



District 1150

January 2019

# BRUIN

## Brecon Rotary Update, Information & News



### Purple for Polio bulb planting completed

Two thousand crocus bulbs have now been safely planted around Llangors lake in the villages of Talylyn, Llanfihangel Talylyn, Llangors and at Llangasty Village Hall. Due to the unseasonably warm weather the planting has gone smoothly and has been greatly appreciated by the local communities. As you can imagine, as the bulbs are being planted we receive lots of interest and when the purpose of the project is shared the responses are particularly heartwarming. Pleasure at the effort being made by Rotary to help brighten up the local environments and a “wow” response when describing the underlying purpose of the polio eradication project and the successes made worldwide. When the crocuses are up we will try and take some photos to share in BRUIN.

The photos show members of Llangors community planting their bulbs beside the main road through the village at the “triangle” and Gareth planting the bulbs on the banks of the stream close to the stone bridge where the community has recently planted a commemorative tree.

- Roger





## Community Chest awards December 2018

The closing date for applications for awards under the latest round of the Club's Community Chest scheme was 5 November 2018. Administering an initial grant of £2500, a panel consisting of Hayley, Cath, Roger, Pat, Carol, Neil and Mike Evans reviewed the ten applications at a meeting at the Castle Hotel on 5 December. Six awards were made totalling £2650. Hayley approved the shortfall of £150 as President of the Club, a decision ratified by members present at the Club's Christmas Dinner on 17 December.

Recipients of the awards were:

- \* Llanfaes CP School to enhance the outside learning area, especially for the use of younger children: £500
- \* Brecon Jazz Music Trust to provide a free public concert at the opening of the 2019 Brecon Jazz Festival: £200
- \* Watton Allotment Association to rebuild (using recycled plastic boards) raised beds for people who would find it difficult to manage a standard plot: £500
- \* Brecon Phoenix Boxing Club to purchase interlocking rubber matting/flooring for the revived club catering largely to young people: £500
- \* Llyswen and Boughrood Show to create an exhibition about the community to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the show in 2019: £450
- \* The Brecon Hive CIC to purchase materials and equipment to install (with help from Brecon College pupils) totem poles with a peace theme in the sensory garden: £500



Recipients attended the Club dinner on 14 January, during which Hayley presented them with their cheques.

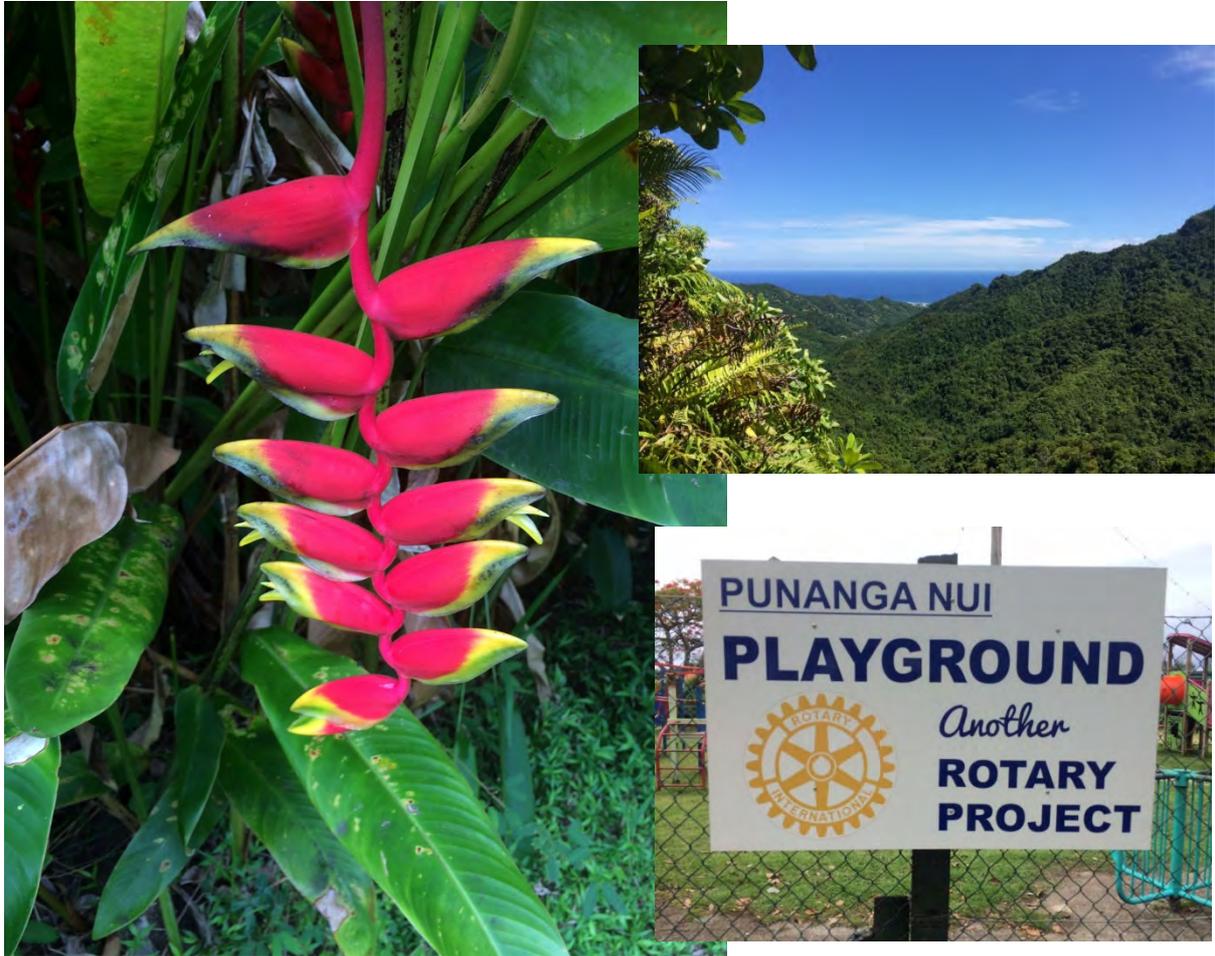


- Cath



## Andrew on the move – yet again

Rarotonga and arrival in Auckland



PRESIDENT – HAYLEY RIDGE-EVANS

VICE-PRESIDENT – NEIL SANDFORD

EDITOR – JEFF OPLAND

North Island, NZ



## Young musicians

Two exciting young musicians, both aged 15, came top of the class in the latest round of the Young Musician competition held at Gwernyfed High School. In front of a packed hall, Gabriel Kennedy came first in the instrumental section of the area final and Nia Roles won the vocal section. They will now go through to the district final covering the whole of South Wales.

Gabriel Kennedy is a pupil at Crickhowell High School and was sponsored by Crickhowell Rotary. In a commanding performance on the piano, he played the first movement of Beethoven's *Sonata in F Minor* followed by Paderewski's *Nocturne*. He played both pieces with no music in front of him.

Nia Roles, a pupil at Newbridge Comprehensive, was sponsored by Abertillery Rotary. A soprano, she sang *Oh my beloved father* by Puccini and *Defying Gravity* by Stephen Schwarz. The contrast between operatic song and musical theatre was striking and drew loud applause.

The adjudicators were Jayne Obradovic, a lecturer at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama; Lynne Griffin who is a well-known local singer and conductor of the Brecknock YFC Choir, and Geraint Davies, a composer and conductor.

- Glyn

Adjudicator Jayne Obradovic  
with winners Gabriel and Nia





## Speaker's corner

On 28 January our immediate Past President gave us an informative and entertaining talk (plus Powerpoint) about Lesotho (pronounced Lessootoo). He was in that country at the behest of the Welsh Government. Under Devolution Rules, the Welsh Assembly is allowed to give aid to other countries in kind but not cash. The purpose of Owen's 8-week stay in Lesotho was to examine the mental health system there, such as it is.

He said that Lesotho with its population of about 3 million and its green mountains is similar in those respects to Wales, and it supplies copious amounts of water to a neighbouring country, as we do too. He said that he found the people very friendly, and noticed that religion is a major factor in how they live. Unfortunately, this has led to a huge spread of HIV, since contraception is frowned upon. 25 per cent of the population is infected. The gap between the rulers and the ruled is huge: Owen showed us a picture of the Presidential Palace built by the Chinese and your typical hovel with outside WC for the masses. There is a king but his role is ceremonial. Noticeably, 4G reception is universal, along with much television viewing. Owen judged this as having a bad effect on social cohesion.

Owen explained the existing system for dealing with mental problems amongst the populace when there are no qualified psychologists. This included hitting people with sticks, which often led to epilepsy. The hospital wards we were shown were little more than prison cells. There were not enough people sufficiently trained to diagnose accurately those with mental problems; initially the potential patient was seen by the village medicine man. Owen said that he had had conversations with one of them who duly diagnosed him with a bad back and problems with his love life!



On a positive note, Owen said that the populace did a lot of singing and praying, and that there were big supermarkets where most of the things we westerners buy were

available. However, there was trouble with drugs and gangs and some places were no-go areas. His final comment “O Good Grief. How to Change???” was a convincing summing up.

- Peter



## Dates for the diary

4 February Business meeting  
11 February Dinner meeting  
18 February Fun night  
25 February Speaker meeting

## Speakers

25 February Brian Newman, My Himalayan trek  
25 March Jeff Opland, Living with apartheid  
8 April John Hopkins, Education in the UAE

## Bottle Rota

4 February Nick Morrell  
11 February Brian Newman  
18 February Jeff Opland  
25 February Maurice Parry



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Happy New Year to all!