

HIGHWAY CLUB CRYE—DISTRICT 9000 CHAPTER 116

The HUB

Tuesday 20th December 2011

Volume 66

Issue No. 25



December is
FAMILY MONTH

Rotary International Officers 2011 — 2012



President Rotary International.....	Kalyan Banerjee Vapi, Gujarat, India
District 9680 Governor	David Rands

Rotary Club of Ryde

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Administration	Burkhart Foertsch
Foundation	John Mazlin
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Photographer	John Mazlin
Serjeant-at-Arms.....	Steve Thorp
Programmes	Martin Aston
Attendance.....	Ross Rocca
Social Secretary.....	Peter Cooper
Historian & Archivist.....	Doug Thompson
Conference Co-ordinator	Patrick Longfield
Public Officer.....	John Dodd
Webmaster.....	Stefan Sojka
Web Address	www.ryderotary.org.au
E-mail address for HUB contributions.....	editor@ryderotary.org.au

Club Information



Chartered: 22nd April 1946
 Club: #18039 / District: #9680 in NSW, Australia
 Meeting Place: Level 2, Next Generation Club, next to
 Ryde Aquatic Centre, 504 Victoria Road, Ryde
 Meeting Time: Every Tuesday — 6:00pm for 6:30pm
 Postal Address: Rotary Club of Ryde Inc.
 PO Box 90 Ryde, NSW 1680
RSVP extras or absences to: Val Payne 9874 5787



Reach Within to Embrace Humanity

This Week... Christmas Party

Tonight Dec 20: **Christmas Party
+ Santa (a few days early)**

Tonight's Roster

Welcomers	Bob Carroll, Peter Cooper
Loyal Toast by	Les Whitcroft
Guest Speaker introduced by	—
Guest Speaker thanked by	—



If you are unable to fulfill this duty, please arrange your own swap and inform President Ken what you've done.

The "Meeting Night Roster" for the next 3 meetings appears on Page 11



Ken's Korner

Hi all, This week is our Christmas Party and all is planned for a great end of year celebration at Next Generation followed by a two week break until our first meeting of the year at Richard and Carolyn's home on January 10th. This will be a BYO occasion and further details will be forthcoming.

Tonight as well as carols and Santa I have a short presentation "10 things you may not know about Christmas". Last night at the final District President's dinner for the year, presentations were made to the clubs with the highest giving to Australian Rotary Health. Though we didn't get a mention it reminded me that we haven't given it much of a plug this year. A few years ago members were encouraged if possible to give a small amount regularly when paying the dinner fee each week. We also, and the DG mentioned this, have the opportunity to make a donation when our funds are dispersed at Changeover. The Hub also contains details of a film premiere that the District could use to raise money for Polio Plus. I am interested in member's responses.

As we won't meet again before Christmas Danielle and I would like to take the opportunity to wish you and your families best wishes for a safe and happy Christmas and a wonderful New Year.

Ken

Planning to "wag"? — Ring Val

If you need to give a late apology for non-attendance at any meeting please ring Val Payne **(9874 5787) before 10am Monday**. Club policy is that you will be expected to pay for your meal if you are absent without timely apology. We're sure you'll agree that this is **Fair to All Concerned**.

Last Week — as recalled by the Editor

We are blessed this week to have the “recollections” of two scribes, each with a different perspective on the meeting.

David James



Last Week — as recalled by Kalma McLellan

The welcoming view of sunshine and fluffy clouds from the big windows was such a relief after days of dreary weather, putting everyone in a good mood. We welcomed visitor Geoff Nix to the club for the first time to hear **PP Geoff Brennan** on Q&A with **PP Rob Mitchell**, although it took only 3 questions for Rob to overfill the allowed 3 minutes with tales of the synergies between his new role as GM at the Indigo Foundation and those of Rotary. He described his surprising role as satisfying, worthwhile, making a difference and a great opportunity to keep him busy after the sale of his country property.

Dinner was a tasty chicken breast in bacon on a bed of creamy sweet potato mash, although there was craving all around for some greens – Mums would be very proud!

PP Bob Kaye-Smith chaired the AGM, with previous AGM minutes and financial statements accepted, and attendance exceeding last year at 89%. Incoming President **Burkhardt Foertsch** took the floor indicating he had a steep learning curve and would be grateful of all support. His new board was warmly welcomed as President Elect and Administration **Adrian Hallett**, Foundation Representative **John Mazlin**, Public Relations **Kalma McLellan**, Membership **PP Allen Horrell**, Projects **Siddarth Maheshwari**, Treasurer **Maureen Mulheron**, Secretary **Bob Kaye Smith**.

Martin Aston offered the option to order more Ryde Rotary shirts if needed.

PP Charles Kilby sought food donations for the Christian Community Aid food appeal with donations to be left in Ryde, Eastwood or West Ryde for the convenience of all.

Victoria's report highlighted the arrival of her Christmas parcel from home in Norway, complete with chocolate and a gingerbread man. Her week has been very full with birthday parties, dinner in The Strand, movie marathons, Dodd family Christmas lunch and lots of sleep to catch up on! Thankfully school finishes tomorrow and she is off to a farm for a different perspective on life.

Bob Carroll reported on the cricket match he and **Richard Henricus** attended at St Joseph's College last weekend for children with disabilities. The children's cricketing skills were somewhat overshadowed by the other activities including fire engine, police horses and motor bikes. And the looks of wonderment on the children's faces was a delight to all the volunteer students from Joeys, Lorreto and Shore schools who deserved a big pat on the back for all their help and support during the day.

Nora pleaded for more gift wrapping volunteers, especially for Christmas Eve and Sunday, despite the help from the James Ruse High Interactors.

(Continued on page 5)

Last week by Kalma ... *continued*

Maureen won the spackle, but not the jackpot, opening the door for the Serjeant to start his fines. Anyone with NZ blood was targeted after the recent cricket debacle in Tasmania. **Ross Rocca** was fined for slipping under the radar for so long, as were all the new board members. **John Dodd** reminded us of the 'six degrees of separation' with a long tale of connections via Russia and Abu Dhabi of a Ryde exchange student from 20 yrs ago – we await the fulfillment of her promise of a visit in the next couple of years, together with all her children.

Guest speaker **Patrick Longfield** started his philately talk with a map of the globe, telling us collecting stamps is the 3rd most popular hobby in the world, proving it with a 90% show of hands in our own club! Stamps were not invented until 1840, when the cost of postage was reversed and became the responsibility of the sender rather than the receiver, creating a huge change in economic thinking at the time. The first stamp was a 'Penny Black' reflecting the one penny postage applicable throughout Britain at the time. Stamps were not introduced in Australia until 1850, and began in NSW and Victoria with both a kangaroo and George IV image in the same year. Patrick started collecting stamps in the footsteps of his parents, collecting in the various Asian countries in which he lived as a child. Collectors can follow a variety of themes in their collecting – varieties, themes (animals, people, buildings etc), "provisionals", proofs, postmarks etc – depending on their interest. The main players in the collecting game are the Australian Philatelic Traders Association, Australia Post, Universal Postal Union (who divide up the stamp proceeds across countries and couriers when letters travel) and collectors. They are all involved in open days, exhibitions and auctions and procure stamps from stamp clubs, ebay and auctions. He warns that collectors should be aware of potential forgeries which can be very hard to detect to the uninitiated. Stamp value comes from their condition and rarity, not necessarily whether they are new or used. Multiples are usually worth more than singles, as are those with imperfect perforations, extra dots, inverted postmarks or cancellation imprints. The most valuable stamp identified works out to be worth \$374Billion/kg, making it the single most valuable item on the planet. With all this to get excited about, even our 'thanker' PP **Rob Mitchell** could understand why collectors get all fired up about stamps.



President Ken with Patrick Longfield (aka Phil Lately)

Gary Squire with President Ken A

Kalma McLellan

Last HUB for 2011



This is the last edition of **The HUB for 2011**. The next issue will be 10th January 2012. On behalf of the editorial "team", thank you for your comments, readership and contributions and I wish you a safe and peaceful festive season.



Last Week — as recalled by Allen Horrell

President Ken welcomed our latest visitor, **Geoff Nix**, and ran through a series of congratulations for various anniversaries including the staggering milestone of the 60th Wedding Anniversary for **Bill and Val Payne!** What an example of marital longevity!



Bill & Val Payne—60 years' wed

After **Steve Thorp** led us in toasting the Queen, **Geoff Brennan** led us in a Q&A session with **Rob Mitchell**.

Accusing Rob of having a "Pedigree" in Project Management, he asked if that is why he accepted the position of General Manager of the Indigo Foundation.

"Yes!" barked Rob. When asked to expand on this answer Rob explained that the Indigo Foundation really appealed to him as an alternative to the Big Aid projects of the past, where Government and NGO's deliver some piece of 21st Century Technology to the back of beyond, then walk away leaving the locals with something they cannot maintain. Indigo works to deliver sustainable aid through involvement of the local community, and building their capacity to sustain themselves. After selling the Araluen property Rob found himself with nothing to do, so when Indigo Chair Sally Stevenson offered him the General Manager's job, he accepted, and applying the Four Way Test, immediately resigned as Projects Director to remove any hint of a conflict of interests.

In a possibly related piece of trivia, Indigo is the Portuguese word for Indian, which explains why Indigo ink was once known as India ink. The Indigo Foundation does not confine itself to the countries of the old Indian Raj, and even operate here in Australia, helping with outback indigenous education.

President Ken handed over to PP **Bob Kaye Smith** for our AGM, which was a model of speed and efficiency. Minutes were approved, PP **Steve** presented the financial reports, and **Burkhart** read out the nominations for the 2012-13 Board. There being no other nominations, the nominees were elected by acclamation; that's the official description for all the cheering and clapping as each name was announced. Strangely I was nominated twice for Membership, but the acclamation was a bit muted the second time around. PP **Ross Rocca** revised our attendance figure to 89% meaning we had a healthy quorum. The AGM closed about five minutes after it started and our club meeting resumed.

Martin Aston offered to give us more shirts if we want to order more, so place your orders ASAP. **Charles Kilby** appealed on behalf of CCA, who want cakes and puddings for Christmas hampers for the poor, so members are invited to take off their Rotabesity hats and put on their Father Christmas ones instead.

Victoria Blichfeldt gave this week's exchange report: presents have arrived from her relatives in like Norway. "Oops I said 'Like!'" We gather DGE **John Dodd** is trying to break her of the teen habit of inserting random 'likes' into every sentence for no particular reason. We also learned she ate more Pizza, slept a lot (as long as Janelle would allow) and that Saffron buns are used to celebrate a Norwegian Saint's Day.

(Continued on page 7)

Last week by Allen ... *continued*

President Ken thanked her for her, like, report and was fined for it later.

PP **Bob Carroll** and Rtn **Richard Henricus** attended a children with disabilities Cricket day in the weekend that was organised by Bowral Rotary Club. Apparently there were too many Furies and Bikies, and not enough Cricket for Bob's liking, but the kids all enjoyed themselves immensely, which is the whole point of the exercise.

Nora Etmekdjian has the James Ruse Interact Club helping wrap presents at Top Ryde City on weekdays, but still needs more volunteers for Christmas Eve. Call her if you can help.

Maureen found she had the winning Spackle ticket, but wasn't so lucky when splitting the pack, so consoled herself with a bottle of Acrobat Sauvignon Blanc.

"Is this a quality wine?" she asked. "It's a nice label." I answered evasively.

After we all got fined, some of us several times, like for winning the Cricket and for going on a cruise. Australia losing at Cricket isn't actually against the Law in Australia, but it might as well be.

John Dodd explained at some length that

- R.I.P.E. Tanaka thinks **Janelle** would make a better DG than him, and
- Ryde Rotary Club is now the Nephew in Law of the new RI General Secretary **John Hewco**. A partner in his Law firm Baker & McKenzie is married to our former Exchange Student **Christine Walkowski** from Germany. Is it a small world or what?

Our Guest Speaker Phil Lately flatly refused to speak on anything but stamps from a place once known as Bor Neo Insula, where he said the most interesting region was called "Whoops!" Before the invention of stamps, letters were sent COD, and the recipient paid for the delivery in order to receive it. Phil went on to explain that he and someone called Philas were exhibitionists and do something in public with sheets, but I didn't really understand the part about being framed, only picking up the story shortly afterwards when he said something about being unhinged. Apparently adding a carefully drawn little black dot to a \$2 forgery of a stamp makes it suddenly worth \$200, but forgeries can be easily identified as they are invariably stamped differently to an original, which made me wonder how many correctly stamped forgeries are floating about out there undetected? Public speculation on this matter might lead to a run on the Stamp standard, so best keep this to ourselves. Seriously though, as PP **Rob Mitchell** pointed out in his speech of thanks, it was a great presentation that PP **Patrick** had given. It sustained our interest, and the meeting gave his talk their stamp of approval in the form of applause.

After the meeting, before the 5 minute Board meeting that lasted till 9pm, our visitor Geoff commented on what a lively meeting it had been, and volunteered that it was great to hear the Anthem sung, and the Flags and Queen's portrait displayed "just like at the RSL."

As the hammer blows of change chip away at the foundations of our Society and Institutions it is nice to know that some young people still appreciate the benefits of the traditions that bind us together as a country.

Allen Horrell

Pius Choi ... From Belgium

I did my presentation 4 weeks ago. The presentation went very well; I received lots of compliments and I had lots of questions that I had to answer. My club asked me if I could play the Trombone at the meeting too, which I will do in a meeting coming up soon.

French is almost second nature to me and I don't really have to think hard to speak it. Talking with people, asking questions to random people, talking with friends and host families is quite easy for me. It is quite fascinating how French has become this easy and natural. I hope I can improve more till I leave and try not to forget it.

I have visited Aachen (Germany) and I have a things planned : Wildlife Protection Station, visits to Frankfurt and Cologne (December), Amsterdam on the 15th December, Paris on the 28th of December and Brügge on January 4th.

My social and sporting activities have been: Music lessons, tennis and swimming in the local gym, group meetings with exchange students, going hunting with my host families from time to time and school activities once a month. Also setting up Christmas trees and presents plus parties with host family.

Now I have only one month here in Belgium and I can see my host family treating me with much more care and letting me do the things I haven't had the opportunity to do yet. They have always been helpful and kind to me, inviting me and showing me new things. I'm planning to buy some presents and cook some Chinese food for them for Christmas and go places together as a family. There is a lot happening and a lot of things I have planned for the remainder of my stay here. I'm happy that they appreciate me and the things that I've been planning to do. I'll miss them a lot when I leave.

My relationship with my counsellor has been good and I'm going to miss him a lot also.

My Rotary club have been very kind and comfortable. They especially, and I too, had a very good time at the presentation. They also gave me bonus money for Christmas and as mentioned they have also invited me to play my trombone for them.

My school friends have been pretty busy with their tests and I couldn't really catch up with them. But we are planning to go to the cinema and to a party when the tests are over. I'll miss them a lot and I think I was very fortunate that I met and made good friends there.

I have been with the exchange students a lot too, since we're leaving soon and it's unfortunate that I'm already close to some exchange students but have to leave soon. We have also been going to a lot of places around Belgium with Rotary activities and our planned trips too. We also have Facebook and we'll keep in touch wherever we are.

I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy NewYear.

Pius



Request from Santa

We've been informed by a person claiming to be in-the-know with the man in the red suit that there is a limit this year to one present per child at the Christmas Party on 20th December.

Rotary's 107th at the 'Best Exotic Marigold Hotel' !

To celebrate Rotary's 107th Birthday on February 23rd, 20th Century Fox has offered Rotary the pre-release rights to a movie that will not be nationally released until March. The movie, **The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel**, has the hallmark of an outstanding entertainment event suitable for a wide range of tastes. We have the opportunity to arrange screenings for a Polio Plus Film Night between Wednesday February 22nd until Sunday February 26th so we have levels of flexibility not previously given. The movie night would be a fundraiser for Polio Plus – so this is not only an opportunity to celebrate Rotary's 107th birthday but to raise much needed funds to support our polio eradication efforts.

It tells the story of a group of misfit British pensioners who are enticed to retire to a fabulous hotel in Jaipur, India, where they are promised to live a life of luxury for a bargain price. Upon their arrival, they are dismayed to find that restoration of the once elegant Marigold Hotel has stalled. There is water sometimes. And electricity sometimes. The hotel's eager manager, a young Indian entrepreneur, is quick to tell them that his ambitious renovation is going to turn the place around. Surprisingly, the retirees find themselves settling into this strange new world and creating bonds with each other. What their new life lacks in luxury they come to find is plentiful in adventure, stunning beauty, peace and love.

The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel stars Judy Dench, Bill Nighy, Tom Wilkinson, Maggie Smith, Penelope Wilton, Donald Pickup, Celia Imrie and Dev Patel (*Slumdog Millionaire* –2008).

Watch The HUB for further details. In the meantime, have a look at the movie trailer - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dDY89LYxK0w>



Reminder from the Treasurer



- | | |
|----|--|
| 21 | Members are yet to pay for their Club Shirts (value \$1230) |
| 3 | Members to get their Treasure Chest tickets in (value \$180) |
| 13 | Members to pay for their Xmas Cakes/Puddings |
| 7 | Members to pay for their Xmas Cards - \$11 per pack |

If you're unsure if you owe money please ask the Treasurer.

“ ”

No funny handshakes, no archaic rituals, just 1.2 million ordinary men and women in 34,000 clubs in 220 countries working together to do extraordinary things.

District 9680 website



Attendance last meeting

Attendance Last Meeting: 88.89%

Makeups: Hameed Fazal
Apologies: Artin Etmekdjian, Eric Bond, Tony Abboud, Hameed Fazal, Paul Burnett, Terry Kerim
Guests: Geoff Nix, Victoria Blichfeldt
Guest Speaker: Patrick Longfield)
Leave of Absence: Tony Abboud, Terry Kerim



Looking Ahead...

2012

Jan 10: New Year Rendezvous
 (details will be advised to members) (Partners)

Jan 17: The Good Shepherd Sisters' Orphanage at Kotahena in Sri Lanka -
 This has been in continuous operation for over 140 years and we will hear from a volunteer at the orphanage.

Jan 24: TBA

Jan 31: RYLA candidates will speak to the Club about their recent experiences at the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (to be confirmed)

Any suggestions? Contact Martin Aston: maaston@optusnet.com.au 02 9808 2574

Birthdays and Anniversaries

December 21: 35 year Club Anniversary for **Peter Cooper**
December 22: 55 year Birthday Celebration for **Tony Abboud**
December 23: 81 year Birthday Celebration for **Noel Dunn**



Planning to “wag”? — Ring Val

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Useful websites

- Rotary International www.rotary.org
- Rotary Down Under www.rotarydownunder.com.au
- ShelterBox Australia www.shelterboxaustralia.com.au
- School of St Jude www.schoolofstjude.co.tz
- District Conference 2012 <http://conference.rotarydistrict9680.org>

Other events ...

- ▶ **Ryde Rotary's Christmas Gift Wrapping**
Date: Thursday 15th to Saturday 24th December
Where: Top Ryde City Shopping Centre
- ▶ **Meals on Wheels**
Sunday 29th January, 10.45am
Contact: Bob Carroll
- ▶ **Paint Vandalism (Graffiti) Removal Day**
Date: Saturday 4th February (first Saturday in the month)
Time: 8am-10am
Details: Charles Kilby
- ▶ **Ryde Rotary Annual Charity Golf Day**
Date: Friday 10th February 2012
Venue: Oatlands Golf Club
Details: Ron Thomson, Mick Nelson
- ▶ **Annual District 9680 Youth Exchange Dinner**
Ryde Eastwood Leagues Club
Date: Friday 10th February 2012
- ▶ **"End Polio Now" Fundraiser Movie Preview**
"Best Exotic Marigold Hotel" [PG]
Meal and Movie preview
Date, venue & cost: to be confirmed



If you have a Rotary-related item for this calendar, please e-mail it to editor@ryderotary.org.au

Friday Night Roster for Victoria

Victoria is presently hosted with the Dodds'. Feel free to swap as long as everyone is advised.

Who	When
Patrick Longfield	23/12/2011
Siddharth M.	13/1/2012

Who	When
Kalma McLellan	20/1/2012
Graham Metcalfe	27/1/2012

Meeting Night Roster

Date	Welcomers		Loyal	Intro	Thanks
10/01/12	—	—	—	—	—
17/01/12	Jan C	Noel Dunn	Martin A	Geoff B	Bob C
24/01/12	Artin E	Nora E	Geoff B.	Paul B.	Peter C.

If you are unable to fulfil this duty, arrange your own swap and then advise President Ken

The Rotary Club of Ryde



The Rotary Vision

Rotary is a worldwide organisation of more than 1.2 million business, professional, and community leaders. Members of Rotary clubs, known as Rotarians, provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations, and help build goodwill and peace in the world.

There are 33,000 Rotary clubs in more than 200 countries and geographical areas. Clubs are non-political, nonreligious, and open to all cultures, races, and creeds. As signified by the motto "Service above Self", Rotary's main objective is service — in the community, in the workplace, and throughout the world.

Rotary Grace

O Lord and giver of all good
 We thank you for our daily food
 May Rotary friends and Rotary ways
 Help us to serve you all our days.

The Four-Way Test

of the things we think, say & do:

1. Is it the Truth?
2. Is it fair to all concerned?
3. Will it build goodwill and better friendships?
4. Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

Advance Australia Fair

Australians all let us rejoice, for we are young and free;
 We've golden soil and wealth for toil;
 Our home is girt by sea;
 Our land abounds in nature's gifts,
 of beauty rich and rare;
 In history's page, let every stage, Advance Australia Fair.
 In joyful strains then let us sing, Advance Australia Fair!