

VOLUME 60 No. 30

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EDITOR: DAVID FIRTH

SPOKES



THIS WEEK'S PROGRAM



National Youth
Science Forum

The National Youth Science Forum of 2019

GUEST SPEAKER: Jared Tong

CHAIRMAN: John Ellis

REPORTER: Pam Hudson

The National Youth Science Forum (NYSF) is a not-for-profit organisation that runs a number of residential programs to encourage young people in their passion for science.

Rotary's Involvement in NYSF

Members of local Canberra region Rotary clubs were integral to the establishment of the NYSF in 1983 (then known as the National Science Summer School).

Today, Rotary clubs around Australia continue to play a key role in supporting the NYSF to deliver its mission, by conducting selections for the NYSF Year 12 Program.

ROTARY CLUB OF
PENNANT HILLS

Chartered March 14, 1960



Rotary

District 9685



CLUB CONTACT INFORMATION

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TO NOTIFY MEETING
APOLOGIES &
GUESTS:

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before Noon on

Saturday



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Photos from last week's meeting - Debbie Nguyen; Matthew Lloyd and Angelo Raveanne; and Gomez from Timor Leste. See the meeting report on page 2.

OUR MEETING NEXT WEEK THE NASA SPACE CAMP

SPEAKER: Tarran McDermid

CHAIRMAN: John Ellis

REPORTER: Kaye Carter

Meeting Report - Monday 4th February

President Adrian opened the meeting with an update on the club's Farmers Support program and encouraged the members to support sending school supplies or prepaid cards that can be spent in the local community. Adrian also recognised Claude as the recipient of our Australia Day Award. To continue the acknowledgement, Adrian arranged special service at HPH where Claude had his meal delivered direct to him at the table. Planning for the Big Day Out is in hand and an event will take place sometime in March. There is a Rotary Presidents meeting for our area planned for Thursday night at the HPH so existing and new Presidents can meet and share ideas about the programs in the area. There is a Hills District Rotary Meeting planned for April 15th hosted by Cherrybrook/ West Pennant Hills Rotary Club at Madison Hall, Dural with a great speaker, Ricardo, with a military background on the agenda and is worth attending. Cost is \$40 per head. Urgent assistance is needed in February and March for packing up Hospital equipment which is to be shipped to East Timor and Sri Lanka (President Adrian has the contact details). Discussion was then held about the Australia Day event at Beecroft Bowling Club. The view was the caterer was very supportive but over-catered and there was a concern the price may increase if we commit to using the facility because they only charged for food on the night. Most believed we should keep our options open when the Golf Club re-opens and then compare the 3 available venues. The plan is to get the facts and then compare all facilities.

Adrian attended a fundraising event in Hunters Hill associated with Mo where a group of 26 people experienced a meal where the chef is a butcher who shows how the meat is prepared from start to finish. The butcher will do 4 events per year and is a good idea for fundraising. The Gnome event is still in hand and yet to be decorated but will be delivered. Adrian read a letter from Jeanette Rigney who expressed a deep appreciation for the recognition of Claude at the Australia Day awards. It was a complete surprise and great for the family to be there. John Ellis attended RYPEN on the weekend to see how the two Penno sponsored went. The male attendee was very involved and enjoying the experience which involved building rafts out of barrels (their rope work however needed a bit of attention) and building a stack of milk crates 19 high where you had to toss a tennis ball in the top to win. Unfortunately the female was overwhelmed by the number of people and came home, which is something that surprised her parents. Theo then introduced Gomez the new director of RYPEN in Timor. He was here to attend the RYPEN event at Narrabeen. Gomez showed a video on a recent event in Timor where 140 volunteers donated blood to the Red Cross and plan to keep giving. It also included the recent RYPEN event with Barker College students which showed the different games the participants were involved in and there were big smiles all round. Gomez continues to support RYLA and RYPEN in Timor and expressed his thanks to Pennant Hills Rotary for the ongoing support. He also thanked Matthew from Barker for bringing the Barker students to Timor as there is benefit for both sides in the interaction. The Rotary Clubs are very busy in Timor with 8 projects on the go seeking assistance from 6 districts for Rotary Grants. His goal is to set up more RYPEN Camps to do more for Timor.

Our speaker for the night was Debbie Nguyen who is with the NSW Electoral Commission. The next state election will occur on the 23rd of March which is standard as the 4th Saturday of March. Everyone on the electoral role is required to vote. Debbie's role is to improve stakeholder engagement to ensure everyone who is eligible can vote. Considerations include access to voting locations as well as having the language they require. In NSW 50% of people speak a language other than English and 15% have poor English. The NSW Elec Commission looks after both State and Local Government elections, but Local Government can choose to use a different organisation to run the election. The NSW E C also regulate donations and publish the list of donations made to the parties. They have recently updated their website and feel it now offers better access to information. As an overview of numbers there are 93 lower house seats being voted on in this election, and 21 of the 42 legislative council seats. There are 5.3 million voters, 93 districts, 2200 voting centres, 20,000 election volunteers, 28 million ballot papers printed and there will be over 170,000 calls made to the customer service centres. There were some questions about voting more than once and these people are referred to as special voters and will be contacted and warned not to do this. The electoral system is a very manual one. There are a number of ways to vote - in person, at the Election Pre-Poll Centre before the election, online or telephone using (ivote), or by post. When voting you will receive two ballot papers, one for the local area and the large one is for the Legislative Council. You need to follow the instructions. There are 2 manual counts done with the full count to be completed by April 12. Some of the challenges they face is timing to ensure a federal election does not get called at the same time such that they overlap the campaigns which would add a lot of confusion for voters. Voter turnout has been declining; it was 91.8% in 2003 and 90.49% in 2015. There is a \$50 fine for not voting - it should remain the same. To ensure everyone is aware of the upcoming election, they are organising community engagements with reference groups, Multicultural programs to overcome language and misunderstanding of the voting process. This will include social media, media and website information along with a range of radio conversations in a variety of languages. The election schedule this year is 11 Feb – Early voting on line, 11 March – early voting at a centre, 18 March – declared voting period, 23 March – Election day. You can get sent reminders by email or text using the website - elections.nsw.gov.au/remindme.

Adrian added some comments based on previous experience from his wife to not write notes on the voting ballots and make sure you get your name marked off. Pat Parker gave thanks to Debbie for a great presentation and ongoing support of the electoral process

Reporter: Jim Fraser.

FROM THE LATEST 'SHELTERBOX' REPORT

The Syrian Conflict - Case study - Ayman

The Syrian crisis has now entered its eighth year. More than 5 million people had fled the country since the conflict began, while more than 6 million remain internally displaced. ShelterBox has been responding to the crisis in Syria since 2012, providing essential aid items to families displaced by the war. We work with three implementing partners in Syria: Hand in Hand for Aid and Development, ReliefAid and the Bahar Organisation.



Ayman with her youngest child who was born to life inside a displacement camp in Syria.

Over the course of the Syrian civil war many families have now experienced multiple displacements as continued fighting forces them from place to place in search of safety. Ayman and her children are one of those families, having experienced multiple displacements over the last five years. Her four oldest children aged between 12 and eight were born before the start of the civil war. Her fifth child just two and a half years old was born to life in a displacement camp.

Ayman's life is a daily struggle for survival. She lives alongside other families like hers in a makeshift tent on a barren piece of land, dry and dusty in summer and thick with oozing mud in winter. There is no running water, no electricity, and rudimentary sanitation. She cooks on an open fire fuelled by sticks collected from the surrounding hills. Facing another harsh winter of displacement she told ShelterBox's partner in Syria, ReliefAid, about her situation:

FROM FACEBOOK

This photo was found on Facebook, posted by our Timor Leste visitor last week, Dogos Gomez. As you can see, it was taken at a RYPEN camp in Timor at Liurai, Aileu District in 2014.

Perhaps we can find out exactly what was going on from the only person who is serious in the picture?



THE FORWARD PROGRAM

DATE	PROGRAM	SPEAKER	CHAIRMAN	REPORTER
Feb 18th	The NASA Space Camp	Tarran McDermid	John Ellis	Kaye Carter
Feb 25th	"The Young Endeavour Program"	Matthew Pines	John Ellis	Pat Parker
March 29-31	DISTRICT CONFERENCE	TO BE HELD AT	NEX NEWCASTLE	KING STREET, NEWCASTLE
April 6th	Murder Mystery Weekend	at Blackheath	see Theo Glockemann	for bookings and details
April 15th	Hills District Rotary Meeting	at Madison Function Centre, Dural	Pres Colin Sharpe WPH/ Cherrybrook Club	David Firth

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

BIRTHDAYS

Graeme Ashdown - February 28th

ANNIVERSARIES

David & Heather Firth - February 5th

INDUCTION ANNIVERSARIES

Ahmadul Ameen - January 22nd

Jim Fraser - February 1st

Ian Huckel - February 10th

ATTENDANCE AT OUR LAST MEETING

Member Attendance

75%

Apologies: Ian Chappel, Ahmadul Ameen, Pam Hudson

Guest Speaker: Debbie Nguyen

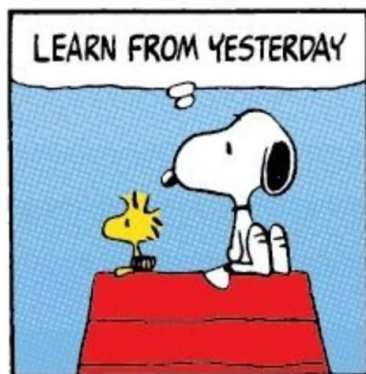
Visitors:

Georgia Glockemann, Matthew Lloyd

Visiting Rotarians:

Dogos Gomez - R/C of Dili Lafaek

Angelo Raveanne - R/C of Crows Nest



QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"I think leadership's always been about two main things: imagination and courage."

- Paul Keating