

OUR PROGRAM THIS WEEK

The Official Visit of District Governor Susan Wakefield OAM

Chairman: President Adrian Bell

Reporter: Phil Stanton

DG Susan was invited to join the Rotary club of Lower Blue Mountains in 2007 after being involved in Rotary Youth Exchange as a host parent and counsellor with husband PDG John Wakefield OAM. Susan has held positions as club President and both club and District roles as District chairman of the Australian Rotary Health Fund in D9690 as well as the District Community Service Chair in D9690 and the District international Service chair in both D9690 and D9685.

In her business life she has been a Plainclothes Policewoman, Department manager in a retail Store and the Financial Officer for a Foster Care Organisation. Susan has been a senior Girl Guide Leader with over 35 years of leading young women and adults. She has been the international advisor at State Level and the Australian International Commissioner for Girl Guides Australia.

Susan was awarded the medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for her services to the Girl Guide movement in Australia. She has also received the Jean Harris award and is a Paul Harris Fellow (3 Sapphires).

Susan enjoys international travel and has taken groups of Girl Guides to guiding events in Finland and India. She has also taken a group of guiding adults to visit the Girl Guide World centres in Mexico, Switzerland, United Kingdom and India. She has also taken part in a Friendship exchange to Brazil and attended the Polio national immunisation Day in India with her husband, John, and five members of the Rotary Club of Lower Blue Mountains. Susan has attended Rotary International conventions in Australia and overseas.

Susan and John have enjoyed a long and happy marriage and their son, daughter-in-law and three grandsons live in Norway.




ROTARY CLUB OF
PENNANT HILLS

Chartered March 14, 1960



Rotary
District 9685



CLUB CONTACT INFORMATION

PHONE ENQUIRIES:

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TO NOTIFY MEETING
APOLOGIES &
GUESTS:

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before Noon on

Saturday



OUR MEETING NEXT WEEK

MONDAY 21st JANUARY at PENNANT HILLS HOTEL

Final Planning for our Australia Day Meeting

SPEAKER: PHIL STANTON

CHAIRMAN: PRESIDENT ADRIAN

REPORTER: PAM HUDSON

MEETING REPORT FOR LAST WEEK

Our first meeting for the year in the Pennant Hills Hotel began with members eagerly paying their dues of \$300.00 on the ever-reliable credit card machine. Theo was the first to pay and spent the rest of the night gloating about it. For those of you who would like to do an Internet transaction the BSB is 032 087 and the Account Number is 334 578.

President Adrian opened the meeting at 7.30pm and gave a raving review of the “awesome” Christmas dinner at his home. The power failure that day was met with Adrian’s personal generator which kept the meat in an edible state. There were leftovers for the next 4 days and there were complaints from the members that they were not invited back for a second feast. However, Adrian is more than happy to lend out his 2 k watt generator to anyone in need.

John Ellis reported that from a Club meeting before Christmas, we arranged for Connor McLellan to attend RYLA from 13 to 19 January. Later, District asked if we could sponsor Megan Dixon who applied for RYLA but had not arranged a sponsoring club. This we agreed to do. John has interviewed both Megan and Connor and will arrange to get them to RYLA next Sunday. Also, next week Matthew Pines will go to Melbourne to join the ‘Young Endeavour’ for the voyage from Melbourne to Sydney. Jared Tong left to join NYSF on Monday 7th January. Kaye Carter and John Ellis will attend the RYLA dinner on Tuesday 15 January. Connor was also paid \$500 to support his volunteer work.

Theo Glockemann reported that on 30th January, the new director for RYPEN in Dili is coming to Sydney and staying with Theo. He will be attending our District 9685 RYPEN to gain additional knowledge he can apply in Timor Leste.

President Adrian informed the meeting that the District Governor Susan Wakefield is attending our meeting next Monday for her official visit. Some members expressed their desire to ask some pertinent and challenging questions of the District Governor. An animated discussion followed which centred on the payment of royalties to RI for Pride of Workmanship project sales. The President decided that the semi annual report should be submitted to RI Licencing by the 15th January as was requested. Theo G dissented.

Our President was the main speaker for the night. He gave a stimulating talk on Solar Panels and Solar Energy. He enthusiastically explained the merits and pitfalls of PV Solar Systems. This was accompanied by artistically designed flowcharts that simplified the link between solar panels and the much-needed battery, that would create the most efficient and profitable system.

Reporter: Kaye Carter

A SUMMARY OF OUR YOUTH PROGRAM IN 2018-19 TO DATE

This year with PP John Ellis once again as our Youth Service Chairman, we have continued our involvement with Pennant Hills High School. This is not necessarily an easy task with the response from the school somewhat reluctant at times. However John has persevered so that, to date, we have selected Matthew Pines to go on our annual ‘Young Endeavour’ award; Jared Tong has been sponsored to National Youth Science Forum; 2 students have been selected for RYPEN this year; and we have sponsored Megan Dixon and Connor McLellan to attend RYLA this month. John Ellis presented 2 citizenship prizes to students at the High School Presentation Night held recently. And not to forget our \$500 sponsorship of Taran McDermid who went on an aerospace excursion to NASA in September/October plus the trailer raffle funds raised for St Lucy’s School, Wahroonga.



ROTARY TOAST

Rotary Club of Lower Blue Mountains, NSW District 9685 (Chartered 2nd November, 1968) President Michelle Fisher and their 58 members.

The club was originally chartered as the Rotary Club of Blaxland-Springwood, however it now has a number of activities centred on Glenbrook. The club has a proud history of community service in their area, particularly following bush fires.

Their major projects include Ride4Kidz which raises funds for projects overseas including schools in Cambodia, one in Goroka, Papua New Guinea, and Mt Sion Centre for the Blind, also in Goroka. They also conduct a Farmers & Fine Food Market on the 1st Saturday each month and a General & Handmade Market on the 3rd Saturday each month.

At present they are preparing for their major event each year—their 2019 Australia Day Gnome Convention. They are planning for about 8,000 visitors on the day with 100 market & food stalls, live entertainment, 2,000 gnomes on display, and train rides and jumping castles for children.



**PRESIDENT
MICHELLE FISHER**

Rotary peace fellow helps refugees fleeing Myanmar

Since August 2017, nearly a million Rohingya Muslim refugees have crowded into the Cox's Bazar region of Bangladesh, fleeing violence in Myanmar's Rakhine state. Women and children face particularly difficult challenges in the massive refugee camps, including lack of adequate shelter, health care, and educational resources, and an increased risk of sexual violence.

Sakun Gajurel worked in Italy and in her native Nepal with United Nations agencies before studying international development policy at the Rotary Peace Center at Duke University and University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. As a part of her **Rotary Peace Fellowship**, Gajurel spent the summer of 2018 working in Cox's Bazar with an organization called **UN Women** that provides direct aid to women in the refugee camps.

Q: What are the greatest challenges in getting aid to Cox's Bazar?

A: Close to 900,000 refugees crossed the borders in less than a year's time. In monsoon season, things got worse. Tents built with a bamboo frame and tarpaulin cannot resist heavy rain or minor landslides. A few thousand shelters were destroyed every week in the aftermath of heavy rains.

For humanitarian agencies, reaching everyone is another challenge due to poor road conditions. The sheer number of refugees makes effective support problematic.

Q: What problems do women and girls in particular face?

A: Women and girls are more vulnerable to violence. In some crisis settings, more than 70 percent of women have experienced gender-based violence. Women often report challenges accessing sanitation and hygiene facilities at night or when they are menstruating. They face heightened risks as well as increased care-related tasks such as providing food and water for their families and caring for the sick.

Q: How do tradition and culture affect the ways assistance is provided?

A: Gender segregation is generally common among the Muslim Rohingya population. It is closely connected to the practice of purdah, or preventing women from being seen by men other than their husbands. Women and girls are expected to stay in the home and be close to their family, whereas men and boys are more present in the public sphere.

Through multipurpose women's centers, UN Women engages and empowers women. Women and girls can come to a center like the one in Cox's Bazar and get information about the services and opportunities in the camps. About 20 women serve in the center in Cox's Bazar as outreach workers. These are Rohingya women who talk to other women and bring their issues and challenges to the center as well as to meetings with camp officials.

Q: What kind of assistance is most needed?

A: Education is one of the greatest needs. The education partners in Cox's Bazar have set up learning centers that provide three shifts of two-hour lessons. However, it is not enough. Men and women often express a desire to learn new skills.

The UN has already announced that the Rohingya refugee crisis will be a protracted issue. History shows that once a refugee crisis becomes protracted, refugees often spend decades in the settlement camps. A long-term solution is necessary to ensure that a whole generation does not end up without education or opportunities to better their lives.

Nikki Kallio

Reprinted from 'The Rotarian' January 2019 issue.

THE FORWARD PROGRAM

DATE	PROGRAM	SPEAKER	CHAIRMAN	REPORTER
Jan 21st	Final Planning of Australia Day meeting	Phil Stanton	President Adrian	Pam Hudson
Jan 28th	Australia Day Meeting at Beecroft Bowling	Dr Anthony Rigney	Phil Stanton	John Ellis
Feb 4th	TBA	TBA	President Adrian	Jim Fraser
March 29-31	DISTRICT CONFERENCE	TO BE HELD AT	NEX NEWCASTLE	KING STREET, NEWCASTLE

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

BIRTHDAYS

John Ellis - January 30th

Jack Reid - January 30th

ANNIVERSARIES

Graeme & Margaret Ashdown - January 4th

Theo & Georgia Glockemann - January 4th

George & Dorothy Green - January 17th

INDUCTION ANNIVERSARIES

Pam Hudson - January 20th

ATTENDANCE AT OUR LAST MEETING

Member Attendance

56.25%

Apologies

Ahmadul Ameen, Ian Chappel, Pam Hudson,

Pat Parker, Claude Rigney, Phil Stanton

Guests

Nil

Leave of Absence

Nil

PERSISTENCE

Nothing in the world can take the place of persistence. Talent will not; nothing is more common than unsuccessful men and women with talent. Genius will not; unrewarded genius is almost a proverb. Education will not; the world is full of educated failures. Persistence and determination are omnipotent.

Calvin Coolidge

**A leader is one who knows
the way, goes the way, and
shows the way.**

John C. Maxwell

