



# 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: youth services

## This week: Chris Russell: Behind the scenes at 'New Inventors'

Trained as an agricultural scientist, Chris has spent the last thirty years working in various technical and commercial roles in over 30 countries, including a UN sponsored mission to Mongolia to help the nomadic herders adapt to a privatised economy after the collapse of the USSR in 1992.



Currently he is Technical Director and Joint CEO of a group of companies focused on innovation ranging from systems for grain processing for cattle to glass-fused-to-steel, low maintenance water storage tanks and sludge digesters.

Chris was a judge on the popular weekly Australian ABC television series "The New Inventors". He was recently appointed Chief Judge – Innovation by the Royal Agricultural Society for The Sydney Royal Easter Show.

Chris is also an Ambassador for the North Shore Heart research Foundation as well as being active in a number of charitable groups and until recently was Patron of International Aid organisation – "Life Through Livestock".

His activity in a number of local community and school organisations saw him receive the 2004 Australia Day Individual Community Service Award from Kur-ing-gai Council.

Chris has stated that he is an "invention tragic" and sees invention and innovation as being critical to Australia's future and very much part of the Australian psyche.

## Rotary Oceania Medical Aid for Children

Rotary Oceania Medical Aid for Children ('ROMAC') exists to provide medical treatment for children from developing countries in the form of life saving and/or dignity restoring surgery not accessible to



them in their own country. Since 1988 it has treated 350 deserving and underprivileged children.

Five year old Rex and his mother Karen live in the Papua New Guinea Highlands, a 10 hour bus ride from the nearest town. Like so many who live what we would consider a primitive life, because of his deformity Rex was ostracized so couldn't attend school.



They were met by members of the Rotary Club of Henley Beach and his carer, Anthony Masson, when they arrived in Adelaide for treatment for an encephalocele (herniated brain). Like so many of ROMAC's children's parents, Karen had no idea of how to use money or even how to shop 'big city' style

Rex was operated on by Dr. Mark Moore at the Women's and Children's Hospital, made a very quick recovery and within two weeks he was organizing miniature games of Rugby Union in the corridors and enjoying outings to the



zoo and stroking kangaroos. When he visited Henley Beach his eyes lit up when he saw sand and water for the first time! It was a highlight for him.

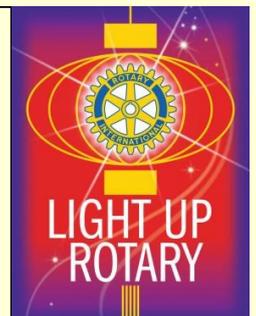
Central Region's Oleh Bilyk said "We are much richer for Rex's time here. Both he and his mother have added another dimension and understanding to our lives. It was so satisfying to see him have a new life ahead. Even better," he added, "Rex will now be able to live a normal life and even fulfil his dream of going to school like the other children.

## Rotarian longevity

President Tony isn't our club's longest serving Rotarian. (That distinction belongs to our remaining charter member, Norris Dunn.) However, even though Tony boasts 30+ years of Rotary service, neither he nor Norris can compete with Paul Henningham of the Rotary Club of Lower Blue Mountains, who has just celebrated 60 years

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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

in Rotary, at the age of 94.

Paul joined the Rotary Club of Marrickville in May 1955. A decade on he had become a charter member of the Rotary Club of Newtown and was the driving force behind the establishment of Rotary Down Under – official Rotary International Regional magazine for Australian and New Zealand Rotary Districts. He also served as the second Governor of District 269 when it was formed in 1974/75.



We know that President Tony likes a challenge. Will he still be a member of our club in 30 years' time?

### **Last week: Bobbin Head Cycle Classic presentation to charities**

Last week a large number of Rotarians from the four organising clubs of the Bobbin Head Cycle Classic ('BHCC') convened for a dinner to present cheques for the funds raised to the beneficiary charities. Koongga asked those who spoke to summarise their speeches. Following is what they sent.

**Paul Rickard** from the Rotary Club of Turramurra ('RCT') presented this overview of the BHCC and thanked the key organisers:

Highlights of the BHCC:

- \$220,000 raised in 2015
- In addition, donation of \$10,000 to the Ku-Ring-gai State Emergency Service
- Safety – a huge effort to improve this year - 3 incidents
- 2,701 participants (up 35% on 2014)
- 220,000 km ridden
- 400 volunteers
- Introduced a 4<sup>th</sup> Club – Wahroonga Rotary – a real example of a "multi" club project

Thanks to:

- Marketing – Bob Elsworth, Peter Kipps, Ian Stuart and team
- Registrations and Finance – Tony McClelland
- Sponsorship – Jack McCartney and Emma Bagley
- Ride Planning, Marshal Co-Ordination and Control – Michael Robertson, Ray Rice and our 9 team leaders:
  - Warren Soos, Colin Sweet and Tim Shea from RCT
  - Peter Kipps and Lindsay Forrest from the Rotary Club of Ku-ring-gai ('RCK')
  - Doug Reid and John Collins from the Rotary Club of Wahroonga ('RCW')
  - Derek Molloy and Tim Wilson from the Rotary Club of St Ives ('RCSI')
- Signs – Ross Warden and team
- Logistics – Ross Egan and team
- Site at Karuah – John Aitken and team
- Webmaster Bob Ivey
- Hospitality – Graham Rivett, Harold Morgan, Graham Timms
- Photography – Brendan Trewartha

- Raffle – Greg Newling
- Secretary – Graham Rivett
- State Emergency Service
- Macquarie Park Rotary Club
- Legacy team led by Don Murray
- Supporters of the various charities

**Peter Kipps** presented a statistical analysis of the BHCC and drew the following main conclusions:

- The longer rides were fully subscribed. In future years marketing will need to be tailored to attract more participants in the shorter rides.
- Due the number of riders who do not return the following year, the event will need to attract 2,000 new riders next year.
- Attracting more teams is the best way to increase rider numbers.
- Team members raise more than 3 times the amount of funds that individual riders raise.
- New methods are needed to attract more riders.
- Professional fundraising assistance is required.
- The volunteer management system needs improvement.

**Rob Byrne** from RCT noted that Lifeline was founded 52 years ago and now works all over Australia. Lifeline Harbour to Hawkesbury is one of the largest branches. As well as suicide prevention, it provides mental health and many other counselling services. Rotary is proud to support it.

Rob noted that Lifeline's motto "Saving lives" is reflected in the BHCC's tag line "Pedal to save lives". He expressed his gratitude to Lifeline for everything it does and presented a cheque for \$110,000 to Lifeline's Chief Executive Officer, Wendy Carver.

Accepting the cheque, **Wendy Carver** said Lifeline's national telephone crisis support line currently answers over 800,000 calls a year. Lifeline based at Gordon answered 98,000 calls in the last financial year and has one of the largest answer call rates in Australia. Sadly, approximately 20% of calls to Lifeline's national service still go unanswered due to lack of resources (money and volunteers).

Lifeline Harbour to Hawkesbury has therefore decided to embark on an ambitious project and to use 100% of Rotary's BHCC donation of \$110,000 to fund 5 new (daytime) telephone crisis support seats/phones at Gordon. The new seats will operate between the hours of 6.00 a.m. and midnight each day of the week. Rotary and the BHCC are therefore playing a significant role in helping Lifeline to move towards answering 100% of their crisis calls.

While these seats will be manned by trained and ac-



credited volunteers there are still huge costs associated with this ambitious BHCC funded project. Costs include running additional training courses, marketing our courses to a broader target group, providing additional one-on-one paid supervision to all students and accredited telephone crisis supporters to ensure Lifeline's national standards for supervision are met. Additional supervisors will need to be employed to be on shift in the telephone crisis support room at all times. The budget for the additional 5 seats for a 12 month period is \$200,000, which means the BHCC this year will be funding over 50% of the cost. While Lifeline hopes to use some existing NSW Health funding to cover the remainder of the costs this is yet to be determined.

Latest Australian Bureau of Statistics reports show that suicide is still the leading cause of death in Australia for young people (20-44). Around 7 people die from suicide every day in Australia and it is estimated that for each death by suicide there are another 30 attempts. Along with other callers and crisis issues, Lifeline supports and helps keep many of this target group safe and linked to support.

Lifeline is extraordinarily grateful to the combined Rotary Clubs, Ku-ring-gai, Turramurra, St Ives and Wahroonga, for their outstanding support and highly valued relationship.

**President Tony** introduced Marten and Sally Wynd from Eagles RAPS with typical brevity, commenting on his expectations for the future of the BHCC and thanking Paul Rickard for the enormous amount of work that he puts in to organising the event.

He said that Eagles RAPS started as a suicide prevention initiative in 1997 and 5 years later began teaching students who had been rejected by all the schools they attended, with remarkable results.

He then presented a cheque for \$27,500 to Marten and Sally.

Thanking the 4 organising clubs, **Marten Wynd** said Eagles RAPS ('ERAPS') had struggled after losing its earlier government funding and had to turn children away. The donation from the BHCC will be a phenomenal boost to its resources.



The children that ERAPS helps are mostly in the 13-16 age group. ERAPS generally helps about 170 children each year, but it is merely scratching the surface of the problem.

Marten emphasised the importance of children to the future of Australia. He said that children with ability and drive shine when given the opportunity to do so.

**Grahame Rivett** from RCSI spoke next. This is what he said: The BHCC started in 2012. St Ives joined for the 2013 event "on probation", as we had no bike riders in our club! We were then able to nominate a charity for the 2014 event.

We chose Ku-ring-gai Youth Development Service

('KYDS'), it being local and a good "fit" for the youth projects which our club was keen on supporting. KYDS was started in 2005 as an initiative of Lindfield Rotary Club, with support from Ku-ring-gai Municipal Council, aiming at providing adolescent mental health and wellness for 12-18 year olds. KYDS provides free counselling to young people, their families and will also work with schools where appropriate.

KYDS receives no government funding, but relies on community and corporate support to meet its budget of around \$400,000 - mainly for counselling salaries.

Business and fundraising manager Felicity Mc Donnell tells me that this year, the second for KYDS in the BHCC, saw KYDS using the increasingly popular BHCC as a cornerstone of a successful corporate engagement partnership with Channel 10, and will seek to use this type of arrangement with other corporates for future 'Bobbos'. With rider numbers close to physical capacity of the facilities available for the longer rides, fundraising by riders is an increasingly important way of improving returns to our charities, and corporate teams seem the way to go - witness the success of the "Gong" for multiple sclerosis.

I've personally been involved with the BHCC for three years now, working on a range of activities such as the main BBQ; corporate hospitality and liquor licence to look after the teams and top fundraisers; bike shop marketing and logistics including driving around the course doing the garbage runs. I find it a privilege to work with the many Rotarians on the committee and all the selfless volunteers who work to promote the event and manage it on the day.



On behalf of St Ives Rotary Club, I am delighted to present this cheque for \$33,000 to Namoi Dougall, the Chair of KYDS, and hope that we can continue to build an even greater Cycle Classic. We are probably the third biggest ride in Sydney now,

and we must have second spot well within reach with the great efforts of the people from our charities. Peter Kipps said earlier that he can see our way forward to a half million dollar Bobbo in a few years. I think we should keep trying because that is still only half of what we want it to be!

Responding on behalf of KYDS, **Namoi Dougall** said how much she had enjoyed working with Rotarians. She spoke about the importance of the work done by organisations like Lifeline, KYDS and ERAPS, having recently experienced the trauma of a family whose 16 year old daughter had overdosed.

By assisting KYDS, Rotarians are looking after children and others in the community. KYDS is dependent on donations and will apply the money from the BHCC to early intervention programs and free counselling for all children who come through its door.

**David Russell** from RCW was next, with this:

Wahroonga Rotary Club was the "newby" this year in the running of the Bobbo, joining 3 other clubs that had done it all before - and we were excited to be there - but it had its teething problems, as moving into an event that had been successfully run for a few years is not easy.

As our two representatives on the management team, Doug Reid and John Collins (who did a great job), proceeded into the work, I continually asked them how the meetings went, what was the dynamic of the meetings and how did things get done. After just about every meeting they indicated that they were still learning and that the "dynamic" seemed to change at each meeting, no doubt in part due to the personalities involved. I'm not sure that they ever established what it was, but the one thing that I did learn is that the glue that held all the disparate groups involved together was significantly due to Paul Rickard, who has put in a huge effort and done a tremendous job with his great team ... and may he continue to lead the charge (endorsing Tony McClelland's earlier words).

One of the main reasons that RCW became involved was because, while our biggest fundraising event of the year is the NOVUS Dinner, it is not an outdoor event and opportunities to get outside and see something happen are rare. With some of our other activities reducing, some felt that we could do with something that got a lot of members more active. This is in fact what happened at the Bobbo and, despite being on our feet for a number of hours and the tiredness in arms, legs (and voice) as we "marshalled" away, we still felt a rewarding adrenalin surge as the "pelotons" swept past. The feedback I received from our volunteers out at Terrey Hills was that they were tired but happy with being involved and pleased that the money earned was going to very good causes.

It is our pleasure to hand over a cheque for \$22,000 to John Lockyer, the Chair of the Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Women's Shelter, which is our nominated charity. Not only is it local and has recently opened a new facility to assist this cause which is sorely needed, but it also contributed some 28 volunteers on the day to demonstrate their keenness to be involved and help.



Many thanks to all who ran and participated in this marvellous event!

**John Lockyer** responded as follows: A big thank you to the Rotary Club of Wahroonga for including the Hornsby Ku-Ring-Gai Women's Shelter (HKWS) as a beneficiary of the Classic.

HKWS was established to respond to the absence of a shelter to provide safe and secure refuge for women escaping domestic violence. Previously there was no shelter for women between Manly and Central Coast. Domestic violence will impact on approximately 1 in every 4 women throughout Australia and sadly to date this year

there have already been 37 women murdered in a domestic violence situation. We clearly want to be part of the solution and to address the problem now.

The shelter is a real community effort that was just an idea back in December 2013 when a community forum was held in Hornsby on a bleak afternoon, with some of the worst blackouts hitting the local area. Despite the conditions the forum was totally packed out and clearly the Hornsby/ Ku-ring-gai Community wanted to be part of history and establish a shelter to help homeless women escaping domestic violence,

The Shelter is a 10 bed dwelling in the local district that officially took our first women in 3 months ago. The shelter costs approximately \$400,000 per annum to run, basically with no government assistance. The funds donated from the Bobbo Classic will be used to address the ongoing assistance of women entering the shelter and providing crisis counselling, exit housing strategies, piloting the women through the myriad of government agencies and providing employment assistance. The local community has been generous in their support and the future viability of the shelter will rely upon donations such as the generous donations from the Bobbo Cycle Classic and Rotary.

The final presentation of the evening was to **Laurie Facer** on behalf of Bo Children's Hospital, Sierra Leone. Accepting a cheque for \$27,500, this is what he said: It has been my privilege to have seen the positive and successful growth of two great projects. I remember when Michael Robertson decided that the Bo Children's Hospital project needed a great annual event that could support the hospital over the long term; and the first meeting with members from the Ku-ring-gai Club. The project, in a very short period of time became wonderfully successful. Money from the BoBo ride has often come at just the right time to keep the hospital running.



The Bo Children's Hospital has also been a very successful project. It has been running for three years and has treated 11,000 children, while only losing three lives. This is in poverty stricken country with an infant mortality rate of 1 in 5 infants. I estimate that each year 37,000 parents lose their child from an easily preventable death. The hospital project has gone through several stages. Started by the Rotary Club of Turramurra, a foundation was formed to manage the construction and fundraising for the hospital. The Rotary Club of Bo, Sierra Leone took responsibility for its construction. Upon completion, a community board was formed to take responsibility for the operation of the hospital. It has successfully run the hospital for three years.

The hospital is now going through a new phase as it endeavours to broaden its financial base. Although the local community in Bo pay 30% towards the operational costs, it is the goal of the Bo Children's Hospital Foundation and the hospital board to make the hospital financially independent of the Foundation for its operational costs

This will allow the Foundation to concentrate on raising money for investment in the hospital's growth.

The money raised by the BoBo ride will substantially assist this next new phase of being operationally independent. The journey will be long and difficult but the reward will be seen in not only the saving of many young lives, but also the development of an independent and strong community.

Thank you. Your hard work has made a significant difference.

### **Travellers' tales**

Sergeant-at-Arms Malcolm and his wife Margaret are doing a grand tour of the USA and Canada.

2 hours after touching down in the USA, Malcolm was helping at a project of the Rotary Club of San Clemente:



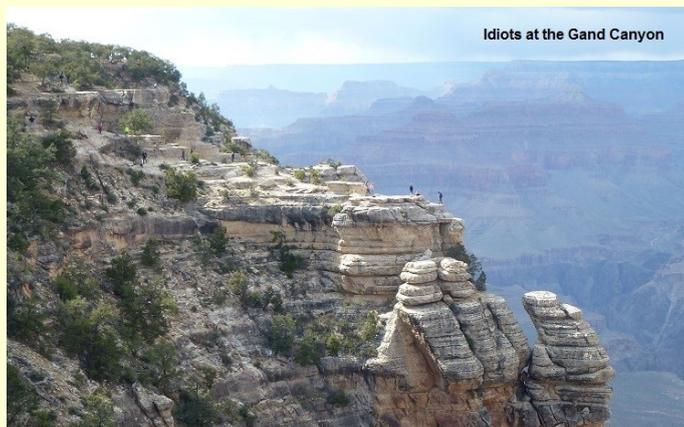
And what do Rotarians do next?



Sergeant Malcolm rides a Hog now:



Malcolm and Margaret at the Grand Canyon:



That's not a BBQ . . . **This** is a BBQ:



Cold snap:



### **Next week: James O'Keefe: Managing the safety of Sydney's dams**

James O'Keefe is a Dam Safety Engineer at WaterNSW, formerly known as the Sydney Catchment Authority. WaterNSW looks after 21 dams in the Sydney area and they all catch Sydney's drinking water.

James' talk will be about how all dams move. An important part his job is to measure and analyse dam movements – as they give James and his colleagues the information they need to know to ensure that the dams are working the way they were designed to work.

## Calendar of events

June	1	James O'Keefe: Managing the safety of Sydney's dams
	8	Queen's birthday - no meeting
	15	Lindsay Forrest and Stan Glaser: '10 on me'
	22	Emma Adarrio and Suzannah Cowley: The magic of Roseville Cinema
	29	Club changeover

## 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