

Rotary Club of Epping



**7 February
2022**

Co-Presidents' Corner

It was lovely to see so many of you on Monday, albeit on Zoom. The half hour of online fellowship was very lively and positively buzzing. We look forward to returning to face-to-face meetings on Monday 21st February.

Congratulations to Bob Nash who celebrated his 53rd anniversary as a Rotarian, what an innings! Also, many happy returns to Monica and Geoff Saville for their 60th Wedding Anniversary in January. They duly received congratulatory messages from the Queen, the Premier and a host of politicians.

Our speaker on Monday was Sarah Marshall, John Corney's daughter. Sarah was a Rotary Youth Exchange student several years ago, enjoying her stay in Sao Paolo, Brazil and learning Portuguese.

She gave us an enlightening insight into the operational workings of NSW Port Authority, which is responsible for the six ports of NSW: Yamba, Newcastle, Sydney, Botany, Port Kembla and Eden.

As General Manager of Operations, Sarah manages a staff of 75 employees whose responsibilities include the management of navigation, security and operational safety of commercial shipping in NSW. The team's work is 24/7, every day of the year. They are responsible for bringing the ships in and out of the ports and the management of associated risks and hazards, such as ladder climbing, weather and the safety of small recreational vessels which are hard to see from big ships.



They keep an eye on the ports through extensive use of monitoring cameras. They also work closely with Fire & Rescue, Water Police and Transport for NSW to deal with emergencies such as fire, marine pollution, and major incidents.

Toula

Monday's Speaker



Please join us on Monday to hear from a true local.

Melony Smirniotis is an established artist and a highly respected member of the North Epping community. In 2019 she resigned as a part-time high school art teacher to become a full-time artist. She had the family pool removed and built an art gallery and studio in the backyard.

In September 2019, she established Gallery 11:11, which hosts exhibitions and workshops, providing the community with a positive space to learn, teach and create artworks alongside like-minded individuals.

Melony has organised 20 exhibitions and over 120 workshops, all with the intention of connecting the community to art, via an inclusive and positive experience. She was a recipient of the Bendigo Bank's Community Awards for 2021.

Toula

2022 Club Program			
Date	Speaker	Topic	Location
Monday, February 14, 2022	-AGM -Melony Smirniotis	Award-winning local artist and Gallery owner	Zoom
Monday, February 21, 2022	Nick Hubble	Chief Operating Officer Sydney Olympic Park	Epping Hotel
Saturday, February 26, 2022	Paramatta Walk	Trevor Organising	Paramatta
Monday, February 28, 2022	To be decided	3 On Me	Epping Hotel
Sunday, March 06, 2022	N/A	Clean-up Australia	To be decided
Monday, March 07, 2022	Youth Night	Celebration of Youth	Epping Club
Saturday, March 12, 2022	Cocktail Party?	Fundraising for the Philippines project	Meadowbank
Monday, March 14, 2022	Dr. Mayada Kayali	President, Women's International Club, Canberra	Epping Hotel
Saturday, March 19, 2022	District Conference	District 9685	Rooty Hill RSL

You are Invited - Paramatta Walk – 26 February

in fact, all Rotarians and their friends and families are invited to participate in a leisurely walk through the Parramatta area. You will enjoy the exercise, the camaraderie of fellow Rotarians and see a little of the history of the Colony's Second Settlement.

When? Saturday 26th February

Meet outside the Darcy Street entrance to Parramatta Station at 9.30am OR

Meet outside the Tudor Gate of Parramatta Park (corner O'Connell and George Streets) at 11.15am. This is where we will be having morning tea.

Bring a sandwich, snacks and a drink for lunch in Parramatta Park.

Finish back at Parramatta Station 1.30pm with an optional extension to visit Australia's oldest (European) grave.

Getting there. By train is the easiest. Parking is tricky. Parramatta Park is always available but limited to 1 – 3 hours.

PLEASE Email me on temcalister@optusnet.com.au or text me on 0449 126 896 if you are intending to come along (morning or afternoon or both). This is important as I need to be able to advise you of any last-minute changes to the arrangements.

Thank you, Trevor

North Epping Community Gardens – Project Completed

The partnership between Epping Rotary and North Epping PS to redevelop the Community Garden has been completed. The project included constructing 11 new large planter boxes, installing a large garden shed with concrete floor and shelving, constructing 2 greenhouses and large compost bins, making an orchard of 5 fruit trees and constructing 5 large outdoor tables for student/class activities.

The project was funded by the Commonwealth Government's Building Stronger Communities Grant of \$20,000 plus a Rotary District Grant and local club members of \$7,000. I wish to thank all the school personnel, parents and Rotarians who assisted in the working bees to ensure the project was a success. There will be an official opening later in February by the local Federal MP Mr John Alexander.

May I thank the whole Epping Rotary club members for your support and practical assistance over the last 9 months. In particular I want to thank the following key people: Trevor McAlister for his design and constructing skills and his support and guidance; Stephen Llewlyn for his horticultural advice and practical gardening work; Alan Cunningham for his assistance in design and building and gardening contribution; Betty Ockerlander for her generous financial contribution that has ensured we could purchase high quality tables and chairs. Lastly to Narelle, Toulia, Susie and Bruce for their ongoing strong support of the project.

Peter Garrard





RYLA & RYPEN

In the fast-moving world of information about events within our District, we need to clarify the situation with two of our District programs which are of such great value to our young people in the District. Obviously the pandemic continues to affect events, and thus, there are two announcements from the respective Chairs for these events.

1. Rotary Youth Leadership Awards 2022

It was extremely disappointing that we could not proceed with the January 2022 RYLA Program due to COVID concerns and therefore had to make the decision to postpone the program.

I am excited to report, however, that we had a great response with just under 100 applications received with 75 confirmed sponsored applicants, we only had four applicants that we could not place with Clubs. We have now completed discussions with service/facility providers and have decided to transfer the program to the pre-booked RYLA dates for 2023 being Sunday 08.01.2023 to Saturday 14.01.2023. I can also report that all deposits paid to facility providers will be transferred over to the new dates without loss or penalty.

The facilitators will re-confirm with the RYLarians commencing August 2022 their availability to attend the 2023 program, this information will then be shared and progressed with the sponsoring Clubs. Many of the Clubs had paid the sponsorship fees for their respective candidates and it is proposed that we hold these funds in the District designated RYLA account until the 2023 program and simply pick up where we left off. However, in the event a sponsoring Club has a particular circumstance where this arrangement may not be suitable we are happy to work with Clubs on a one on one basis and where necessary process a refund. Those members who had registered to attend the Tuesday Night Cocktail Event through Trybooking will be refunded their entry fee.

We really appreciate the ongoing support and assistance provided by all participating Clubs, thank you in advance

Liz North
RYLA

2. Rotary Youth Program of Enrichment (RYPEN) - Winter RYPEN

It is with saddened hearts that the Winter RYPEN committee have decided in the current climate we have to again postpone the Winter RYPEN camp to next year.

This was not an easy decision and we laboured over many alternatives but feel this is our best option. I am happy to go into details of all things considered if you would like this but in the first instance I just wanted you all informed if this decision.

Amanda Barnes
RYPEN

Cheers
Bruce

Changeover / 60th Anniversary - June 25.

While still to be confirmed, our 60 th Anniversary, is most likely to be the evening of Saturday 25 June at The Epping Club.

Tentatively put this in your diary, with confirmation in coming weeks.

Bruce

District Governor's Message – 5 February

For those who ever thought that their goal was too far to stretch, I have two syllables of encouragement; 'Bar-ty' and 'Ra-Fa'.

I was amazed at Ash Barty's recovery from down 1:5 and on Sunday night turned the TV off when Nadal lost a game in the third set, thinking there was no Ash Barty success to happen here.

Like you, the next morning I couldn't believe what I was reading on my iPad. "Nadal's amazing win". Surely it was an old story about another epic battle in past years.

But NO. How could he have overcome the youthful Medvedev, ten years his junior, who had hardly raised a sweat in the opening two hours?

So, we're in February with 5 months to go and we still have 41% of the year to achieve our goals.

Yes, COVID has been an inhibiting factor, but I continued to be amazed at the resilience and flexibility of our members.

Australia Day was an example.

The National Australia Day Council were late in giving Rotary the go ahead for grants to enable clubs to plan and implement Australia Day events.

However small committees worked through the festive and holiday season and pulled off some stunning Australia Day activities where all were able to Reflect, Respect and Celebrate.

Tania and my observation on visiting six activities in the lower north shore and northwest was great interaction with the public and a respectful acknowledgment of our indigenous heritage that suggests a strong base upon which to move forward.

My involvement was very much on the periphery but acknowledge the sharing of knowledge from last year's participants and will mention; Phil Isaacs (Upper Blue Mountains), Michele Ellery (Lower Blue Mountains) and Trudy Stevenson (Carlingford) who were of immense help to the newcomers in bringing them up to speed and sharing tips and contacts. I'm not yet fully across all clubs that took up the challenge, but I hear that the day was very successful, generated membership leads, donations and strong outreach into the community.

Announcements from the Governor General bring congratulations to Sue O'Neill OAM (Brisbane Water) and Berowra honorary member Commissioner Shane Fitzsimmons on his elevation to AO to complement his AFSM.

We have hundreds of Rotarians in D9685 who should be recognised with an Australian Honour. Here's the link <https://www.gg.gov.au/australian-honours-and-awards/nominate-someone-award> Let's get cracking and start submitting nominations and see many more recognised.

Our next milestone event is **District Conference**. Right now, the dilemma is to hold a face to face event March 18-19? There's strong support to proceed given the venue requires; vaccination evidence, mask wearing, social distancing and is providing a 1500 seat auditorium for our Saturday sessions Tell us how you feel – show us your support!

You can make your position count by registering for conference today.

There's a full refund if we cancel and your registration will assist in our decision making.

Go to <https://navigatingchange2022.wordpress.com/> and vote with your registration.

Thank you

Conference Keynote speaker Dr Daniel Nour, was named Young Australian of the Year 2022 and we also confirm Professor Veena Sahajwalla, 2022 NSW Australian of the Year on the program.

Membership took a hit at 31 December with 26 members leaving D9685. We are still up on 1 July 21 which is encouraging given the challenges of the pandemic and hopefully as we come out of isolation, we will see a significant boost in new members. Remember: if you don't ask you don't get.

Great Polio Train Ride 23 February. On 31st January, it was decided that we will not undertake the train ride due to COVID restrictions, but feverish activity has started to morph this into a virtual event that will cover NSW. Conceptually every Rotarian will be encouraged to visit their local train station or even remote maybe disused stations, take a selfie and post to a website and make a polio donation through *Raise for Rotary*.

We seek your support as individual donors and for clubs suggest \$1850 as \$10 per station in the Sydney network.

I'm excited to report D9685 leads Australia in **Rotary Foundation support** this year and we are the #8 WORLDWIDE implementing Global Grants! However, in Polio giving we're tracking a little behind last year, so February 23 is a great opportunity to boost our Polio contributions and put D9685 back in the #1 spot.

Given the uncertainty and the drop in numbers and the restrictions on meeting face to face, we might feel like we're two sets down or facing 1:5 against, but just imagine you're Rafa or Ash.

We can come back from the brink and finish 2021-22 on a high.

Stay safe and resilient.

DG Lindsay n Tania

Lindsay May OAM

District Governor 2021-2022

District Conference



Rotary District 9685 Conference
18-19 March 2022
West HQ, Rooty Hill

Rotary
New South Wales

Navigating Change

Guest Speakers

- Prof. Dominic Douzer
- Prof. Veena Sahasrabudhe
- Sophie Ford
- Prof. Andrew Skidmore
- Dr. Daniel Nour
- Jessie Hamman

Dinner Friday Night Project Showcase Stay onsite at Novotel

Register Now

bit.ly/navigatingchange2022

All members are strongly encouraged to attend the District Conference, which is planned in West HQ, Rooty Hill on 18/19 March 2022.

An optional extra is the Friday night dinner and stay in an adjacent hotel. A group of us are already committed and it should be an informative and fun weekend for all. A registration package has been organised and includes discounted rates for Early Bird registration until 31 December 2022.

I have summarised the options in the table below. For more information, please navigate to the [Registration Website](#)

		Rates
Friday 18 March	Friday Night Dinner	\$99
Saturday 19 March	Conference <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opened by NSW Police Band • High action, fast paced presentations • Leading speakers in their field • Long breaks to visit your Project Showcase • Closed with Sundowners 	\$199
Accommodation at Novotel Sydney West HQ	Please call 9832 3888 and quote booking code ROTA2022	

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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