



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: **Basic education & literacy**

This week: Rob Edwards: Solar power for Fiji schools



Many Pacific island schools struggle with no electricity supply – or rely on dirty diesel generators they can barely afford to run a couple of hours per day. The children have little or no chance of a modern education.

In 2007 Rob Edwards established the 'Its Time Foundation' to provide clean, free energy for lighting and computers and to utterly transform the education and prospects for these children. Solar power can mean the start of computer education at the school - and the money saved on generator fuel creates decades of cash flow to buy the computers.

Rob will tell us about the 'Its Time Foundation' and its work. We will be joined by members of the Rotary Club of Lindfield to discuss a proposed joint club project installing solar power in Fiji.

Last week's guests & notices

President Graham:

- Welcomed our guest speaker, Christina Xu, Scott Chen and Jim Groves;
- Proposed a theatre night to see a Shen Yun Performing arts show in March 2016;
- Requested members to spread the word about the pain management seminar to be held at Royal North Shore Hospital at 6 pm on Tuesday, 13 October (see advertisement in *Koongga* 14 September);
- Encouraged members to register early to join the

group going to the District 9685 Conference in Canberra on 11-12 March 2016 (early bird registration ends on 30 November); and

- Reminded members of the visit to the Parents Café at Fairfield High School for a multicultural lunch on Saturday, 24 October (see item below).

Rob Hall invited members to nominate young people aged 18-27 who have some leadership experience or potential for the Rotary Youth Leadership Award, a one week leadership training seminar to be held in Elanora Heights on 1-16 January 2016.

Ross Egan announced the club's next trivia night at the Warrawee Bowling Club on Saturday, 31 October and encouraged members to invite their friends to make up tables of 8-10. Funds raised will be donated to Rotary Oceania Medical Aid for Children.

Polio this week

Pakistan launched a nationwide polio campaign last week to vaccinate more than 35 million children in 163 districts of the country. Approximately 200,000 polio workers are participating in the polio campaign, during which Vitamin A will also be distributed.



Nine campaigns are planned during September 2015 to May 2016 and every campaign is critically important to stop polio virus transmission.

Pakistan currently accounts for most of the children paralyzed by wild poliovirus this year (30), followed by Afghanistan (9). These are the only two countries in the world with wild poliovirus cases in 2015: the lowest number of countries in history.

Pakistan is well-positioned to take advantage of the current 'low season' for poliovirus transmission; it has pre-

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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 'Be a gift to the world' is the Rotary International President's theme for 2015-16

pared emergency operations centres at federal and provincial level and is improving its ability to hold every level of the administration accountable for delivering vaccine to children. The quality of these campaigns – whether missed children are given the opportunity to be vaccinated – will determine how swiftly Pakistan can eradicate polio.

As progress continues to be made towards polio eradication, surveillance is increasingly one of the most important



things the programme can do to protect children against every last poliovirus. Surveillance Officers like Amina Ismail, working for the World Health Organization in Kenya (pictured above waiting to talk to a traditional healer), know that it is not just vaccinating every last child but being able to trace every last virus that will take us over the finishing line to eradication.

The Dance

As a team building exercise for corporates and a fabulous way to demonstrate corporate social responsibility, the Rotary Club of Sydney invites participation in “The Dance”, an exciting fundraising flashmob for ‘Rotary Kids Health’ and to support your chosen charity. This year will be the first of what we aim to be a major annual event. The idea is to bring CBD Sydney together to celebrate our good fortune to live in such a beautiful city with such a fantastic climate, where we can express our caring for others in such a healthy, liberating way. The theme for the Dance is ‘Your Cause, Your Dance, Your Way’ so that all Sydney-siders can own a piece of the action.

We have invited charities to work with us towards our common goal of improving the lives of those we care about. Our club volunteers have organised the event and, in recognition, we hope that charities don’t mind sharing 30% of the funds raised with ‘Rotary Kids Health’.

Rotarians and friends, it is now time to dust off your dancing shoes and show that you really care about improving the lives of others. On “The Dance” website www.thedance.org.au find out all about this fun-filled fundraising event where Sydney’s Martin Place will liven up with music and dance from a flash mob that includes you. If not you, then your representative, perhaps some-



one working in the CBD. Your involvement will help ensure a number of things:

- Generate much needed funds for the many projects of Rotary under the banner ‘Rotary Kids Health’.
- Show Rotary is a young, vibrant, all-inclusive organisation, teaming up with corporates and charities to support their favourite cause.
- Reach a wider audience by harnessing the latest technologies and communications.
- Start something really big, an annual event which will ultimately break records.

“The Dance” will eventually be Sydney’s largest flashmob, this year taking place at lunchtime in Martin Place on **Friday 27th November 2015**. Participants will be dancing to a choreographed routine for 3 minutes, sponsored by their network of family, friends and work colleagues. “The Dance” will bring excitement and surprise to our streets, an energy that will be viewed on social media well into the future.

Improving the lives of children is the focus of ‘Rotary Kids Health’. Internationally, Rotary leads the way in the eradication of polio from the world and the job is nearly done. The Rotary Club of Sydney supports health and education programs in the Asia Pacific region as well as India and Africa. Locally our scholarships and personal development programs save disadvantaged kids from a life of misery and create a pathway for tomorrow’s young leaders. Find out more on our website www.sydneyrotary.com

Vocational excellence awards

The Rotary Awards for Vocational Excellence for our District 9685 are open for nomination. The primary aim for these awards is to recognize vocational excellence of the highest order and to honour outstanding contribution by individuals or small teams of individuals for significant advancement in their vocational field in Australia. Awards will be presented at District Conference in Canberra.



There is obviously a requirement for any nominees to carry out their vocation within our District. Awards can go to Rotarians and non-Rotarians. However in the event of equal ranking, priority for receiving an Award will be given to the non-Rotarian.

Nominations close on 31 October. Any nomination put forward must detail significant achievements justifying the nomination, outstanding and unique aspects of their achievements, other professional & vocational attainments for the nominee, the impact of the candidate receiving the Award – i.e., community benefit, the vocation itself’s benefit and the significance the achievement has at all levels of Australian society.

So any nomination requires significant information and justification in order to be considered & successful against others. If any member wishes our club to make a nomination, please provide name and details to Lindsay Forrest (head of vocational avenue of service).

Visit to The Parents Café

On Saturday 24 October from 12pm, we have arranged for our Club, Members and Partners, to enjoy a Middle Eastern Lunch at Fairfield High School. The luncheon will also include a special treat of the Tea/Coffee ceremony that is performed at special Middle Eastern functions, such as weddings. The idea of the day is to give us an idea of what the Parents Café in the school is doing in relation to multi cultural activities and to add support to the work being undertaken by parents at that school.

Cost will be \$30 a head, payable on the day to the school. More information will be given closer to the date.

Roger Desmarchelier

Last week: Christina Xu: Shen Yun Performing Arts: reviving 5000 years of Chinese culture



Christina Xu emigrated to Australia from China with a degree in Chinese traditional medicine 20 years ago. She retrained in accounting and has held various senior corporate positions.

Settling into Australia, Christina enjoyed the freedom, the country and its culture, but also began to appreciate traditional Chinese culture more. She developed for herself the role of being a bridge between Australian and Chinese cultures.

Christina led us through the origins of Chinese culture (including language, religion, cuisine, social habits, music and art), beginning with the monks of Shaolin Temple, founded by Bodhidharma from India. Buddhism emphasised meditation and detachment from earthly desires.

The Yellow Emperor originated the centralised state, was a patron of the arts, sought the Tao and is thought to have formulated many of Taoism's precepts. He was "following the course of heaven".

Christina talked about traditional Chinese medicine, which is based on 5 elements (wood, fire, earth, metal and water) and the concepts of yin and yang. It treats the body and all its systems as a whole.

Confucianism developed a philosophical system, promoting 5 cardinal virtues: gravity, generosity of soul, sincerity, earnestness and kindness. Together, Buddhism, Taoism and Confucianism became the basis of Chinese culture.

Christina told the story of the eight immortals crossing the sea, an ancient Chinese tale in which each character displays a different divine power, the moral being that everyone can reach higher.

After the Communist Party came to power in 1949 and particularly following the Cultural Revolution, during which there was widespread destruction of ancient cultural artefacts, China became officially atheist. For many years, religious minorities were at best tolerated, but more frequently discouraged or actively persecuted. The Falun Gong movement, which practised a spiritual exercise and meditation regime and attracted 100 million followers, was seen as a threat to the government.

(In primary school, Christina had to write banners attack-

ing Confucianism which, however, she did not understand. After leaving China, she read widely and learned about it.)

In recent times, the Communist Party has become more accepting of religions, although they are still subject to control. Chinese people are starting to become more independent, believing that they have to look after themselves. Perhaps this will lead them back to the ancient cultural values of China.

Shen Yun Performing Arts Company was established by Falun Dafa practitioners in 2006, in New York. Its mission was to use performing arts to revive the essence of China's traditional culture.

Since ancient times, China has been known as the "Celestial Empire", which not only refers to China's strength and position as East Asia's Middle Kingdom, but also captures a more profound



meaning, describing a land where the divine and mortal once coexisted. It refers to the belief that the divine, through various dynasties, transmitted a rich and abundant culture to the Chinese people. Chinese culture is thus known as "divinely inspired", and is the only culture in the world to have a continuous recorded history of 5,000 years.

Shen Yun has four touring dance companies today. Each company has around 100 artists. Many of them are internationally well-known and they are originally from China or Taiwan, and others are young ethnic Chinese who grew up in the west. It is a tremendous international collaboration of many artists from many countries who are passionate about Chinese culture.

Travellers' tales

On their way back to Sydney, Malcolm and Margaret Braid dined with former member Judy Houghton at her new home in Cowra. History doesn't record anything about their meeting other than a fine country meal.

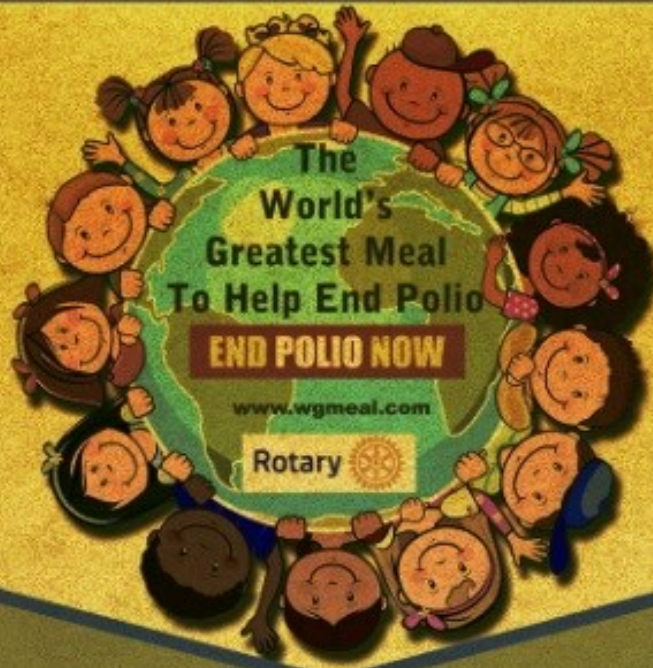


Next week: no meeting (public holiday)

END POLIO NOW

HELP YOUR LOCAL ROTARY CLUB

**END
POLIO
NOW**



**END
POLIO
NOW**

24 October, World Polio Day, is the next step to a POLIO FREE world

Help your local Rotary Club and book YOUR table at the World's Greatest Meal

Rotary



For MORE information: www.wgmeal.com

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visit www.graffitiremovalday.org.au



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DOWN UNDER

YOUR CAUSE, YOUR DANCE, YOUR WAY

THE DANCE

The Dance is your flash mob. Everyone can be involved and support the charity of your choice.

Be part of something truly memorable. Get your friends, family and colleagues together for The Dance 2015.

Date: Friday, 27 November 2015

Time: 12:30pm

*Where: Martin Place Amphitheatre
(between Pitt & Castlereagh Streets)*

*The Split: Support Your Charity (70%)
Rotary Kids Health (30%)*

GET INVOLVED!

Register NOW

- **Create your own fundraising page**
- **Ask family and friends to sponsor you**

What is

Rotary Kids Health?

Improving the physical and mental wellbeing of children locally and internationally, and providing life-changing programs for young adults.



Register online at
www.thedance.org.au

An initiative of
Rotary
Club of Sydney



Calendar of events

October	5	Public holiday: no meeting
	12	[Hat Day] Dr Simone Isemann: Hoarding
	19	
	26	
	31	Saturday: Trivia night (fundraising for Rotary Oceania Medical Aid for Children)
November	2	Hugh McKay: The community
	9	
	16	
	23	
	30	
December	7	
	14	
	21	
	28	No meeting

Club officers and committee chairmen 2015-16

Board of directors

President	Graham Timms
Vice President	John Aitken
Immediate Past President	Tony McClelland
President Elect	Michael Midlam
Secretary	Geoff Hungerford
Treasurer	Graham Maslen
Director - Membership	Tony McClelland
Director - Public Relations	Roger Desmarchelier
Director - Club Administration	Michael Midlam
Director - Service Projects	John Aitken
Director - Rotary Foundation	Peter Tang

Service committee chairmen

Administration (Club Service)	Michael Midlam
Vocational Service	Lindsay Forrest
Community Service	Roger Desmarchelier
International Service	Georgina Manning
Youth Service	Linda Lam-Rohlfs
Social events	Joy Newling
Bobbin Head Cycle Classic	Tony McClelland
Sergeant-at-Arms	Malcolm Braid
Assistant Secretary	Lindsay Forrest
Assistant Treasurer	Chris Lewis

Club committees 2015-16

Administration: Michael Midlam, Geoff Hungerford, Rob Hall (Program), Bob Ivey (Web and social media), Graham Maslen, Michael Tyler (Koongga)

Bobbin Head Cycle Classic: Tony McClelland, John Aitken, Ross Egan, Bob Elsworth, Peter Kipps, Graham Timms

Club History: Malcolm Braid, Tom Jackson

Community: Roger Desmarchelier, Gary Dawson, Ross Egan (Daffodil Day), Greg Goodman (Bowelscan), Chris Hoch (Red Shield), Nick Kenyon, Ted Price

International: Georgina Manning, Roger Desmarchelier, Emyr Evans, Dilys Geddes, Rob Hall, Loïc Lacombe, Graham Maslen, Greg Newling

Membership: Tony McClelland, Caroline Jones, Ken Sackville

Public Relations: Roger Desmarchelier, Linda Lam-Rohlfs, Georgina Manning,

Rotary Foundation: Peter Tang, Lindsay Forrest, Chris Hoch, Greg Newling

Social Events: Joy Newling, Ross Egan, Dilys Geddes, Georgina Manning,

Vocational: Lindsay Forrest, Lou Coenen, David Forsythe, Peter Kipps, Michael Tyler

Youth: Linda Lam-Rohlfs, Joyce Enos, Stan Glaser, Gary Keating, Chris Lewis, Joy Newling, Don Riddell