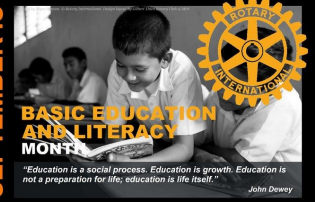




CREATE HOPE  
in the WORLD

# SPOKES

SEPTEMBER IS



TAKE ACTION: Join Rotary. Get Involved.

Pennant Hills  
**Rotary**  
Club



### CLUB CONTACT INFORMATION

PHONE:  
0407 805 487

EMAIL:  
rotaryclubpennanthills@gmail.com

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

### THE MEETING THIS WEEK

*“My Trip to Jordan and Egypt”*

*Speaker - Ida Shi*

**Chairman: David Firth**

**Reporter: Jim Fraser**



### The President's Comment

*I hope you like this piece of wisdom from Robert Fulghum*



Robert Fulghum, who told us a few years ago that all we ever really needed to know, we could learn in kindergarten, once interviewed a driver education teacher who said something like this about his job: "I help young men and women move through a rite of passage. And my job is getting them to think about this time in their lives. Having a driver's license means you move out of the back seat into the driver's seat. You aren't a passenger anymore. You're in charge. You can go where you want and when you want. You have power now. So that's what we talk about. The power. Their new power. Opportunity. Responsibility. About dreams and hopes and fears. About someday and about what if."

Isn't that a wonderful way to look at his work, his job, his calling: -- not merely to teach about driving, but to enable young people to see their lives from their new emerging perspective, from the perspective of the freedom that they are just about to receive -- and which so easily they can blow. You step over the line so easily from freedom to license, from freedom "to be," to freedom which hurts: hurts yourself and hurts others along the way. And that's where he sees his work, this teacher. Right at that line, that intersection, in the lives of young people. How easy for new drivers, how easy for old drivers, how easy for anybody, to cross that line between freedom and license. Freedom and irresponsibility.

## Meeting Report - August 30th, 2023

Last Wednesday, being the 5th Wednesday in the month, we had our planned Social Night get together at The Monkey King Thai Restaurant in Pennant Hills. As you will appreciate, it was on the same afternoon and evening when Sydney was subject to some fierce weather. Fortunately it was relatively calm when we assembled for a great banquet dinner organised and booked by Daisy Huang.

We had Pam and Peter Hudson there fresh from selling their home in West Pennant Hills the previous Sunday; Phil and Lyn Stanton just back from their 4 week trip to Britain and Japan; Ida and Eddie, Theo and Georgia, Daisy, and David and Heather. Jason unfortunately was unable to join us due to last minute work commitment. So over the couple of hours we spent there, we enjoyed a variety of dishes with liquid refreshments on a BYO basis.



All in all, a very enjoyable time together with the opportunity to catch up on the latest news amongst our Rotary friends. If you missed it, think about joining us for the next one in November.

## THE ROTARY LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE



RLI is a power-packed learning and development program for Rotarians with at least 1 year of experience. It is designed to share up-to-date knowledge, leadership skills and information that can be taken back to Clubs and used right away during your Rotary journey. RLI is based on the principle that all Rotarians are leaders because they see something that needs to be done and get on with it by Joining Leaders, Exchanging Ideas and Taking Action to make the world a better place.

Led by experienced facilitators, you are sure to enjoy what others are describing as 'the best Rotary training they have had' with the learning delivered through facilitated discussions and small group work. RLI is delivered as a concise weekend course either face-to-face or on-line, depending on the course selected.

There will be one more course before Christmas and then a course in early February. For actual course details, contact Amanda Barnes at [rli@rotarydistrict9685.org.au](mailto:rli@rotarydistrict9685.org.au) or phone her on 0410 572 368.



## WHY DID 5,000 ROTARIANS LEAVE OUR CLUBS?

Every August when Rotary celebrates membership month, many of us start looking at Membership numbers. Rotary is a membership organization. So, let's make a habit of looking at our numbers every month like a sales manager of a car dealership. Membership is our primary source of resources, skills and income to clubs, districts, Rotary International, and RDU. Clubs are the only place where one can join Rotary, Rotaract, or Interact. Our clubs are the sales funnels to attract and retain members. Clubs are our showrooms. If our clubs are like brand new car dealerships attractive and offering choices, then many will walk in the door and want to join Rotary. I believe our members give their valuable time and skills to creating a positive difference in the lives of those people who need our services. We all enjoy and value the opportunities our club offers us to be people with a purpose.

- It surprises me then, why did almost 5,000 members resign from our Rotary clubs in Zone 8 in 2022-23 year? That's 14 members leaving every day.
- It's a 15% loss of our total membership of 31,412 from 1 July 2022.
- Of those who left 344 were in Rotary less than 12 months! Only about 20 left from new clubs formed in 2022-2023. All others left from our existing clubs.
- In 2022-23 we formed only 7 New Clubs in Zone 8. But Terminated 35 Rotary Clubs. In the same year, neighboring Philippines in Zone 10A formed 45 new clubs.
- In the last 5 years we in Zone 8 formed only 48 new Rotary clubs but terminated 154. In the same period, the Philippines started 160 new clubs and terminated only 47.
- Last Rotary year 8 Districts in Zone 8 recorded net losses of 100+ members, 6 in Australia and 2 in New Zealand. In 2022-23 our Zone 8 net loss was 1,521 members. In the 2021-22 year, our Zone 8 net loss was 1,262 members.
- Today Zone 8 has only 29,000 members and 1,232 Rotary clubs. Australia has about 22,500 Rotarians in 990 clubs. NZ has about 6,200 Rotarians in 235 Clubs.
- 600 of our 1,232 Rotary clubs in Zone 8 have less than 20 members. Of them, 172 clubs have less than 10 members. Only 145 Rotary clubs in our Zone have over 40 members. The list below shows, only 7 clubs in Zone 8 have over 75 members. Imagine the positive impact on Rotary's public image, if we also had one large club of over 75 members in the big cities of Sydney, Canberra, Brisbane, Hobart, Auckland and Christchurch.
- Good news is, 23% of members attracted to the 27 new clubs we formed in the last 3 years in our Zone were under the age of 40 and 54% of the members attracted were female. 85% of the 600 new members in these new clubs were first-time to Rotary.

*From 'Rotary On The Move' - August 2023 - a reflection on Membership*

*I came across the following on the D9560 website -*

**Rotary District 9560 - Update May 2023**  
**Planning has commenced to hold the**  
**Rotary Timor-Leste Project Expo in August 2024.**  
A new website is to be developed.  
Dates are not confirmed.

The Rotary Timor-Leste Project Expo is an opportunity for Rotary Clubs, Rotary Districts, and other NGOs active in Timor-Leste, to display their projects, seek partners and funding opportunities, and network with people with an interest in the community development of Timor-Leste. Hosted by Rotary District 9560, the Rotary Club of Dili, and the Rotary Club of Dili Lafaek, and to be held at the Timor Plaza Hotel in Dili.

A visit to Timor-Leste will change your life. It is a beautiful country inhabited by the friendliest of people, proud of their independence, and determined to make improvements to their communities.

Tours will be arranged both before and after the Expo to enable visitors to experience the countryside outside of Dili, and learn more about Rotary's work here. Further details of tours will be provided when available.

## WHAT'S ON

Date	Program	Speaker	Chair	Reporter	
6th Sept	"My trip to Jordan and Egypt "	Ida Shi	David Firth	Jim Fraser	
<b>During this meeting we are having a lesson on Facebook and the club's page, so please bring your tablets, phones, i-pads and i-phones so you can learn first hand.</b>					
20th Sept	TBA	TBA			
27th Sept	Board Meeting via Zoom	At 7.30pm	David Firth	Reports & agenda items to Secretary	
4th Oct	Membership	Azita Abdollahian (TBC)	Jim Fraser	Pam Hudson	

### Last Meeting - 30.8.2023

Attendance: 50%

**Members Attending:** D Firth, T Glockemann, D Huang, P Hudson, I Shi, P Stanton

**Guests:** Heather Firth, Georgia Glockemann, Peter Hudson, Eddie Li, Lyn Stanton

### August

#### Birthdays:

Anoop Sud - September 1  
Daisy Huang - September 7  
Wendy Bell - September 13

#### Anniversaries:

Adrian & Wendy Bell - September 5

#### Club Induction Anniversary:

Claude Rigney - September 8  
Pat Parker - September 10

MORNING CHUCKLE.....They weren't in my pockets. Suddenly I realized I must have left them in the car. Frantically, I headed for the parking lot. My husband has scolded me many times for leaving my keys in the car's ignition. He's afraid that the car could be stolen. As I looked around the parking lot, I realized he was right. The parking lot was empty. I immediately called the police. I gave them my location, confessed that I had left my keys in the car, and that it had been stolen.

Then, I made the most difficult call of all to my husband: "I left my keys in the car and it's been stolen."

There was a moment of silence. I thought the call had been disconnected, but then I heard his voice. "Are you kidding me?" he barked, "I dropped you off!"

Now it was my turn to be silent. Embarrassed, I said, "Well, come and get me."

He retorted, "I will; just as soon as I convince this cop that I didn't steal your damn car!"

Welcome to the **GOLDEN YEARS**

Change is the law of  
life. And those who look  
only to the past or  
present are certain to  
miss the future!

John F. Kennedy

