



# K O O N G G A

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



Be a gift to the world

Volume 58 No. 23

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Rotary monthly theme: Disease prevention & treatment

## This week: Club Christmas party



It's party time! At the home of the Tylers, at the usual time: 6.30 for 7 pm. Catering by The Parents' Café, Fairfield High School. BYO drinks.

Cost: \$30 per person (please pay direct to the club's general account).

If you can, please assist setting up tables and chairs, etc from 3 pm.

## Last week: Annual General Meeting

The highlights of the annual general meeting were:

- A vote of thanks to David Forsythe for serving as the club's auditor and agreeing to be reappointed to that position.
- Election of the following officers and directors for 2016/17:

President-Elect (President 2017/18): Malcolm Braid

Vice President: John Aitken

Secretary: Lindsay Forrest

Treasurer: Chris Lewis

Director: Greg Newling

Director: Linda Lam-Rohlf

(Michael Midlam (President) and Graham Timms (Immediate Past President) will also be members of the board)

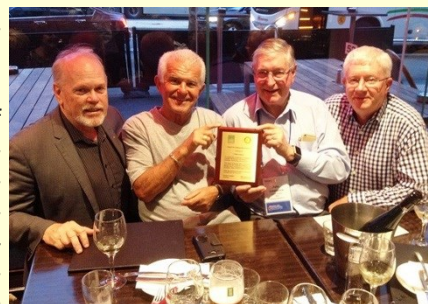
- A vote of thanks to Geoff Hungerford for his years of excellent service as Secretary.

## Shelterbox honours Peter Pearce

In recognition for years of dedication to ShelterBox and disaster relief, ShelterBox Ambassador, Peter Pearce was recently given a *Distinguished Service Award* at the Rotary Zone 8 Institute in Melbourne.

Peter, (second from the left in the photo above right and a North Gosford Rotarian) deployed 20 times as a

Shelterbox Response Team member, served on the board of ShelterBox Australia and continues to work tirelessly as an Ambassador in every sense of the word. ShelterBox said "the award is a small token of our appreciation to one of our most dedicated volunteers".



## Lane Cove in the swim



Sunday 22 November was the Lane Cove Swimming Club's Spring Carnival. It attracts entrants from all over the Metropolitan area as it is a qualifying event for the State Championships.

Lane Cove Rotary was invited by the swimming club to run a barbeque in conjunction with the event.

Despite grey skies, a lot of egg and bacon or sausage sandwiches were sold, an enjoyable time was had, and it raised nearly \$900.

The swimming club really appreciated the effort, as did all the hungry swimmers and supporters!

## ROMAC, a team effort

Looking like a little boy lost in the big city 'Junior' John Kali is in Sydney from Honaira, Solomon Islands.

Just two and half years of age and wondering what all the fuss is about.

John is here with his mother Junita, and is scheduled for a heart proce-



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

dure at Westmead Children's Hospital.

Rotary Oceania Medical Aid for Children (ROMAC) is Rotary in action of a special kind, identifying children who could not otherwise access surgery, facilitating medical assessments, transport, host families, hospital, medical and other support.

While in Sydney John and his mum will be hosted by the Rotary Club of Glenhaven, thanks to regular ROMAC hosts, Rotarians Liz and Hans Rupp.

## **Community groups welcome packs**

The Wahroonga Rotary Club has joined forces with community groups to provide welcome packs for 200 refugee families due to arrive in NSW in early 2016.

A community appeal was launched by Ku-ring-gai Mayor Cheryl Szatow recently to join the initiative.

The club is seeking the support of schools, churches, sports clubs, community organisations and local businesses to assist in rallying the community and encouraging them to donate new "goods in kind" and cash donations via the link below to support the project.

A RAWCS Benevolent Fund Project #26 has been established to receive funding for this purpose.

Wahroonga Rotary welcome your participation and invites other Rotary clubs (including our own) and community organisations to join this community project.

[Click here for Refugee Welcome Pack Donations](#)

## **Last week: Annabelle Chauncy: School For Life Foundation update**



Annabelle Chauncy took time off her law studies to teach in Kenya for 3 months at her own expense - and never went back. Instead, despite being hospitalised with a water-borne virus in her first week in Africa and then being evacuated to Uganda when war broke out, she has devoted all her time since to changing lives in Uganda.

Being in Africa was an eye-opening experience. Uganda has 36 million people - half of them children. Children everywhere. 100 to a classroom, with 1 untrained teacher. It was overwhelming.

On the positive side, Annabelle was impressed by everyone trying to better themselves - even if that means so many minibuses (designed for 14 passengers, but carrying twice that, plus chickens and goats) that it takes 4 hours to drive out of the bus park!

And the people had huge smiles and an insatiable desire to learn. Annabelle taught them in an utterly basic classroom, with students falling asleep because they hadn't enough to eat.

Over drinks at the Greengate Hotel in Killara in 2008 Annabelle and her co-founder Dave Everett (whom she had met in Kenya) discussed how they could use their education to make a difference to others. And so the School For Life Foundation ('SFLF') was born.

3 years of research and development followed, including trips to Uganda. Annabelle and Dave learned how to work with the local community - giving a 'hand up', not a

'hand out'. The challenge was to 'upskill' the people - who might have no education, no job and 14 children.

In 2010 SFLF bought a site of 12.5 acres in Katuuso in an area with huge unemployment, lots of alcoholism and no school within 15km. Begging help from anywhere they could get it (for example with construction plans), stage 1 opened in January 2011, with 80 children. The local people named the school and gave it the motto 'Nezikookolima' - "every great rooster came from an egg".

Features of the school were positive, bright classrooms where the children feel supported and uniforms are provided. To overcome the malnourishment that made students sleepy, 3 nutritious meals are provided each day. And the water bore provides clean water for the whole community. Sports days involve entire families. Basic healthcare is provided, dealing with scourges such as malaria and HIV.

Due to the belief in witchcraft, disabled people are invisible in the community. But the school has made provision for them - for example a girl with Down syndrome and an epileptic whose fits have been reduced from 3 to 1 per day with medication.

SFLF now touches the lives of over 1,000 people, with an emphasis on 'upskilling'. Annabelle spoke of Rachel, a cleaner, who saved money from her wages in order to go to university. She is now a teacher and dean of studies at Katuuso.

Education for adults includes a literacy program and a display plot showing farmers how to progress from only planting maize to rotating various crops, earning them more money.

The solar power installation which our club helped fund powers lights, computers, fridges, freezers and sewing machines - the last enabling the women to make goods for sale and then save money. One, Rose, was abused by her husband and moved back to her parents' home, where there were 30 children. Rose saved money to pay for cataract surgery for her father and has subsequently been able to move out and live by herself.

SFLF is building 2 more schools - one primary and one secondary. They will enable 1,200 more children to go to school - now starting at the age of 3. The new schools require two 100,000 litre water tanks and will need solar power. Annabelle described various ways that people can contribute financially - see details on SFLF's website: <http://schoolforlife.org.au/>

The schools charge modest, manageable fees, which means that the parents value the education and, for example, don't keep children at home to help with the harvest. Because there are so many children, SFLF is unable to take all children from each family.

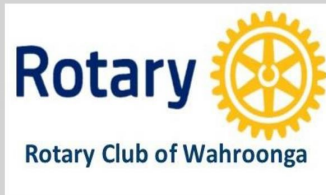
## **Next meeting (11 January): Social gathering**

Our next meeting will be a social gathering with a barbecue on the upper terrace of the Killara Golf Club and possibly a lawn bowls competition. Further details will be announced later.

## **Happy Christmas and New Year**

Koongga wishes our reader a merry Christmas and a happy New Year.





The Wahroonga Rotary Club joins forces with Community groups to provide **WELCOME PACKS** for 200 Refugee families due to arrive into NSW in early 2016



A Community Appeal was launched by **Ku-ring-gai Mayor Cheryl Szatow** recently to join an initiative to provide **Welcome Packs** for incoming Refugees to NSW.

The Mayor commented: *"It is anticipated that NSW will be receiving around 6,000 refugees who will be settled initially in areas with existing community supports and services. Ku-ring-gai Council would like to extend a welcoming gesture that aids parents and children to start rebuilding their lives. As a community, Ku-ring-gai has a tradition of compassionate care towards those less fortunate, and I feel sure that we can come together to support those refugees who will need our assistance in making Australia their new home"*

The Ku-ring-gai Council, in partnership with the Wahroonga Rotary Club, Lifeline Harbour to Hawkesbury, KYDS Youth Development Service and the Community Migrant Resource Centre (CMRC) will coordinate a community effort to assemble and distribute **Welcome Packs** to incoming families. It is anticipated that the majority of refugees arriving will be women with young families and unaccompanied minors. The **Welcome Packs** will include priority items such as children's toys, games and books, soaps and shampoo, school items and nappies in various sizes.

We are seeking the support of schools, churches, sports clubs, community organisations and local businesses to assist in rallying the community and encouraging them to donate new **"Goods in Kind"** and **Cash donations** via the link below to support the project.

**A RAWCS Benevolent Fund Project #26** has been established to receive funding for this purpose.

We welcome your participation and would invite other **Rotary Clubs** and **Community Organisations** to join this **Community Project**.

**Click below to Donate**

[Refugee Welcome Pack Donations](#)

## Calendar of events

December	21	No meeting
	28	No meeting
January	4	No meeting
	11	Social gathering (and maybe a lawn bowls competition)
	18	
	19	(Tuesday) Book club meeting
	25	
February	1	
	8	
	15	
	22	
	29	Pride of Workmanship Awards
March	7	
	14	
	20	(Sunday) Bobbin Head Cycle Classic
	21	
	28	
April	4	

## Club officers and committee chairmen 2015-16

### Board of directors

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

### Service committee chairmen

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