



# 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



### Matthew McClelland Hunting in National Parks - The Case Against

Matthew McClelland is the creator and publisher of the web site 'Wild Walks' - a free online bushwalking and camping guidebook for New South Wales. Through his involvement with National Parks, Matthew has become a committed advocate of the case against allowing hunting in the parks.

Whether you believe that National Parks should be reserved for bushwalkers or that hunting is necessary to eliminate destructive introduced species, this is your opportunity to hear Matthew outline the issues and to put your own point of view.

## Next Week

### Avenues of Service committees

Next week's meeting will be devoted to planning by each of the club's 5 Avenue of Service committees: Club Service, Vocational Service, Community Service, International Service and New Generations (Youth) Service.

Each committee will sit at a separate table and will have the opportunity to review and develop its plan for the year, including its budget and implementation schedule.

Time permitting, before the end of the evening each committee will make a short presentation of its plan for the year.

This is an important meeting for all members, so please make sure you can attend and have your say in your committee's plans.

'Friends of Rotary' and other guests are also welcome to participate. The club values input from all sources.

Not sure which Avenue of Service committee you're in? Ask Acting President John Aitken!

## Solar Power for Katuuso School

Last week Past President Greg Newling reported completion and commissioning of the solar power plant for Katuuso Primary and Vocational School in Uganda, set up by School for Life Foundation Australia.



Key benefits provided by the new plant are:

- Increased efficiency of operations, as computers, phones and printers can now be located at the school.

- Increased hours

of operation, due to night time lighting.

- Improved water quality due to electronic filtration.
- Improved nutrition of the school's feeding program due to refrigeration.
- Increased security of the school through lighting.



Our club and other Rotary clubs contributed funds towards the project, which was fully funded with the help of a 'matching grant' from the Rotary Foundation.

Full report: [http://www.kuringgairotary.org.au/images/stories/koongga/public/katuuso\\_solar\\_power\\_report2013%20.pdf](http://www.kuringgairotary.org.au/images/stories/koongga/public/katuuso_solar_power_report2013%20.pdf)

## Position Wanted

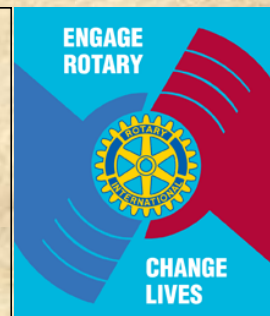
From Greg Newling:

We have a friend who lives in Wahroonga and needs help to find a suitable job.

He is 50+, Indian, with permanent residency. He worked for many years in administration and staff

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The club meets every Monday 6.30pm at West Pymble Bowling Club, 2 Prince of Wales Drive, West Pymble. Visitors welcome. [www.kuringgairotary.org.au](http://www.kuringgairotary.org.au)

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management at a large English language boarding school, so his English is very good.

The only work he has been able to find here is as a casual process worker in a chicken meat processing plant.

I have no doubt about his integrity or work ethic and would like to help him find a job which gives him back some dignity.

Please ask your contacts, and keep him in mind. He came to help a disabled relative and gave up a good job to do so. Can we find him something better?

## Australian Rotary Health

Last week Past President Roger Desmarchelier spoke enthusiastically about the work of Australian Rotary Health, with particular reference to its support of PhD students researching in a variety of different fields. Roger is keen to renew the club's support of ARH. Expect to hear more about it at next week's meeting.

Don't know about ARH? Take a look at: <https://www.australianrotaryhealth.org.au/>

## President Tony Likes Facebook

Ever the innovator, President Tony McClelland proposed creating a special form of membership to attract younger members, with the particular purpose of one of them setting up and managing a Facebook page for the club. Is that a challenge to our present membership or what? Come on, you Facebookers! Who do you know, young or old, who can meet the challenge?

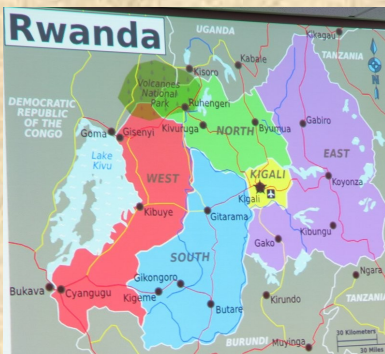
## Last week



### Adele Mitchell Viewing Mountain Gorillas in Rwanda

Adele gave us another of her fascinating travelogues, introducing us to

Rwanda, a country of 11 million people in an area of only 26,000 square kilometres. Known as the land of 1,000 hills (and many lakes) it comprises mostly subsistence farmers, as well as many tea plantations. Adele commented on how happy the people are, despite the appalling genocide only 20 years ago. It seems that the majority Hutu and minority Tutsi tribes have learned to live in harmony with each other.



The mountain gorillas that Adele went to view live in the Virunga Range in the north of Rwanda. They are guarded 24 hours a day, but the greatest danger they face are traps set by deer poachers. 1,000 traps are removed each year.

Adele visited 2 gorilla families, each led by a 200Kg 1.8m silverback - a vegetarian who can eat 100kg of wild celery, stinging nettles, thistles, blackwattle and

bamboo shoots each day.

The gorillas are unafraid of humans and Adele was delighted at how close she was able to come to them.



Also in the Virunga Range, Adele trekked to see golden monkeys (an even more endangered species which lives in family groups of up to 60) and chimpanzees.

Before leaving Rwanda, Adele visited an orphanage housing hundreds of children, and handed over a donation of clothes.

## Calls for Volunteers

Clarke Road School is looking for volunteers to help with the following events.

On **Friday 2 August at 1.45pm** the school is holding a *Magical Maths Day* for Education Week. You are invited to go and play maths games with the students. They have:

- Bingo
- Matching numbers
- Robot directions
- Ten pin bowling
- ipad maths

Sounds like fun!

The school would also like some readers for Book Week on **Monday 19 August at 9.30am**. Past Presidents Bob Ivey and Caroline Jones enjoyed it and found it a very moving experience last year!

Also coming up is the Unofficial Opening Celebration Party on Sunday 18 August from 12-3pm. Our club will run the BBQ, so volunteers are needed please. More details soon.

Please let Joy Newling know if you can help at any of those events. Tel: 9487 2338.

## What is 'Koongga'?

The emblem of the Rotary Club of Ku-ring-gai is the "Koongga", which is a message stick used by the Australian Aboriginals. The pattern of markings burnt into the surface of a "Koongga" is not a form of writing. The bearer delivers the message orally and the "Koongga" is a guarantee that he is telling the truth.

Bearers of message sticks sometimes travelled long distances, often through the territories of hostile tribes. The messages they delivered were to arrange a corroboree, a trade meeting, exchange of information and other tribal matters.

The colours and symbols on a "Koongga" vary with each tribe. The ones chosen by the Rotary Club of Ku-ring-gai and incorporated into our banner are representative of the tribes that lived in the Ku-ring-gai area many years ago. Additionally, our banner bids to all who receive it, a friendly "Karlbandi", a friendly welcome.

See examples of our "Koongga" and our banner on our website: [www.kuringgairotary.org.au](http://www.kuringgairotary.org.au)