



SCIENCE & ENGINEERING CHALLENGE

THE 4-WAY TEST

- IS IT THE TRUTH?
- IS IT FAIR TO ALL CONCERNED?
- WILL IT BUILD GOOD WILL & BETTER FRIENDSHIP?
- WILL IT BE BENEFICIAL TO ALL CONCERNED?

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The next meeting of
The Ashmore Rotary Club at the
SOUTHPORT GOLF CLUB on
Wednesday, the 29th of June 2022
this is the Club's
CHANGEOVER DINNER

18:00 for 18:30 hours

*Please advise and pay Marcia Waller if you
will be attending no later than*

WEDNESDAY next, the 22nd of June

Tel: 0413 730 820 email: marcialampshade@gmail.com

Club Officials for the Year 2021-22

President: Denise Payne
Vice president: Brian McAllan
President Elect: Brad Francis
Treasurer: Ian Wilson
Secretary: Justine Dillon

Service Directors

Club Administration: ... Rob Deshon
Community: Greg Clogan
New Generations: Robyn Schatz
Foundation &
International Service: .. Pat Fleming
Vocational Service: Heather Yarker

Support

Attendance: Robyn Schatz
Welfare: Joan Adams
Barbecue Events: Brian McAllan
Rob Deshon
A.I.A.: Michael Hyland

Established in 2000, the University of Newcastle's **SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING CHALLENGE** for Years' 9 and 10 students has been a significant influence on the ability of universities across the country to encourage tertiary student into the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics) subjects.

The Ashmore Rotary Club became involved when, some seventeen years ago, the Newcastle University introduced the event into Queensland, approaching the scientific campus at Griffith University in an early effort to expand the event across the country. Every year since that time, with a short hiatus during Covid, **Ian Wilson** has been our Club's coordinator, working closely with Newcastle and Griffith to run a professional operation that has brought accolades from the event organisers.

The Science and Engineering Challenge is a two-day event that aims to encourage students of the STEM streams at school to consider tertiary advancement in these critical career paths by subjecting them to challenging, practical projects over a short timeframe. The students work in teams for approximately two hours on each of two of the eight projects throughout the day, gaining points as each project progresses towards completion. Points gained by each team on each project are aggregated at the end of the day to determine a winning school.

Entry to the event is via an internet application and until the advent of Covid-19, the limited number of contestants (eight schools on each of the two days) was rapidly filled; the record being nine minutes from when the web site was opened. Sadly, as in many other organisations, there has been difficulty in maintaining a full complement of staff to enable schools to release personnel to monitor outside events and for the first time, the South Brisbane area intake remained unfilled.

The Gold Coast event on Thursday and Friday of last week was, for the first time, held at Saint Stephens College, Upper Coomera where the facilities are truly first class. Seven schools attended on each day with another "first" being schools from outside the immediate Gold Coast Region attending when we welcomed State schools from Loganlea and Kingston together with Kimberley Private College from the Redland Bay area. Thus there were eight schools representing the State sector and six Private representatives.

The competition between the schools remained close on both days with the final winners being Marymount College on Thursday and Merrimac State High School on Friday. The latter however, gained one more point than Marymount, thus qualifying for the State Final in July; also to be held at Saint Stephens College. The winner of that event will go on to compete in the National Final.

STAFF REPORTER

Social & Volunteer Calendar

PLEASE BE SURE TO MAKE A NOTE IN YOUR DIARY OF THE DATES OF UPCOMING EVENTS LISTED BELOW:

Tuesday, 21st June

Burleigh Inner Wheel Flood Appeal
ROLAND STORM @CROATIAN CLUB
Dinner & entertainment \$50 pp

Wednesday, 29th June

R.C. Ashmore Changeover Dinner
Southport Golf Club 6:00 for 6:30
Names & Money (\$40) to Marcia by
Wednesday

Wednesday, 6th July

1st meeting of Year 2021-2022
Ashmore Rotary Community Centre
President Bradley Francis

Wednesday, 20th July

Formal Meeting at ARCC
Subject to confirmation

Report on the meeting held on Wednesday, the 15th of June 2022

There were 18 Members and 8 guests attending.

Chairman **Ian Wilson** opened the meeting with a welcome to guests:

- Club guests, Maureen Gay & Michael Lane.
- From Griffith University, Professor Richard John & Anita Hazel.
- From University of Newcastle, Neville Want & Adriana Zaja.
- Guest Speakers “Women in Engineering” Shayna Spencer & Natalie Hughes.

Dinner, prepared by Ken Cowan, of Steak, Sausage and onion, Coleslaw and Potato Salad was served.

Ian Wilson opened the formal procedure at 18:35 with comments “*It is hard to believe that we as a Rotary Club, got involved in this wonderful program in 2005, some 17 years ago and the longevity of the program is a testament to how successful it has been. We have been delighted to be partners with Griffith University and the University of Newcastle for those 17 years*”.

Applauded the response to Elaine Williams’ request for Washing up liquid and washing powder for the students living in the shelter house of Nerang High School

Professor Richard John: gave a brief background to the founding of the Science & Engineering Challenge, the subsequent involvement of Griffith University and the development of the event over the intervening years. There was some regret that the spectacular demonstrations undertaken by Sid Hooker are no longer a feature of the event.

Shayna Spencer & Natalie Hughes: presented details of how they got into engineering studies. Shayna worked for 12 years in Public Relations before returning to university. It has been interesting in recent years to witness the growth in the female demographic entering the various engineering disciplines. It is also interesting to note that the head of the School of Engineering at Griffith University is female.

Natalie became interested in an engineering career when working on a school project to design an underfloor heating plant using a composting process. It didn’t work but was the seed for germinating her enthusiasm. Both students are involved in a university club that works with schools to assist students through workshops on engineering principles and projects. The presentations triggered an extended Q & A period. The speakers were roundly applauded and presented with Rotary pens.

Graham Allchurch: and his wife depart for a holiday in the United Kingdom on Monday. They will be returning to Australia in November. We wish them *Bon Voyage*.

Denise Payne: has still not recovered after returning on Tuesday from two very enjoyable weeks in Hawaii. Hopefully, full recovery will have occurred before attending the Science and Engineering challenge on Friday.

Her final duties as President will occur on Wednesday, the 29th of June at the Changeover Dinner. Names and money must be with Marcia no later than Wednesday the 22nd.

Ian Wilson: Raffle - drawn by Maureen Gay and won by Sue Plummer.

Closed the meeting at 19:50 with the reciting of the Four-Way Test

From the Editor’s Desk

It was interesting to observe the range of behaviour of the students participating at the Science and Engineering Challenge last week. Whilst most of the students were motivated and enthusiastic, a few were not so sure if they wanted to be there. Some were a little overwhelmed by the magnitude of the tasks, particularly the prosthetic hand project. I found that project needed some quite deep thought with respect to design and was perhaps a little too advanced an exercise for year 9/10 students. I found it difficult to give them clues without actually going into detail. On day 2, I monitored students on planning a rail system around an area containing some 60 towns. This was much more within their intellectual range and was generally carried out quite successfully. There was however, one incidence of a lad, “working” with three girls, who spent most of the 90 minutes with his eyes closed. The girls handled the project quite well and I did manage to get the sleeper’s eyes open at one stage to hold the end of a tape measure so that I could determine the amount of string left at the end of one scenario.

All in all, and as usual, it was a very enjoyable and rewarding two days. The new venue at Saint Stephens College is superb, providing students with the best learning facilities I have seen for many years. A group of us was invited to tour the science department. It is hard to see how a student could fail to do well, given the facilities that are available to them. My conversation with the chemical laboratory supervisor enforced that view.

My congratulations go to Merrimac State High School for gaining most points and qualifying for the State Finals and to its teachers for showing that opportunities are available for “free education” students as much as they are for those from wealthier families.

I was surprised, bemused, embarrassed but very proud when I was called out to be inducted into The University of Newcastle, Science and Engineering Challenge, Hall of Fame for “recognition of significant service to the Science and Engineering Challenge”. I can think of at least one person who deserves that award more than me. It is somewhere between twelve and fourteen years that I have been more than happy to participate in the event and have thoroughly enjoyed every occasion. And will do so again if I am still around!

This is a final reminder to the undecided that our next meeting will be the “swansong” of President Denise Payne, completing her THIRD term at the head of the Ashmore Rotary Club. Thank you, Denise. We will also welcome into the hot seat, for a SECOND term, President Bradley Francis. I am not sure if congratulations are in order but I am sure that I and all of the members will help to make your tenure as effortless as we possibly can.

If there are any late decision-makers out there, please notify Marcia that you will attend by this Wednesday. Marcia’s contact information is on Page 1.

Talking of Marcia, her long-time house mate, Brian Woltmann is extremely unwell and has entered a care home. Brian was a long-time member and Past President of Ashmore Rotary and I hope I reflect the wishes of all members that he recovers sufficiently to enjoy the rest of his days. You have done pretty well Brian. I recall many years ago that you wrote your own Eulogy for Tony Ferris (our past resident Celebrant) to present at your funeral that didn’t happen.

The informal meeting on Wednesday, the 22nd of June will be held at the **EMERALD LAKES GOLF CLUB** at 6:00 pm. Please contact President Denise if you intend to be there.

Finally, I bring to your notice the Bunnings Sausage Sizzle on SATURDAY, the 25th of June. If you are available, please contact Brian McAllan (0403 067 418) or Rob Deshon (0418 757 192).

Report of the Joint Meeting of the Ashmore Rotary Club and the e-Club NextGen Queensland Changeover.

The e- Club NextGen Queensland held its changeover on Saturday the 4th of June at Burleigh Heads Mowbray Park SLSC.

President Jane Loxton was handing over to incoming President Fran Ward Emmerson.

Paris Smith was the MC and did a great job.

Club members were from Bundaberg, Tasmania, Melbourne, Port Macquarie, Warwick, Tambo, Blackall, Gold Coast, Brisbane, Germany, Sweden.

Zoom was USA, Wauchope and Tasmania.

5 members of Ashmore Rotary attended. They were: Heather and Ian Yarker, Justine Dillon with Jarrad & baby Kyle, Brad Francis and Brian McAllan.

Brad gave a short talk on behalf of Ashmore Rotary as one of the chartering clubs 10 years ago. Hope Island was the other sponsor club.

Ian gave a detailed report on the numerous projects that the club has undertaken. Far too many to report.

Michael & Janet got a mention for the work they both did painting and renovating the Flying Doctors houses in Mt Isa.

David was also thanked for the many times he went to the Birdsville Races and helped at the barbecues there.

There were many raffle prizes and jam was on sale as a fund raiser.

A great time was had by all.

MALARIA VACCINE PROJECT

*In 2015 Sam Doumany & his wife, PDG Sandy Doumany attended a **Rotary Against Malaria** Conference, with Dr Danielle Stanisic as the Guest Speaker on Research for a Malaria Vaccine. She mentioned that the Laboratory needed a piece of equipment to help with production of the malaria vaccine which would cost \$8,000. Sam took that on board and approached PDG Graham Jones to see if we could raise the money required. Within a week, Graham, Sam & other Rotarians had raised the funds. The Griffith Rotary Satellite Club was in the formation period and the cheque was presented to Dr Danielle Stanisic (a prospective member) at the next meeting. We all felt this sent a message to the new members "THIS IS THE POWER OF ROTARY". In 2016 Gerard Brennan had discussions with the Governor General's Office in Canberra which led to the Governor General, Sir Peter Cosgrove, launching the Malaria Vaccine Project at a function in the **Institute for Glycomics** on 27 March 2017. In 2019 the Australian Government awarded a Research Grant of \$500,000 to the Project, matching the amount raised by Rotarians to that time. On learning more about the journey for Professor Michael Good and Dr Danielle Stanisic with their research, there was a core of Rotarians who developed a passion to be part of the quest to save the lives of so many men, women and children and eliminate malaria from the world.*

Committee Chair: PDG Graham Jones AM

Committee: Neil Jones (Treasurer), Laraine Brennan (Secretary), Gerard Brennan OAM. Hon Sam Doumany AM, PDG Sandy Doumany OAM, Teresa Dawson, Karin Kolenko, Mervyn Powell. PDG Ross Smith PDG ,Dai Mason, Mr Bruce Howlett.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

At the 2017 Launch of MVP, Sir Peter Cosgrove made this comment, "Working together 'white coats' and Rotarians can eliminate malaria. Let's make it a reality!" This memorable mantra lit the torch for us, as has his continuing encouragement over the last five years. I thank him and Lady Cosgrove for this inspiration and enduring support. However, as I said at the Anniversary, "We are not there yet!" So what has changed since 2017? The number of deaths from malaria has changed but sadly for the worse. The World Health Organization (WHO) recently reported that, in 2020, there were 627,000 deaths from malaria, nearly 180,000 more than its cited number for 2017. Moreover, it is expected that this number will have grown in 2021 due to COVID restraints. Lamentably, 80% of these deaths are young children and pregnant mothers. It is hard to imagine a more critical time for an effective vaccine. On the vaccine side, Professor Good and his team have made wonderful progress: successful human challenge trials with the blood form of the vaccine; development of a cryopreserved (lipid) form that can be freeze-dried and transported anywhere in the world; and excellent animal studies with this cryopreserved form. This year, they hope to complete the remaining preliminary studies with the cryopreserved version so that they are positioned to do human challenge trials in 2023, possibly in an endemic country. The third change is that, starting from \$50,000 at the time of the launch, MVP has raised \$1.5 million to support Professor Good's vaccine development. This includes a matching grant of \$500,000 from the Federal Government and a massive lift by Rotary districts and clubs throughout Australia, individual donors, foundations and friends of Rotary. Let me add a huge thank you to all these supporters and special appreciation to Rotary District 9640 and its District Governors for their continuing endorsement. At the 5th Anniversary, I launched "Challenge 22". This challenge is to raise \$300,000 in 2022 so that Professor Good and his team will have the financial resources they need to complete the preliminary studies with the cryopreserved form during 2022. The real challenge is to make an impact on the lives of all those children and pregnant mums. We can meet that challenge if everyone who has donated to this project over the last five years makes another donation this year. Please make that a reality!

PDG Graham Jones AM

Google: malariavaccineproject.com

Dear Denise:

Your support of the Malaria Vaccine Project

On behalf of the Malaria Vaccine Project Committee, I wish to express my sincere thanks to you and your Club for its very generous and ongoing support for this Project. With your help, we have now raised almost \$1.5 million—an incredible effort. Rotary clubs, districts, friends and special supporters like you throughout Australia and overseas have raised more than \$800,000 of this total and we are very appreciative of a grant of \$500,000 from the Australian Federal Government Department of Health. We especially appreciate your help during the continuing struggle with COVID 19. I have provided below a brief summary of the Malaria Vaccine Project and an indication of where the malaria research is headed.

1. The Malaria Vaccine Project (MVP):

This is a joint project between Rotary District 9640 and the Institute for Glycomics at Griffith University. The project was launched in March 2017 by then Governor-General, His Excellency General Sir Peter Cosgrove AK, CVO, MC. The project is designed to support the development of a promising malaria vaccine PlasProtect® created by Professor Michael Good AO. Professor Good was at one time Director of Berghofer QIMR and in 2010 was selected as a "Queensland Great".

The Malaria Vaccine Project is registered with Rotary Australia Benevolent Society (RABS) which enables it to receive DGR1 status. The Project's goal is to raise \$2.5 million to enable the vaccine to proceed to Clinical trials in an endemic country like PNG or Uganda.

WEBSITE/Facebook: Google- malariavaccineproject.com

2. The Malaria Vaccine Research.

PlasProtect® is a whole parasite vaccine that is chemically treated to make it safe and effective in fighting the several strains of the malaria parasite. During the last two years, Professor Good and his team have successfully carried out Phase 1(a) Clinical trials where human subjects were given the vaccine, housed in a human blood cell, and were then challenged with a malaria parasite. The sample was small, but Professor Good commented that the trial went very well and "It is the first time a whole-parasite vaccine has protected multiple individuals from the blood forms of a malaria infection." Very exciting news!!

The vaccine is quite challenging to preserve and the researchers are now putting their efforts into a "lipid" (cryo-preserved) vaccine that can be freeze-dried, stored and transported anywhere in the world. This "lipid" form of PlasProtect® has already completed very successful animal studies and, in 2022, will undergo further clinical trials to assess its safety and ability to activate an immune response. During 2023, Phase 1(b) human trials will be undertaken to test the efficacy of the vaccine against a malaria parasite challenge. *If PlasProtect® continues to perform well a critical trial in an endemic country may not be that far away.*

Our Challenge 22 goal is to raise \$300,000 to enable this research to happen—in essence to start saving the lives of those 627,000 children who die from malaria every year. Thank you again for your beautiful gifts to this work and please continue to help us.



Described by a guest as "A Thorn between two Roses." Ashmore's Science and Engineering Challenge Coordinator, Ian Wilson with Griffith University Students:

LEFT: Natalie Hughes

RIGHT: Shayna Spencer



The End of the Day: Students watching their Bridge Construction testing the durability of their Bridges. Assisted by

LEFT: In Red Cap: Ian Wilson

RIGHT: Standing: Bradley Francis

Member's Welfare

If you are aware of any member who is sick or is in need of help, please contact

Joan Adams on:

Mobile: 0401 255 883

Email: joanadms3@optusnet.com.au**Birthdays & Anniversaries****Happy Birthday**

to

Kim Storen on the 23rd of June