



# SPOKES

Volume 57 No.34

21st March, 2016

Chairman:  
John Ellis

Reporter:  
Jim Fraser

Editor:  
David Firth

**NO MEETING**  
**NEXT WEEK**

**NEXT MEETING**  
**April 4th**

**Joint Meeting with**  
**Beecroft**  
**'CAVING'**

**Reporter:**  
**Michael Bradley**

TONIGHT'S PROGRAM

**DISTRICT 9685**

**RYPEN 2016 REPORT**

GUEST SPEAKERS:

**Jessica Hook & Kalindi White**

THE RYPEN PROGRAM

During an intensive residential weekend, young people aged approximately 15 to 16 years will develop increased motivation, improved life skills, better self-image, pride in themselves and an understanding of setting and achieving goals. At the same time, participants are interacting with peers from different backgrounds, and different parts of our district, improving their teamwork skills and having fun!! All this done in an informal atmosphere, where questions and debates are encouraged.

How students are chosen -

- Full time students from years 9/10
- Students who have undeveloped potential
- Students are welcome from public and private schools
- This program is aimed towards students who need a helping hand to develop leadership, initiative and responsibility skills
- Clubs are encouraged to commit to TWO students from each school

District aims at equal numbers of male and female students.

**CLUB CONTACT INFORMATION**



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## MEETING REPORT - 14th MARCH, 2016

President Ian opened the meeting and welcomed our guest speaker Sarah King. (Unfortunately our other intended guest speaker Sarah Carman had advised that as a consequence of a minor car accident she was unable to attend).

David Firth provided a report on the District Conference held in Canberra on the weekend, noting that there were some very good speakers including Rob Pennicot, who with a mate and an unsuspecting photographer, circumnavigated Australia as a fund raiser for Polio plus in a rubber duckie. They made it and raised \$285,000. Others he mentioned were Sharon Edington, a peace scholar and Gemma Sisai who reported on the St Jude's school in Africa that she had been involved in. That school now has three campuses, 1900 students including 1400 boarders and a substantial financial budget. Each year they take around 67 to 70 students but this comes from over 7,000 applicants.

On a different note, it was advised that a 180 students from Pennant Hills High School had taken part in 6 sessions of driver awareness (known to us as RYDA) at the Honda Driving School in St Ives. The purpose is to impart the concept of safe driving, to look at themselves and what is in their nature such that they are able to contemplate their own behaviour on the road. Some of the more confronting sessions are where victims of accidents are there to tell their story.

A further update was provided on the results of the PKU Golf Day. It was noted that the tally on the revenue was now around the \$22,500 mark which would indicate that nett receipts would be around \$17,000.

The Sargent then took great delight in the fact that no one knew what "Pie Day" was. Apparently the clue was in the delicious shepherd's pie served by the chef because it was "Pye day" i.e. 3.14 etc.

And so to our speaker, Sarah King. Sarah hailed from the North Coast of New South Wales and had had an association with Rotary from quite a young age, her father being involved in the local club. She attended a Rypen programme when she was 14 years, had been an exchange student to Brazil and was now a student at Sydney University studying Social Work and International Relations. She currently lives in a student co-op in Newtown and is involved in volunteer work related to children of refugees and is also involved in some mentoring work.

Sarah said there were 72 people at the Ryla programme, a programme that is about leadership and developing leadership qualities. Sarah said that part of the programme was related to trying to define what makes a good team leader. There is the theory, and then the "throw them into a situation" experience. Post that, there were then reflections on what went well and what did not. And reflection groups were able to give considered opinion about not only themselves but also about others in their group.

This helped them become aware of their own strengths and weaknesses.

She did note that it is quite straightforward helping people to find their strengths, not so easy talking to them about their weaknesses in a positive way. One of the ways she saw that happening was by linking themselves to that component, for example "I see that you are limiting yourself because I see it in myself".

Sarah was prepared to comment on areas where she thought things could be improved noting that perhaps more diversity of attendees would be desirable including marginalised people, representative of refugees etc. (It was noted that the Rotary Club of Pennant Hills had actually sponsored two such people at last year's RYLA). She also felt the same could apply to some of the speakers.

In conclusion Sarah noted that the major impact on her learnings was that the leader is not necessarily the person out the front. It is the people that get the job done, create and ensure the direction is established and then achieve, they are the leaders. She quoted the Commissioner for the Rural Fire Service (one of the speakers) that said that "the standard that you walk past is the standard you except".

Sarah's talk was well received and there were a number of questions that followed. She was a great example of those young Australians with leadership qualities that benefit from the wonderful program that is RYLA.

Reporter: DPS



Sarah King flanked by John Ellis and David Wilson



Sarah Carman & Sarah King with Jim Fraser at RYLA

## TREK 4 TIMOR



They made it!!

Rotarians Libby Bleakley and Teresa Beck (both Australian Federal Police Members) have completed their 357km 'Trek-4-Timor', arriving at Parliament House in Canberra last Saturday afternoon. Earlier this month they set off from Martin Place in Sydney and trekked south for the nation's capital to raise funds for a youth and community centre in Timor-Leste.

The trek wasn't always smooth sailing with many blisters and long, hot days, but they were sustained by a support team along the way.

Timorese Ambassador Abel Guterres joined Libby and Teresa for the last few kilometres of the trek.

All funds raised from their trek are being used to complete construction of a youth and community centre in Timor-Leste, which will focus on crime reduction through positive engagement.

### 2016 District Vocational Excellence Awards

The 2016 District Conference saw the 23rd annual presentation of these awards. The following people were recognised:

**Anthea Hammon** - Director, Hammon Holdings P/L

**Chris Rehn** - Chief Executive,

Royal Institute for Deaf & Blind Children

**Dr Sandra Meihubers** - Dental Public Health

Consultant

You can read their stories on the District 9685 website.

## Rotary Information

The following is a project featured on the Rotary website [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org)



### Lending libraries for rural communities in the southern Philippines

Davao City area of Mindanao Philippines

#### Project Description

This is a very simple project. The Rotary Club of Pag-Asa Davao is involved in the creation of small rural libraries that will loan books to children and become local reading centres. About 400 books are needed to create a small library. The most useful books are in English and those suitable for ages Pre-K to Grade 6.

Many people are disposing of books and going to e-books. This is a great time to gather books for children to use in the southern Philippines. Most of the targeted areas lack access to lending libraries, even in the public school systems.

The books will be placed in local government centres, churches, schools, RCC's or other areas where existing staff members can monitor the use of the books.

### URGENT WINTER APPEAL FOR SHELTERBOX



When a family loses its home, it's devastating. But when a family loses its home in the depths of winter, with temperatures as low as  $-25^{\circ}\text{C}$ , it's a matter of life and death.

In the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (the DPRK), families are facing the bite of winter with nowhere safe or warm to sleep. Year after year, floods and severe storms have smashed through the countryside, tearing homes in two and destroying crops. This means no building materials and little hope of rebuilding again.

## OUR FUTURE PROGRAM

DATE	PROGRAM	SPEAKER	CHAIRMAN	REPORTER
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	Jash 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	Bill Aitken	TBA	TBA
June 6th	The Program of NBN Co.	Michael Tyler	David Firth	Adrian Bell

### MEMBER NEWS FOR THE WEEK

#### BIRTHDAYS

Happy birthday to Heather Firth - March 24

#### ANNIVERSARIES

David & Heather Hopping - March 25

#### INDUCTION ANNIVERSARIES

George Green - April 3



### 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

'Easter is meant to be a symbol of hope, renewal, and new life.'

*Janine di Giovanni*