



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: The Rotary Foundation

Trivia Night raises \$1,900 for Fijian solar power project

Bribery was the order of the day at the club's recent Trivia Night - that is, buying the answers to difficult questions. And whether it was through superior knowledge, lucky guesses or paying more than the other teams, President Graham's team ended up winners of a case of wine. Let's hope it was as good as the wine in Graham's cellar!

Despite a smaller attendance than in previous years, the event raised over \$1,900 for the Fijian solar power project. Thanks to Ross and Helen Egan and Dilys Geddes for another entertaining and challenging night and to President Graham, Rita Coenen and the Egans for providing wonderful auction items.



This week: Professor Michael Pailthorpe: Forensic investigation of textile clues in crimes and accidents

Textiles are the silent witnesses at virtually all crime scenes. Textile fibres can be transferred from the victim's clothing to the criminal's clothing, and visa versa, and from other textile items at the crime scene to either the victim or criminal or both. Textiles may also be used as gags and bindings, to start fires, to clean weapons, to dispose of bodies (e.g. blankets and carpets), etc.

Mike Pailthorpe, a member of the Rotary Club of Lindfield, was Professor of Textile Technology at the University of New South Wales until his retirement in 2000. As a senior consultant with the Food & Textiles Group of AgResearch Limited, New Zealand, from 1999 to 2010 his consulting activities included commercial litigation and textile forensic science.

Mike will talk about his experiences as a forensic investigator, including examples from both his commercial cases, such as insurance fraud, and criminal cases such as the Azaria Chamberlain case and the Belanglo State Forest backpacker murders.

Last meeting's guests & notices

President Graham:

- Welcomed our guest speaker, Hugh Mackay, the members of the Rotary Club of Lindfield, their guest Jill Quinn (visiting from South Africa) and numerous Rotarians' spouses/partners;
- Reported the sum raised at the Trivia Night and another \$1,000 raised for 'Days For Girls' through a facials project organised by Georgina Manning;
- Announced that the club will donate \$600 to Fairfield High School's Parents' Café, to sponsor 2 tables for recent refugee immigrants at its Christmas dinner;
- Spoke about a Ku-ring-gai Council plan to provide welcome packs for Syrian refugees (a project initiated by the Rotary Club of Wahroonga);
- Renewed his call for nominations for club officer and board positions, to be elected at the club's AGM on 7 December; and
- Invited any members of the Rotary Club of Lindfield who are not attending the Rotary Foundation dinner on 9 November to join our meeting instead.

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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

Polio eradication news



In October, World Polio Day gave us the opportunity to pay special tribute on a global stage to the millions of health workers whose efforts have brought us to the brink of polio eradication.

Also in October, Ukraine launched a nationwide vaccination campaign in response to an outbreak of vaccine-derived polio, which will help protect millions of under-immunised children across the country.

Somalia declared the outbreak of wild poliovirus from 2013 closed with fourteen months since the most recent case, and an outbreak response review in the Middle East congratulated stakeholders across the region for progress made.

And in the countries where polio continues to circulate, health workers are going further than ever before to reach children with vaccines, through innovations such as health camps improving access to basic health services.



Charity screening of 'unIndian'

Folks, Wahroonga Rotary Club is keen to boost interest in the upcoming charity movie event at the Roseville theatre.

Sydney-based fans of Bollywood, cricket and generally having a good time have the chance follow all these pursuits and help raise funds for ShelterBox with the Rotary Club of Wahroonga's charity screening of new movie, 'unIndian'. Starring Aussie fast bowler, **Brett Lee** and Tannishtha Chatterjee, the movie explores a romance across cultural borders. 'unIndian' is a comedy with a lot of heart and a little spice!



Adding even more spice to the evening will be the appearance of the Bollywood dancers!

The event takes place at Roseville Cinemas on **Wednesday 11th November at 8.00pm** and tickets are available from: [Try Booking](#)

Or see this Roseville theatre link for all the details and a film trailer: <http://www.rosevillecinemas.com.au/Promotion/Unindian-Wahroonga-Rotary-Fundraiser>

World Toilet Day: 19 November

World Toilet Day is a day to take action. It is a day to raise awareness about all the people who do not have access to a toilet - despite the human right to water and sanitation.

Of the world's seven billion people, 2.5 billion people do not have improved sanitation. One billion people still defecate in the open. Women and girls risk rape and abuse because they have no toilet that offers privacy.

It is a day to do something about it. - See more at: <http://rotarydistrict9685.org.au/stories/world-toilet-day-november-19/#sthash.ZtzZhocP.dpuf>



Early bird registration for District Conference 2016

Early bird registration for the District Conference, to be held in Canberra on 11-12 March 2016 closes on 30 November.

If you haven't been to a District Conference before (or even if you have), just go along for the experience. You'll find it inspiring and eye-opening about the range of Rotary's activities

both locally and overseas. As well as an opportunity to socialise with other members of our club, you'll meet members of many other clubs and have the opportunity to network with District officials. And there will be free time to enjoy Canberra's well-known attractions.

Bobbin Head Cycle Classic flyer distribution at the 'Gong Ride

This year Ross Warden from the Turrumurra Rotary Club was again our team leader for the distribution of flyers for the Bobbin Head Cycle Classic 2016 at the Multiple Sclerosis 'Gong Ride and again he did a sterling job.

It was necessary to alter the flyer distribution strategy this year, as the finish site was changed to WA Lang Park Wollongong and we were advised beforehand by MS that we would not be allowed to distribute flyers in the vicinity of this park. Also some of the ride stop locations were changed along the way.

It was therefore decided to make Wollongong Railway Station our principal location to communicate with riders,





Last meeting: Hugh Mackay: Community

as it was far enough away from the MS Finish site and a large number of cyclists travelled back to Sydney by train. Ross Warden and Milton Mason from the Turramurra RC arrived at the Station at around 8.30am and worked through to 10.30 am together. Ian Stuart, also from TRC, arrived at around 10.30am with his wife to assist Ross, as Milton had to leave. Ross stayed on until around 1.00pm and he and his Wollongong team managed to distribute approximately 2000 flyers.

The strategy for flyer distribution for Chris Hoch and I, was to man a drink stop at Waterfall Rail Station Carpark. We arrived there at 7.30am, but abandoned this site 45 minutes later because very few riders were stopping here and we couldn't hand flyers to cyclists riding straight through.



Hugh Mackay is a social researcher and the author of sixteen books – ten in the field of social psychology and ethics, and six novels. His latest book, *The Art of Belonging*, was the basis for his talk.

Hugh started by saying that he is tired of being told how selfish human beings are. Whilst acknowledging humans' ambitiousness and competitiveness, he said that that is only

a tiny bit of the truth about them.

The deeper truth is that humans are social creatures, whose true nature is to cooperate, rather than to compete. We are herd animals, tribal in nature.

Neuroscientists have found the cooperative centre of our brains, but not a competitive centre: competitiveness is learned behaviour. So it is in the nature of humans to form communities. They don't just happen and they don't necessarily survive by themselves.

Hugh spoke about the threats to the cohesion of neighbourhoods. He said we need communities and communities need us. If we don't work at maintaining them, they will fragment.

It is sad that in cities people say they don't know their neighbours. The neighbourhood is not working the way it used to. Hugh carried out research to find out why. There were two major explanations:

The first is a bombardment of 2 types of propaganda:

- "It's all about you" in advertising, which is now much more insidious due to the wide range of media available; and
- The "happiness" industry – seminars, lectures, TED Talks and the like persuading people that happiness is a default state. This is total rubbish from a psychological point of view. The reality is that everyone experiences a range of states of happiness. The contrary propaganda contributes to an epidemic of depression, because people get concerned when they are not happy.

The other source of pressure is the way that society has changed. Social changes are affecting both western and oriental societies. The common theme is that the changes put pressure on the stability and cohesion of communities. Unless we are conscious of this, we cannot cope with the changes.

Some of the big changes are:

- Changing patterns of marriage and divorce. Nowadays, 35% of marriages will end in divorce (a major change in just 2 generations). This results in social trauma on a large scale: couples, children, other family, friends, clubs and community are affected.
- Almost 22% of children living in single parent families.
- The falling birth rate: the trend is downwards and is less than the replacement rate.

Hugh said that children are a "social lubricant", because



We then headed to Loftus Oval, about 17 kms back towards the ride start to try our luck there, as the Oval was the official morning tea stop for the

ride. Arriving there at around 8.45am, we found a huge contingent of riders resting on and around the oval.

Chris and I walked around the oval introducing ourselves and chatting to riders, promoting the Bobbo. Many preferred not to take a flyer, as they knew of the ride and said they'd simply go to our website. By 10.00 am this location was devoid of new riders so we left.

Around 9.15 am a 'Gong Ride official approached me to say we needed MS' permission to distribute flyers at the event and that we weren't welcome. After some discussion, he let us continue to distribute flyers, but requested we not go any further down the route towards Wollongong to distribute flyers.

In all, Chris and I only distributed about 200 flyers but promoted our event to around double this number of cyclists.

Comments from a number of the riders who had previously ridden the 'Bobbo' included: well organised, scenic, hills were tough. Those who had not heard of the event took a flyer willingly.

Bob Elsworth





they bring people together through family relationships, friends, neighbours, schools, clubs and other activities. It is noticeable that a dramatic rise in dog ownership corresponds with the fall in the number of children.

So dogs are becoming a substitute “social lubricant”.

- The rise in the two income household, resulting in people who are busier, more tired and on a shorter fuse than ever before. They don't have time at the weekend to promote the local community (e.g., by chatting to their neighbours) because they're busy with chores.

- A dramatic fall in the size of households. The average is now 2.5 people and the trend is towards 2.2 people. The largest category is single person households (28%, which will increase to 34% within 15 years). Single and 2 person households are 53% of the total.

Now the eccentric fringe is the married couple, neither of whom has been married before, living with only children of their marriage in one home.

Whilst some people love solitary living, much results from (for example) divorce. This carries with it the risk of loneliness, which is near the top of the problems of the modern world.

- The increase in the number of places to eat out (implying less home cooking, with its social aspects), although restaurants, etc do represent a way of meeting others.
- Much more mobility: on average people move home every six years. Also, there is almost universal car ownership: consequently there are fewer people on footpaths (and therefore less opportunity to encounter people there).
- The explosion of the information revolution. The paradox is it makes people feel more connected, while at the same time enabling them to stay apart, so they spend less time together. Humans are not yet fully adapted to the consequences of the industrial revolution; it will be a long time before they adapt to the information revolution.

The cumulative effect of all the changes is breakdown of the community. A recent study found that only 35% of people trust their neighbours (e.g., to mind children, watch out for each other or to collect mail or water plants while they're away) due to not knowing them. It is a symptom of potential problems.

Hugh said that everyone needs to belong somewhere. If you want to know who you are, look at the people you mix with - your family, etc.

There is a need to acknowledge that our communities, our neighbourhoods are under threat. Curiously, a neighbourhood is the one place where people mix with others that they did not choose to live with. Consequently, people learn to live with others of very different background,

culture, etc.

People need to join in and participate. Local councils provide facilities for activities that bring people together, such as social groups, sports venues, etc.

Hugh posed the question “why would you bother?” and answered it as follows:

- The reward for community building and participating is that you will feel more secure.
- The best way to avoid dementia is unplanned social interaction (it's more effective than doing crosswords, for example).
- The state of the nation starts in your street.

Answering questions from the audience, Hugh also said:

- High rise living will come to be seen as a mistake. The best model is traditional, low density housing.
- Whilst there has been a fall in churchgoing, it's not as dramatic as might be thought because the proportion of nominal members of various churches who actually attended in earlier times is often overstated.
- There is much less agreement on what our core values are than in earlier times.
- There is a need to build resilience among young people. 20-25% of young people will have had a mental illness before the age of 25 - mostly depression. There are 2 big contributors:
 - Fragmentation (e.g., divorce) which “goes against human DNA”; and
 - Children have been “oversold” on happiness and self-esteem, which sets them up for disappointment and failure. Children should be trained to be prepared for all points on the emotional spectrum.
- Factors making life difficult for today's youth include Higher Education Contribution scheme debts and lack of job prospects.

Thanking Hugh for his presentation, **President Graham** appreciated his wisdom and noted the direct relevance of his talk to our club's wish to promote development of the community both locally and overseas.

Next week: International night chez Manning

Next week we will meet for an 'international night' at the home of Georgina Manning. Members and their spouses/partners are invited to contribute an international dish and to



enjoy a largely social evening. If you haven't already done so, please let Malcolm Braid know whether or not you will be there, with or without your spouse/partner and what you'll be contributing.

How many . . . ?

Q: How many surrealists does it take to change a light bulb?

A: Two, one to hold the giraffe, and the other to fill the bathtub with brightly coloured machine tools.



West Pymble
Chamber of
Commerce Inc

Reg. No. 9893509

Christmas Event

Friday Night 4th December
Saturday 5th December

2015

Philip Mall, Kendall St., West Pymble

www.westpymbleshops.org.au
chamber@westpymbleshops.org.au

Friday : 6:30pm Open Air Films
Mall lights – Eat and be
entertained!

ALL
FREE!!

Saturday – 4pm Mall
Music - 6:30pm Open Air
Films

Saturday – 9am – 1:30pm
. Bush Animals .Combo
Castle .Candle Making
.Plaster Figures. Colouring
In .Face Painting
.SANTA .Target Shooting
(Water Pistols) .Guessing
Competitions .Games
.Music Cathedral Singers,
Turramurra High School,
West Pymble Public School
Band.

Calendar of events

November	23	Club business meeting: committee reports
	30	
December	7	Annual General Meeting; Annabelle Chauncy: School For Life Foundation
	14	Club Christmas party <i>chez</i> Tyler
	21	No meeting
	28	No meeting
January	4	No meeting
	11	
	18	
	25	
February	1	
	8	
	15	
	22	

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