

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF NORTH SYDNEY



CHARTERED 16TH AUGUST 1928. CLUB NO. 18035, DISTRICT 9685.

(Please Note: No meeting on the last Thursday of each month). ISSUE NO 4043 Thursday 15th October 2020



President's Message:

Dear Rotarians,

At last week's meeting we all enjoyed the company of our guest speaker Jilly Gibson, Mayor of North Sydney. It was a casual affair with Jilly giving us many observations of the goings on in the North Sydney area and specifically about future planning for the area. The NSW government have issued a Plan of Management for Greater Sydney for Councils to investigate and plan for a greater population and to plan for the needs of such. We discussed high rise developments and the need to change some policies in regard to certain groups of people habitating in these high rise buildings. Such as, more car spaces, bigger apartments, better parking zones and the need for more green spaces.

Jilly also spoke of the latest decisions re the Harbour Tunnel and Council's objections to some of the planning especially in traffic changes. Jilly's visit highlighted the importance and need of good governance in our local areas.

Thank you to members who donated towards World Polio Day and we will pass the

envelope around again for those who were not present. Thank you to Lily C for donating the guest wine. Ross has sent the dates for the rest of the year and please be thinking about a President for 2021! It was lovely to receive messages from Marc and Alexandre and to read about their exploits. It only seems like yesterday that we were entertaining them. Next week we will welcome Jeff McDougal as our guest speaker.

Take care

Toni Field OAM

Board Members for Rotary year 2020-2021

President: Toni Field OAM **Secretary:** Tony d'Arbon **Treasurer:** Doug Garner
Administration: Ross Waugh **Youth Counsellor:** David Field
Community Service, Membership: Jenny Thomas OAM **Public Relations:** Lily Clarke
International Service: Samantha Lee & Jiji Lee, **Youth Service:** Peter Lulic
Vocational Service: Geoff Pritchard OAM **Speaker Program:** David Field
District Conference/Verification Officer: Denis Booth **Bulletin Editor:** Mal Sharpe

Acknowledgement of Country.

The Rotary Club of Nth Sydney acknowledges the Cammeraygal people on whose land we meet each week and continues to foster friendship and service to the community. We pay our respect to past and present elders.



www.facebook.com/rotarynorthsydney/



"For Good Food, Good Fellowship and the Opportunity to serve through Rotary, we give thanks".



Marc Antoine /ex exchange student

Hello guys, it's been a very long time. 10 years actually. I hope you are all doing very well. For the past 10 years, many good things happened to me and I have been thinking of you a lot, because all those good things mostly happened because of you, The Rotary Club of North Sydney.

When I went back home in July 2011, I first started to enjoy two months of holidays before starting at a jockey's school in September 2011. It had been a difficult year and for many reasons I decided to stop after a year. I grew up a lot during that year, and I became too tall physically to become a jockey. Plus, I had a new perspective on life. After spending a year in Australia, I wanted to get a job that would allow me to travel. And when you are a jockey it's not the case, you work 7 days a week, with no holidays and you don't have time for you. So after a year as a young jockey, I decided to leave horse racing behind.

I was looking towards a new goal : becoming a sports reporter. A job that would allow me to travel. I entered a university in Angers, a small city not far from my hometown of Nantes. I spent 3 very good years there, studying communication and information. During those 3 years, I got the chance to leave for Canada, where I spent a semester abroad . I did 6 months studying mostly journalism at the University of Regina. 6 wonderful months where I've met so many nice people from so many different countries. It reminded me a lot of what I have experienced in Australia. That's what I was looking for. After those 6 months in Regina (Saskatwechan) I came back to France to finish university. After 3 years in this University in France, I decided to try to enter into a school of journalism in Paris for my master. I applied and did the test. I got accepted so I moved to Paris for 2 more years. During those 2 years, I studied sports journalism. During summer break, I was working at Roland Garros, the French Tennis Open, where I got the chance to meet and travel with David and Toni ! We had some great days in Paris together. During my (long) summer break, I was traveling as much as I could for 5 years.



One summer, I went back to Canada, in Quebec, to meet with Dominic, a Canadian exchange student I'd met during my year with you guys in Australia. Together we have travelled Quebec for 3 weeks. Another summer, I went to New Caledonia to visit my best friend. I don't know if you guys remember, but I stopped on the way to Sydney where I had a spent couple days catching up with my host families and with some of you. So after 5 years of studying journalism (3 in Angers and 2 in Paris for the master), I was finally ready to face the adult world ! I've found in August 2017 a 6 months internship in Biarritz in a surfing magazine (the only one that exists in France, called Surf Session Magazine). I've done 6 months there as my final and last internship ever. And lucky me, they decided to hire me in January 2018 and in this same surfing magazine I became a full time sports journalist.

Since then, I'm still living in Biarritz, in the south west part of France, in the Basque Country. And today, I'm still working for this magazine. I'm in charge of the website (surfsession.com) but I'm also in charge of the social media and I help my chief editor with the magazine. I mostly write articles, do interviews, and do some videos. I'm also currently buying a flat here in Biarritz. I love this place. Located next to the Spanish border, the Basque Country is stuck between the ocean and the mountains. It's a great place to surf, ski in winter and hike. It's where I belong for the moment, enjoying life in the wild, far away from big cities that are not suitable for me anymore. I need the forest, I need the ocean and I need the mountains. It's where I feel the best. I'm planning to work here one or two more years, in order to save some money. I'm 27, 28 in November, and my dream today is to travel the world for at least a year with my backpack. I realized how much I love traveling. But every time I travelled, I had a return ticket. That was the case in Australia, in Canada and every other time I've been lucky to travel.

Marc Antoine /ex exchange student continued

Today, I want to experience a long time travel, with no return ticket. I still need some money for that, that's why I'm planning to work one more year or two. I would love to hit the road again for my 30th birthday. I want to go to Asia to work on my spiritual character, but also in Africa and in Alaska. I feel, deep inside me, that I won't be able to stabilize myself with a wife and kids, until I've done this spiritual journey. I'm very excited about it. I forgot to mention that two years ago, Alex and Caroline Lee, my second host family from Mosman, came to visit me with Pi, Indie and Felix here in Biarritz. It was a great time. I want to take this opportunity guys to say thank you. Thank you because I live today a very happy life. I'm lucky enough to have a job. A job I like that allows me to travel (well, before the Covid at least). I'm quite happy with the person I became and this is mostly because of you. As I said to David already many times, I owed you everything of what I have become today, and the life I have. I'll never forget that in July 2010, you welcomed me into your club, in your community, a 17 years old French boy that couldn't speak a word of English.

More than 10 years later, I'm working as a sports reporter, I speak English everyday, I get to travel and I'm having a great life. Thanks again for everything. Thanks for everything you have given me. I'll never forget you and I'll forever be grateful for everything you gave me. I hope from the bottom of my heart that you are all doing very well. I hope that your families are doing well. Keep the great job, you have inspired me a lot. Take care everyone, and hopefully see you all very soon. Marc, the French boy that misses you.

Here is my last video where you can see me ;)

<https://www.surfsession.com/videos-surf/surf-session-tv/un-jour-adrien-toyon-825207243.html>

Marc-Antoine GUET

Journaliste chez Surf Session Magazine

Alexandre Roberge /ex exchange student 2011-2012

Hello dear Rotarians of North Sydney!

What happened to me in the last 8 years? Well, quite a lot. If we go back to 2012, I remember being a little bit disoriented when I came back to Canada (driving in a different direction, thinking and speaking in English instead of French, etc.). I enjoyed the rest of the summer before starting college (a step between high school and university, we call it CEGEP in Québec). I decided to study science because that's what was more interesting to me at that time. It took me two years to graduate and then I chose to get a degree in biology. I had a teacher who inspired me to become a teacher like him, but I still had the idea to become a veterinarian in the back of my head. I thought maybe I could do a year of biology and then jump to vet the next year, but eventually I decided that I will stay in biology.

In the second year of my degree, I had a superb opportunity to travel to Peru and Bolivia for a month with a small group of students. We explored various regions of these countries, and not necessarily touristic ones, to learn how people over there work toward the conservation of biodiversity. Peru and Bolivia each have thousands and thousands of different species and a lot are endangered. One of my greatest memories from that trip is when we flew over the Andes, the view was simply breathtaking. Huge snowy mountains separating a desert and a jungle.

A year later, I graduated in 2017. It was a great moment of pride to share with my friends I made along the way and my family. I decided to go even further and I started a masters in environmental studies. I learned many new things in other fields related to biology (geology, geography and geomatics). As my personal research project, I did an analysis of the habitat quality for the white-tailed deer in a certain region of Québec (Sainte-Germaine-du-Lac-Échemin). I graduated in the beginning of 2019 and that is the end of my studies.

Alexandre Roberge /ex exchange student continued

As for my employment over the past 8 years, I had a few jobs. During college, I worked in grocery stores in the fruits & vegetables and bakery departments. While studying biology, I had a job for the 3 summers between the semesters at a zoo (Zoo Sauvage de St-Félicien). I was a guide for the visitors and a “train” driver (people get to visit a huge enclosure with 15 species and I drove them around commenting on animals). But for the following year at the same time as my masters, I worked part-time in a warehouse, packing boxes. Very boring, but it pays the bills. After I received my masters, then a 2 months contract for the government of Québec to standardize their exotic plants database. Then I continued to work in the warehouse until I got an offer from the zoo to become a zookeeper. For 4-5 months, I took care of grizzlies, cougars, lynx, coyotes, mountain goats and many more. It was the best job I ever had. The downside, it’s a seasonal job and the salary is low. I was unemployed for 4 months from november 2019 to February 2020. For more stability, I chose to apply to other jobs everywhere. I had a few interviews and I ended up in the Old Age Security for the government of Canada. Basically, I analyse demands for pensions and determine how the monthly payment should be. I got the job just before the pandemic started. With this job, I can have a good pay, good work conditions and I can stay in Quebec City close to my family and friends.

I met my current girlfriend, Camille, in 2015 and we moved in together in 2018. She works in a vet clinic as an assistant to the vet. We share our apartment with a lovely cat. As for hobbies, I started snowboarding 7 years ago and I recently got into the boardgaming world (it’s much much more than Monopoly and Clue). It’s kinda becoming a passion for me. In 2-3 years, I have bought around 50 board games and I don’t think it will stop.

I will finish with what my exchange year in Australia has helped me in my life. Adaptability, Shyness and English. The latter one is quite obvious. My English might not be perfect, but I would say that more than half of the things I read are in English. 90% of the movies and the TV series I watch are in English. It isn’t a barrier for me anymore, but a tool of a better understanding. For my shyness, well, I can’t change and become an extrovert person, but when it is needed I’m less “afraid” (not in the sense of phobia) to talk to people. That way, I won’t miss certain opportunities and I can get help when it is required. And my adaptability can be counted as one of my strengths now. The pandemic has tested it more than one time. Not only at home, but at work too. It is greatly appreciated by everyone for how I can change my way of working or to do certain things or following the emergency sanitary rules. Surely, my year in Australia wasn’t a waste of my time and you all have helped me in many ways to be a greater person in this world and I will always be thankful for what you did for me. Merci beaucoup!

As everyone might say to you, stay safe and wear the mask.

Your ex-exchange student from 2011-2012,

Alexandre Roberge

My girlfriend and me doing camping, September 28, 2020
(with my OZ hat!!)



Last of Photos From the Farm Day Out







Upcoming Events for your diary

Date	Speaker	Subject
15th October	Jeff McDougall	Being a safe senior driver and keeping your drivers license
29th October	TBA	
12th November	TBA	
26th November	TBA	Includes Board Meeting
10th December	TBA	Includes Annual General Meeting

Unless advised all meetings will be held at the Xenos Restaurant Crows Nest.



Date	Birthdays	Date	Anniversaries
6th October	Samantha Lee		Nil

Date	Front Desk & Room Set Up Attendance Required from 12:00pm
	Lily will do all other dates and will ask a member if she is going to be absent.

Rotary International Zone 8 Public Image

PUBLIC IMAGE NEWSLETTER

Connecting and Inspiring!

Volume 3 Issue 2 September 2020



Getting the Recognition we Deserve

As a Rotarian it is always disappointing and frustrating when the media features an article about a project or program that Rotary has instigated or run without acknowledging the significant contribution made by our organisation. In most instances it's not the fault of the Rotarians involved, as they provide the relevant background information and visuals to accompany the story, but the newspapers or television stations choose not to include it—and all we can do is lament another opportunity that has been lost to promote the name "Rotary" to the wider community.

It was very gratifying, therefore, to hear Rotary acknowledged for its involvement in the End Polio Now initiative when the world media recently announced that the African Region is now free of the wild polio virus. The following report was released by Rotary International last week.

Rotary media coverage report: African region wild polio-free certification

Rotary and its members received significant positive coverage in leading media outlets for our leadership in eradicating wild polio in the African region, with our spokespeople quoted frequently.

Our global media strategy enabled Rotary to be mentioned in coverage throughout the African continent and in top international outlets, as well as coverage in priority countries such as the United

States, Germany, Australia, Canada, and India. Of course, Rotary wasn't in every single media report, but was mentioned in a substantial majority. In many instances, Rotary and WHO were the only Global Polio Eradication Initiative partners mentioned.

Here are some highlights:

Leading media outlets around the world published more than 90 stories that highlighted Rotary's role in eradicating wild polio in the African region, with the majority of coverage quoting Rotary spokespeople, including Rotary International President Holger Knaack, Nigeria National PolioPlus Committee Chair Dr. Tunji Funsho, and others.

A joint op-ed by Rotary International President Holger Knaack and WHO Director-General Tedros was published in at least 10 outlets, including top-tier outlets like Al Jazeera, Frankfurter Allgemeine, and

Die Welt.

Rotary Public Image Coordinators (RPICs) throughout Africa were instrumental in securing additional media coverage of the milestone. Working with members of the Public Relations team, RPICs and other Rotarians with media expertise secured over 80 pieces of coverage in Africa and Europe.

Efforts to provide Rotarians globally with a toolkit promote the milestone in their communities resulted in further global coverage, including extensive coverage in the UK.

Social media posts on Rotary's channels reached 4 million people and resulted in 517,000 video views and 93,000 likes/comments/shares. Celebrities like John Cena, Ade Adepitan and Itzhak Perlman posted and tagged Rotary on social media. Between 25-27 August, Rotary was mentioned more than 22,000 times on Twitter and Instagram.



World Media Outlets reporting on African polio-free certification

Upcoming Events for your diary

Next Board Meeting ... 26th November



You can now download the COVIDSafe App which has been designed to quickly trace outbreaks of the virus.

Downloading the App is completely voluntary. Check the website for full details



Visitors & Apologies for 1st October 2020

Guest Speaker:

Jilly Gibson Honorary Member & Mayor of North Sydney

Visitors:

Alacoque Welsh Rotary E Club of Greater Sydney

Honorary Member:

Brendan Walsh

Zoom:

Tony d'Arbon

Leave of Absence:

Apologies:

Philip Brook

Jiji Lee

Lily Lee

Samantha Lee

Peter Lulic

Elaine Newman

Ken Pratt

We are grateful to: Rotary Club of North Sydney Supporters



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The People Who Care’**