

Rotary

Club of Epping



29 November 2021

Co-Presidents' Corner



Virginia Haussegger AM was our guest speaker on Zoom on Monday night. An accomplished woman, Virginia began her presentation by talking about her experiences as a Rotary Exchange student to Mexicali in Mexico in 1981. It was an unsafe country, especially for a naive 16 year old student from Melbourne. From visiting shanty towns, travelling for 3 months with 3 other Australians, attending her first protest rally and being hosted by wealthy families whose money had most likely been gained through corrupt means, Virginia survived and enjoyed her time away. It was during her stay there, that she saw the disparity between men and women. Her year's exchange, Virginia says, was 'a real eye opener

about the way of the world' and had a significant impact on her life and career.

Virginia has had an amazing career as a journalist, working for the ABC as well as at other TV stations at different times. She spent time in Iraq interviewing Saddam Hussein's Ministers on Weapons of Mass Destruction. In more recent times, she travelled with Mahboba (founder of Mahboba's Promise) to Afghanistan and was involved in the making of the film 'Love Marriage in Kabul'.

After 15 years as an anchor on the ABC News in Canberra, Virginia left to head a new gender equality initiative, the '50/50 by 2030 Foundation' at the University of Canberra, where she is an Adjunct Professor. It is a research and advocacy foundation aiming to see women and men equally represented in leadership and key decision-making roles, at all levels of government and public administration throughout Australia. Only 25% of politicians around the world are women, with the percentage in Australia somewhat higher. Virginia believes that we already have the necessary legislation in place. Australia was the first country in the world to have a Sex Discrimination Act. Sharing some of the research on Australian men's and women's attitudes from all generations, in the research 'Girls to Men', were surprising and disappointing. The '50/50 by 2030 Foundation' is not just about research, but about translating research into material that can be taken up by the mainstream media, to create attention and action. Virginia was an inspirational speaker and I don't believe anyone minded that we went overtime listening to her talk to us and then answering the questions put forward. For those who missed out, you can Google Virginia and see what an inspirational woman she is.

Narelle

Next week

Our AGM will take place next Monday night, 6th December at the Epping Hotel. At the meeting, as well as reviewing the financials for the past year, we will be approving our updated by-laws and putting forward the nominations received for President and Directors 2022-2023. As a 'fun' incentive, for those attending at the hotel, there will be a **Lucky Door Prize**. We will also have a '**3 on Me**' when we will learn more about our fellow Rotarians. Come along and see who our 'mystery' speakers are! We look forward to as many members as possible attending, either at the Epping Hotel or on Zoom.

Epping Rotary Christmas Party – 13 December

Our Christmas party is coming up on 13th December. We hope all Rotarians and their partners will join in a night of fun! There'll be a prize for the best hat or headdress. A reminder to please RSVP to secretary@epping.org.au **by Thursday 9 December**. Prepayment for dinner would be appreciated. Thank you.



Rotarians, Partners and Friends

are invited to our

Christmas Party

on Monday 13 December, 6.00pm for 6.30pm

at The Epping Club, 45 Rawson St

Cost of Festive Dinner: \$45 pp

RSVP: secretary@epping.org.au - by Thursday 9 December

EFT payment in advance would be appreciated and can be made to:

Members Account

Acct no: 153118740

BSB 633000

Reference: Christmas Party – your name

Raffle tickets may be purchased on the night or with dinner payment via EFT -
1 ticket for \$5, 3 tickets for \$10 or 8 tickets for \$20.

Prizes given for the best Christmas hat or head dress!



All attendees are required to be double vaccinated.

Rotary
Club of Epping



Merry
Christmas

CCA Christmas Appeal

CCA has launched its Christmas Appeal. Trevor is kindly going to coordinate Epping Rotary's collection of presents for our community members in need, so please bring them along to the meeting next week or to our Christmas party on 13 December. The list of gifts from which to choose to buy for the various age groups are attached. Your donations are greatly appreciated.



Christmas Hampers Wish List

Each year CCA hosts a Christmas Hampers giveaway for the disadvantaged children, families and elderly in our community. Sadly, the statistics on the impact of Covid-19 indicated that thousands of Australian children will go without receiving a gift this Christmas, simply because they can't afford it.

You can help bring a smile to a disadvantaged child's face and help them to create a sense of belonging this Christmas. We **THANK YOU** in advance for your generosity!

Want to know more? contact us on 9858 3222 or email administration@ccas.org.au

0 – 5 year olds :

- Books
- Puzzles
- Dolls / Barbie
- Toy trucks
- Dolls that you do their hair or makeup
- Toys that replicate real things (ovens, pots and pans, vacuum)
- Learning toys for babies – rattles etc

5 -13 year olds :

- School lunch box and drink bottles
- Books
- Board games
- Backpacks
- Craft items
- Colouring in and puzzle books
- Skateboards, sports balls
- Makeup items
- Lego
- Fidgets
- Barbies or action figures
- School supplies

14 – 18year olds :

(we struggle a lot getting gifts for this age group)

- Backpacks
- Wallets
- Beach towels
- Sports equipment / balls
- Wallet
- Cosmetics
- Jewellery
- Clothing store vouchers

Personal items to add to hampers:

- Deodorants
- Nice soaps
- Hand cream
- Face cream
- Kids toothbrushes and paste
- Hairbrush
- Hairbands/accessories
- Perfume/aftershave

Food Items:

- Box of Chocolates
- Lollies for children
- Sauces and gravies
- Snacks like nuts and chips
- Canned fruits
- Jams
- Soft drink
- Juice
- Biscuits/crackers
- Coffee/tea
- Pancakes or cake mixes etc
- Canned meats

Experiences for all age groups:

- Movie tickets
- Pamper vouchers for hairdressers, massage, facials etc
- Zoo/aquarium tickets
- Swimming passes/Raging water tickets
- Shopping experiences – Children can go and choose something they want eg JB HI-Fi, Rebel Sport, Book shops, Kmart, clothing stores etc

Exhaustion Strikes Down Club Members

It was not age. Nor was it Covid. But last Monday night ranks attending the weekly meeting of the Epping Rotary Club had become decimated. It was the result of three days of concentrated good times. As one member reported, "Intense camaraderie can be exhausting. Being embraced as a welcome participant in the happiness happening around you is bl...dy hard work."

There is nothing quite like the joyful afterglow of a weekend away. It can linger for days. It can drive you to becoming even more committed than ever before to a group of people who call themselves Rotarians. Friendships become more meaningful and the resolve to participate in ongoing activities is enlivened. You feel needed and included and you want to respond in the best way you can.

One observer put it this way: "I always believed Rotarians to be a stuffy lot, intensely conservative, a little mad perhaps and embracing of ritual and the occasional human sacrifice." This person went on, "Having seen Epping Rotarians in their natural state, I now envy their dedication to their organisation, the fun they have together and their regard for the well-being of each other."

Of course, none of this comes without its cost and so it was that last Monday night, few managed to get along to the meeting. Overcome by sheer exhaustion, many were compelled to convalesce and seek the sanctuary of their own beds and armchairs. As one Rotarian explained, "My Godfrey had the best of intentions to attend tonight's meeting. He might have even *zoomed* but was overcome by the legacy of too much of a good time. He only managed to make it as far as the remote control before collapsing into his favourite chair. He fell asleep before the closing scenes of *"The Bold and the Beautiful"* and even missed seeing the headlines of the Channel 10 News."

For those organising the event, it was a relief and a joy to have achieved success. Despite the threat of appalling weather, fifteen dedicated souls were still determined to make the weekend a triumph even if it risked walking in the rain and sloshing up to their knees through creeks. As things turned out, none of this happened. Nobody was required to remove ticks from their hair or leeches from between their toes and the need for *Gortex* over trousers and a spare set of dry underwear never eventuated.

Weekends in the Blue Mountains never come easily and this one was certainly no exception. Planning began back in November 2020. First there were clashes with dates and other Club commitments. Then along came the second wave of Covid 19. Bookings that had seemed firm and rigid in February, were somewhat softer and more uncertain when March came around. Three different hotel bookings were made and then as businesses went into receivership, arrangements needed to be adjusted and adjusted again. Meanwhile the numbers of Rotarians resolving to attend, rose and fell like prices on the stock exchange.

But in the end, it all proved to be worthwhile. As one organiser put it, "I am so proud of my fellow Rotarians and those who ended up supporting the initiative of a social weekend away. I am absolutely certain that everyone had a great time. All those who came would have been glad they put caution to one side and were prepared to make the Club and the weekend away, a priority irrespective of the weather."

And as it turned out, we were lucky that the weather was not an issue and that the walks and the dining experiences gave everyone a positive and memorable time. If this is not the way Rotary builds Clubs, then tell me about a better alternative.

Trevor McAlister



This Weeks Rotary Walk

We were a small group (photo taken by Stephen Llewelyn), but we saw these beautiful wildflowers, later identified as being a trigger plant = *Stylidium graminifolium*.

Regards,

Susie and Stephen Llewelyn



Nepal Says Thank You

Last week I joined the Zoom meeting with Northlakes Toukley Rotary and the Rotary Club of Rudramati in Nepal to celebrate the donation of oxygen concentrators and medical equipment to their community.

The Nepalese Rotarians were very grateful for the generous financial support of a number of Clubs (including Epping) and individuals who had contributed to the Global Grant which enabled them to purchase \$42,000 of medical equipment which included 16 oxygen concentrators, personal protection equipment and other medical items for their local hospital and the birthing centre. The 16 oxygen concentrators enable 32 people to simultaneously receive life sustaining oxygen.

The donation received wide coverage in newspapers and on TV in Nepal.

Jan Pryor from Northlakes Toukley, who had coordinated the Rotary Foundation Global Grant, organised the Zoom meeting which was a fitting culmination of an excellent and life saving project.

Monica Saville
Rotary Foundation Director



District Governor's Message

As we approach the Festive Season, we wish you a safe and enjoyable holiday and look forward to a prosperous New Year. Where has the year gone? 59 Club visits and I am continually amazed at the work being done by Rotary Clubs, despite the challenges of 2021.

Thank you to Presidents who attended the combined meeting on Saturday 27 November. Also, thank you to the many Past District Governors and partners who attended a luncheon following the mornings meetings. I appreciate the support and encouragement from a big turnout at Hornsby RSL. This showed me the value of meeting in person, with great camaraderie between the Presidents and District Team members and there's a lot of collaboration happening that allows clubs to scale up their delivery of goodwill and service.



**It's time to book your place
at District Conference
March 18 – 19 2022, West HQ**

Early Bird discounted bookings end 31 Dec 2021.
Early Birds are in the draw to win
A Haier 121L Bar fridge, donated by Fisher & Paykel

This is the first time in 3 years we can come together. Please support your District and [Register Now!](#)

Conference Dinner is Friday evening March 18 and Saturday 19 will be an action-packed full day commencing with the NSW Police Band at 8.30am, finishing with relaxing Sundowners after 4.30pm. Visit the *Friendship Circle* to see Club Projects in action! Stay at the Novotel West HQ, Friday and Saturday and enjoy a weekend staycation at Rooty Hill.

As 2021 draws to a close, I hope you all find time to enjoy your family and time to relax. I plan to be sailing the Rolex Sydney to Hobart race on *Kialoa*

// <https://www.rolexsydneyhobart.com/>

Stay Safe

DG Lindsay n Tania

Lindsay May OAM

District Governor 2021-2022



RIM ARTICLES

Please send RIM articles to Alan at alan.baker.om@gmail.com or secretary@eppingrotary.org.au

Articles should be submitted by Thursday afternoon

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