



KOONGGA

Bulletin of the Rotary Club of Ku-ring-gai
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Volume 59 No. 06 8 Aug 2016 — Membership and New Club Development Month

Richard Elliot guest speaker

Guest Speaker 1 August 2016 Richard Elliott

The Rotary Club of Ku-ring-gai has been involved in providing various forms of aid to Fiji for many years. We have provided solar panels to remote schools, water to remote villages and shelterboxes in disaster. But as guest speaker Richard Elliott made clear, we don't really "know" Fiji at all.

Richard in his presentation showed another side of Fiji – that of the development of industry and the growth of modern manufacturing using as his theme: "Punjas – the choice of the Pacific."

Richard's story started with the nineteenth century and the bringing of indentured labour from India to work in the sugar cane fields of the Colonial Sugar Refining Company, the forerunner of CSR.

One family that came from India was the Punja family and in 1935 Kara Punja began a modest soap factory. He had five sons and over the years the modest soap factory grew to cover a wide variety of manufacturing and distribution.

In 1972 the Indian Wallace Company was invited by the Fijian government to establish a flour milling operation and the government granted Wallace "pioneer" status making it exempt from tax. As the price of flour was controlled by the Fijian government this provided Wallace with the opportunity for excessive profits so the government stepped in, bought out the Indian company and sold the business to the local Punja family whose business had, by that time, grown to include not just soap but rice milling, spice production, vegetable oil refining, corrugated board manufacturing and a variety of associated distribution activities.

In this issue <http://www.kuringgairotary.org.au/>

Guest Speaker	Coming Speakers	Guests	Movie Night
Linda Lam Rolfs	ShelterBox		
Business meeting	Committees		

Sick parade • Anniversaries • Door team • Gordon Market roster

Guest speaker continued

Richard, employed by Henry Simon Engineering, had been involved in the establishment of the mill in the first place and was now asked by Hari Punja, one of the Punja sons, to assist in improving the mill. As a result the Punjas family became heavily involved in all aspects of mill operation and as the mill, "Flour Mills of Fiji" (FMF) prospered, the plant was upgraded.

Over time, as frequently happens in family businesses, the various family members began to draw apart and by mutual agreement the flour milling business, FMF, under Hari was (while retaining cross shareholdings) separated from the other businesses of Punja and Sons. Almost inevitably FMF began to expand in competition with Punja and Sons and in addition added a biscuit factory to value-add to the flour milling operations.

In 1998 Richard, now M.D of Henry Simons retired to set up his own consulting business and was approached by the M.D. of Punja and Sons to build a flour mill to compete with FMF. This not surprisingly led to increased friction in the Punjas family and the elimination of all cross-shareholdings and intense competition between the two sides.

Competition breeds growth, in this case aided by geography – FMF was based in Suva on the East of the island and the new mill on the West in Lautoka. The new mill, aided by new technology, helpful geography and later building silos to enable reduced costs by bulk grain shipment, immediately gained much local business including supply to the Nestle factory and many of the West side resorts. This spurred a response from FMF who opened a warehouse on the West of the island to reduce freight costs to their customers and began strongly competing with Punja and Sons because their mill was larger and they had advantageous larger bulk wheat shipping contracts.

And so it continues – new plants, new products, new warehouses, spurred by competition, culminating in world-class plants for flour, rice, spices, biscuits and ancillary products, ultimately leading to Punja and Sons achieving HAACP accreditation for many of their facilities and developing an export market throughout the Pacific islands.

Richard is not surprisingly proud of his role in the development of this thriving industrial heart and is hopeful that this will lead the general development of Fiji. He noted that the development benefits have not yet trickled down very far to the general population, but the key words are "not yet."

Fiji has gone through several tumultuous decades and these developments are less than fifteen years old so it's "early days."

And that, unfortunately, means that there are lots more for Rotary to do.

DONATE LIFE WEEK 31 JULY - 7 AUGUST 2016

What are you waiting for?

Join the Australian Organ Donor Register online today | donatelife.gov.au



DonateLife Week 2016
31 JULY - 7 AUGUST

One of our past members, Richard Stanton sadly became a donor last year. His donation saved 2 lives and improved the quality of life for another 2 people. Organ donation is worthy of our support

Register, discuss and get involved to save lives!

DonateLife Week 31 July - 7 August 2016!

Only **one in three** Australians have joined the Australian Organ Donor Register, even though 81% believe registration of donation decisions is important. (*Woolcott Research 2015*)

91% of families agree to donation proceeding where the deceased was a registered organ donor. This **drops to just 52%** where the deceased was not registered and the family had no prior knowledge.

1,500 +Australians are today waiting for a life-saving or life-transforming transplant.

Registration of your donation decision leaves your family in **no doubt** and, in doing so, provides comfort that they are **upholding your decision**.

In DonateLife Week (31 July – 7 August) we are asking all Australians, **“What are you waiting for? Join the Australian Organ Donor Register online today!”**

For **more information** contact Marilyn Mercer PDG. Rotary District 9685, Organ and Tissue Donor Liaison and Australian Transplant Games LOC Member [0416 026 848](tel:0416026848) mmm@myisp.net.au

**HOW
DO I
REGISTER**

- You can register online, or update your existing AODR record, via your myGov Medicare online account – or download the Express Plus Medicare mobile app – no paperwork needed!
- You can also register online or download a registration form at donorregister.gov.au
- If you previously registered your donation decision when applying for or renewing a driver's licence, you need to join the AODR to make sure you have a current record of your decision (only people in South Australia can register on the AODR via their driver's licence registry).

ShelterBox

The 4 Ku ring Shelterboxes were distributed in DPR Korea (North Korea)



Presented to

The Rotary Club of Ku-ring-gai Inc

ShelterBox Australia, an international affiliate of the ShelterBox Trust UK, recognises the support you have given to the worldwide Global Rotary Club ShelterBox Program by sponsoring

ShelterBox Numbers 13891, 13892,
13893 and 13894
June, 2015

For and on behalf of ShelterBox Australia

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "A. J. ...", positioned above a horizontal line.

The ShelterBox Mission is:
To provide on a world-wide basis, humanitarian aid in the form of material and equipment that provides shelter, warmth and comfort to people displaced by natural and other disasters.

Certificate of Appreciation



ShelterBox Trust
is a registered charity and a global Rotary Club
project President Her Royal Highness The
Duchess of Cornwall

**DISASTER
RELIEF**

www.shelterboxaustralia.org.au

Linda Lam Rolfs—Rocket



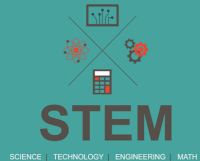
The ROCKET PROGRAM is developed by Rotary Club of Ku-ring-gai to address youth welfare and success through presentations & self-development workshops to enable future educational and employment opportunities.

THE EVENT – iGEM

Following the introduction session (Science, is it for me?) in May this year, we will present the 2nd talk of the STEM series about iGEM this August. In this session, we have 3 speakers from USYD & UNSW presenting career-centric talks about their experience in iGEM and ways of entering the iGEM competition.

SATURDAY, 13TH AUGUST 2016 @ 3.30pm – 4.30pm

Meeting Room 2, Gordon Library, 799 Pacific Hwy, Gordon
 RSVP: <https://goo.gl/S1FCrG> or info@kuringgairotary.org.au
 More info: 0479 063 793 (Linda)



Guests last week

Richard Elliott

This week—Business meeting

This meeting is an opportunity to ask questions and make comments and suggestions

Club committees

Please view club committees on next page and advise editor of any changes

Linda Lam Rolfs

Linda will need a few helpers on the day for the following tasks:

- setting up the PC and projector (Bob Ivy will be away unfortunately)
- take the club banners out from the cave and set them up at the Library at 12:00 noon.
- bring the banners back to the cave after the talk
- setting up chairs and putting them away afterwards
- ticking off the names at registration

Calendar of events

08-Aug	Business Session	
15-Aug	TBC Jeanette Sveta	Problem gambling
22-Aug	TBC Taylor Harrison	Keeping fit and healthy
29-Aug	Captain Cameron Hartman	Qantas Antarctic flights
05-Sep		
12-Sep		
19-Sep	Film Night	

Bank Details

General account BSB: 032089 Account 253341 **Please include your name**
Project account BSB: 032089 Account 253333 **Please include your name**

Board of directors

President	Michael Midlam
Vice President	John Aitken
Immediate Past President	Graham Timms
President Elect	Malcolm Braid
Secretary	Lindsay Forrest
Treasurer	Chris Lewis
Director	Greg Newling
Director	Linda Lam Rolfs

Service committee chairpersons and committees

Administration (Club Service)	Gary Keating
Vocational Service	Lou Coenen
Community Service	Roger Desmarchelier
International Service	Georgina Manning
Youth Service	Linda Lam-Rohlf
Social events	Joy Newling
Bobbin Head Cycle Classic	Tony McClelland
Sergeant-at-Arms	Graham Timms

Club committees

Administration: Gary Keating, Geoff Hungerford, Rob Hall (Program), Bob Ivey (Web and social media), Graham Maslen, Tony McClelland (Koongga)

Bobbin Head Cycle Classic: Tony McClelland, John Aitken, Ross Egan, Bob Elsworth, Peter Kipps, Michael Midlam, Gary Keating

Club History: Malcolm Braid, Tom Jackson

Community: Roger Desmarchelier, Gary Dawson Rob Hall Geoff Hungerford (Gordon Markets) Gary Keating Ross Egan (Daffodil Day) Chris Hoch (Red Shield) Anil Fulwaria Nick Kenyon Ted Price Cathy Jackson

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

Membership: Tony McClelland,

Public Relations: Emyr Evans, Georgina Manning,

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

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

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

Youth: Linda Lam-Rohlf, , Cathy Jackson, Gary Keating, Chris Lewis, Matt Mahjoub, Andrew Marselos, Joy Newling, Don Riddell