

SPOKES

Volume 57 No.33

14th March, 2016

Chairman:

John Ellis

Reporter:

Phil Stanton

Editor:

David Firth



TONIGHT'S PROGRAM



DISTRICT 9685

RYLA 2016 REPORT

GUEST SPEAKERS:

SARAH KING & SARAH CARMAN

These two young ladies were sponsored by our club to attend this year's RYLA program held last January.

We should not forget that our club is committed to running RYLA next year.

**NEXT MEETING
March 21st**

**'RYPEN 2016
REPORT'**

Speakers:

**Jessica Hook &
Kalindi White**

Chairman:

John Ellis

Reporter:

Jim Fraser

Our Club's 56th Anniversary - Tonight

The charter for our club was granted on 14th March, 1960 and the club commenced with 21 members. They had been meeting since 18th November, 1959 as a provisional club. The charter president was Dick Geeves.

It is interesting to note that the charter night for the new club was not held until Friday, 20th May, 1960. The function was held in the Grace Bros. Ballroom in Church Street, Parramatta. It was at this function, run by our sponsor club, Hornsby, that the club's charter was presented to President Dick Geeves by the Governor of District 275, Frank Brown. The club met on Thursday evenings at the Scout Camp in Pomona Street, Thornleigh. In 1960 there were 10,500 clubs world-wide with 485,000 members.

CLUB CONTACT INFORMATION



PHONE ENQUIRIES: 9484 4889

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MEETING REPORT - 7th MARCH, 2016

The president opened proceedings by welcoming our Guest Speaker Bev Cooney to our meeting. He then thanked Phil Stanton for his mighty effort in organising such a successful charity golf day (Phil having been absent last week at a Golf Club board meeting). Treasurer Ian Huckel advised that currently the net proceeds from the golf day are almost \$17,000 with a couple of sponsors yet to pay.

PP Pat gave a reminder of the RYDA program on Friday at the St Ives Training facility commencing at 8.30am. Four members have volunteered to spend the day there with the students from Pennant Hills High School – Jim Fraser, Claude Rigney, Jack Reid and John Ellis. Pat also advised of his approaching knee replacement surgery at the hands of a surgeon recommended by PE Pam Hudson.

The pesky Sergeant was then let loose and he contrived to fine the editor amongst a string of members for a range of supposed infractions. This unleashed a torrent of cross fines – member v. member – all in good humour I have to add.

With food and beverages largely consumed, Chairman Michael, using his innate Irish charm, introduced our Guest Speaker, Bev Cooney, noting that the editor had got the intro in Spokes wrong – she is now a member of Bathurst Rotary Club. We were then subjected to a wonderful talk by a lady with such passion for her topic! Bev recounted how, in 2003, her daughter got her to take a holiday from her nursing job at Newcastle Hospital and take a trip to South America and follow the way of the Incas. Strangely, Bev had always had a desire to visit these lands. They saw many of the famous Inca sites, but a visit to an 1100 bed hospital in Lima, Peru aroused particular interest. When questioned, the doctor in charge said they needed people who could teach them how to care for their patients better. Bev determined that she would do just that the following year, and she did! In 2004 she returned with a team of doctors, anaesthetists and nurses and were soon heading out into the jungle. They went to a regional city, Satipo, which has 26,000 inhabitants. The hospital which greeted them was very much third world – from the building itself, the furnishings, the medical facilities and equipment as well as the training of the staff. They did what they could. Bev also discovered that disabled children were ostracised by the people at large. They were not allowed to attend school and so were isolated. She determined that a school was needed to cater just for them.

In 2006, she obtained beds and medical equipment from the old Newcastle Hospital when it closed and had them shipped to Lima with the help of Rotary. She determined to return to Satipo so had a small house built there for her. The following year the team of doctors and nurses returned for another working holiday. The same year, Bev had a team of builders from the Sunshine Coast arrive and they built the School for the Disabled that she had been planning. Then, in 2008, she resigned from Newcastle Hospital and moved to Peru. Her work continued there with her providing training and skills for disabled adults such that they no longer lived as beggars on the streets, but were working and self-sufficient.

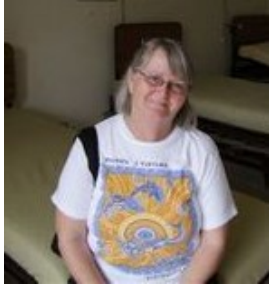
For her achievements, Bev was awarded an OAM in 2013. She had joined Castle Hill Rotary Club in the interim and had been club president. She was now working as a nurse at Westmead Hospital. Then in 2015 she retired and moved to Bathurst, and quickly found herself a member of Bathurst Rotary club. When she retired, Westmead Hospital offered to provide some assistance with cancer treatment in Peru. As a result, 2 cancer treatment centres are being established there, with Westmead, supported by the Australian embassy, providing specialists to teach the local doctors some treatment methods (currently there is no cancer treatment in the country).

Bev's latest project is working to rehabilitate women and children who had been captives of the Shining Path rebel organisation which operates in the narcotics trade. She has helped to house, clothe and feed them under the protection of the government authorities. Bev's influence in Peru is such that now there are a number of government-built disabled schools across the country.

Following question-time during which Claude Rigney offered to explore whether he could provide medical supplies for the hospital in Satipo, Bev was thanked for her wonderful talk and for coming so far to be with us.

Reporter: DLF

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY



Full marks to Administration Director Phil Stanton, who, in his role as Program Director, so effectively supported International Women's Day (March 8) by arranging for that wonderful speaker last Monday, Beverley Cooney OAM. She is such a great example of what can be achieved if you have passion for the task at hand and you are dedicated to ensuring the successful outcomes.



The School built in Satipo



A report on RYDA on Friday 11th March

Four members (Claude Rigney, Jim Fraser, Jack Reid and John Ellis) attended RYDA on Friday, supporting 180 Year 11's from Pennant Hills High School. The six sessions presented many aspects of safe driving to young people, most of whom are on their L plates. Over the years the format of sessions has varied, however always with the same objective.

Reporter John Ellis

(Road Safety Education Limited is a not-for-profit organisation which now conducts the award winning RYDA Program for young people across Australia and New Zealand.)

REPORT FROM THE DISTRICT 9685 CONFERENCE



This year the conference was held in Canberra at the National Convention Centre on Friday 11th and Saturday 12th March. Registrations were approx. 600, with the program restricted to Friday evening and all day Saturday, the final segment being the dinner dance on Saturday night at the Australian Institute of Sport. So, unlike previously, there was no program on the Sunday.

There was an array of excellent speakers throughout the sessions with several highlights. Perhaps my pick would be Rob Pennicot on Friday night who told his story of completing a circumnavigation of Australia in 'rubber duckies' with 2 other fellows, raising \$285,000 for PolioPlus; and Sharon Edington, a Rotary Peace Scholar who related some of the work she has been involved in since completing her course at the University of Bradford, UK. She is an absolute dynamo in helping refugees in particular. And then we received an update on the School of St Jude by the founder, Gemma Sisai. What a wonderful story that is!

So here is an advance notice. The District Conference next year will be on Saturday 11th March, 2017, a one day conference, and will be held at the Penrith Panthers Club. One presumes this will ensure a much lower registration cost as well as an absence of accommodation costs. If you haven't been to a district conference, this should be an ideal opportunity.

OUR FUTURE PROGRAM

At DATE	PROGRAM	SPEAKER	CHAIRMAN	REPORTER
March 21st	RYPEN 2016 REPORT	Jessica Hook & Kalindi White	John Ellis	Jim Fraser
March 28th	NO MEETING	DUE TO EASTER	HOLIDAY	
April 4th	Joint Meeting with Beecroft Club	Program on 'Caving'	Beecroft hosting	Pam Hudson
April 11th	National Youth Science Forum 2016	Sash Vanjara	John Ellis	Alex Thomas
April 16th	DISTRICT 9685	ASSEMBLY	FOR ALL	DIRECTORS
April 18th	Autobiography	Jim Fraser	Theo Glockemann	Pat Parker
April 25th	ANZAC DAY	NO MEETING		
May 16th	PRIDE OF WORKMANSHIP AWARDS PARTNERS NIGHT	TBA	TBA	TBA

MEMBER NEWS FOR THE WEEK

BIRTHDAYS

Happy birthday to Jeanette Rigney - March 14

ANNIVERSARIES

Nil

INDUCTION ANNIVERSARIES

Nil



An array of Past Presidents on 14th March, 1985

LAST WEEK'S MEETING

ATTENDANCE:

77.8%

APOLOGIES:

Terry Pankhurst, Alex Thomas, David Walsh

GUEST SPEAKER:

PP Beverley Cooney OAM,
member of Rotary Club of Bathurst

LEAVE OF ABSENCE:

Graeme Ashdown

QUOTE FOR THE WEEK

*'A bell is not a bell unless you ring it; a song is not a song until you sing it;
a book is not a book until you read it; Rotary is not Rotary unless you share it.'*

RI President's Representative to District Conference PDG Alagu Alagappan