



SPOKES



SERVE TO CHANGE LIVES

Pennant Hills
Rotary
Club



CLUB CONTACT INFORMATION

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TO NOTIFY MEETING APOLOGIES & GUESTS:
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before noon on Monday



Rotary
District 9685



We have the following sister clubs:
Rotary Club of Newcastle
Enterprise District 9670
Rotary Club of Delhi Ridge
District 3011

THE PROGRAM THIS WEEK

RYPEN 2022 at Hotel Pennant Hill

Speakers:

Nia Michelson & Scott Romanis

Chairman: John Ellis

Reporter: Ida Shi

President's Corner

Hi everyone

Rain, rain and more rain. Our thoughts and prayers go out to all residents affected by this disastrous weather event. We especially think of our rotary friends in Picton, where we had our historical walk last year. You can see the flooding on this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wHUW8srBBEw>

Luckily, the flooding is not as bad as in 2016.

Last Wednesday, a large group of us met at Mecca Infusion Café, West Pennant Hills where we partook in some fabulous Afgan food (hosted by the owner, Tariq). We held our business session quite successfully albeit to the sound of passing cars on the wet road.

This Wednesday, we are meeting at Hotel Pennant Hills on Pennant Hills Road, opposite the railway station. Due to staff shortages (Covid isolation requirements), it is recommended that you arrive as close to 6pm as possible and order your dinner so that the business session can start on time at 7pm. We have two young Ripen guests who will present their stories to us.

The inclement weather prevented the club from participating in Clean Up Australia Day on Sunday, but I noticed on the website that groups can participate in Clean Up Australia events at any time. This means that in the future, we can use the bag of goodies that Jason has acquired to fulfil our share of bettering the environment.

Our combined 62nd Club birthday and Australia Day Merit Awards dinner on Monday 14 March is full steam ahead. You are welcome to pay in advance to the club account to lessen the line-up of people paying at the door on the night. There will also be a raffle and Ida's bees wax wraps for sale at \$5.00, so please bring some cash and support the club.

Take care, stay dry and safe. **President Kaye**



The meeting this week will not be available on Zoom.

MEETING REPORT - 2nd MARCH

This was our first face to face meeting since before Christmas and was held at Mecca Infusion Café at West Pennant Hills due to the golf club no longer being available for our regular meetings. Despite the continuing inclement weather, we were welcomed by the owner and staff - mainly family - and shown to the separate room at the rear of the café. Members had preordered their main meals to assist the staff as they have not been open for dinner previously. We had 13 members and 2 partners in attendance.



It was noted that Jack Reid and Terry Pankhurst were the first served - we're not sure how such favouritism was achieved but Terry is the treasurer! Suffice to say that all seemed to enjoy the meals. Tariq, the owner, was invited to tell us about his background. They came from Afghanistan in 1980 just after the Russian invasion of that country. They came with very little, but through hard work and looking after each other, they now live in West Pennant Hills, have the café and a chicken takeaway shop opposite the railway station in Epping. Yet another illustration of what can be achieved by those willing to work hard in this country.

Ida welcomed all to the meeting and delivered the acknowledgement to country. She invited Jack, our Welfare Chairman to report. He advised that Ahmadul Ameen has had Covid but is recovering and expects to attend next week.

President Kaye then ran through a number of items, starting with who is going to the District Conference on March 18 - 19. Jason, Anoop and David will be our representatives there, with David having a table in the Project Showcase for Pride of Workmanship. The Seniors Expo on 23rd March at Turramurra was discussed and John Ellis and Jim Fraser volunteered to man our stall.

Kaye then talked about our Club Anniversary/Australia Day Celebration on Monday 14th March. She has arranged for table decorations from the flower shop in Pennant Hills and thanked John Ellis for obtaining a new Australian flag and Aboriginal flag which he had displayed at the meeting.

Our Environmental Chairman Jason, then advised the program for Clean Up Australia Day on Sunday 6th March. Starting at 10am outside Pennant Hills Post Office, the area to clean up is the Marketplace carpark and the area around the Community Centre and Wollundry Park. A number of members indicated that they could help on the day - all dependent on the weather on Sunday. Jason then went on to report on the AGM of the Rotaract Club. They elected joint presidents, Elaine and Stephanie, with Jason taking on the secretaryship and public officer and public relations!

David Firth was our 5 minute speaker and gave a rundown on his volunteering role with Ku-ring-gai Neighbourhood Centre. He started soon after retiring, wanting to give back to the community and assist those in need. He has found it very satisfying with many interesting 'clients', a number of which he talked about. He recommended it as a way of getting involved in our community.

President Kaye closed the meeting and we were packed up by 8.20pm.

Reporter: Theo's Ghost writer

NEWS FROM OUR SISTER CLUB IN NEWCASTLE

We heard this week from Stephen de Plater, President of the Newcastle Enterprise Rotary Club that he personally has been seriously affected by a large fire in Newcastle. The following is an email we received from him.

Well, the ongoing saga of the fires down the road.

We're still out of our apartment, however we did get the opportunity to go in for a few minutes to get essentials. We had to dress up in the whole environmental gear to do that though (pictures attached).

Although the fire people were saying "a few more days" before we can get back in, it looks like the EPA are saying one to two weeks!!

In the meantime we are effectively homeless, although the strata people are trying to get the building insurers to cough up for accommodation. That would be good!

Whatever happens, the fire was contained before it got to our building and a few million litres of fuel stored about 30 metres from the warehouses that burned down there was saved.

The fire was contained to the first two buildings and is now OUT. The third building (which was saved) is immediately across the road from our apartments!

The big problem at this stage is the demolition of the burned out buildings and even more, the remediation of asbestos contamination from the collapsed roofs of the two burned out buildings. It fell all over our place and is still there.

At least, unlike the flood victims, we still have a home to go back to once the EPA declares it safe.

Stephen

Rev. Stephen de Plater
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I'm sure we all wish Stephen and his family all the best, and we, like him, will be hoping for the earliest possible return to their home once the area has been remediated.



Picton Floods – conversation with Lyn Davey-Fairley (Secretary Picton Rotary Club)

For members who attended the Picton historical walk, here is a photo of the bridge on Main Street we walked along with George 4th Inn in the background. This photo was taken last Thursday. Sandbags have been placed around the church we visited – it seems to be okay at the moment.

Continuing Anoop Sud's paper on environmental issues facing the world and Australia in particular.

In many areas, Australia's temperate zones and coastal ecosystems have been extensively altered, many wetlands have been degraded.

Climate change, and introduced plants and animals (invasives), are the agents of the radical changes that are tearing through Australia's environment. The result? Dramatic declines in the distribution and abundance of many species, with natural resources such as water now going scarce.



What is WWF doing about the problems?
© WWF

Deforestation

When forests are cut, the salinity of the soil can greatly increase. As a result, saline water draining from such areas can affect downstream or downslope water quality. It is estimated that around 7% of the agricultural area of western Australia is suffering from this problem following deforestation.

Moreover, studies in Australia's wet tropics show that soils have limited capacity to recover from deforestation. This adds to deforestation's price tag. Australia's [Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation](#) (CSIRO) estimates that land degradation costs about \$1 billion annually.



Farmland lies dry and life-less as a result of land clearing and extreme drought conditions. Condoblin District, Western NSW. Australia.

© WWF / Adam OSWELL

To be continued next issue.

Thornleigh Community Garden

15 The Esplanade, Thornleigh

This is where we will hold our meeting on Wednesday, 30 March at 6.30pm. We will have a sausage sizzle accompanied by Chinese dumplings cooked by Daisy and Ida. Some fruit and cake will also be available. The cost will be \$10 per person.

There is a balcony where we can eat our dinner and there is a meeting room inside for the business part of the evening. Sue, the manager, will provide a short talk on the background and function of the garden.



WHAT'S ON

Date	Program	Speaker	Chair	Reporter	5 - minute talk	Extra info
Mar 9	RYPEN 2022 at Hotel Pennant Hills	Nia Michelson & Scott Romanis	John Ellis	Ida Shi		
Monday Mar 14	Club Anniversary & Australia Day Award Social Night at Pennant Hills Golf Club	Janelle Dodd	Phil Stanton	John Ellis	nil	2 course meal
Mar 18 - 19	District 9685 Conference	At West HQ Rooty Hill RSL	Friday night dinner	and	All day Saturday	
Mar 23	Report on District Conference at Hotel Pennant Hills	Members who attended	Pres Kaye	Jim Fraser		
Mar 30	Visit to Thornleigh Community Garden	at 6.30pm	Details	to be	advised	
April 4	Board Meeting at 7.30pm on Zoom					

Last Meeting - 2.03. 2022
Attendance - 81.25%
Apologies: A Ameen, A Bell
Guests: Esther Fraser, Heather Firth
LOA: P Stanton

Anniversaries & Birthdays
Birthdays:
Georgia Glockemann - March 4
Jeanette Rigney - March 14
Heather Firth - March 24
Bronia Tam - March 30
Anniversaries:
Ida Shi & Eddy Li - March 5
Claude & Jeanette Rigney - March 9
Jim & Esther Fraser - March 11
David & Heather Hopping - March 25
Inductions:
Nil

Rotary Foundation Response to Ukraine



Half a million people have fled Ukraine and are in dire need of emergency aid. The United Nations estimates that number of refugees could grow to as many as 5 million people displaced. Rotary clubs in Europe and around the world have stepped up their relief work, some working on the ground to help displaced families.

With your donation to our [Disaster Response Fund](#), we can support communities and help rebuild lives during this tragic time.

Sincerely, John Germ Trustee Chair, 2021-22
The Rotary Foundation

"When you are going through
hell, keep going..."

-Winston Churchill