



**Quote**

. "If a nation values anything more than freedom, it will lose its freedom." Somerset Maugham.

**Bruce's Banter**

**Last Monday. Caving.**

Justin Wikkinson, with help from Elly, Matt and Rachael, gave a very enlightening, engaging and informative presentation on caving. Besides the A/V presentation, Justin had many books, ropes etc which are an integral part of caving.

Alister gave a very concise and humorous introduction to Justin describing those who participate as part of an "underground organisation".

Ian gave a very interesting and novel vote of appreciation including asking Betty if she could contort a hanger over her body as that is the space you often have to negotiate. She could!

Thanks Justin, Elly, Matt and Rachael. A great presentation but I'm not a convert to caving!





### **Your Club.**

Epping Rotary is your Club. Please forward any ideas you have for a Monday night, a project or something new our Club can do or improve upon.

Also feel free to chat to our guests on a Monday night, especially early on arrival. Any member of your family and friends are always welcome.

It was great to welcome Bob Nash back, especially as he's looking so well. Bob has been a member of our Club for nearly 55 years, an amazing highlight, especially as he has been and continues to be, a significant contributor.

### **Next Monday. George Souris - AM.**

George has a very impressive CV. \* MP of Upper Hunter for 27 years including leader of the State National Party. It should be an interesting meeting.

- Born Gunnedah of migrant parents.
- TAS and rugby (represented Aust Universities, NSW Country and Australia U/23 - played for Gordon).
- Economics master at the Shore School.
- Accountancy practice in the Hunter Valley.
- Elected to NSW Parliament 1988 in the Greiner Landslide. Was a Minister in the Greiner, Fahey and O'Farrell governments over 27 years.
- Portfolios included Sport, Racing, Finance, Land and Water Conservation, Tourism, Liquor/Gaming Regulation, the Arts.  
Most difficult were, Sunday racing, banning ethnic flags at Soccer, float of the GIO, Irrigation, the Lock-Out Laws, the NSW/Victoria wars esp. in major events & racing,

Nowadays: -

- President of Library Council of NSW
- Director, Destination NSW
- Director, Business Events Sydney
- Director, Racing NSW
- Chair, NSW Mine Safety Council
- Trustee, SCG Heritage Trust
- Trustee, Sir Earle Page Memorial Trust

Previously: -

- Director, Australian Film Institute | Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts

- Director, Australian Rugby Foundation

Family: -

- Married to Vassy nearly 44 years, living in Singleton
- Two sons & daughters-in-law and 3.5 grandkids

Interests: -

- Rugby, Opera, Cinema and most sports and the performing and musical stage

**Bruce**

## Club Calendar

<b>Date</b>	<b>Speaker/Topic Mondays</b>	<b>Venue</b>
27 February	George Souris OAM. Ex leader NSW National Party, Board of Racing NSW, President NSW State Library	Epping Club
6 March	TBA	
13 March	Gateway High School. Theresa Colignon.	Epping Club
20 March	CCA. Heather, Peter and Toulia.	CCA office
27 March	Penny Wilkinson. CEO / Founder of The Overcomer's Place.	Epping Club
3 April	Deepak Gill. Working in Colombo plus Childhood Epilepsy.	Epping Club
10 April	Holiday – Easter	
26 June	Changeover	Epping Club
<b>Date</b>	<b>Other Events</b>	<b>Venue</b>
5 March	Clean up Australia Day 9:00am	Terrys Creek
17 March	District Conference	Cowra
27 May	Rotary International Conference	Melbourne
3-4 June	MUNA	
16-18 June	RYPEN	

## Clean up Australia Day - 5 March



Help tackle Australia's litter problem and sign up for Clean Up Australia Day 2023.

"Australians tell us every day that they are concerned about the world we live in but often feel frustrated and unsure of how to make a positive impact. Clean Up Australia Day is a great opportunity to work together and take practical action. Together we can make a real difference."

- Pip Kiernan, Chair of Clean Up Australia

The Rotary Club of Epping has registered the reach of Terrys Creek between Blaxland Road and Epping Road as a CUAD site. The activity is scheduled between 9.00 am and 12.00 noon on Sunday 5th March. Meeting place is Forrester Park opposite 120 Essex St Epping

A sausage sizzle will be available from 10.30 until 12.00 noon.

PPE (gloves and hand sanitizer) and collection bags will be available on the day,

We are hoping that local bushcare groups will assist. This reach has not been subject to a clean up for several years and is well overdue.

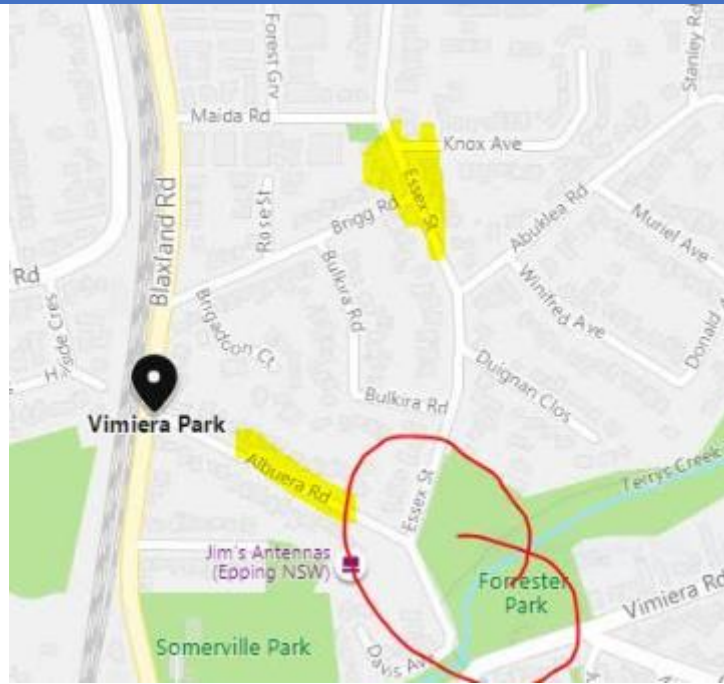
Please inform your group members of this activity. Friends and family of group members are welcome to attend

We need to submit a register of volunteers to CUA prior to the day, Please advise names of volunteers before 6.00pm Sunday 26th of February

Regards

**Alister Maclean**

The Rotary Club of Epping Environmental Officer  
Stanley Road Bushcare Group Coordinator





## Happy Birthday Rotary!

On 23 February 1905, 118 years ago, a Chicago USA lawyer, Paul Harris and three other men, Gustavus Loehr (a mining engineer), Hiram Shorey (a merchant tailor) and Silvester Schiele (a coal dealer) formed a club of business and professional men with a single object, friendship.

Since then, the world has seen this small group grow into our great organisation of Rotary International. Over those years approximately 3.5 to 4 million men and women across over 220 countries have embraced the original concept of friendship and added service to their cause.

To celebrate Rotary's Birthday our club will be donating \$5,000 to The Rotary Foundation - to global, district and relief grants and polio eradication. This amount represents the generous donation of royalties from the sale of his book, "Exploring Hidden Sydney" by our published author, historian and walker, Trevor McAlister. In addition to sales from bookstores, Trevor has been speaking at many Rotary and Probus clubs and other groups promoting and selling his book.

## Now Is The Time To Donate To The Rotary Foundation

Our world is faced with many disasters at present and our Rotary Foundation is already working with Rotarian in each area to provide assistance through Disaster Response Grants to Ukraine, Pakistan, Turkey and Syria.

Rotary International sets an exchange rate for each country each month and this month of February it is the best it has been for many months at 1.41 Aussie dollars per US dollar. It is expected that this rate will be less advantageous in March.

If members would like to make a donation to disaster relief, to Polio eradication or the general fund either go to [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org) or transfer funds to

Account name: The Australian Rotary Foundation Trust (TARFT)  
BSB: 342 011  
Account No: 663499001

Tax receipts and Paul Harris credits will be provided.

**Monica Saville**  
The Rotary Foundation Director

## Turkiye – Earthquake appeal

Earthquake in Turkiye and Syria Most devastating earthquakes taking 33 thousand lives to date with more expected! ShelterBox has hit the ground running with aid well on its way. Funds are urgently needed to continue to help these communities.

My job as an ambassador is to make contact with the Rotary Clubs in our district to make ShelterBox fundraiser at the forefront of their emergency donations

**Yours Kindly Johanna Johns District Representative ShelterBox Australia**



Dear ROTARY CLUBS OF DISTRICT 9685

Powerful earthquakes have ravaged southern Turkey and northern Syria, killing more than 3,500 people, and flattening buildings. Homes have been destroyed or left unsafe and people will have little choice but to sleep in the open in fear of more aftershocks.

**We're preparing to send an emergency response team to Turkey** in the coming days to find out what support is needed and if we're well placed to help. **A decision on sending the assessment team will be taken later today.**

We're speaking with our existing partners who we work with in Syria and Rotary contacts in Turkey to find out exactly what is needed and how we might get aid to where it is needed most if we respond.

**The first earthquake hit during the night under the cover of darkness and most people would have been at home asleep.** Another struck minutes later, with a third striking the same region hours later as the rescue effort was well under way.

Powerful aftershocks and poor winter weather are hampering rescue efforts. Temperatures can drop below freezing at this time of year in the affected areas and this will put lives at risk. **There was snowfall and heavy rain in the region before the earthquakes struck and this is likely to increase the humanitarian need in the region.**

To make matters worse, the region where the earthquakes struck is home to significant numbers of Syrian refugees and internally displaced people. They have already faced so much – many having to flee their homes because of conflict.

- ShelterBox has experience responding to earthquakes in Turkey before, most notably the 2011 Van earthquake. We also have an ongoing programme of work supporting people displaced by conflict in Syria, including the region affected by the earthquakes.

**Please donate today** to help ShelterBox provide lifesaving aid for families affected by disaster around the world. [Donate today to change lives](#)

Many thanks for your support  
**Mike Greenslade**  
CEO ShelterBox Australia

## **RIM ARTICLES**

Please send RIM articles to Alan at [alan.baker.om@gmail.com](mailto:alan.baker.om@gmail.com) or [rob@tosswill.com](mailto:rob@tosswill.com)

Articles should be submitted by Thursday afternoon

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