



VOLUME 58 No. 10
EDITOR: DAVID FIRTH

SPOKES

OUR PROGRAM THIS WEEK - September 12th



MY FIRST BOOK - "BORN TO FLY"

Guest Speaker: Mary Ann Napper

At the age of sixty five Mary Ann Napper turned her hand to creative writing and became a self-published author. Writing is fundamentally a solitary and silent pursuit. Mary Ann finds that sharing ideas with other authors provides her with an invaluable sounding board. She is a member of the Australian Society of Author (ASA), the Fellowship of Australian Writers (FAW) and holds a position on the committee of the Society of Women Writers.

CHAIRMAN: Alex Thomas REPORTER: Ian Chappel

NEXT WEEK - September 19th

JOINT MEETING WITH BEECROFT CLUB

PROGRAM: "WORLD VISION"

SPEAKER: ROSS PIPER - C.O.O. WORLD VISION AUSTRALIA

CHAIRMAN: PRES. DAVID ELLYARD REPORTER: PAT PARKER

PLEASE NOTE that at our meeting on September 26th, our Guest Speaker will be **ROBYN WAITE**, daughter of Peter & Margaret Waite, who have strong links to our club. Robyn will talk about Domestic Violence and the refuge in the Castle Hill area sponsored by Castle Towers. This is a Partners Night and visitors are always welcome.

CLUB CONTACT INFORMATION

PHONE ENQUIRIES: 9484 4889

TO NOTIFY MEETING APOLOGIES & GUESTS: 9294 2107

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Past President Bruce Callaway PHF

Last Monday we farewelled Bruce at a service to celebrate his life at the Palm Chapel, Macquarie Park Crematorium. Past member Rev Alan Lowe conducted the service in his usual way, sharing one or two stories of his friendship with Bruce during his time in the Rotary club.

Bruce's elder son Geoff who had returned from the UK with his family, delivered a wonderful eulogy which detailed many aspects of Bruce's life which I had not known or had forgotten. These included his great abilities as a scholar - he was captain and dux of Young High School; he graduated from Sydney University in Medicine with Honours as a mature age student. Geoff told of his father's time in the merchant navy with Burns Philp & Co. on their island trading ships sailing from the east coast of Australia to New Guinea and the Pacific Islands. But Bruce's real forte was as a general practitioner in the practice he operated at Wentworthville, where he was greatly loved and admired.

I had the honour of speaking about his Rotary experience. He joined our club in October 1980, nominated by his neighbour Jack Reid. He was quickly involved in the club activities culminating in his election as president in 1988-89, a year which I recounted was marked by a number of dramas, none of which were of his making. Bruce rose above all of them and completed a very successful year. Soon after the club accepted the task of running the District Assembly at Hawkesbury Agricultural College, with Bruce chairing the committee organising it. Again, this proved to be a very stressful weekend. Following the success of this event, Bruce was made a Paul Harris Fellow. Then as his health declined, Bruce advised that he was unable to attend meetings on any regular basis. He was offered, and accepted Honorary Membership and has maintained his close connection with the club mainly via email right up to the past weeks. He was indeed a very valuable club member and we have expressed our condolences to Dawn and the family.

David Firth



This is the plaque which Theo Glockemann took with him to Timor to present to Woodside and their partners.



Ryde Area Team
Invites you to join us for a fundraising event to support our team providing dignity & education.

Days for Girls Ryde makes washable sanitary kits for girls & women in Australia and in partnership with Rotary, around the world.

Every Girl • Everywhere • Period •

High Tea
With musical accompaniment by Caroline King of the Sydney Conservatorium of Music

Saturday 24th September 2016
2:30 - 5pm
Eastwood Uniting Church Hall
14 Lakeside Road, Eastwood

www.trybooking.com/220215
\$35 per person / \$350 for a table of 10
plus a small booking fee



Caroline King
Armidale soprano, Caroline King is currently studying a vocal Performance Degree at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music with vocal teacher Marie Ryan, Chair of Vocal and Opera Studies. Caroline is the winner of the Helen Myers Scholarship (2013).

Join our team!
A lively social group, we currently hold sewing workshops twice per month, and we are always on the lookout for sponsorship.
Contact Dennise & Janelle at rydensw@daysforgirls.org

Thanks to our sponsors & partners



Rotary Meeting Report - August 29th

The meeting was opened by President Pam Hudson and she introduced Jamie Davidson, our guest speaker. She then invited Jack Reid to make an announcement.

Jack conveyed the sad news that our honorary member, PP Bruce Callaway, had crossed the bar on Sunday. Bruce joined Rotary in October 1980 and was president of the Club in 1988-89. His recent poor health has prevented his continuing attendance and he was made an honorary member.

Theo Glockemann reported on his plans for his forthcoming visit to East Timor where he will oversee RYLA and RYPEN programmes. He will be accompanied by a group of students from Barker College and he was able to report that, although financial support has been difficult, he has secured sufficient support from Woodside Petroleum and some other NGOs interested in our Rotary programmes in East Timor.

President Pam announced the visit of the District Governor on Friday 9 September – a joint meeting with the other clubs in our zone. Jim Fraser reported on our Daffodil Day collection at Pennant Hills Railway Station on Friday 26 August. Even Jim commented on the chilliness of the early morning. The atmospheric rigours were mollified with David Firth's coffee run and we collected \$880. Amongst the accumulated rubbish at the end of the day, David found a letter of thanks from the Cancer Council which put Jack Reid's name into a draw for a mystery flight.

Sergeant Pankhurst was particularly acerbic with members still abed after 0600 on Daffodil Day. President Pam put forward a nomination for our forthcoming Australia Day Award, suggesting we give the nomination consideration over the next few weeks. She then introduced Jamie Davidson to address us on his role as President of the Parents and Citizens Association at Pennant Hills Primary School where there are 550 students. In particular he wanted to discuss ways to re-engage Rotary and the Public School. Jamie is well-known to one of our members – he is David Firth's son-in-law. Jamie has two daughters at Pennant Hills Primary School and he attended a P & C meeting to encounter a torrid atmosphere with a group of parents critical of the Principal and her staff. Jamie considered there should be a very different approach and found himself elected President of the P & C. It was not a role to which he had aspired, however he has taken the challenge with a particular vision to improve volunteerism. He found there had been difficulties in the past with attracting parents to volunteer and in this day and age many such groups are experiencing similar difficulties. He took the chair in conjunction with a new principal, Anita Corney, and found many seeking to criticize her for perceived and possibly imaginary shortcomings. Jamie believes the P & C and the President in particular should support the Principal. Although a reluctant debutante, Jamie considered that having started, he should tackle and finish the task. His view is that the P & C is there to support the School staff rather than earlier attitudes of keeping a check on the staff. Jamie has found that this change in attitude has seen an increase in volunteerism and fund raising for the School is sound. He has presented his committee with three focus points – they should support the school and the school's strategic plan, they should increase volunteers in the School community through engaging with that community and fund raising should be for the whole school and not just for one's own children. He has established core activities – maintain the finances of the committee, develop a partnership with the school, plan and conduct the school fete each May, oversee the management of the school canteen where there is a paid manager, manage the uniform shop, review and comment on the School grounds and oversee the school band. The fete raised \$67,000 nett this year and the uniform shop returns \$10,000 to \$50,000 back to the School. Jamie's non-core activities include keeping a fund raising committee of about 25 and improving communication with about 360 families from widely diverse ethnic and lingual backgrounds. The media for this communication is facebook and a newsletter. Now Jamie is no squirt and found meeting in the library and sitting on infants' chairs rather awkward. His big change has been to move meetings into the school hall where there are Jamie sized chairs. This move has, he feels, given the committee a "boardroom atmosphere". He has introduced guest speakers on topics such as anxiety in children and has attracted volunteers from parents of kindergarten children. There is an on-line directory and reports on the activities of the committee. Jamie has also attracted the interest of our local State member, Matt Kean, to School activities. The P & C now conducts a photographic competition amongst students with their results being used to produce a calendar. This has been very successful with 500 calendars sold this year. World Teachers' Day does not pass unnoticed at PHPS – a morning tea is arranged with a gift for each teacher, Jamie did not disclose if it was just an apple for the teacher. Jamie would like this Club to continue with support at School fetes. Our members were impressed with Jamie's vigorous approach to problems and there were several questions before President Pam closed the meeting with the National Anthem.



Reporter: John Ellis

THE FORWARD PROGRAM

DATE	PROGRAM	SPEAKER	CHAIRMAN	REPORTER
SEPT 19	JOINT MEETING WITH BEECROFT	ROSS PIPER CEO - WORLD VISION	PRES DAVID ELLYARD	PAT PARKER
SEPT 26	DOMESTIC VIOLENCE & THE WOMEN'S REFUGE PARTNERS NIGHT	ROBYN WAITE	PRESIDENT PAM	JIM FRASER
OCT 3	NO MEETING	DUE TO	THE PUBLIC	HOLIDAY
NOV 7	'THE TIMOR REPORT' JOINT MEETING WITH BEECROFT	THEO GLOCKEMANN	PRESIDENT PAM	ADRIAN BELL
OCT 15 To DEC 17	OUR CHRISTMAS TRAILER RAFFLE TICKET SELLING COMMENCING AT	PENNANT HILLS MARKETPLACE	WE WILL BE CIRCULATING A ROSTER SOON	THERE ARE 10 SELLING DAYS - ALL SATURDAYS

Report from the District Governor's Visit to the Hills Zone

This was a night at which all of the clubs in our zone were represented with our club having 11 people there. They were President Pam Hudson & Peter, Phil Stanton & Lyn, Jim Fraser & Esther, Jack Reid, Alex Thomas, Ian Huckel, David Firth & Heather. The evening was MC'd by Assistant Governor John Fennessy and commenced with a string ensemble arranged by the Epping Rotary Club.

The meal was the usual 2 courses as we enjoy on a regular basis. The seating plan aimed at mixing members with different clubs whilst keep small groups from clubs together. We were then given reasonably brief rundowns on 5 of the clubs by their presidents - both Beecroft and Pennant Hills were satisfied not to burden the gathering with a rundown of their clubs.

DG Bruce Lakin gave a reasonably brief talk illustrated with a powerpoint presentation. It included his background and career in Information Technology and his Rotary experience spanning 13 years.

The last speaker was Steve Mansur, President of the Condobolin Rotary Club who told us about an interesting project aimed at helping indigenous youth in Murrin Bridge on the Lachlan River. This was perhaps the highlight of the evening! DLF

LAST WEEK'S ATTENDANCE

Member attendance 83.3%

Apologies: Michael Bradley, David Walsh,
Guest Speaker: Jamie Davidson

Leave of Absence: Graeme Ashdown

MEMBER ANNIVERSARIES & BIRTHDAYS

BIRTHDAYS

Wendy Bell - September 13th

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Nil

INDUCTION ANNIVERSARIES

David Walsh - September 13th

THE QUOTE FOR THE WEEK

"When a man opens the car door for his wife, it's either a new car or a new wife."

- Prince Phillip