



SPOKES



SERVE TO CHANGE LIVES

Pennant Hills
Rotary
Club



CLUB CONTACT INFORMATION

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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

OUR 62nd BIRTHDAY and the delayed AUSTRALIA DAY CELEBRATION

Chairman: Phil Stanton

Reporter: John Ellis

President's Corner

Hi everyone

As I write this, I am putting the finishing touches on what needs to be organised for tomorrow night's dinner (Monday 14 March). It's fabulous that we have 85 dinner guests to help celebrate our 62nd club birthday and our Australia Day Merit Award's dinner. It will truly



be a memorable occasion thanks to some amazing teamwork from our club members. A reminder that there will be a raffle (with at least 4 prizes) and Ida's bees wax wraps for sale at \$5.00 each, so please bring some cash and support the club.

Last Wednesday, we met at our old haunt 'Hotel Pennant Hills' on Pennant Hills Road. We had two incredible young RIPEN guests who presented their stories to us. They were most inspiring and articulate, and we can see how the benefits of attending such a course could make an impact on their future life choices.

From April, due to popular consensus, every first Wednesday in the month will be a zoom session. Our upcoming zoom guest speaker will enlighten us about his Rotary exchange experience going from Venezuela to the USA. He is also very knowledgeable about aeroplanes, which is his hobby.

There will not be a meeting on Wednesday 16 March, and then we are back in the Hotel Pennant Hills for our meeting on 23 March, as we are still working on a more permanent meeting venue.

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

The meeting this week will not be available on Zoom.

Meeting Report – 10th March 2022

Our second face-to-face meeting this year was held in a private room at Hotel Pennant Hills with excitement as it was a beautiful sunny day and we had two special guest speakers Nia Michelson & Scott Romanis from RYPEN 2022. Nia's mother Lisa, father Grant and younger brother Hugh, and Scott's mother Cathy joined us as well, which added more excitement to our meeting night!

At 7.10 pm, when almost all finished their meals, Ida welcomed all to the meeting and delivered the acknowledgement to country. All members said the Rotary Thanks together. Our Welfare Chairman Jack Reid reported that Ahmadul Ameen has been recovering well and expects to join us soon.

President Kaye then extended her warm welcome to all and thanked our guests for being so brave to meet us in person given the Covid situation. She invited Jason Terry to take the floor by giving an impromptu 5-minute talk about Something Good. Jason introduced his active engagements in Rotaract as District Rotaract Representative (DRR). He has been trying to work for Rotaract Australia, above District, and he is probably the only one nominated for a secretary role. In brief, the good thing Jason wanted to tell us was, he's been achieving things in his life because he put his mind to it. That's good, Jason! All seemed happy for him and would back him up 100%.

After that, Kaye talked about a number of items discussed at the latest board meeting.

Master flag collector John got a new Torres Strait Island Flag for our club. Meanwhile, John also got a new job to put it up for our meetings in the future.

Our special dinner function is coming up on Monday night 14 March at Pennant Hills Golf Club, in celebration of our club's 62nd Birthday and the postponed Australia Day Merit Award. 74 people have confirmed to come to this special dinner as of 10 March.

We are looking for ideas to raise funds for projects. The next project is Easter. Pam will organise Easter eggs and take them to three retirement villages for the residents this year. Last year, we went to the shopping center and gave Easter eggs to children. Other projects, such as selling Poppies on Anzac Day will be continued and we will give the funds raised to Hornsby RSL sub-branch for veterans or veterans' associations.

We are still looking for our president elect for the new term and a suitable venue to meet.

In the directors' report session, John briefed the status of the high school girl (Paige) sponsored by our club to attend the international youth science forum. Due to the Covid restrictions, this 2-week program in Canberra has been conducted online and some gathering in Sydney has been deferred. Paige won't finish her science forum till after Easter holiday. John will canvas her and schedule a date for her to be our guest speaker at one of our meetings if she's interested in sharing her experiences with us.

Acting treasurer David mimicked actual treasurer's usual report; all the bills have been paid and we've got money in the bank! Yes, this is very important. David reminded everyone the upcoming special dinner on Monday night (14/3), suggesting everyone to pay the meal (\$45 per person) prior to the night to avoid lining up and waiting for payments. It's for sure payment on the night will be also available either by cash or card.

Our Membership Director Jim has requested a list of the businesses from his resourceful contacts and will drop our membership packages to attract more members or sponsors.

International program director Theo gave a brief introduction of the two leadership-training

Continued over



projects, RYLA & RYPEN, in Timor Leste, which have been conducted every year since 2002 with phenomenal impacts on those trained young people.

Director David then gave a report on our club's unique Pride of Workmanship Award project. Our Environmental Officer Jason then reported that our Clean Up Australia Day activity got canceled unfortunately due to the rain. We will schedule our own Clean Up Australia Day in the near future. He will also work with Anoop Sud re Hornsby Council environmental activities. Jason also reported that the Rotaract new board has been elected.

Following such an informative session, Chairman John formally introduced our two guest speakers from RYPEN 2022 and let them decide who would speak first.

Scott and Nia came from the same high school Year 10 and attended the RYPEN 2022. It was a 3-day course on zoom focusing on sharpening and learning youth leadership skills. There were around 35 students and 11 leaders participating in this course this year. Both Scott and Nia talked about the leadership skills and activities they've immersed in this course, including leadership types, stress management, decision making, community service project, etc.

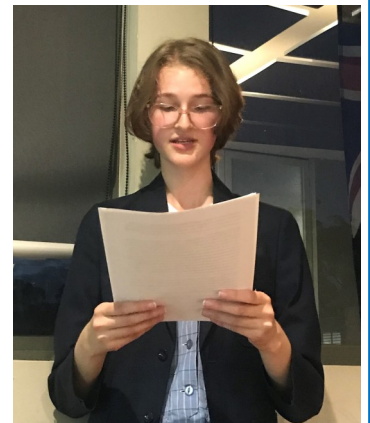
Scott mentioned one of his many takeaways throughout this course was there is more than one type of leadership and it's good to implement them all. He learnt so much about leadership and would 100% recommend it to others. Each activity was well thought out and the leaders update the course depending on students' feedback on the previous day. He learnt to collaborate with so many people. He will definitely use the skills, which he learnt from this course in the future and share and teach others what he's learnt.

Nia's 4 takeaway points from this course are 1) There are different leadership types, and different situations require different approaches. 2) It is important to deal with your stress in a positive and healthy way. 3) Quick and confident decision-making is crucial. And 4) you don't need a title to be a leader. RYPEN was an eye-opening and memorable experience. She believes she has grown as a person and as a leader!

Re the Q&A session, Nia and Scott handled it very well by answering some tough questions. Theo and Jason highly recommended Nia, Scott and the parents to investigate the RYLA Leadership Award program, as Nia and Scott are absolutely the potential young leaders for RYLA. It was interesting to know Scott chose a pack of chips as the best food to be packed for hiking. Also, Nia's favorite animal is the octopus, which is the most intelligent animal in the sea.

A video from RYPEN 2022 was played to highlight those happy & memorable experiences in this program with peers and leaders. President Kaye closed the meeting at 8.30 pm.

Reporter: Ida X.D. Shi



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

Agriculture clearing and overgrazing

Because of clearing activities for agricultural land, around 13% of Australia's original vegetation has been removed since European settlement.

Overgrazing is one of the main pressures on biodiversity in Australia. Grazing and various agricultural improvement strategies have modified vast areas of grasslands and open grassy woodlands. In temperate ecosystems, less than 2% of the original grasslands remain.

Moreover, overgrazing promotes desertification and erosion, and is also seen as one cause of the spread of invasive plants.

Overfishing and illegal fishing

Overfishing has already decreased part of Australia's fish stocks to dangerously low levels. Two major factors account for this problem; the fact that some areas have low biological productivity (and hence fish stocks do not regenerate quickly), along intensive fishing efforts by commercial and recreational fisheries.

In 2005, 17 of 82 species that were assessed in Australian waters were classified as overfished. Species that remain subject to overfishing and/or are overfished include the southern bluefin tuna; blue warehou; silver trevally; orange roughy; and bigeye tuna in the Pacific and Indian Oceans beyond the Australian Fishing Zone (AFZ).

Illegal fishing places further pressure on some species, with patagonian toothfish in the Southern Ocean and shark (for fins) in northern Australian waters being the worst affected.

Introduction of exotic species

It is estimated that Australia gains around 20 new pests or diseases each year. Some well-known examples include cane toads, rabbits, willows and, more recently, black striped mussels and red fire ants.

Historically, feral cats, foxes and rabbits have been a cause of local extinctions and significant reductions in range for native species through a combination of habitat modification and predation. They are a major ongoing problem.

Weeds are an equally significant pressure on ecosystems, with more than 2,500 species of introduced plants now thriving in the wild in Australia. They have invaded every part of the landscape - bushland, rangelands, coasts, rainforests, deserts and farms.

Ballast water from shipping has been responsible for introducing more than 250 species, and possibly as many as 500 species, into Australian waters.

Pollution

Intensive agriculture is affecting Australia's coasts and oceans, particularly estuaries and environments near the shore. Modelling predictions estimate that each year almost 19,000 tonnes of phosphorus and 141,000 tonnes of nitrogen are discharged to rivers flowing to the coast.

Infrastructure development

Of continuing concern for Australia's is continued population growth along the coastline. The formation of massive metropolitan centres with increasing population density on Australia's coasts could displace much valuable biodiversity and 'high-value' agricultural land.

CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY 2022

As our day was cancelled due to the poor weather conditions, make sure you keep an eye out for the alternative day to be announced by our Environmental Officer, Jason Terry.

Don't forget about our visit to

THORNLEIGH COMMUNITY GARDEN

On Wednesday, 30th March at 6.30pm with a sausage sizzle and some Asian delicacies courtesy of Ida and Daisy.

WHAT'S ON

Date	Program	Speaker	Chair	Reporter	5 - minute talk	Extra info
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	Pres Kaye	Jason Terry		
April 4	Board Meeting at 7.30pm on Zoom					
April 6	My Rotary exchange from Venezuela to the USA Zoom meeting 7pm	Jose Lara Herrera	Pres Kaye	John Ellis		

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

ON SALE ON MONDAY NIGHT IDA'S BEESWAX WRAPS

They are a replacement for clingwrap for protecting foods in your refrigerator, and they are reusable and biodegradable.

They are available for \$5 each.



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