



# 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: Peace and conflict prevention/resolution

## ***This week: Mayor Cheryl Szatow: Council amalgamation***

The State Government has released its proposal about how it intends to merge Ku-ring-gai and Hornsby Shire councils to create a new council area of around 270,000 residents.

The community has been given a last chance to have a say and respond to the proposal by lodging a submission by **Sunday 28 February**.



Ku-ring-gai Mayor Cheryl Szatow certainly has something to say about it. She will give us her views and answer questions at our meeting. It should be very interesting - especially for the majority of our members who live in the affected council areas.

If you'd like to do your homework before the meeting, there's plenty to read on the topic on the Ku-ring-gai Council website: [www.kmc.nsw.gov.au](http://www.kmc.nsw.gov.au)

## ***Last week's guests & notices***

**President Graham** welcomed our guest speaker, Geena Leigh, our RYPEN nominees Nick Layson and Vincent Tai and their respective fathers, Steve and Joseph, and Anil Zulwaria.

**Malcolm Braid** spoke about Dinners for 8 (see details in last week's Koongga) and circulated a sign-up list.

**Bob Elsworth** said that registrations for the Bobbin Head Cycle Classic have tapered off, so extra effort is required to publicise the event. He requested everyone to take 3 posters and arrange to place them in local shops, offices and on community notice boards. An elec-

tronic version is available for dissemination by email and social media - apply to Bob for a copy.

Bob also provided 5 Bobbin Head Cycle Classic hats as additional door prizes for the meeting.

## ***Rotary Youth Program of ENrichment***

In late January this year our club sponsored two Year 10 students from Killara High School, Nick Layson and Vincent Tai, to Rotary Youth Program of ENrichment ('RYPEN'), a week-end camp at the Sydney Academy of Sport at Narrabeen.



Nick and Vincent spoke briefly to our members on Monday night. They both enjoyed their RYPEN experience and thanked the club for sponsoring them. They made new friends and enjoyed the team activities, such as building a raft from scratch.

They had been challenged and pushed out of their comfort zone and Nick commented that he had gained confidence and that before attending RYPEN he could not have talked in front of a group of strangers. They would both recommend RYPEN to other students.

Joy Newling

## ***Rocket Launch for Laos***

A non-government organisation in Laos, called the Quality of Life Association ('QLA'), is doing great things in supporting many people who are greatly affected by devastation caused by unexploded bombs and mines, left over from the Indochina war.

On Wednesday evening, 9th March at the Cremorne cinema, there will be showing of the film 'Rocket Launch for Laos' as an information evening and fund-raiser for the work of QLA. Everyone is invited to attend and receive a complimentary glass of wine and nibbles before the show. (For further details, see the advertisement later in this edition.)

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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

## What's special about 23 February?

Don't know? Try <http://www.onthisday.com/events/february/23> - you have about 1700 years to trawl through. Still don't know? Well, no doubt our Sergeant At Arms will let you know on Monday night.

## How to (nearly) double club membership

Lower Blue Mountains Rotary's membership success provides ultimate proof of the value in community connection when planning Rotary club programs.

The District 9685 club is located just 'up the hill' from Penrith, NSW, and maintains a membership of around 70 members – grown from approximately 40 members fifteen years ago.

For twenty years, the club has organised and staged the major Australia Day celebration on the Blue Mountains. The big day is tied to a clever gimmick in the Australian Gnome Convention and is promoted as 'Rotary's gift to the Community'.



Whilst there is no official charge to enter Glenbrook Park, sealed buckets are available for patrons to make a gold coin donation.

Experienced club members estimated the 2016 event attracted some 6,000 visitors and family groups who enjoyed numerous 'fun of the fair' activities, 70 quality craft and merchandise stalls, a dozen tempting food booths representing cuisines of the world, outstanding musical entertainment in a huge marquee, bush picnic athletic and craft events for children, and of course the now world famous Australian Gnome Convention.

District 9685 Governor Gina Growden and her husband Past District Governor Harold Sharp were special guests for the day and had great fun judging the various competition sections of the Gnome Convention.

Politicians, Rotarians and local government leaders took part in the impressive opening ceremony at 9 am, which also included the traditional flag raising ceremony by local Girl Guide leaders and members.

Various Australian highlights during the day included performances by leading Australian bush poet Greg North, a traditional Rotary barbecue and of course a very popular chocolate wheel.

At the club meeting one week after Australia Day, Lower Blue Rotary President Drew Fitzpatrick announced that, whilst there was no emphasis on fund raising, the Australia Day 'party' netted \$8,000 profit earmarked for future community projects!

The event is so popular that almost every club member takes on special roles within the organisation. The Blue Mountains Gazette provides splendid coverage with an eight page wrap around detailing every aspect of the day for citizens across the City of Blue Mountains. There is also amazing media support from other surrounding newspapers, radio and television. So much so that numerous members of the public volunteer to assist with the conduct of the day – and every year some catch the Rotary 'spirit of service' and join the club.

Key to new member attraction from the day is the club's Rotary Public Relations booth staffed by a cross section of male and female members who engage passing visitors on the attractions of Rotary. Yes, these passionate young Rotarians kept 'asking' ...

Thirteen visitors were invited to attend a meeting of the Rotary club immediately following Australia Day. All have since indicated a real interest in receiving more information with a view to joining Lower Blue Mountains Rotary.

Whilst the Australia Day 'party' is Lower Blue Mountains' major event of the year, several other well planned projects also add to the club's fame and popularity within its community.

- Two weeks before Christmas, the club hosts a 'Young at Heart' Christmas Party for house bound seniors in the area. With support from local charities and community organisations, club members personally collect some 140 senior citizens and transport them to and from a three course Christmas Dinner at Emu Plains Sports Club. The Blue Mountains Band and local choir groups provide traditional Christmas Carols, Lapstone Primary School children write personal Christmas cards for every attendee and the club provides a small gift. The event is completely sponsored by the Rotary club with support from the Sports Club.
- A traditional Rotary Vocational Service Awards night – with nomination of citizens from many parts of the Blue Mountains and Penrith.
- Policeman of the Year Awards Night – in conjunction with other surrounding Rotary clubs.
- Community Service Awards to recognise outstanding community leaders – based on the same format as the Vocational Service Awards night.
- Youth Service Recognition Awards and Primary School 'Service Above Self' Awards.

All of the above events attract strong family presence and provide a powerful stimulus to Rotary's public image. Again, all events attract the interest of community minded citizens – all potential Rotarians.

As we all know, acquiring new members is a major task but retention of such new members provides an even greater challenge.

Recent Lower Blue Mountains Club Presidents have all followed a strict policy of efficient meetings in a good venue – and a club committee structure that ensures all new members are well mentored and have ample opportunity for involvement in projects of their choice.

If you would like to know more about Lower Blue Mountains' 'magic' formula ...Fun + Fellowship = Service + Membership ... call President Drew Fitzpatrick (0411 137 785) or President Elect Pamela Noal (0447 778 870).

## Last week: Geena Leigh: Coming back from the brink



Geena Leigh's father worked in radio and television. Promotions resulted in frequent moves between New Zealand and Australia. The family of 7 lived in large houses.

But Geena's father was a controlling alcoholic who abused his wife and children mentally and physically. Eventually he left and Geena's mother acquired a new boyfriend, who didn't like Geena. When she was 15, she was thrown out of home.

Geena lived rough, tried to return to school (but was rejected by the teachers), got a job and formed a relationship with a man who turned out to be worse than her father. Desperate to get away from him, but short of money and afraid of being homeless, she visited her mother.

It was a fateful visit. Her mother introduced Geena to a glamorous friend, who announced that she was "on the game" (working as a prostitute) and pulled out a wad of money. In no time at all, Geena declared that she would be a prostitute as well. Curiously, her mother did not attempt to stop her.

The brothel she was taken to was a decrepit building. Geena knew that what she was about to do was wrong and wanted a reason not to . . . but couldn't think of one.

People say that sex work is a woman's choice, but Geena wishes someone had told her what it is like. It's not glamorous. Clients don't care about the women. They brought in drugs and wanted Geena to use them. She was scared of accidents and diseases.

2% of prostitutes set themselves up for life with their earnings. For the remainder it's a cruel cycle, living from hand to mouth. It involves a lot of lying to family, friends and others. It crippled Geena's ability to form relationships.

Geena continued working as a prostitute for 19 years because of her fear of the consequences of ceasing. She moved to Sydney and many times she got out of sex work, got clean, found a straight job, became fit and started dating. But then she would slide backwards, have credit card problems, lose her job and slip back into 'the game'.

She had a fake name, fake hair, even fake breasts and wore lots of makeup. It was a mask and a shield. Rather than showing her real self, it was a survival strategy.

Sex work seems empowering at first, because money is earned quickly and easily. Most people do it because they are desperate - to pay rent, buy food, etc. (Some do it in addition to a regular job and despite having a family and friends.) The industry is essentially destructive, preying on the vulnerable.

Trying to escape from sex work, Geena consulted a psychologist, who advised her to 'embrace' it. He wouldn't tell prostitutes to stop because he made too much money from continuing to treat them.

Every woman Geena encountered in her work was depressed and didn't want to be in the industry. But when

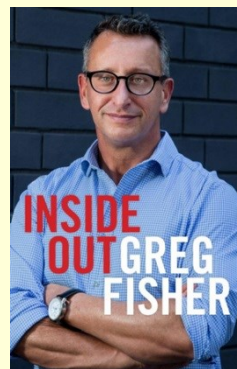
Geena got regular office jobs, it was like being in a foreign world. She couldn't relate to the strict routine or to her co-workers' ordinary life experiences.

It was when Geena's father died that she finally found the impetus to leave the sex industry. She got clean and drug free, regained her health, read books, went to self-improvement classes and eventually completed 3 university degrees. With a professionally written resumé, she got a good corporate job as a strata manager. Some of the experience gained in her previous life helps her deal with difficult owners and tradesmen.

Geena is reconciled with her mother, who lives in Brisbane, and they talk all the time. Her siblings are dispersed around the world. She doesn't date men, although she has some good male friends.

In 2014 Geena's memoir 'Call me Sasha' was published, resulting in good feedback from readers. Her aim now is to help prevent girls getting into prostitution. She wants to talk in high schools, empower young women and tell them the reality of prostitution.

## Author encounter with Greg Fisher



When Greg Fisher was a child his mother said he'd either be very successful or end up in jail. After a comfortable upbringing in Sydney's eastern suburbs, Greg Fisher did what he thought a good Jewish boy should do. He married, had a child and started making his way up the corporate ladder.

But after 'coming out' and leaving his wife, Greg's life veered into the fast lane. A-list parties and a growing business empire proved a heady mix, and by the early 2000s his high-stakes lifestyle began to spiral dangerously out of control. Eventually jailed for corporate fraud and drug dealing, Greg spent almost 8 years in prison, sharing a cell with some of Australia's most notorious criminals and began the slow process of rebuilding his life. With his parole over in mid 2015, Greg is now general manager of Our Big Kitchen, a successful community kitchen.

Written with brutal honesty, *Inside Out* is an extraordinary story of ambition, addiction and redemption. You can meet Greg in discussion at Gordon Library at 6.30 pm on Wednesday, 24 February.

## Next week: Edwina Throsby: Creating TEDx

Imagine a day filled with brilliant speakers, thought-provoking video and mind-blowing conversation.

A TEDx event is a local gathering where short live talks and videos recorded at previous TED conferences are shared with the community. TEDx events are planned and coordinated on a community-by-community basis. The content and design of each TEDx event is unique and developed independently, but all of them have features in common.

Edwina Throsby is the 'curator' of TEDx Sydney, charged with assembling the range of presenters required. It's a demanding role and she will tell us how she manages to pull together such a fascinating event.



## A film screening to raise funds for Laos Bomb Victims

This our first fundraising event, a private screening of the film, **The Rocket**, directed by Kim Mordaunt.

**Date:** Wednesday, 9<sup>th</sup> March 2016

**Time:** 7.30pm in Foyer for 8.20pm Start

**Venue:** Cinema 3, Hayden Orpheum  
380 Military Road, Cremorne

**Tickets:** Are available from Eventbrite, "Rocket Launch for Laos" or contact - Anita Sekely 0405 418 065  
Gill Shaddick 0416 627 382

**Cost:** \$40<sup>00</sup> Per Person & \$30<sup>00</sup> for Concession or Students.

Join us for a complimentary glass of wine and nibbles before the show.

**AUSTRALIAN SUPPORTERS OF LAOS BOMB VICTIMS**

## Calendar of events

February	29	Edwina Throsby: Creating TEDx
March	7	Bobbin Head Cycle Classic briefing
	11	(Saturday & Sunday) District Conference, Canberra
	14	Graham Wilcox: The struggle for unity - a story of the federation of Australia
	20	(Sunday) Bobbin Head Cycle Classic
	21	Bobbin Head Cycle Classic report
	28	No meeting (Easter Monday)
April	4	
	8	9 & 10 (Friday - Sunday): Dinners for 8
	11	
	18	
	25	No meeting (Anzac Day)
May	2	
	9	
	16	
	23	
	30	
June	6	

## 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), Chris Hoch (Red Shield), Nick Kenyon, Ted Price

**International:** Georgina Manning, Roger Desmarchelier, Emyr Evans, Dilys Geddes, Rob Hall, 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, Stan Glaser, Gary Keating, Chris Lewis, Matt Mahjoub, Joy Newling, Don Riddell

## Sick parade

Chris Hoch's sight is improving after his eye operation and he's already resumed work on the Bobbin Head Cycle Classic. Tony McClelland has visited Chris 3 times to make sure that he is working on it and, despite that, Chris looks better each time. Chris will be confined to home for a few more days, so he can't escape Tony's visits.

## Anniversaries - February

Birthdays				Anniversaries			
5	Pam Forbes	19	Eunice Price			27	Don and Laura Riddell
10	Tony McClelland	19	Nicky Dawson				
18	Bob Elsworth	27	Louise Tyler				

## Booking guests & apologies for meetings

Members are booked in to attend every regular meeting of the club. If you cannot attend a meeting or wish to book in a guest / partner please record your apology or guest on the website at <http://www.kuringgairotary.org.au> **before 9.25 am** on the day of the meeting. An apology for future meetings may also be entered. **If you do not apologise for non-attendance the club must pay for your meal and you will be asked to reimburse the club.**

## Door team

February	March	April	May
Roger Desmarchelier	Wally Forbes	David Forsythe	Greg Newling
Nick Kenyon	Bob Ivey	Ross Egan	Cathy Jackson

The door team is responsible for welcoming visitors and guests, recording payments and issuing copies of the record to the President and the Secretary. **Please arrange your own replacement if you are unavailable.**

## Gordon Market roster

MARKET ROSTER	13 March	10 April	8 May
<b>BANNERS</b>	Frank White	Gary Keating	Frank White
<b>SIGNS</b>	Graham Timms Geoff Hungerford	Graham Timms Geoff Hungerford	Graham Timms Geoff Hungerford
<b>MORNING SET UP</b>	Frank White	Geoff Hungerford	Frank White
<b>PUBLIC RELATIONS</b>			
<b>1ST SHIFT 8.00 to 10.30</b>	Wally Forbes	Bob Ivey	John Aitken
<b>2ND SHIFT 10.30 to 1.00</b>	Chris Hoch Nick Kenyon	Chris Hoch Lou Coenen	Don Riddell TBA
<b>3RD SHIFT 1.00 to 3.30</b>	Roger Desmarchelier Peter Tang	Malcolm Braid Jack McCartney	Ross Egan Gary Dawson

Second shift collects payment from stallholders. Third shift returns signs and bins to St George Bank storage. **Please arrange your own swap and notify Geoff Hungerford if you will be unavailable.**

## Rotary fashion

Looking for the most up to date Rotary club shirt or cap? Contact menswear and ladies wear boutique, Ross Egan.

## Club bank details

Rotary Club of Ku-ring-gai **General** account  
BSB: 032 089 Account no.: 253 341

Rotary Club of Ku-ring-gai **Project** account  
BSB: 032 089 Account no.: 253 333

**Please include your name in the details of all deposits to the club accounts**

**Expense reimbursement claims** must be presented with a completed remittance advice which you can download from the club website. Please include your BSB and account number.