



# 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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26 August 2013

## A Week Of Hands On Activity

### Clarke Road School

Members of our club ran the BBQ at Clarke Road School's Unofficial Opening Celebration Party on Sunday, 18 August.

We had nine members/partners/friends helping. It was a great day with a very friendly and welcoming atmosphere. There were about 200 people there including Clarke Road students and their families, staff and their families, neighbours of the school, 9 of us and 9 members from Lower North Shore Rotaract Club.

It was good to catch up with the Rotaractors and they had fun helping out with face painting, supervising jumping castles, welcoming visitors at the gate and playing with the children. It was interesting to hear that they organised their attendance for yesterday on Facebook. They also offered to come and teach us how to use Facebook as a communication tool and link it to our website, as they have with other Rotary Clubs.

The other good news is that our original BBQ that has been rebuilt has just been connected to the gas line and will soon have a roof over it as well.

Joy Newling

Newling. You all made a hard-won celebration day happen in style. Your gracious service, and skilled barbequeing and ready smiles have a big impact on the families of our school, and this time our wider community too.

You are an awesome group of people.  
With much gratitude,  
Kati Herrington  
P&C President, Clarke Rd School, Hornsby

### Thank You Card From the School



On Monday the 19<sup>th</sup> of August Clarke Road celebrated Book Week by having a morning of story telling by members of the Rotary Club in the Library and Classrooms. Ross Lambert, Laurel Jackson, Caroline Jones, Anne Maslen and Bob Ivey spent their time reading stories to the students who listened intently.

### Thank You Letter

Dear Joy

On behalf of the Clarke Rd School P&C Association we would like to thank the team from the Rotary Club of Ku-ring-gai for their willing service at our school's Opening Party on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> August. We really appreciate that you yourself attend our P&C meetings to learn our needs and concerns. We reap great benefit from that at events such as this was, where you are able to organize the team and function autonomously on the day, as we have only just enough numbers to cover everything else that needs to be done.

So, a huge thank you to Emyr Evans, Graham Maslen, Anne Maslen, David Forsythe, Nicola McFarlane, Jack McCartney, Greg Goodman, and yourself and Greg

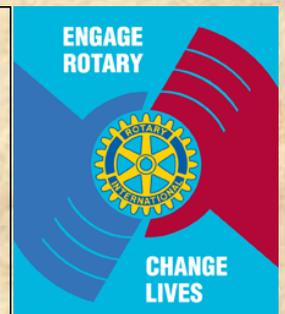


### Daffodil Day

Ross Egan, Emyr Evans, John Aitken, Michael Midlam, Peter Tang and Roger Desmarchelier braved an early start on a cold morning on Friday, 23 August to sell daffodils and other items to raise about \$1,000 for The Cancer Council's research. Well done, fellows!

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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)

Rotary International  
Theme 2013-2014

## Daffodil Day



## Neringah Hospital



The club's demolition team moved in on the old kiosk of Neringah Hospital on Saturday, 24 August and swiftly demolished 2 brick walls, filling a whole skip with the debris. The job was complete in a little over 4 hours and the team then enjoyed a splendid sandwich lunch provided by the hospital.

Well done John Aitken, Peter Tang, Bob Ivey, Anne Maslen, Roger Desmarchelier, David Forsythe,

Michael Midlam, Zach Lambert and Ross Lambert.

In a week or 2 the next part of the project will commence, covering the floor, rendering walls and painting the interior.



## This Week's Speaker

### Jan-Maree Ball Aussie Hero Quilts

Jan-Maree writes a blog to encourage people to make quilts and laundry bags to send to Aussie service men and women currently serving overseas and to express gratitude for their service. As she says "We care about the people - not the politics or the mission. Our quilts are not works of art, but works of the heart."

Come and hear Jan-Maree talk about how she started AHQ and its effects on serving personnel.



## The Rotary Foundation

The Rotary Foundation is the charitable arm of Rotary International. Although in Rotary each club is responsible for its own "patch" so to speak, there are projects that need doing but are just too big for one club to fund. This is where the Foundation steps in.



The Foundation raises its money from contributions from each club, from individual members through the Centurion program and through other programs such as Paul Harris Fellow awards. (Each club making such an award contributes to the Foundation for the right to make it.)

The Foundation "spends" its money in two ways – through matching grants to individual clubs to undertake projects and through "big ticket" programs that no one club or group of clubs could undertake such as the current "Polio Plus" campaign. The matching grants have various categories and levels applying to domestic and international projects, but the essence is that for projects that qualify (and most do) the Foundation will tip in 50% or more of the funding.

Over the years our club has certainly drawn as much or more from the Foundation than we have contributed. And remember, all personal donations to the Foundation are tax deductible.

Graham Timms

## Last Week's Speaker

### Hugh Hamlyn-Harris Rotary Making a Difference in Laos

Our club is combining with the Rotary club of Lindfield and a number of other Rotary clubs in Australia to undertake a water supply project and other projects in the Lao People's Democratic



Republic. Hugh Hamlyn-Harris, from the Lindfield club, has recently returned from two months' assignment as project manager for the water supply project.

The project is part of a wider program of work being instigated by a non-government organisation called

## Last Week's Speaker

MiVAC (Mines Victims and Clearance Trust). MiVAC consists predominately of Australian veterans from the Indo-China war and supporters who are committed to improve the lives of Laotian people in this poverty-stricken country. During the war, Laos was extensively bombed. Unexploded ordinance in the form of bombs and mines still litter the countryside today, 40 years after the cessation of hostilities. Each year there are many injuries and deaths resulting from this devastating legacy of the war and large tracts of land remain inaccessible for farming.

Laos has a population of 6.7M ethnically diverse people. Rotary is working among the Hmong people, who comprise less than 10% of the population and are the poorest in the country. They are a mountain people whose villages are only accessible by mud tracks, which are impassable to vehicles for much of the year. Nevertheless, they are generally healthy and happy.



The Rotary water project will provide clean water to 700 people in the village of Ban Xai which is in one of the most seriously affected areas. The project involved the laying of 4km gravity pipeline plus a pump station and a further 2km

of rising main to transfer the water to a holding tank in the village. Rotary provided the engineering expertise plus all equipment and materials for the project, while the local Ban Xai men and women contributed their labour.



Other initiatives being undertaken for the village include the establishment of a model farm, a micro-loan service, construction of hygienic toilets, a school and donation of pre-natal medical equipment.

Under the MiVAC umbrella, Rotary clubs aim to make a difference for Ban Xai and similar communities in health services, agriculture and tourism and so assist these locals to overcome their poverty.

## Travellers' Tales

Since our last update, we had a great week in Slovenia, walking the city of Ljubljana and taking several trips out of the city to Lake Bled and the Postoina Caves.

We flew to Dublin via Stansted and enjoyed a traditional Irish steak pie and vegetables for dinner, with of course a pint of Guinness . . . Yes, Margaret also had a pint.

The Dublin weather was very pleasant and we were able to see the city sights over two days on the hop on hop off bus. We had pre-booked a dinner and Irish concert at the Hotel and this was a great event, with plenty of music from the 4 piece band, with several segments of the Irish tap dancing group. Having one of the front tables enhanced the enjoyment of the evening.

From Dublin we took the hire car to Limerick, Killarney and Cork spending 2 to 3 nights in each city. Day trips to the local sights and places like the Ring of Kerry were very scenic and enjoyable.

Our flight to Glasgow from Cork didn't happen (technical issues and the engine key was missing). Aer Lingus transported about 20 passengers to Dublin so we could board a flight to Glasgow. Margaret lost half a day's shopping in Glasgow, but at least we arrived safely (and I saved a few dollars)

Scotland has provided excellent weather with the temperature around the 18 to 20 during the day . . . very occasional showers and some winds remind us of the true Scotland. We have been in Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dundee, Arbroath, Aberdeen and now in Inverness, spending between 1 and 3 nights at each location.

The Edinburgh Tattoo was enjoyable. However more pipe bands and less dancing and motor bike entertainment would have enhanced the evening.



Rotary clock Inverness



Scottish Parliament

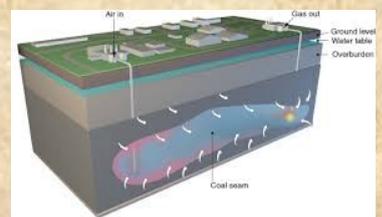
It was good to attend the Rotary Club of Edinburgh lunch meeting, where we were warmly welcomed. Graeme Forbes (who visited our club in April) provided lovely accommodation for us and was a great host.

For the next week we will motor down the west coast of Scotland and then into the Lakes District before arriving at Gatwick for our flight to Beijing and then Sydney.

Best wishes to all  
Malcolm Braid

## Next Week's Speaker

### Sara Mehrabi Coal Seam Gas Mining And Its Expected Impacts



Coal seam gas mining (CSG) has become a very topical and somewhat political matter in Australia. At the same time, with often-biased opinions expressed on this issue, it is becoming increasingly hard for the non-expert members of the community to have an informed and factual view on it.

The talk presented by Sara Mehrabi, a groundwater engineer with over 10 years industry and research experience, will focus on some basic facts on CSG mining in NSW. Matters of operation, extraction, water production, and disposal challenges will be discussed and the community reaction to the potential impacts of CSG mining will be assessed.