



# SPOKES

VOLUME 61 No. 33

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EDITOR: DAVID FIRTH



ROTARY CLUB OF  
**PENNANT HILLS**

Chartered March 14, 1960



District 9685  
NSW, Australia

**Rotary**

District 9685



## CLUB CONTACT INFORMATION

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TO NOTIFY MEETING

APOLOGIES &

GUESTS:

**9294 2107**

before Noon on

Monday



Find us on  
**facebook**

THIS WEEK'S PROGRAM

## CLUB FORUM

Chairman: President Jim

Reporter: Phil Stanton



**PLEASE NOTE**

THE 60th BIRTHDAY

CELEBRATION

OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF PENNANT HILLS

HAS BEEN

MOVED TO

**PENNANT HILLS GOLF CLUB**

**CNR. COPELAND ROAD & BURNS ROAD SOUTH,**

**BEECROFT**

**ALL OTHER ARRANGEMENTS REMAIN UNCHANGED**

*Fellows, the change of venue for our 60th Birthday celebration was as a result of a suspected Coronavirus sufferer detected amongst the employees at Lutanda Manor. This led to management there deciding to close down all community facilities and events. We are indebted to the Golf Club for so readily agreeing to host us at such short notice.*

*So, it's still on! Come along and enjoy yourselves.*

NEXT MEETING - MARCH 18th

**THE RYPEN 2020 EXPERIENCE**

**Speakers: Ashlin Upton & Zac Dunlop**

**Chairman: John Ellis**

**Reporter: Kaye Carter**

## Rotary Meeting Report - March 4th

The meeting was planned as one in which everyone could have input into the way we are to celebrate our 60th anniversary of the chartering of our club. We had thirteen members in attendance as the president got the meeting underway.

The president commenced by welcoming back our 'little mate' Theo who gave us a quick update on his experiences with the nursing staff at the SAN! He followed up with a rundown of his information afternoon for this year's sortie to Dili, Timor Lesté. He has another good team wanting to take part, and Barker College are again going to go there in early October having raised funds to finance a RYPEN weekend. Theo's group will go towards the end of September for 2 or 3 weeks.

President Jim invited directors to make announcements. First off, Projects Director Pat spoke about an email he had received from the Cancer Council asking for us to take part in a survey. A discussion ensued about our long history of involvement with Daffodil Day and how we came to the decision to cease being involved last year due to the absence of all but the daffodils to sell on the day. Pat was asked to fill in the survey and reiterate the reasons for our decision.

Phil Stanton then spoke about upcoming program items. Libby Bleakley is speaking on March 25th and has a great story to tell about her work in Timor Lesté. This has been made a Partners Night. Phil went on to talk about the program for April 15th when we are to have a speaker from Transurban to talk about preparations for the commencement of the North Connex tunnels. Due to the expected general interest in this from people in the area, and wanting to develop a closer association between us and the golf club members, Phil has had discussions with Barnaby Sumner, General Manager of the Golf Club. He is quite keen to have this advertised in the golf club as an open meeting for members to join us to hear the speaker. It was agreed that we go ahead with Phil's idea and he was asked to set it up.

John Ellis was next to speak. He advised that he has organised for our two nominees to RYPEN from Pennant Hills High School to come and tell of their experiences. He is to find out how many of their families will be coming also.

David Firth, with assistant treasurer hat firmly in place, gave a brief update on club finances as at 29th February. The Club Account is \$3,500; the Project Account is \$23,500; and the Pride of Workmanship Account is \$13,250. David also advised that POW sales are running approx. \$1,000 behind last year. The president advised that we will have a Board meeting after the club meeting next week to discuss the distribution of funds for the year.

In an effort to placate Theo and his complaints about not winning anything, President Jim asked Theo to draw the lucky door prize. Unbelievably, he drew out his own ticket - was this some sleight of hand!! Theo graciously offered to draw again and the ever lucky Jack received the prize - and no, it was not 2 toilet rolls!

We then discussed our birthday celebration. Theo reported that the venue was booked. A quote had been obtained for catering which, if accepted in total would have cost \$20 per head. Theo again undertook to talk to the caterers to negotiate a lower cost. As for the content on the day, President Jim will head up the program; there will be a powerpoint presentation which will highlight the history of the club with particular emphasis on the projects the club has done. There will also be a time for individuals to tell stories from the past.

President Jim agreed to organise a suitable Birthday Cake. We also discussed some of the memorabilia which could be displayed and a setup prior to the start will be necessary. President Jim took the BIG scrap book compiled from the start in 1960 so he could read about the early times in the club. David Firth advised that the District Governor will be attending as will the Mayor of Hornsby, Philip Rudock, and our Assistant Governor, Robert Erskine. Numbers are now looking like 35 to 40.

The meeting then concluded in the usual fashion, led by John Ellis.

**Reporter: the editor**

## SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

### TERRY PANKHURST HAS RETURNED CORONAVIRUS FREE!

HE ADVISES HOWEVER THAT THE COLLECTION OF 'MICE HOUSES' - i.e. TOILET ROLLS - IS TO CEASE AS THE HOSPITAL RESEARCH CENTRE HAS A MAJOR OVERSUPPLY AND CAN'T TAKE ANY MORE. IF YOU HAVE A COLLECTION OF TOILET ROLLS AT PRESENT, PLEASE ADD THEM TO YOUR RECYCLING. THANKS FOR YOUR HELP OVER THE YEARS.

Have you registered for the District Conference yet? You can do it online at [bit.ly/reasonsconference2020](https://bit.ly/reasonsconference2020) - remembering that our club will feature on the Saturday in the Vocational Excellence Awards segment and it would be good to have a good representation from the club in support of President Jim and our nominee.



*The following was posted in Facebook last Friday and encompasses what many of us have been talking about*

I'm a doctor and an Infectious Diseases Specialist. I've been at this for more than 20 years seeing sick patients on a daily basis. I have worked in inner city hospitals and in the poorest slums of Africa. HIV-AIDS, Hepatitis, TB, SARS, Measles, Shingles, Whooping cough, Diphtheria...there is little I haven't been exposed to in my profession. And with notable exception of SARS, very little has left me feeling vulnerable, overwhelmed or downright scared.

I am not scared of Covid-19. I am concerned about the implications of a novel infectious agent that has spread the world over and continues to find new footholds in different soil. I am rightly concerned for the welfare of those who are elderly, in frail health or disenfranchised who stand to suffer mostly, and disproportionately, at the hands of this new scourge. But I am not scared of Covid-19.

What I am scared about is the loss of reason and wave of fear that has induced the masses of society into a spell-binding spiral of panic, stockpiling obscene quantities of anything that could fill a bomb shelter adequately in a post-apocalyptic world. I am scared of the N95 masks that are stolen from hospitals and urgent care clinics where they are actually needed for front line healthcare providers and instead are being donned in airports, malls, and coffee lounges, perpetuating even more fear and suspicion of others. I am scared that our hospitals will be overwhelmed with anyone who thinks they " probably don't have it but may as well get checked out no matter what, because you just never know..." and those with heart failure, emphysema, pneumonia and strokes will pay the price for overfilled ER waiting rooms with only so many doctors and nurses to assess.

I am scared that travel restrictions will become so far reaching that weddings will be cancelled, graduations missed and family reunions will not materialize. And well, even that big party called the Olympic Games...that could be kyboshed too. Can you even imagine?

I'm scared those same epidemic fears will limit trade, harm partnerships in multiple sectors, business and otherwise and ultimately culminate in a global recession.

But mostly, I'm scared about what message we are telling our kids when faced with a threat. Instead of reason, rationality, openmindedness and altruism, we are telling them to panic, be fearful, suspicious, reactionary and self-interested.

Covid-19 is nowhere near over. It will be coming to a city, a hospital, a friend, even a family member near you at some point. Expect it. Stop waiting to be surprised further. The fact is the virus itself will not likely do much harm when it arrives. But our own behaviours and "fight for yourself above all else" attitude could prove disastrous.

I implore you all. Temper fear with reason, panic with patience and uncertainty with education. We have an opportunity to learn a great deal about health hygiene and limiting the spread of innumerable transmissible diseases in our society. Let's meet this challenge together in the best spirit of compassion for others, patience, and above all, an unflinching effort to seek truth, facts and knowledge as opposed to conjecture, speculation and catastrophizing.

**Facts not fear. Clean hands. Open hearts.**

Our children will thank us for it.

**Dr Abdu Sharkawy**

## OUR FORWARD PROGRAM

Date	Program	Speaker	Chairman	Reporter
MARCH 15th	<b>CLUB'S 60th BIRTHDAY PARTY AFTERNOON TEA</b>	AT THE GOLF CLUB VICAR ROOM	2.00 to 4.30pm	EVERYONE WELCOME
MARCH 18th	Our RYPEN students Report <b>To be confirmed</b>	Ashlin Upton Zac Dunlop	John Ellis	Pam Hudson
20-22nd MARCH	<b>'REASONS' COMBINED DISTRICT CONFERENCE</b>	<b>VARIOUS</b>	<b>AT WOLLONGONG ENTERTAINMENT CENTRE</b>	<b>PRESIDENT JIM</b>
MARCH 25th	Policing, East Timor and Coffee Roasting <b>PARTNERS NIGHT</b>	Libby Bleakley	Phil Stanton	Pat Parker
APRIL 1st	Home Modification & My Aged Care	Jenny Ryan & Madeline Yan	Phil Stanton	David Firth
APRIL 8th	THE NORTH FOUNDATION & HORNSBY HOSPITAL	NICKY JACOBS	Pat Parker	Phil Stanton

### DISTRICT 9685 ASSEMBLY

**ATTENTION: 2020/21 INCOMING CLUB BOARD MEMBERS**

**Sunday 19 April at Nirimba Campus of UWS**

**Eastern Rd, Quakers Hill NSW 2763.**

The training is likely to run from about 8.30am to about 4.00pm.

#### BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

##### BIRTHDAYS

Ian Chappel - March 3rd

Georgia Glockemann - March 4th

Jeanette Rigney - March 14th

Heather Firth - March 24th

##### ANNIVERSARIES

Claude & Jeanette Rigney - March 9th

Jim & Esther Fraser - March 11th

David & Heather Hopping - March 25th

##### INDUCTION ANNIVERSARIES

Ian Chappel - March 10th

#### ATTENDANCE AT OUR LAST MEETING

**Member Attendance :**

81.25%

**Apologies:**

I Chappel, P Hudson,

T Pankhurst,

**Guest Speakers:**

Nil

**Visitors:**

Nil

### QUOTE OF THE WEEK

**'I'm not afraid of dying I just don't want to be there when it happens.'**

[Spike Milligan](#)