



SPOKES

Volume 57 No.36

11th April, 2016

Chairman:

John Ellis

Reporter:

Michael Bradley

Editor:

David Firth

TONIGHT'S PROGRAM

THE 2016 NATIONAL YOUTH SCIENCE FORUM

Guest Speaker: Jash Vanjara

It is now 30 years since the National Science Summer School Inc. began operations with Rotary in Australia as the founding partner. Now trading as the National Youth Science Forum (NYSF), this national not-for-profit organisation enjoys high-level support with the Chief Scientist of Australia as its Science Patron. The NYSF aims to nurture and encourage young Australians to be the next generation of leading scientists and engineers supporting a sustainable future for our nation.

NEXT MEETING April 18th

Autobiography

Speaker:

Jim Fraser

Chairman:

Theo Glockemann

Reporter:

David Firth



A photo of last week's combined meeting with Beecroft Club

CLUB CONTACT INFORMATION



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MEETING REPORT - 4th April, 2016

We combined with Beecroft for this week's meeting which opened with a welcome by the Beecroft President Lionel Jackson to visitors and our members. A toast by Beecroft acting Sergeant Mark Anderson was to (wait for it!) the Rotary Club of Pennant Hills – the father club of Beecroft.

Our esteemed President Ian was absent on work commitments, so our Sergeant and PP, Adrian Bell was in the Preso's role and had to do precisely nothing at all for the whole evening, despite advising everyone on the table just how important he was!! Worth noting that our Bulletin Editor David F dodged an obvious fine – it is the JamEs Craig, not Jams Craig! PE Pam who had had a stressful week with family matters pressed yours truly in to the role of Reporter while everyone else ducked for cover!

Announcements followed -

Theo G on Timor news that a team of 15 students from Barker College with two teachers will join the annual sojourn to Timor;

Pam H on "Eddie the Eagle" movie fundraiser next Wednesday night at Castle Hill \$20 per head. (The review by Fitz in Sundays Herald mentioned that he thought it was the best movie he had seen for ages – and don't miss it!)

Theo G – each member is expected to bring at least two names of prospective members to our meeting next week – with phone number, email and address – so that invitations to our Membership Breakfast can be sent

Three rounds of Heads and Tails resulted in all our contributions being taken by Beecroft and no winners from our club. (When we reciprocate in future we need to ensure we return the favour!)

After a short break for coffee our Guest Speaker Deborah Johnston, was introduced by the Beecroft President. The subject was "Exploratory Cave Diving" – (Spelunking if you come from USA or Potholing if you are from the UK or Ireland).

The Caving club that Deborah belongs to is over one hundred years old and has never had a fatality on any of the dives.

Deborah highlighted three sites in her presentation

– the Nullabor, at Cocklebidy population 8, absolutely nowhere near anything which takes 26 hours to get to, which is the largest single chunk of limestone, where she had been bitten twice by snakes, and where they found 112 new caves in 7 days, and which has the biggest underground chamber in the Southern Hemisphere

- Tropical Nth Queensland where the site floods annually and requires abseiling down. Permits from Government and Traditional owners mean much paperwork.

- and Jenolan which has two caves over 10km long and have not yet been fully explored. Deborah described a Mammoth Cave where after abseiling down 96 metres they still do not know where the bottom is! It could be 100s of metres deep.

Deborah has a professional academic interest in exploring and mapping new caves looking for ancient fossils, collecting specimens etc. and how the caves originally developed. While her physical expertise is in rockclimbing and abseiling, after she tried cave diving she was hooked. Pitch black, freezing water and constant danger are just some of the delights, however seeing beautiful sites

through crystal clear water, caverns and where nobody had been before made it worthwhile. Your reporter felt uncomfortable when Deborah described exploring a very narrow tunnel underwater, where the small shovel she carried helped move small stones and rocks from in front of her to behind her thus cutting her off from where she had come from. I was consoled by the fact that I would not have been able to fit in the "tunnel" to start with!! Just as well Deborah explained that she never suffered from claustrophobia!



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Deborah showed a beautifully produced video of the sites both above and below water which showed many of the things that she had earlier described.

Each expedition needs a lot of support from helpers. Preparation is everything so as to prevent any problems during the dive. A line attached to themselves which is let out as the dive progresses

ensures that they are able to always retrace their steps blindfolded if necessary. Your Reporter can only comment – “the things some folk do for kicks!”

President Lionel thanked Deborah for her memorable address and advised that \$100 would be sent to the Rotary Foundation in her name and closed the meeting.



Reporter: Theo G

Deborah is thanked for her presentation



PRIDE OF WORKMANSHIP

AWARDS NIGHT

MONDAY, 16th MAY, 6.30 for 7.00pm

Guest Speaker: Bill Aitken

This is one of the highlight events for our club which will showcase the project for which we are known around Australian Rotary Clubs.

Do you have someone who is deserving of an award? Or perhaps you know or deal with someone who deserves such recognition? Please contact David Firth who is inviting organisations to nominate awardees.

Know Your Neighbour & Celebrate Diversity

If you are interested in comparisons of 3 of the major faiths, there is a forum on Thursday 21st April at 7.30 pm at Normanhurst Uniting Church, 2 Buckingham Ave, Normanhurst where the Muslim, Jewish and Christian faiths will be presented and compared.

Everyone is welcome.

Rotary's Council on Legislation

Representatives from Rotary clubs worldwide will gather in Chicago 10-15 April to consider changes to the policies that guide Rotary International and its member clubs.

The Council on Legislation meets every three years and is an essential part of Rotary's governance. The representatives -- one from each Rotary district -- review and vote on proposals that seek to change Rotary's constitutional documents and on resolutions that express an opinion or make a recommendation to the Rotary International Board of Directors.

Get live updates and daily vote totals on My Rotary beginning 11 April.

Many of this year's proposed changes are designed to increase membership by giving clubs greater flexibility in the timing and the nature of their meetings. Other proposals would amend membership requirements.

Over the decades, Council representatives have debated virtually every nuance of Rotary policy and membership and attendance rules. The five-day meeting is one of Rotary's primary agents for change, allowing the organization to evaluate and enhance its relevance in a rapidly changing world.

OUR FUTURE PROGRAM

DATE	PROGRAM	SPEAKER	CHAIRMAN	REPORTER
April 16th	DISTRICT 9685	ASSEMBLY	FOR ALL	DIRECTORS
April 18th	Autobiography	Jim Fraser	Theo Glockemann	David Firth
April 25th	ANZAC DAY	NO MEETING		
May 2nd	Board Meeting	Board	President Ian	Pat Parker
May 16th	PRIDE OF WORKMANSHIP AWARDS PARTNERS NIGHT	Bill Aitken	TBA	Alex Thomas
May 28/29	SALVO'S RED	SHIELD	APPEAL	
Friday June 3rd	MEALS FROM THE HEART <u>with our Partners</u>	at Ronald McDonald House	WESTMEAD	Commencing @ 5.30pm
June 6th	The Program of NBN Co.	Michael Tyler	David Firth	Adrian Bell

MEMBER NEWS FOR THE WEEK

BIRTHDAYS

Nil

ANNIVERSARIES

Ian and Sue Huckel - April 9

Terry and Maureen Pankhurst - April 9

INDUCTION ANNIVERSARIES

Nil

PP Pat Parker came through his knee surgery well. In fact, so well, he was up walking around the next day! With daily physio in the hospital, he was deemed right to head for rehab at Mt Wilga Hospital last Friday. He expects to be there for 2 weeks.

LAST WEEK'S MEETING

ATTENDANCE:

66.7%

APOLOGIES:

Michael Bradley, Ian Chappel, Terry Pankhurst,
Pat Parker, Peter Wilson

GUEST SPEAKER:

Deborah Johnston

VISITOR:

Nil

LEAVE OF ABSENCE:

Graeme Ashdown

QUOTE FOR THE WEEK

‘The science of today is the technology of tomorrow.’

Edward Teller