



SPOKES



CLUB CONTACT INFORMATION

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TO NOTIFY MEETING APOLOGIES & GUESTS:
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on Monday



We have the following sister clubs:

Rotary Club of Newcastle
Enterprise District 9670
Rotary Club of Delhi Ridge
District 3011

THIS WEEK

Autobiography

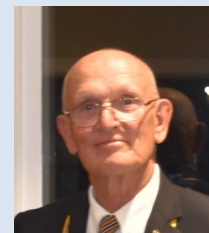
Robyn Huh—our new member

Chairman: David Firth

Reporter: Pam Hudson

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

It was good to hear that Phil Stanton has returned home and is just about fully recovered. Perhaps we will hear more of this from him on Wednesday at our meeting.



Last Wednesday a rather reduced number enjoyed an evening over dinner at The Verandah Restaurant at Beecroft Bowling Club. The restaurant was quite busy as it was Trivia Night, however we sat outside away from that. The photo was taken by Esther Fraser during the evening.



To our incoming Board members for 2023-24, can I remind you about the District Assembly on Saturday April 15th at Epping Boys High School. The plenary session for all board members is in the morning from 9am through to 12noon. The individual sessions for each board position are mainly online in the following weeks.

Please register at <https://rotarydistrict9685.org.au/events>.

David Firth

WHY I AM A ROTARIAN

Norm Winterbottom

“Rotary is so simple that many people do not understand it, and some even misunderstand it. Rotary is not a philosophy...not an all-embracing world point of view which answers every question...and satisfies all the dictates of the heart and mind. Rotary is merely an association of business and professional men united in the ideal of service.”

Paul P Harris — Address to 1938 Rotary Convention, San Francisco, California, USA

Notwithstanding Paul Harris' unembellished description, it is irrefutable that we each hold our individual perceptions of what Rotary is, its place in our daily lives and the lives of those around us. For me, the perception is formulated on the three interconnected tenets of Fellowship, Service and Peace. Without Fellowship there can be no Service and it is Service which motivates our search for Peace.

Rotary Friendships are like no other, save perhaps those special bonds that are formed by the exigencies of the military. Rotary Friendships take no account of social standing, colour, nationality, language, religious belief, social customs or political persuasion. They are formed on the basis of mutual respect, tolerance and recognition of the inherent worthiness of the individual. They endure in strength despite the fact that friends may be separated by oceans, national borders or inter-nation disputes and between some who may never physically meet. That is what makes them so special, even unique.

The 16th century English poet and satirist John Donne wrote: “No man is an island, Entire of itself. Each is a piece of the continent, a part of the main. . .” It is my view that this proposition is the motivation for Rotarians in the giving of Service, not only to their neighbours, but to their communities, their nations and beyond the confines of their own national borders. I see Rotary Service as an extension of the Liberalism of Victorian England; an indivisible amalgam of compassion, pragmatism and duty. In other words, from each according to his means; to each according to his needs, cognisant of a balanced approach and limited responsibility for the welfare of others.

Again to quote Donne, “Ask not for whom the bell tolls. It tolls for thee.”

From the time of the hunter-gatherers through to the increasingly complex world in which we live today, aggression has extracted a grievous price on mankind, despite the technological advances and benefits which that aggression has brought in its wake. For more than a century Rotary, by its very nature and philosophies has been a beacon of hope in the search for peaceful solutions to conflict. Because of its apolitical nature, demonstrated neutrality and near universal respect Rotary has the ability to cross national borders to succeed where politicians and diplomats cannot. In a world of increasingly sophisticated weaponry, together with sectarian and national aspirations to territorial dominance, Rotary's continuing search for Peace becomes more important than ever before, not just for the benefit of the present generation, but for the benefit and security of those who are to follow.

Why am I a Rotarian? I am a Rotarian simply because of an unshakeable belief in what I perceive to be the goodness in humanity that Rotary exemplifies in all that it does and all that it seeks to achieve.

Editor's note: This article dates back to 2014 - almost 10 years ago. The quote from Paul Harris, as you can see, is from 1938, prior to World War 2.



INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION
27-31 MAY 2023
MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA



INTERNATIONAL TOAST

Seoul Rotary Club, South Korea, D3650, (Chartered 1927), President Judy Kim and their members. (The club meets at 12.30pm on Wednesdays at the Seoul Club.)

The following history of the Seoul Club is from their website.

The history of the Seoul Rotary Club embodies the history of Rotary Club in Korea as well a slice of twentieth century Korean history itself. As the first Rotary club in Korea, Seoul Rotary Club had its genesis during the Japanese colonial period under a different club name - Keijo Rotary Club. The club was dissolved under Japanese military pressure during the Second World War. However, this allowed its reestablishment under the new Republic of Korea under its current name of the Seoul Rotary Club. A year after the rebirth of the Seoul Rotary Club, the outbreak of the Korean War and its turmoil caused the members to temporarily flee to Busan. Like Korea itself, the Seoul Rotary Club has weathered these hardships and continued to grow and prosper, accomplishing its mission for the betterment of society through its credo: Service Above Self.

The genesis of the Seoul Rotary Club can be traced to the initiative of Bishop H.R. Boaz of the Southern Methodist Church, who was assigned to Seoul. In 1922, Bishop Boaz wrote to Rotary International to inquire into the possibility of forming a Rotary Club in Seoul with his friends and associates. Bishop Boaz and his group were planning to call it the 1° Seoul Rotary Club. However, this original plan never came to fruition due to intervening events.

A group of Japanese businessmen heard about the plan of Bishop Boaz and formed an alternative plan to start a Rotary Club. These businessmen approached the Japanese Governor-General, Saito Minoru, to enlist his support for their plan. The plan was to name the club the 1° Keijo (pronounced 1° Kyung Sung in Korean) Rotary Club, which was the name for Seoul during the Japanese colonial period. These Japanese businessmen advocated against Bishop Boaz's plan, arguing that a Rotary Club centered on a Christian missionary would not be beneficial and only attract second-tier businessmen. They advocated a plan to form a club made up of elite businessmen of their day. Governor-General Saito took the lead in promoting their plan, which eventually led to the establishment of the Keijo Rotary Club in 1927.

Seoul, officially known as the **Seoul Special City**, is the capital and largest metropolis of South Korea. According to the 2020 census, Seoul has a population of 9.9 million people, and forms the heart of the Seoul Capital Area with the surrounding Incheon metropolis and Gyeonggi province. Considered to be a global city and rated as an Alpha – City by Globalization and World Cities Research Network (GaWC), Seoul was the world's fourth largest metropolitan economy in 2014, following Tokyo, New York City and Los Angeles.

Seoul is surrounded by a mountainous and hilly landscape, with Bukhan Mountain located on the northern edge of the city. The Seoul Capital Area contains five UNESCO World Heritage Sites: Changdeok Palace, Hwaseong Fortress, Jongmyo Shrine, Namhansanseong and the Royal Tombs of the Joseon Dynasty. More recently, Seoul has been a major site of modern architectural construction.



During the Korean War, Seoul changed hands between the Soviet/Chinese-backed North Korean forces and the American-backed South Korean forces several times, leaving the city heavily damaged after the war. The capital was temporarily relocated to Busan.

WHAT'S ON

Date	Program	Speaker	Chair	Reporter
April 5	Autobiography	Robyn Huh	David Firth	Pam Hudson
Sat. April 15	District Assembly for all incoming Board Members	At Epping Boys High School	Commencing at 9am through to Noon	Date to be revised
Sunday April 16	Thornleigh Bunnings BBQ	8am start	to 3.30pm	Jim Fraser is the contact
Wed May 17	Pride of Workmanship Awards	TBC		

Last Meeting - 29.3.2023

Attendance: 35.7%

Attendance: P Hudson, J Terry, J Fraser, D Firth

Guests: H Firth, E Fraser

Leave of Absence: A Ameen, A Bell

April

Birthdays:

Peter Hudson - April 8

Dorothy Green - April 19

Pam Hudson - April 21

Anniversaries:

Terry & Maureen Pankhurst - April 9

Pat & Sandra Parker - April 9

Club Induction Anniversary:

George Green - April 3

APRIL IS



MATERNAL & CHILD HEALTH

MONTH



Rotary
Melbourne



Emergency Obstetric Workshops in Timor Leste... The dedication of two Rotarians Professors Jeremy Oats and Sue McDonald backed by Rotary funding has skilled up and refreshed obstetrics workers across East Timor in preventing maternal and infant mortality. Learn more about us & what it takes to be a Rotarian. WWW.ROTARYCLUBOFMELBOURNE.ORG.AU