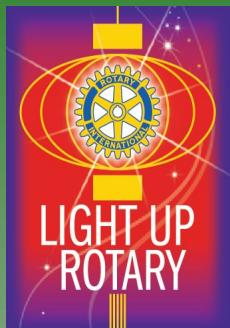


# Rotary Club of Fern Tree Gully Inc.



Vol. 52 No 4

28th July 2014



President, Rotary International

**GARY C.K. HUANG**

Rotary Club of Taipei,  
Taiwan

District Governor, Dist. 9810 –

**TONY MONLEY & Kathy**

Rotary Club of Templestowe

President,

**MIKE SPARK & Wendy**

Rotary Club of Fern Tree Gully

Benefactor,

**IVAN GIGOVIC,**

Vale: August 2003

Rotary Club of Fern Tree Gully



## WEEKLY BULLETIN



## DISTRICT GOVERNOR TONY DOES THE HONOURS

District Governor Tony and his wife Kathy attended our club meeting last Monday to carry out the traditional DG's annual visit. It was terrific to have Tony there to do the honours in inducting our newest member **LEE MORRIS**. The small ceremony went off without a hitch after which members welcomed Lee with great enthusiasm.

*Great to have you join us Lee!*

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INCORPORATED REG. No. A0023463V

DISTRICT 9810

VICTORIA

AUSTRALIA

CHARTERED: 16<sup>th</sup> May, 1963

Postal Address: P. O. Box 164 FERN TREE GULLY, VIC 3156

Website: [www.fernreegullyrotary.org.au](http://www.fernreegullyrotary.org.au)

# UPCOMING MEETING RESPONSIBILITIES

Date & Time:	Monday 28th July [6.30 for 7.00]	Monday 4th August [6.30 for 7.00]	Monday 11th August [6.30 for 7.00]	Monday 18th August [6:30 for 7:00]	Monday 25th August [6.30 for 7.00]
<b>Venue:</b>	Knox Tavern	Knox Tavern	Knox Tavern	Knox Tavern	Knox Tavern
<b>Program:</b>	<b>Prabhat Alloi - Home of a New Dawn</b>	<b>Committee Meeting</b>	<b>Interplast</b>	<b>The Red Cross Society</b>	<b>The Challenge to Lead Program</b>
<b>Speaker:</b>	<b>Shivanii Cameron</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>Len Brear</b>	<b>Camille Sav- age</b>	<b>Maurice Kerrigan</b>
<b>Committee Subject</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>TBA</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>Chair:</b>	<b>Graeme A</b>	<b>Mike S</b>	<b>Graham F</b>	<b>Greg D</b>	<b>Fran M</b>
<b>Cashiers:</b>	<b>Paul W &amp; Christine A</b>	<b>Paul McA &amp; Virginia R</b>	<b>Greg D &amp; Fran M</b>	<b>Graham F &amp; Paul W</b>	<b>Bob H &amp; Christine A</b>
<b>Grace &amp; Toast:</b>	<b>Paul McA</b>	<b>Fran M</b>	<b>Stuart V</b>	<b>John F</b>	<b>Phil W</b>
<b>Rotary Knowledge</b>	<b>TBA</b>	<b>TBA</b>	<b>TBA</b>	<b>TBA</b>	<b>TBA</b>
<b>Sergeant-At-Arms:</b>	<b>Bob H</b>	<b>Rob D</b>	<b>Rob D</b>	<b>Rob D</b>	<b>Rob D</b>
<b>Scribe:</b>	<b>Rob D</b>	<b>Christine A</b>	<b>Graeme A</b>	<b>Paul McA</b>	<b>Mike S</b>

<i><b>Birthdays:</b></i>	None
<i><b>Wedding Anniversaries:</b></i>	None
<i><b>Induction to RC of Fern Tree Gully</b></i>	None



## “MIKE’S MUSINGS....

Hi, all!

On Friday, Rob Dawson and I attended the 9810 District Membership Workshop at Mount Waverley. It was very well attended (about 100 people, so more chairs had to be found in a hurry!), and a very well presented program with good structure and very practical presentation and delivery (apart from the normal Rotary laptop/projector/finding the right files and the right slide problems!!) – overall, very impressive – and only from 7-30 to 9-15!

Both Rob and I thought that our club is already way up there towards “Best Practice” in how we look after our members, and there will be a lot more Cluster and District activity during the year aimed at gaining new members. Rotary’s worldwide goal is to increase membership numbers by 3% (that’s around half a person in our terms). Our Club goal is a 50% increase to 25 members in this year – work on getting one a month, and we’ll all be extremely happy!

The annual District Governor’s visit last Monday went very well, and I’ll share extracts from his report with you on Monday (or in the Bulletin next week). He sends his and Kathy’s thanks to all the members for a very welcoming and also constructive night. He “did the honours” for me and inducted Lee Morris after his address to the club. Let’s all give a great welcome to our very active new member, who will be mentored in Rotary by Graham Faulkner, and will join the Community committee to be under Graeme Aspinall’s guidance. A big warm FTG Rotary welcome to Lee, the first of many new members!

Keep well, and happy! TTFN - Mike

*Mike Spark  
President*

# THAT WAS THE WEEK THAT WAS

Monday, 21st July 2014

The meeting opened at 7.03 p.m. with President Mike welcoming all members, DG Tony Monley, Kathy Monley, Knox AG Lesley Zuccaro and other guests.

**Chairman:** **Paul McAloney**

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORTS:

**Secretary:** **John Flemming**

- Read and distributed the incoming mail
- Apologies—Phil Walters
- Make-Ups—Paul McAloney

**Treasurer:** **Enid Hughes**

- Thanked those members who had recently paid their annual fees and reminded those who hadn't that they were now due and payable.

**Vocational Service:** **Phil Walters**

No report (absent)

**Community Service:** **Graeme Aspinall**

- Great community raffle—final sales date approaching. Sold and unsold books need to be handed back by next Monday. Also need more volunteers to help sell at Maxi Mall.

**International:** **Paul McAloney**

No report

**Youth Service:** **Paul Wilson**

- Attended a ROTARACT/INTERACT meeting last Thursday. 4 starters plus. About 15-20 in attendance. They are asking for anyone interested to join. Paul recommends we stay close to and work with them.

**Club Service:** **Mike Spark**

No report

**Fellowship:** **Fran Mandergeddes**

- Gave details of a play called *A Good Man*. A good fellowship opportunity. A flyer was passed around for anyone interested in attending.

**Other:**

- Paul McAloney advised the hot water service in the local Guide Hall (where we help with Community Kitchen) is not working and the Guides can't afford a new one just yet. Asked whether the club could help. Graeme Aspinall to investigate.

**Sergeant-at-Arms** **Rob Hurst**

Rob fined those not wearing ties. Then went on to quote Will Roger's comments. Many a laugh was had!

**PROGRAM:** **District Governor Tony Monley and Kathy.**

- Strategic context:
  - 1250 members over a small area
  - Rich in projects
  - Have high foundation contribution ratio
- Paradox:
  - Difficulty in membership
  - Aging demographic
  - Competing demographic
- International—Rotary Theme for 2014-15 *Light up Rotary* Based on a Confucius saying *"Better to light a candle than to curse the darkness"*
- Pushing for 3 things:
  - Rotary Day (display what we do)
  - Membership
  - Complete Polio project
- Our District
  - Support clubs
  - Assist clubs support membership endeavours:
    - Seminars on projects
    - Technological tools
    - Continue contributing to Foundation
    - Legal entity—Project Funds Ltd., (assumes ownership of assets spread over multiple clubs)
- Enhance Public Image
  - Rotary Day
  - Youth protection policy upgrade

DG Tony then introduced his wife, Kathy:

Partnership with Kooris to assist indigenous kids to undertake tertiary programs.

Use La Trobe Uni students as mentors

Using used stamps and donations from clubs

Will also be doing a fundraiser.

A number of the members posed questions.

There being no further business President Mike thanked both Tony and Kathy, read out the housekeeping duties for next week and closed the meeting.

Meeting closed at 8.43 p.m.

**Scribe:** **Paul Wilson**





## KEN'S FUNERAL

The turn up at Ken's funeral was great—8 current members (and 2 wives) and 4 past members (and three wives). I also thought that Bob Hurst did a top job with the eulogy

**"Well I think it's a bloody disgrace"**

Ken's family were really pleased that the club was well represented as Rotary had been a big part of Ken's life for so many years. They were also very much aware of the Club's involvement in the establishment of Knox-brooke as his brother Ossie was a resident there for some years.

*John Flemming*

*See page 5 for Bob Hurst's Eulogy*



## C.F.A. ANNUAL AWARDS NIGHT

Last Saturday it was my privilege to attend the Ferntree Gully Fire Brigade's annual dinner and presentation night. 130 people attended including CFA management, neighbouring fire brigade captains, Councilor Karen Orpen, our local Member of Parliament Nick Wakeling and past brigade members. The purpose of this annual event is to recognise brigade members for their years of service to the brigade, and presentation of medals to members in recognition of attendance at recent disaster fires. Two members received a special award—the National Medal of Service; a medal that is recognised by Queen Elizabeth II for volunteers in the community.

One award brigade members try hard not to receive is their Dalmatian Award—this goes to the brigade member who embarrasses him or herself during an activity or turnout of the brigade. This presentation brought much humour to the night as the nominees were presented.

Judging from the speeches all recipients take great pride in their skills and their volunteering and highlighted the strength that is within the Ferntree Gully Fire Brigade.

The brigade made tribute to The Rotary Club of Fern Tree Gully, thanking them for their support of the annual CFA collection.

**Graeme Aspinall  
Community Chair**

## Community Kitchen Roster - 2014

### Guide Hall

Underwood Rd

Ferntree Gully (Next to train station car park)  
Rotary roster - every second Wednesday, 5.30pm

DATE	ROTARIAN
30th July	John Flemming
13th August	Paul McAloney
27th August	Graeme Aspinall
10th September	Paul Wilson
24th September	Virginia Rutledge
8th October	Enid Hughes
22nd October	John Flemming
5th November	Christine Anderson
19th November	Graeme Aspinall
3rd December	Paul Wilson
17th December	Enid Hughes

Dinner provided  
Contact Graeme Aspinall for more  
information  
0425 432 290



## GREAT COMMUNITY

### RAFFLE

**Maxi's Mall  
Upper Ferntree Gully**

**Friday 1st August  
and  
Saturday 2nd August**

**Last days to sell**

**WE NEED MORE PEOPLE  
PLEASE SEE GRAEME ON  
MONDAY**

# Kenneth Geoffrey [Bluey] Thomson

I have been asked to say a few words on the behalf of the members of the Fern Tree Gully Rotary Club of which Ken was a much loved member. We all appreciated his direct no-nonsense attitude and I don't think any eulogy to Ken would be complete without starting with his favourite saying!

**"Well I think it's a bloody disgrace"**

The Rotary Club of Fern Tree Gully received its charter on 16 May 1963 and Ken was one of the charter members, he served as its 2<sup>nd</sup> president the following year and was made a Paul Harris Fellow in June 1988 being only the 3<sup>rd</sup> club member to receive this honour up to that date.

Throughout his time in Rotary Ken was always involved in one project or another and his legacy lives on in our club banner which was created during his year of Presidency and is still in use today.

He rarely missed our weekly meetings always attending dressed in a suit and tie having taken the trouble to drive home to change from his work clothes. He was not only generous with his time but with his personal resources as well and was always willing to be involved in whatever project Rotary was carrying out, whether it was for the local community or for those less well off in countries overseas.

Ken was supported throughout his entire time in Rotary by his wife 'Bett' who always took a keen interest in the club and its activities; in recognition of her support for Ken and the Rotary Club she was awarded a Paul Harris Fellowship as well.

In speaking of Bett it's interesting to recall Ken's comments when Rotary International amended the global constitution in order to allow women to become members of Rotary International.

This amendment posed some housekeeping issues in relation to how we referred to those meeting nights when the club wished to invite Rotarians wives to attend. Up to that point in time these evenings had been referred to as "Ladies nights" and it was proposed that in future they would be referred to as "Partners night". Ken took umbrage at this, he said as far as he was concerned Bett was not a partner per se but was not only his wife but a "lady".

It was my observation that Ken would listen keenly to the discussions that took place at club meetings, often saying little but when he did get to his feet he was always direct and to the point and spoke with a passion.

Ken had an interesting method of getting his opinion across during these discussions, having said his piece in the usual straightforward manner he would resume his seat and if any opposing viewpoint was put forward he would sit there silently with a straight expressionless face. When prompted for a response to the opposing point of view his reply would be "eh what did he say? With his hand cupped to his ear" this of course was meant to indicate that he hadn't heard any opposing viewpoint at all. Presumably pretending his hearing aids had failed to work.

(There are some unkind souls in the club that say I am following his lead in that regard)

For many years he made his timber yard on Burwood highway available for the club to sell Christmas trees from and also provided vehicles to transport the trees from their plantations which often were on the other side of town. This annual event was for many years one of the major sources of income for the club enabling it to fund many of its projects both locally and overseas.

Ken served as a member of the armed forces during World War II and saw service in New Guinea (he reckoned he ran the best Two-Up school in the army).

One of the projects that he took a keen interest in was a fundraising program backed by all Victorian Rotary clubs called "cents for the shrine" in which they sought to raise funds for the shrines restoration and Ken made sure that the Fern Tree Gully Club was right behind it.

After the war ended Ken became a timber salesman before setting up his own business in a prime location on Burwood highway which he called 'Fern Tree Gully Timber & Joinery'. He was passionate about apprenticeship training and was extremely disappointed when the State Government set about closing technical schools particularly the Fern Tree Gully Technical School. His concern was the lack of opportunity for those kids who; whilst not academically oriented had the ability to succeed in trade and technical vocations if only they were given the opportunity

On a more personal note Ken gave Margaret and I some sage advice regarding our son Travis who had spent some time with him on work experience, as usual he was succinct and to the point. His advice being to ensure that when Travis got a job it was one that didn't require any manual labour because every time he turned around Travis was sitting down.

**In conclusion I think the best way to describe Ken is to say that he was just like Frank Sinatra**  
**"He Lived Life His Way"**

# **Taveuni Island ( Fiji )**

## **Rotary Supplied Ambulance**

### Repair of the Motor

Failed—21st May 2014

Repaired—14th July 2014

PP Geoffrey Amos Rotary Club of Taveuni Island

PP Peter Malden Rotary Club of Boronia

“Making a difference through  
Health and Hospital Services

### **Those Who Made This Possible**

Rotary Club of Taveuni Island

Carpenter Motors—Suva Workshop

Nivis Motors—Taveuni Workshop

Wellington Free Ambulance New Zealand

Rotary Club of Boronia

Eagle Auto Parts—Jason

Honorary Consul Fiji ( VIC ) - Mr Reg Hodgson

Gibson Freight—David Gibson, Erin Goyen

Mark ( Warehouse ) and Sala ( Nadi )

Fiji Link Airways

Rotary Club of Fern Tree Gully

Taveuni—Raikivi Work Team