

**VOLUME 58 No. 39**  
EDITOR: DAVID FIRTH

# SPOKES

**OUR PROGRAM THIS WEEK - April 30th**

## **“My Visit to Israel and Palestine in 2017”**

**Speaker: Jim Mein AM**

**Chairman: David Firth Reporter: Alex Thomas**



Jim Mein is a chartered accountant who answered the call in 1994 to leave the public accounting profession practice after many years.

He became the full-time Executive Director in the corporate affairs, property, finance and related areas for the NSW Synod of the Uniting Church in Australia. His life was transformed in many Church roles, especially as the first full-time Moderator of that Synod, an experience that ignited his passion for relations with other faiths, social justice and community harmony.

In 2010, he was awarded Membership of the Order of Australia for service to the Uniting Church in Australia through many roles, for promotion of interfaith dialogue, to education and to the community. He is a member of the Synod's Relations with Other Faiths Committee, the Affinity Intercultural Foundation's

Advisory Board and recipient of their annual Interfaith Dialogue Award, and Honorary Treasurer of the Council of Christians & Jews NSW Inc.

Jim is a past member of the Rotary Club of Wahroonga and has served on District committees. He is now a member of Probus. We welcome him and his wife, Gill, to our meeting.

**NEXT WEEK - May 8th**

**30th Birthday Celebrations of  
Rotary Club of West Pennant Hills & Cherrybrook  
At Springfield House, 245 Newline Road, Dural  
6.00pm for drinks & canapes - cost is \$30 each**

### **CLUB CONTACT INFORMATION**



**PHONE ENQUIRIES: 9484 4889**  
**TO NOTIFY MEETING APOLOGIES & GUESTS: 9294 2107**  
**EMAIL: [rotaryclubpennanthills@gmail.com](mailto:rotaryclubpennanthills@gmail.com)**

## MEETING REPORT - APRIL 24th

This joint meeting with Beecroft was opened by President David Ellyard with the National Anthem. A toast to the Rotary Club of Melbourne followed. This club was chartered in April 1921, the first to be chartered in Australia. President David then welcomed Dr David Leece, our guest speaker, and followed with some Beecroft parish notices. Sergeant Jim Fraser conducted an irreverent game of two up, offering bottles of wine for our problem gamblers. John Ellis introduced Dr Leece who lives in Beecroft. He is the immediate past president of the Royal United Services Institute of NSW and spent many years in the Army Reserve, retiring as a brigadier. The theme of his address, on the eve of Anzac Day, was Australia's contribution to the Western Front in 1917.

This year is the centenary of the third year of World War I. By early 1917, the Great War was being fought on four fronts and David Leece proposed to cover events on the Western Front then defined by the two parallel lines of trenches running from the North Sea through Belgium and France to Switzerland. With strategic manoeuvre impossible, both sides were pursuing a strategy of attrition in pursuit of a breakthrough and a decisive victory. The year opened with the Allies on the offensive and Germany on the defensive. The Allies would achieve significant tactical successes especially in Flanders, but Germany would defend tenaciously all along the Front and a breakthrough would elude the Allies. Dr Leece said he would focus on the battles to which the Australian Imperial Force made a significant contribution - Bullecourt, Messines and Third Ypres (Passchendaele). The Germans attacked the French along the Western Front at Verdun from February to June 1916 and the Allies launched massive assaults along the Somme during the latter half of 1916. The outcome was appalling slaughter and a stalemate. Casualties in Allied and German armies totalled 1,800,000.

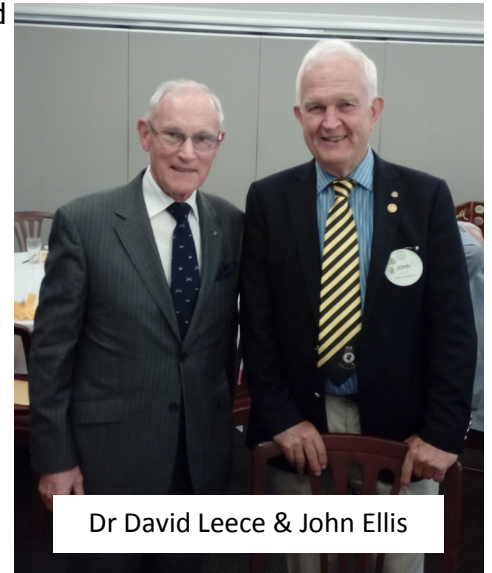
1917 opened with the Allies on the offensive and Germany on the defensive. The Germans strengthened what became known as the Hindenburg Line with artillery and machine guns allowing fewer troops at the front. Simultaneously U-boats planned to starve Britain out of the war. The British, seeking to capture the Belgian coast where U-boats were based, launched their offensive near Reims. To assist, the French attacked around Arras supported by British divisions and three Australian divisions at Bullecourt. Initially the Australian 4<sup>th</sup> Division advanced beyond expectation, but were repulsed with appalling casualties. This battle in April became known as First Bullecourt. A fortnight later the V British Corps and the I Australian Corps succeeded in breaking the Hindenburg Line and holding the ground, despite heavy casualties. This successful operation became known as Second Bullecourt. Elsewhere along the Front mutinies in the French Army left the British and Australians to hold the line. In June the 2<sup>nd</sup> British Army sought to gain the Messine Ridge. This army group included Australian divisions commanded by Monash and Holmes. Australian tunnellers went underground to lay charges with Hill 60 being the most effective. By mid June the Messine salient was in British hands. To take Flanders Field Marshal Haig planned the Third Battle of Ypres. His offensive began in July and would last over three months. His force included 14 British divisions, one Australian, one New Zealand and two French divisions. In September the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Australian Divisions and the Scottish Division attacked the Menin Road ridge and were successful in the first victory of the Passchendaele campaign.

Later, in September General Birdwood, commanding the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Australian Divisions, succeeded in taking Polygon Wood. In October, when for the first time four Australian divisions were together, Broodseinde Ridge finally fell to the Australians. This success allowed Haig to press on to the ultimate prize, Passchendaele. The offensive exhausted the two Australian, one New Zealand and two British divisions, however the Canadians, who relieved them, were successful in November. With the taking of Passchendaele, but with winter closing in, Haig called off further offensives for 1917. Of the eleven major attacks launched by Haig during the Third Battle of Ypres, British corps had spearheaded two, the two Anzac corps had spearheaded five, and the Canadian Corps had spearheaded the final four.

But it had all come at an enormous cost, with the total number of casualties not accurately known. British Empire casualties are believed to have been about 260,000, of which some 38,000 were Australian; there were some 8,500 French casualties; there were about 260,000 German casualties. The Belgian ports remained in German hands and the Allies had advanced nine kilometres. The capacity of both sides to recover from these losses in 1918 would be a key factor in the final outcome of the Great War.

After thanking Dr Leece for his most informative presentation which was illustrated with maps at the various stages of the year, President David closed the meeting.

**Reporter: John Ellis**



Dr David Leece & John Ellis

## REPORT FROM LAST WEEK'S DISTRICT ASSEMBLY

Again this year, our District Assembly was hosted by The Kings School at North Parramatta. This is a very good site with plenty of room for breakout sessions as well as a fine auditorium.

The program was well organised with everyone together for the opening plenary session of 2 hours followed by morning tea. Breakout sessions were then held until lunch. These covered The Foundation; International; Public Relations; Community; Vocational; Youth; Membership; and a combined group of Presidents, Secretaries, Treasurers and Administration. For an hour after lunch there were 4 Breakout sessions discussing: International Projects; Solving the Membership Challenge; Public Relations : Promoting Rotary; Effective Clubs. 5 minute reports from these 4 sessions were then given at the closing Plenary Session and the assembly closed a little ahead of time at 4.00pm.

Personally, I was impressed with incoming RI President, Ian Riseley's focuses for next Rotary year in Australia -

- Plant a tree for every Rotarian in Australia;
- End trachoma in Australia by 2020;
- Reporting service hours & service dollars (including 'in kind') for every club in Australia;
- Hold the 2018 Presidential Peace Building Conference in Australia.

The goal of ending trachoma by 2020 was spurred by the knowledge that Australia is the only developed country where trachoma still exists! This is part of a World Health Organisation project to end trachoma throughout the world by 2020. You can read more at [endtrachoma2020.org.au](http://endtrachoma2020.org.au)

President Elect Ian Riseley is a member of the Sandringham Club in Melbourne. He received an OAM in 2006 for his service to the Australian community and has also been recognised for his work in Timor Leste.

District Governor Elect Peter Ward from The Entrance Club also came across as a dedicated Rotarian who has a good knowledge of all aspects of Rotary and keen to have District supporting clubs wherever possible. DLF

*Fellows, again this year we have been invited to help at the Pennant Hills Public School Fete on Sunday May 21st. They will want us to assist where they are short staffed as we did last year. If you are able to help, let me know - I suggest you indicate what time you can start and how long. The fete is from 10am to 3pm.*

## 2016 COUNCIL ON LEGISLATION UPDATES

There are a number of important changes to the constitution and by-laws as a result of the Council on Legislation held in April 2016. Amongst them, the following may be of interest: Clubs may determine their own rules for transferring members, dual membership, and honorary members.

Clubs can now reduce their meeting frequency, as long as they meet in some way at least twice a month.

Clubs can now offer additional types of membership (apart from Active and Honorary). Associate, corporate, and family are available as long as they are reported as active members and collect RI membership dues from them.

In order to facilitate the transition from Rotaract to Rotary, the by-laws now permit Rotaractors who meet the qualifications for membership to join a Rotary club while remaining Rotaract members.



## THE FORWARD PROGRAM

DATE	PROGRAM	SPEAKER	CHAIRMAN	REPORTER
May 8th	30th Birthday Party of West Pennant Hills & Cherrybrook Club	President Rosemary Clarke at Springfield House, Dural	President Rosemary Clarke	David Firth
May 15th	Pride of Workmanship Awards Night Partners Night	Russell Zimmerman	Phil Stanton	Ian Chappel
May 20 & 21 27 & 28	RED SHIELD APPEAL	STATIC COLLECTIONS	BUNNINGS, COONARA,	THORNLEIGH, PENNANT HILLS
May 21	PENNANT HILLS PUBLIC SCHOOL FETE - 10AM TO 3PM - IF YOU CAN HELP LET DAVID FIRTH KNOW			
May 28th	RED SHIELD APPEAL	DOORKNOCK	At Pennant Hills Holden	8.30am



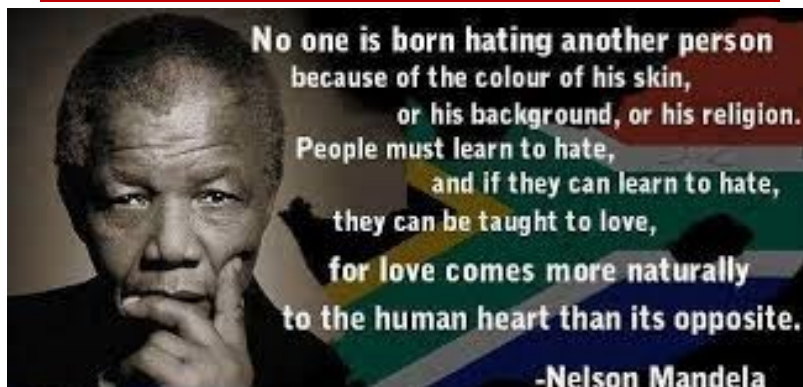
### PRIDE OF WORKMANSHIP AWARDS NIGHT

**MONDAY, 15th MAY**

**Guest Speaker: Russell Zimmerman**

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



### ATTENDANCE AT OUR LAST MEETING

**Member attendance 55.6%**

**Apologies:** David Walsh, Terry Pankhurst, Pat Parker, Claude Rigney, Phil Stanton, Pam Hudson, Michael Bradley

**Guest Speaker:** Dr David Leece

**Guests:** Nil

**Leave of Absence:** Nil

### MEMBER NEWS

#### BIRTHDAYS

Pat Parker - May 5th

#### ANNIVERSARIES

Nil

#### INDUCTION ANNIVERSARIES

Nil

### Thought for the Week

“It isn't enough to talk about peace. One must believe in it.  
And it isn't enough to believe in it. One must work at it”

- Eleanor Roosevelt