



# K O O N G G A

Bulletin of the Rotary Club Of Ku-ring-gai Inc - Chartered 6th February 1959

Volume 57 No. 39 11 May 2015

Rotary monthly theme: youth services

## ***This week: Robert Mulas: The parent café - creating community amid diversity***

When he was the Principal of Fairfield High School, Robert Mulas started a project allowing new migrant parents to get together over a cup of tea to learn about their community and to encourage their involvement in their children's schooling.



In just a few years this has turned into a cooperative catering enterprise specialising in a diverse range of foods from the participants' countries of origin. The café now has its own building in the grounds of the school, which is used by the parents group for a variety of purposes, including provision of educational courses and information needed by migrants.

Robert, who continues his involvement as Public Officer of Parents Café Fairfield Inc, will tell us about this wonderful community building initiative that has assisted the integration of many newcomers to Sydney.

## ***Last week's guests & announcements***

### **President Tony:**

- Welcomed Gary Keating; and
- Caused much amusement by promoting a well-known retailer's sale.

### **Caroline Jones:**

- Urged members to invite their neighbours and friends to 'Black Coffee' on Thursday, 14 May, to raise funds for disaster relief in Vanuatu and Nepal and enticed them with wine and sandwiches from 7.15 pm; and
- Thanked Georgina Manning for organising a fundraising raffle.

**Michael Midlam** sought volunteers to distribute BowelCare kits to pharmacies, saying that:

- If bowel cancer is detected early, it can be treated

successfully;

- Everyone over 50 should take the test;
- BowelCare (formerly 'Bowelscan') is not a fundraising project, but last year 487 possible cancer cases were identified through it;
- Users now mail their tests, so there's no need for collection of used kits.



### **Michael Tyler:**

- Reiterated his request for a volunteer to produce Koongga for 4 weeks in July and August (and thanked President Tony for volunteering); and
- Reminded members that a new editor for Koongga would be needed after June 2016 and invited interested members to become involved soon in order to learn the process of preparing and publishing the bulletin.



**Greg Newling** explained Paul Harris Fellow ('PHF') recognition. He said that it is recognition of a donation of \$US1,000 to the Rotary Foundation. (The sum has not changed since the inception of PHF recognition, when \$US1,000 was worth much more than today.) By making such donations, Rotary clubs gain credits which they can use to confer PHF recognition on people, whether or not Rotarians, who have shown outstanding commitment to the club or the community.

## ***Rotary Youth Leadership Award Ball***

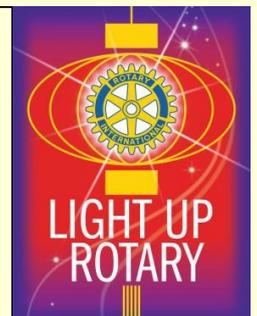
You are invited to the inaugural Rotary Youth Leadership Award ('RYLA') Ball at the Menzies Hotel, Sydney on Saturday, 23 May.



The event is being held to raise funds to support District 9685's RYLA Conference. The organisers write "Our program relies heavily on the generosity of our speakers donating their time and expertise to our RYLarians. We do have elements of the program that incur a fee and have recently experienced a rise in quotes. We also

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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](http://www.kuringgairotary.org.au)

Rotary International  
Theme 2014-2015

have a few speakers who will require travel expenses in future. The facilitation team have spent numerous hours at planning weekends, debrief meetings and, as the feedback from our RYLarians every year states, we cannot do without the speakers or the elements that hold a fee. Money raised during the evening from raffles and auctions will all go back into the RYLA program for the coming years. We value the funding that Rotary provides and with the additional funds we hope to ease the pressure on the Rotary accounts."

For further details, see the advertisement later in this edition of Koongga or visit the event website [www.rylaball2015.info/](http://www.rylaball2015.info/)

## Days for Girls, Gingoog City, Philippines

For years Gingoog City in the Philippines has been a beneficiary of the Rotary Club of Burwood through the Donations In Kind program that sent aid such as medical equipment for public hospitals and barangay health centres; computers, books and other educational materials delivered to schools; and clothing provided to the community especially to those who were affected by calamities that hit the country.



Now the city has been helped by the Days for Girls International Project that helps not only girls and women, but the community as a whole. Apart from the primary aim of the Days for Girls project to help girls and women gain access to quality sustainable feminine hygiene and awareness, it will also address number of significant issues in the locality, such as an increasing rate of teenage and unplanned pregnancies, improper disposal of waste produced from disposable sanitary pads and solving the unemployment issue especially for women.

Project components are:

- Awareness: Currently the percentage of teenage pregnancy is 56% and 72% were unplanned pregnancies. All these happened because they are not aware or they lacked the knowledge that every girl and woman should have. The project will integrate lectures on reproductive health, natural family planning & birth control and advocacy on issues like pornography, teenage pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases and sexual abuse.
- DfG kit distribution to girls and women, with instruction on the proper use and keeping of the kits. With reusable pads, there will be no wastage for three years.
- Local production of DfG kits: Local seamstresses will be employed to produce the DfG kits.



The DfGI Gingoog Team is composed of local young people who were trained to be women's health ambassadors, tasked with reaching local girls and women and raising awareness and distributing DfG kits.

## Behind the anti-vaccination movement



Minda Dentler is the first woman handcyclist to complete the Kona Ironman. She is a polio survivor and recently made her views on vaccination clear in an article in the May 2015 edition of the EndPo-

lioNow newsletter.

She says "If not for the anti-vaccination movement, preventable diseases wouldn't be a risk to children in developed countries". She also makes the excellent point that these 'anti-vaxxers' send exactly the wrong message to parents in other countries that are trying to overcome the scourge of these diseases. So the question is: where did this 'anti-vaccination movement' come from?

The debate about the risks associated with vaccines really took off in February 1998 when British doctor, Andrew Wakefield, published a study in *The Lancet*. In a paper authored by Wakefield and twelve others, it was claimed that their research had proved that the *measles, mumps, rubella (MMR) vaccine* was a direct cause of autism. This sensational claim received huge public attention. Subsequently:

- All of the paper's researchers (except Wakefield and one other) have repudiated the study;
- The study's lack of rigour and data tampering were exposed (one example: a vaccination date was reportedly altered from *after* onset of autism to just *before*);
- It was reported that Wakefield applied for a grant on the basis of the study findings *before* the study took place;
- It was reported that GBP435,643 was paid to Wakefield for evidence in a class action;
- *The Lancet* retracted the article;
- Wakefield's licence to practice medicine was withdrawn by the UK's General Medical Council; and
- Hundreds of scientific studies have since been carried out on the subject, none of which replicated its findings.

The problem is that, despite the overwhelming scientific evidence, many parents believe that there is a link between vaccines (all vaccines!) and autism — indeed it would seem that Wakefield continues to make a good living in the US peddling his theories.

This parental refusal of vaccines is the issue that Minda Dentler was describing. Vaccination rates are lower than they should be because parents:

- Do 'research' online and become scared by the scientific-sounding claims of Wakefield and his adherents; and
- Place greater credence in these anti-vaxxers than they do on the advice of their own medical practitioners.

Any decline in vaccination rates could prove devastating. That's because if vaccination rates fall below a certain point — known as the 'herd immunity' level — it is not only possible for unvaccinated children to be afflicted

by the disease, it's also possible for an outbreak to occur. Those of us who saw the outbreaks of the 20<sup>th</sup> century know what that means.

Those who didn't see those outbreaks need some information. A very quick summary of the impacts of some of the vaccine-preventable diseases is available at: <http://rotarydistrict9685.org.au/page/behind-the-anti-vaccination-movement/#sthash.gSzq8onL.dpuf>. Please share!

## Club business meeting

### Bobbin Head Cycle Classic

President Tony:

- Thanked Michael Midlam for volunteering to liaise with Terrey Hills residents concerning their complaints about the Bobbin Head Cycle Classic ('BHCC').
- Announced the change of date and venue for the BHCC presentation to charities: Tuesday, 19 May at Pymble Golf Club, St Ives. (There will be no meeting of the club at Killara Golf Club on Monday, 18 May.)
- Called for volunteers for:
  - Fundraising for the BHCC; and
  - Prizes manager for the BHCC.
- Thanked Jack McCartney, who was responsible for raising \$60,000 from sponsors - about 25% of the total raised by the BHCC.
- Requested members to provide Jack McCartney with the names and contact details of acquaintances in business organisations which might be willing to sponsor the next BHCC.
- Said that Peter Kipps and others are investigating a new system for management of BHCC volunteers and a new fundraising system.
- Reported a proposal put forward at a BHCC committee meeting to distribute the proceeds of the next BHCC 50% to Lifeline, 15% to Ku-ring-gai Youth Development Service and 35% between the 4 organising clubs, for allocation to their respective chosen charities.

There was some discussion of the proposal, including these points:

- **John Aitken** was not keen on the proposed reduction of the percentage available for allocation to our club's chosen charities.
- No decision on the proposal would be made until after President-Elect Graham returns from overseas.
- **Jack McCartney** having too many charities as beneficiaries reduces potential donors' interest.
- **Bob Elsworth** said promoting donations "to Lifeline and other Rotary charities" won't work with sponsors.
- **David Forsythe** recommended establishment of a Rotary 'deductible gift recipient fund'; said that the BHCC committee should now be planning for 2017; and suggested that all 4 organising clubs should donate equally to the selected charities, rather than separately to their respective chosen charities.
- **Bob Elsworth** suggested adding \$10 to the BHCC entry fee, to be donated to organisations that are not deductible gift recipients.

Further discussion was deferred to a meeting to be convened for the purpose at another time.

### Koongga

**Michael Tyler** put forward for discussion the ideas of:

- Dispensing with the 'members only' page of birthdays, rosters, etc from Koongga, relying instead on members visiting the club's website for that information; and
- Dispensing with Koongga and replacing it with:
- Information published on the club's website; and
- Facebook posts directing people to that information.

There was a mixed reaction from the meeting and the conclusion appeared to be that, for convenience, Koongga should continue in its present form.

## Theatre Night

### BLACK COFFEE by Agatha Christie

- Where:** Pymble Players  
cnr Bromley Ave & Mona Vale Rd, Pymble
- Date:** Thursday 14 May 2015
- Time:** 7.15pm for sandwiches & wine; 7.45 pm for the play
- Why:** Fundraising for Vanuatu & Nepal
- Book:** <https://docs.google.com/a/wildcolour.com/forms/d/1Tk8zVo-SG8C6ckLjVhmDCv6b6Mf12NK6gu29DLcHqdl/viewform?c=0&w=1>
- Pay:** \$25 per person to BSB: 032 089; Account no.: 253 333

In an English country house an eccentric inventor is murdered and his important formula stolen. One man immediately senses a potent brew of despair, treachery and deception among the house party. That man is Hercule Poirot. Enjoy the classic Christie setting for a Poirot whodunit – French doors, elegant women, country tweeds and knowing housekeepers.



### Next week:

**Monday, 18 May: no meeting**

**Tuesday, 19 May: Bobbin Head Cycle Classic presentation to charities:** 6.30 pm for 7 pm at Pymble Golf Club, Cowan Road, St Ives. Register your attendance at <https://goo.gl/zzjfYR> and pay \$32 per person to the club's general account (BSB 032 089 A/c 253341) by Wednesday, 13 May.

## Turrumurra is going to Yum Cha

The Rotary Club of Turrumurra is holding a yum cha luncheon from 1.30 - 3.30 pm on Saturday, 30 May to raise funds for wheelchairs for kids. There will be a Chinese musical performance to accompany the authentic cuisine at King Fook Seafood Restaurant, Level 6, Westfield Shopping Centre. The cost is \$45 per person. See the advertisement later in this edition of Koongga.



# Lifeline

Central Coast NSW

Lifeline was founded by the Reverend Alan Walker at Methodist Central Mission in Sydney in 1963.

Lifeline Central Coast, began in Gosford in March 1981. In 1986 Lifeline Central Coast moved to the current offices in Cary Street.

Over the years, Lifeline Central Coast has expanded its operations from the traditional telephone crisis support service to include a range of services to relieve the stress and pain of the people of the Central Coast.

Lifeline's focus is 'Saving Lives'. Every day in Australia, more than seven people die by suicide and a further 160 per day are admitted to hospital. Most suicide and self-harming behaviour can be prevented.

We rely heavily on the support of the people of the Central Coast; 85% of our funds are derived from our shops, events, donations and fund raising with 15% of funds from Local Health Service and NSW Health grants. Our volunteers are fundamental to our ongoing service.

# MUSIC FOR LIFE

A SELECTION OF  
CLASSICAL MUSIC WITH  
INFUSIONS OF JAZZ & TANGO

THE ROTARY CLUB OF  
KARIONG/SOMERSBY PRESENTS  
A FUNDRAISING CONCERT BY  
**ENSEMBLE ASTOR**  
TO RAISE THE MUCH NEEDED  
FUNDS FOR LIFELINE  
CENTRAL COAST

**SUNDAY 24th MAY 2015**  
6:30 for 7pm concert  
Phillip House  
21 Old Mount Penang Rd  
Kariong NSW 2250



Daniel Bangert, violin    Michelle Urquhart, viola    Inge Courtney-Haenjes, violin    Steve Meyer, cello

ENSEMBLE ASTOR is an Australian string quartet, which, as well as performing all the classical and romantic masterpieces, is dedicated to offering a range of exciting works from the 20th century and beyond. The members of ENSEMBLE ASTOR have performed, recorded and toured extensively throughout Australia and Europe as soloists and with various ensembles and orchestras. Now graciously returning to Phillip House for their third Benefit Concert for Rotary.



**Rotary Club of Turramurra**



## **Yum Cha Luncheon**

- > Raise funds for wheelchairs for kids**
- > Enjoy Chinese musical performance**
- > Taste authentic Chinese cuisine**

**Date:** 30th of May, 2015    **Time:** 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm

**Venue:** King Fook Seafood Restaurant, Level 6, Westfield Shopping Centre (next to the cinema) 28 Victor Street, Chatswood NSW 2067

**Cost:** \$45 per person

**Tickets:** Purchase at <http://www.trybooking.com/133928> by credit card (bring your ticket to the restaurant)

**Contact Person:** Christine Seitan, [info@selectivetours.com](mailto:info@selectivetours.com)

**A project to distribute wheelchairs for kids in Asia**



# *RyLA Ball*

*Supporting D9685 RyLA*



*The Menzies Hotel Sydney  
Saturday Twenty-Third May 2015*

*Canapes 6.00pm  
Dinner 7.00pm*

*R.S.V.P. Thirteenth May 2015  
Black Tie Masquerade*

*Book online ~ Tickets: \$120.00 ~ [www.rylaball2015.info](http://www.rylaball2015.info) ~ [rylaball2015@gmail.com](mailto:rylaball2015@gmail.com)*

## Calendar of events

May	14	(Thursday) Fundraising night: Pymble Players: Black Coffee by Agatha Christie
	18	Meeting postponed 1 day
	19	(Tuesday) Bobbin Head Cycle Classic presentation to charities
	25	Chris Russell: Behind the scenes at 'New Inventors'
June	8	Queen's birthday - no meeting
	15	Lindsay Forrest: '10 on me'
	22	TBA
	29	Changeover dinner

## Club officers and committee chairmen 2014-15

### Board of directors

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

### Service committee chairmen

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