



CREATE HOPE
in the WORLD

SPOKES

August is



Membership and New Club Development Month

Pennant Hills
Rotary
Club



CLUB CONTACT INFORMATION

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TO NOTIFY MEETING APOLOGIES & GUESTS:
Text to 0451 265 122 or
Email ida1701@gmail.com
on Monday before the meeting



Rotary
District 9685



We have the following sister clubs:

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

THIS WEEK

Winter RYPEN 2023

Speakers: Lana Waddingham &
Tom Passe de Silva

Chairman: John Ellis

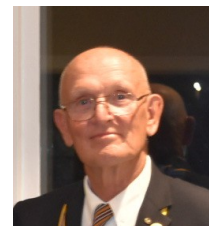
Reporter: Jason Terry

We welcome all our guests to this meeting.

RYPEN is one of the key programs of Rotary District 9685, and one which our club has supported over many years through sponsoring students from Pennant Hills High School.

The President's Comment

There has been a fair bit going on in our Rotary circles and our club recently. As reported last issue, we have applied for a District Grant to help fund an audio visual set-up for the Community Health Centre. We await the result.



Elsewhere in this issue you can read about our Rotary Foundation/International Director Anoop's publicity about the value of volunteering.

It is good to learn that our Joint President Jason is back feeling much better and ready to lead our meeting this week.

A meeting of presidents from the Hills with AG Stuart Armstrong provided an opportunity to learn about the other clubs in our group and their various projects and plans. We can look forward to interchanges with them during the year.

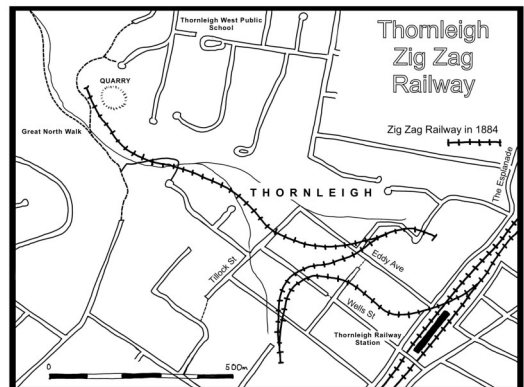
David Firth

Meeting Report - August 2nd, 2023

President David Firth opened the meeting with a welcome to our speaker, Tim Sowden and three visitors from the West Pennant Hills/Cherrybrook Rotary Club. He promoted a meeting with the Carlingford Rotary Club on 22nd August when Dr Morris will speak on The Voice to Parliament. The Trivia Night at the West Pennant Hills/Cherrybrook Rotary Club on 26th August was promoted and our meeting on 16th August will host our two RYPEN candidates. There will be a social night on 30th August arranged by Daisy Huang our Social Director. Theo Glockemann gave us a briefing on his forthcoming visit to East Timor related to the local RYPEN and RYLA programs there.

President David introduced Tim Sowden, a member of the Hornsby Historical Society who grew up in Thornleigh near the railway station. A background in journalism led to him pursuing the story of the Thornleigh Zig Zag railway and he displayed a tea towel designed by his wife that showed the route of the former railway across the modern street plan. Tim opened with accounts of railway buffs in more recent times being unaware of this railway. He showed a short YouTube Video account of the railway made only six weeks ago by Channel 7. Part of the YouTube Video was to alert bushwalkers seeking to join the Benowie Track from Thornleigh Station about the location of the former zig zag railway.

When the NSW Government was planning to extend the railway from Sydney to Newcastle in the 1880s the need for ballast was a priority. A suitable source was located in Thornleigh only a kilometre from the proposed line from Strathfield to the Hawkesbury. The quarry was about 35 metres below the railway line and the solution was to build a standard gauge zig zag railway to create an incline suited to use by a steam locomotive. Such a railway would move the rubble more quickly than bullock drays. Zig zags had been built at Lapstone and Clarence in the 1860s to achieve a railway line across the Blue



Mountains where tunneling difficulties created barriers to laying a railway. Both those zig zags were later made redundant when tunnels were built. The Thornleigh zig zag was built by Amos & Co and was opened in 1882 and was in constant use for the next ten years. After being dismantled it was largely forgotten until the 1970s when the Benowie walking track was extended to connect Bellamy Street, Pennant Hills with Timbarra Close in Westleigh. Sections of the former zig zag were found along Morgan Street, Thornleigh and in 1976 Pennant Hills Apex Club cleared away the former quarry to create a picnic spot. This area was also used by local Scouts and Guides and is just off the access to the Benowie Track. Halls Creek Camp was established near the quarry and at times accommodated up to 300 labourers. The camp would not have won civic planning prizes as it was a collection of corrugated iron shacks and tents in the middle of the bush. The work force mined the stone, crushed and loaded it at the quarry for hauling up the railway. There were usually four trucks hauled by a steam locomotive named Westward Ho. Following it being the source of railway ballast the quarry was used many years later to provide road base and there are some who claim it became a rifle range during World War 2. Tim brought his presentation to a close with the recent improvements at Thornleigh Railway Station that include plaques recalling the zig zag. Tim then went on to cover his recent book on the zig zag railway and had a few for sale. He also asked if any of us knew residents now living along the former zig zag route. It happened that Heather Firth would be able to put her friend in Tillock Street in touch with Tim. After Tim handled a few questions President David thanked Tim for making his time for us and closed the meeting.



Tim Sowden presenting President David with a copy of his book

Reporter: John Ellis

One of our members, Anoop, has been extolling the virtues of volunteering as this report in the August issue of 'The Senior' newspaper demonstrates.

www.thesenior.com.au

NEWS

Volunteering gave Anoop meaning

HIS busy career saw him working on almost every continent, but at first retirement was a struggle for Anoop Sud.

Thanks to Council on the Ageing (COTA) NSW, Anoop has found renewed purpose and is pouring that positive energy into the his tireless volunteer and community work.

The Indian born 74-year-old former coding and IT professional's busy career gave him drive and purpose, but after retiring he struggled to find companionship and direction, which led to anxiety and depression.

"The problem with working in technology, especially as a coder, is you're sitting in your own room, you get lonely," he said.

"God didn't create man to live alone, God created man to live in a society."

Everything changed when Anoop came across an ad on social media. COTA was looking to establish an advocacy group for culturally and linguistically diverse people and was inviting people from



COTA community speaker Anoop Sud with SydWest Multicultural Services chief executive Elfa Moraitakis and COTA NSW president Joan Hughes. Picture supplied

multicultural backgrounds to attend a meeting.

At the meeting he met COTA NSW president Joan Hughes, and after a long chat she asked him to put his story in writing, which he said brought him out of his shell.

Soon afterwards, Anoop was volunteering as a COTA community speaker and advocate, using his own experiences to help others.

He is also a member of Blacktown Council's Seniors Advisory Committee, co-chair of the NSW Health Technology and Innovation Committee, a member of the NSW Federal Health Aged Care Group, the Sydney Alli-

ance and Rotary.

He helps seniors learn to use smartphones and laptops at the Doonside Senior Citizens Club, regularly visits a man with dementia through the federal government's Community Visitors Scheme and volunteers as a mentor for mental health organisation Mentoring Men.

Anoop said he doesn't want any accolades for his volunteer work.

"If I took something from the community, I need to give it back."

■ For information on how to volunteer, 9286-3860, cotansw.com.au/volunteer

– ROWAN COWLEY

WHAT'S ON

Date	Program	Speaker	Chair	Reporter	
16th August	Winter RYPEN 2023	Lana Waddingham Tom Passe de Silva	John Ellis	Jason Terry	
23rd August	Board Meeting via Zoom	7.30pm start			
26th August	West Pennant Hills/ Cherrybrook Trivia Night	6.30 for 7.00pm	\$25 each		
30th August	Social Night at	Monkey King Thai Restaurant	Hillcrest Road, Pennant Hills	Let Daisy Huang know if you are going	
6th Sept	"My trip to Jordan and Egypt "	Ida Shi	David Firth	Jim Fraser	

Last Meeting - 2.8.2023

Attendance: 75%

Apologies: R. Huh, P. Stanton, J. Terry

Guest Speaker: Tim Sowden

Visiting Rotarians: Pres. Neville Hansen, Keith Ball. Colin Sharpe - all from West Pennant Hills/Cherrybrook Club

Guests: Heather Firth

Please let David Firth know if you are going to this Trivia Night on August 26th. We have booked 1 table so far.

August

Birthdays:

Nil

Anniversaries:

Nil

Club Induction Anniversary:

Ida Shi - August 31



TRIVIA NIGHT



Scan for Website



Card Payments Accepted



TEA & COFFEE PROVIDED.
BYO GROG & NIBBLES.

\$25 PER PERSON

All proceeds go to Blue Wren House, Camden Women's Shelter and other Rotary charities.

SATURDAY 26TH AUGUST, 2023

CHERRYBROOK COMMUNITY CENTRE (SHEPHERDS DRIVE) CHERRYBROOK

6.30PM FOR 7PM START

BRING ALONG YOUR FRIENDS AND MAKE A TABLE OF 8

Bookings Essential. Please phone or go to the website below.

 0468 330 667
  www.wphcrotary.org/2023-trivia-night
 @wphcrotaryclub
  wphc.rotary.events@gmail.com

