



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: water and sanitation

This week: Steve Champion: industrial relations in 2015

Steve Champion has more than 30 years' employee and industrial relations experience, representing employers in a wide range of industries. He is a director of ER Strategies Pty Limited, which provides advice and representation on employee disputes, on managing difficult employees and on employment conditions and documentation. It also teaches negotiation skills and creates and lodges many enterprise agreements each year.



Steve will present on 2 big threats facing employers in Australia:

- Unfair dismissal, general protection or stress leave claims by employees who feel their employers have "done them in" in some way; and
- How unions have been outgunning many employers for years in negotiating enterprise agreements, and some of the very expensive consequences of that.

Steve will provide tips on what employers can do to avoid problems in the first place, by better managing their employment relationships.

Last week's guests & announcements

President Tony:

- Welcomed our guest speaker, Natalie Fisher, Chris Lewis and Stan Glaser;
- Thanked Geoff and Patsy Hungerford for stuffing another 175 envelopes for the Bobbin Head Cycle Classic; and
- Commended John Aitken, Peter Kipps and Ross Egan for their exceptional contributions to organisation of the Bobbin Head Cycle Classic.

Graham Timms:

- Said that Joyce Enos would circulate an email to members with instructions on how to register under the Child Protection Act, so that they can work on projects involving children;
- Asked for a volunteer to join 5 other members attending the Rotary Assembly on Sunday, 12 April, the volunteer being required to attend the session on the Rotary Foundation, so that our club will qualify for Foundation grants next year; and
- Invited other members to join him to visit the Rotary Club of St Ives on Wednesday, 15 April to hear social commentator, writer and broadcaster Jane Caro speak.

Greg Newling called for volunteers (including off-duty marshals) to sell raffle tickets at the Bobbin Head Cycle Classic, noting that last year many more tickets would have been sold if there had been more sellers.

Peter Kipps said that:

- 2,600 - 2,700 riders are expected in the Bobbin Head Cycle Classic;
- Few riders have raised funds, so the organisers will work on ways to encourage them to do so next year; and
- Despite that, other forms of fundraising have achieved double the amount raised last year, so the event should meet its distributable target of \$100,000.

Last week: Mehhma Malhi: Model United Nations Assembly

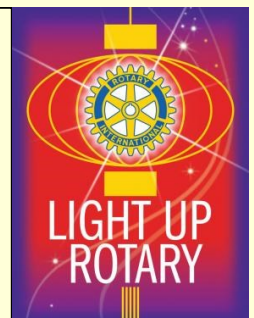


Last year our club sponsored several Pymble Ladies College students, including Mehhma Malhi, to attend the Model United Nations Assembly ('MUNA') at Knox Grammar School. Inspired by their experience at that event, the group was selected as the only Australian team to attend the much bigger MUNA held at Harvard University, attended by 3,000

delegates from all over the world. Mehhma told us about that experience.

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The club meets every Monday 6.30pm at Killara Golf Club, 556 Pacific Highway, Killara. Visitors welcome (Tel: 9498 2700). www.kuringgairotary.org.au

Rotary International
Theme 2014-2015

The team comprised 14 PLC students, a teacher (Miss Higgins) and a coach (a law student). Before MUNA, they visited Washington and New York (where they visited the United Nations headquarters, heard part of a conference there, and were caught in blizzard).

MUNA was organised by 200 Harvard students. Mehma and her partner were allocated to the African Union delegation, representing Guinea. Before leaving Australia they prepared a 'position paper' about ebola, which was accepted and which they had to speak about at MUNA. Also, at the assembly, they had to write position papers on other subjects at short notice and in only 20 minutes, before passing them round other delegates for comment and finalising them in 2 hours.

Mehma clearly found the whole experience very valuable and thanked our club for its original sponsorship.

District Conference perspectives



David Forsyth, Linda Lam-Rohlf, Georgina Manning, Loic Lacombe and Graham Timms at the conference.

Michael Midlam:

As this was my first District Conference I really did not know what exactly to expect, and I must say, that while with a couple of exceptions, I really did not find it too interesting.

The most memorable part for me was sharing a glass of wine with David Forsythe and his wife on our way home. As we stood around talking about the day's events, and various other topics, to me it was Rotary fellowship at its best.

It is probably a bit strong to say I did not find the conference interesting. It is probably more accurate to say that I could not see the relevance of some of the speakers, however interesting they were.

The very first speaker was the representative of Rotary International President, who tried to get everyone warmed up, and whose solution to our dwindling worldwide membership was for everyone to bring in one new member, thereby doubling our membership in one year. If only it were so simple!

I won't go into most of the other speakers, other than the two that I found outstanding, the first being Rob Byrne from Turramurra who gave a fantastic talk on the importance of maintaining Polio Plus. Progress is finally being made in Pakistan, where last year they had over 300 polio cases which was over 21 times the number that occurred in the rest of the world.



But the main person who inspired me was Dr Luc Malimbalimba Masururu from the Democratic Republic of Congo. To hear this one speaker for me made the trip worthwhile. Dr Luc is a medical doctor who has trained all over the world and specialises in women's health. He was a successful doctor in Kenya, one of the richer African countries, but gave it all away to return to Congo when, on a trip to his home

village, he saw the dire straits of the country's rural areas and the desperate need for better medical treatment. Congo does not get a lot of publicity, but from the early 70's until about 2004 the country was torn apart by a civil war that killed not thousands, but millions of people and left the country devastated.

When Dr Luc returned he went from sleeping on a bed to a wooden plank on a stone floor in a hut. However, over the past 10 years, he has managed to build hospitals, orphanages water treatment plants, solar power stations, bridges and improved roads. He has also increased the wellbeing of many, many women raped during the war and subsequently rejected by Congo society. I am sure there are other things as well, but he was talking faster than I could write. You will, believe me, hear more about this amazing man in the future, as some of us feel there may be some of his projects that we will be able to be involved in.

I will finish with my favourite quote from the conference, that came from the breakout on social media that I attended and sums up what we should all be thinking about in our search for new members. Evan Burrell, again from the Turramurra club, said he was very disappointed when he went to see 50 Shades of Grey, because he thought someone had finally made a movie about Rotary.

Joyce Enos:

My first District Conference on Saturday, 21 March was a stimulating, enlightening and thought-provoking experience. Greg Newling did a great job in driving 4 talkative ladies up the M1 and back – no back seat drivers there!!



The highlights for me were Miriam Silva, a Muslim woman from South Australia, talking about *Diversity* as experienced in her own life. A migrant from UK with Guyanan parents, Miriam has excelled in the business world as Chief Operating Officer with FleetPartners, General Manager of Elders and Chief Executive of TAFE SA. She clearly demonstrated that it's how you treat people that matters ultimately, and despite still experiencing

racial slurs, she has overcome the negatives to be an example to us all of the wonderful multicultural country that is Australia.

Dr Luc Mulimbalimba Masururu from the Democratic Republic of the Congo was inspirational. His passion and energy were exhausting and clearly showed how one person can make a real and lasting difference. He has

distributed over 100,000 clean birthing kits and trained over 700 birth attendants – that's in his spare time from surgery, building a hospital, orphanage, schools and a micro hydroelectric plant!! Amazing!

Finally Rebecca Barry's film *I am a girl* was disturbing, draining and heart wrenching. She has followed 6 girls in various parts of the world and her confronting film tells a story of girls in impossible situations. Brutal rape, mothers forcing girls to sell their virginity, violent relationships, early childbirth, coping with the aftermath of the death of a father by the Taliban - the stories go on. These are real young people showing immense resilience in horrific and often life threatening situations.

The world is an amazing, wonderful place for many of us but for a huge number of people it's a constant, often futile struggle. Rotary can and does work to improve the lives and opportunities in so many ways.

After all of that, we thoroughly appreciated the wine and substantial nibbles provided by David and Patricia Forsythe.

District Conference presentations

For those who couldn't attend the District Conference, the presentations made there can be viewed on the District website: <http://www.rotarydistrict9685.org.au>

Bo Children's Hospital update



Bo Children's Hospital, a project of our club and the Rotary Club of Turramurra, has been in the news internationally because it is in an area affected by ebola. Part of its facilities have been adapted specifically to address that crisis. The hospital has built a separate triage unit especially for ebola cases, has a temporary isolation ward and is building a permanent one.

Other projects that the hospital is working on include public health education and an immunisation program for children under one year old.

Further information appears in the hospital's February 2015 newsletter.

Rotary's rebranding for youth

Rotary International is rolling out a new visual identity for its youth programs to make it clear how Rotary invests in youth and young adults. This new look will better align Interact, Rotaract, RYLA and Youth Exchange with Rotary, making it more clear how these youth programs are connected to Rotary and an important part of its story.

- **Rotary Youth Leadership Award is a program that develops young leaders.**



- **Rotary Youth Exchange is a program that builds cultural understanding.**



- **Interact is a club for emerging leaders.**



- **Rotaract is a club for young leaders, such as university students or young professionals.**



Within Rotary's guidelines, there's lots of freedom. You can put this visual design into action in different ways on T-shirts, banners, and websites. You're also welcome to develop your own designs that share what RYLA, Rotary Youth Exchange, Interact, and Rotaract mean to you. If you do, be inspired by the fonts, colours, and ideas in our voice and visual identity guidelines to connect your creativity with Rotary's overall design principles.

We know that you have years of memories connected to our heritage logos — the red and metallic gold of Rotaract, the interlocking circles of the Interact logo, the confident, outstretched arms of RYLA, and the globe-crossing arrows of Rotary Youth Exchange. While we hope you'll embrace our new direction, keep your pins, T-shirts, banners, bells, and other treasured items. Our Heritage Communications team will be looking after these logos for us, as these historic logos are equally a part of Rotary's story.

As you put our new design into action, show us what you create. Send your questions, comments, and ideas to graphics@rotary.org. We can't wait to see what this next chapter of our story looks like.

John Hewko, Rotary International

Last week: Natalie Fisher: Small towns: big ideas



Social research and evaluation consultant, Natalie Fisher, spoke about how the arts have been used in small towns to build communities. The town of Dookie, Victoria, was highlighted.

Dookie is a town of 260 people, located in the Shepparton region. Dookie was one of five small towns (with less than 1500 people) that was successful in receiving a grant of \$350,000 over 18 months from the Victorian state government as part of the Small Town Transformations initiative. The initiative was designed to respond to the trend of small towns experiencing shrinking populations and declining industry, to see whether the arts could contribute to the town's economy, its community identity and cultural development.

Dookie is central to a traditional dry land farming community with an active and engaged supporter and volunteer base. Through the can-do committee and the local involvement, the project was able to achieve a shift in conversation in the community from weather and sport to 'what is art' and 'what is artistic transformation'.



A range of community workshops and projects engaged with the entire community, and enabled Dookie to experience and appreciate the enormous contribution the arts can make socially, culturally and economically. The project inspired many non-traditional arts makers to come forward and explore the possibility that art and art making can bring a community together. Art of various and interesting forms were made including films, sculptural installations, experimental theatre, projection art, musical performances (including opera on the silos), and puppetry. And a lasting legacy for the making of art was achieved through many areas including the refurbishment of

the community hall, and equipment purchased to make it a multi-functional space, suitable for the staging of film, performances, exhibitions and workshops.

The launch of the project involved a 12-hour noon to midnight event, celebrating art in the form of film, projection, photography, installation and art. The old disused basalt quarry was one of the central focal points of the project launch. It hosted a range of activities into the night, including projection art, opera and performances. The town of 260 attracted more than 6000 people to the event. This was achieved by support from Regional Arts Victoria, widespread media coverage, and an active social media campaign.

Since the event a number of shows have been booked in the community hall and received strong audience numbers, attracting both locals and residents from the surrounding towns. Dookie is now a regular destination for arts-based activities and events. The Dookie project team is working closely with the City of Greater Shepparton Council to plan for other projects.

The focus now is to develop a sustainable event model for the future - it's not about creating a bigger or better event. The project team will take their newly acquired skills to other new projects that will aim to continue to strengthen the community.

The four other successful towns of Avoca, Neerim South, Natimuk and Ouyen, achieved community transformation through the arts in their own ways.

Natalie Fisher is an evaluation and social research consultant. Her company is NSF Consulting. www.nsfconsulting.com.au

Theatre evening: Thursday, 14 May

Caroline Jones has organised a theatre night on Thursday, 14 May, to raise funds for disaster relief in Vanuatu.

The play is a Hercule Poirot murder mystery put on by Pymble Players. Cur-



rently the mystery is 'what's the title of the play?', but Caroline assures us that all will be revealed in due course.

The Pymble Players' theatre has only 84 seats, so you need to book early in order to be sure of getting tickets. Booking is open now at <https://docs.google.com/a/wildcolour.com/forms/d/1Tk8zVo-SG8C6ckLjVhmDCv6b6Mf12NK6gu29DLcHqdI/viewform?c=0&w=1>

Rotary Success Conference and Youth Summit: 5-6 September

All Rotarians are invited to the 2015 Rotary Success Conference and Youth Summit which will be held at the Hellenic Club, Canberra on 5 – 6 September 2015. This conference is an affordable conference as the price of \$120 per person covers morning teas, lunch, afternoon tea and the Saturday night dinner. It will commence at 8.30am on the Saturday morning and conclude at 12.30pm on the Sunday.

All attendees will be able to have input into the conference breakout sessions over the weekend. It will be a conference that everyone will get something out of.

Who should be attending? **All Rotary Leaders, Presidents and Presidents Elect, PR Chairs, Membership Chairs and Future Rotary Leaders and Rotarians** who want to be involved in the continuing success of Rotary in Australia. At this conference you will be able to participate in breakout sessions on various topics such as Membership Retention, Membership Recruitment and Extension, Diversity in Rotary, Flexibility and Innovative Clubs in the Future, Leadership, Public Image and Media, and more. As well, people will find out what has been successful for some clubs in growing and getting stronger. Social media will also be explored with Rotary Public Image Coordinator Wendy Gaborit leading the discussion. Wendy has a great grasp on social media and how it can work for clubs and getting engaged with the local community.

There will be presentations about a number of new innovative ideas on a wide range of topics, all practical ideas that you can use in your club.

The program will consist of mainly breakout groups enabling everyone to be able to participate and interact over the weekend in a practical, worthwhile and meaningful way.

Coupled with the Rotary Success Conference this year will be a Youth Summit for people under 40 years of age. The Youth Summit will be an opportunity for people to put forward ideas and practical thoughts on how Rotary clubs can interact with younger people ... how and why Rotary clubs need to become more involved with Rotaract and Interact.

This conference will be focussing on the future. We are positive that every Rotarian will gain practical knowledge and new ideas to take back to their clubs and Districts. You will meet Rotarians from across Australia and be able to share with them your ideas and hear their ideas; it will be a great experience for everyone.

Register now at: <http://www.rotaryd9710.org.au/success-conference.html>

Calendar of events

April	6	Easter Monday – no meeting
	13	Todd Kerslake: Investing in uncertain times
	20	Bobbin Head Cycle Classic review
	27	TBA
May	4	Club business meeting
	11	Robert Mulas: The parent café - creating community amid diversity
	14	(Thursday) Fundraising night: Pymble Players: a Hercule Poirot whodunit
	18	Meeting postponed 2 days
	20	(Wednesday) Bobbin Head Cycle Classic presentation to charities
	25	Chris Russell: Behind the scenes at 'New Inventors'
June	8	Queen's birthday - no meeting
	29	Changeover dinner

Club officers and committee chairmen 2014-15

Board of directors

President	Tony McClelland
Vice President	John Aitken
President Elect	Graham Timms
Secretary	Geoff Hungerford
Treasurer	Graham Maslen
Director - Membership	Greg Newling
Director - Public Relations	Michael Midlam
Director - Club Administration	Joy Newling
Director - Service Projects	John Aitken
Director - Rotary Foundation	Graham Timms

Service committee chairmen

Club Service	Joy Newling
Vocational Service	Michael Midlam
Community Service	Ross Lambert
International Service	Roger Desmarchelier
Youth Service	[Vacant]
Bobbin Head Cycle Classic	Bob Elsworth
Sergeant-at-Arms	Malcolm Braid

Club committees 2014-15

Administration: Joy Newling, Geoff Hungerford, Rob Hall, Graham Maslen, Michael Tyler (Koongga)

Bobbin Head Cycle Classic: Bob Elsworth, Graham Timms, Tony McClelland, Ross Egan, John Aitken, Michael Midlam, Emyr Evans, Dilys Geddes, Geoff Hungerford, Jack McCartney, Linda Lam-Rolfs

Club History: Malcolm Braid, Tom Jackson

Community: Ross Lambert, Michael Midlam (Bowel scan), Lou Coenen, Linda Lam-Rolfs, Gary Dawson, Roger Desmarchelier, Chris Hoch (Red Shield), Caroline Jones, Nick Kenyon, Loïc Lacombe, Ross Egan (Daffodil Day)

International: Roger Desmarchelier, Graham Maslen, David Forsythe, Peter Tang, Georgina Manning, Lindsay Forest, Loïc Lacombe, Emyr Evans, John Aitken

Membership: Greg Newling

Public Relations: Michael Midlam

Rotary Foundation: Graham Timms, Peter Tang

Vocational: Michael Midlam

Youth: Joy Newling (acting), Bob Ivey, Malcolm Braid, Tom Jackson, Ted Price, Joyce Enos, Greg Goodman, Linda Lam-Rolfs, Jack McCartney