money. The taxi drivers said the fares were so high because the fines were very high and they were always being pinged for any misdemeanour.

I had found out that Norway had legalised the capacity for children to be removed from their families on the most flimsy reporting of alleged child ill-treatment. How would this make them happy?

My first photo as we regathered in the hotel foyer after arriving from airport – a happy to see you superstar welcome – but we then found out it was not for us, apparently for Bruce Springsteen – perhaps we saw him ....

Baltic Lesson 1 - Do I need an Umbrella? Is a rhetorical question. Yes, even if not a cloud in sight, at that moment. How happy would that make you?

We stayed at the Grand Hotel – and stepping out the front door we were there right next to Parliament with a park and a palace.

So many statues – most with its own guardian – this a one-legged number J8TJ. I found my camera had great zoom features.

But others suggesting an exuberant freedom. I noted nudity often was theme in their public art, probably due to a very harsh winter and short summer. Artistic happiness perhaps?

## Members presentations—David Forsythe

Where else would you place a gift from France but right in front of Parliament? How thoughtful of the French. I was a little unsure what happens in Fraternity. Happiness when caught short?

But our immediate destination was where we hoped to understand Norwegian happiness – where the town folk come together – their town hall.

They have had many town halls over the years. Early versions were destroyed in 1624 by fire. Renamed Christiania, and again after spelling reform in 1877, Kristiania, the city again became its original name Oslo in 1925.

There in its glory was the 1915 first inspired version, lack of money and bad times delayed version, changed architects over and over version, lost Tivoli garden version, moulded in reinforced concrete version of a town hall, that was built from 1931 to 1950 after more competitions than you have fingers.

As Novocastrians we were gobsmacked (hence relevance to this topic tonight) with its similarity to our beloved but architecturally challenged old Tighes Hill Tech college. It is designed in Functionalism style. Olso Tourism says “at first glance, the city hall might disappoint”.

But in 2005, the Radhuset was happily declared Oslo’s “structure of the century”. So it cannot have disappointed the locals.

One of the elegant towers houses a 46 bell Carillion. The extent of reinforcement necessary is obvious when one bell weighs 4 tonnes. The second tower seems to be there to balance the look, but otherwise could be an elevated water tank or...

Externally it does not exude happiness. More toil and effort.

Then you find those quirky external decorations. An interesting astrological clock, and a pleasant interesting street scene on a building corner. The scene actually pays homage to the past of the immediate area, a gentleman, a prostitute and a pimp.

So let us go inside the building that hosts every December 10, the award of the Nobel Peace prize. It is a wonderland of murals. It takes some study to find a theme. Is there any discernible flow?

Well I concluded not, and I found it very confusing. The pillars of Norway –

## Members presentations—David Forsythe & Michael Tyler

fishing, forestry and industry. But then the history of Nazi occupation, hardly happy. And a penchant for nudity.

Upstairs we found their beloved Scream artist Munch, also hardly happy, but otherwise the rooms are richly decorated.

The Norwegian patron saint, who on being killed and cast into the sea, still floated even with a millstone around his neck (this ensuring canonisation), although I was not sure why the saint needed the naked lady, but perhaps she is associated with shipbuilding and sailors. Otherwise decoration with themes of Norwegian life and history, and nudity.

But eventually there it was in its own chamber – what must be the celebration of happy Norwegian life in summer – stripping off and cavorting around on the beach naked - who would not be happy there?

I found it was a brutal confusing building, not sure its mother loved it or not, but it sort of explained that happiness may be relative, and was overtly a story of people, and well worth checking out.

Moral when travelling – there are stories everywhere and even a butt ugly building might be worth a second look!!!

### Michael Tyler

Michael's presentation was a video showing a parade with Elephants and drums, sadly I cannot reproduce it here



## Volunteers needed Red Shield Appeal—Chris Hoch

I am looking for volunteers to assist with the Salvation Army Red Shield door knock on 28 or 29 May 2017. As usual volunteers are needed to drive teams to designated collection in Pymble and St Ives. As most members are WWC registered please volunteer at our meeting on Monday. If you are unable to attend meeting please contact me. Family members would also be welcome to volunteer.

Kind Regards

Chris Hoch

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## Reaching the Goal of Polio Eradication

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#### Club Challenge - Results

**The Challenge:** Reach \$US2650 in donations to Polio Plus Fund by 31 March, and District 9685 will match it! Effectiveness 7.5 times your donation.

**Results:** In the last Rotary year 8 of our D9685 clubs donated USD2650 or more to End Polio Now, and, exceeding all expectations, I am delighted to advise you that 43 clubs have joined the Challenge this year. Those clubs are

Beecroft	Lower Blue Mountains
Brookvale	Manly
Carlingford	Mosman
Castle Hill	Nepean
Central Blue Mountains	Northbridge
Chatswood	Northlakes Toukley
Chatswood Sunrise	North Sydney Sunrise
Crows Nest	Penrith
Dee Why Warringah	Richmond
Eastwood	Gladesville Roseville Chase
E Club of Greater Sydney	Rouse Hill
Epping	Ryde
Frenchs Forest	St Ives
Galston The Hills	Kellyville
Glenhaven	Turrumurra
Gosford North	Umina Beach
Hunters Hill	Upper Blue Mountains Sunrise
Kariong Somersby	Wahroonga
Kincumber	West Pennant Hills & Cherrybrook
Ku Ring Gai	Windsor
Lane Cove	Woy Woy
Lindfield	



## Reaching the Goal of Polio Eradication

**The Benefit for End Polio:** Your \$US2650 contribution will be multiplied 7.5 times to \$US19,875 as follows (please note several clubs have given in excess of this figure and the excess will be multiplied by 3 thanks to the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation):

<b>Clubs challenge donation</b>	<b>USD 113,950</b>
<b>District Designated Fund</b>	<b>USD 113,950</b>
<b>50% World Fund match for DDF</b>	<b>USD 56,975</b>
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>USD 284,875</b>
<b>Bill and Melinda Gates 2 for 1</b>	<b>USD 569750</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>USD 854,625 (AUD 1,153, 743)</b>

District Governor Bruce Lakin and I extend our hearty congratulations, and very sincere thanks to all those clubs who made that stretch and went the extra mile to aid the Polio Eradication campaign. You can feel very justly proud that together we have donated a massive AUD1.15m towards the final elimination of this dreadful disease.

PDG David Rands

D9685 Rotary Foundation Chair

<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>	