

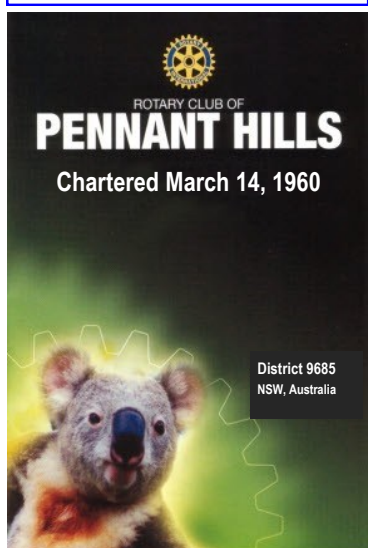


SPOKES

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EDITOR: DAVID FIRTH



OUR PROGRAM THIS WEEK



Social Night

Chairman: President Alex

Reporter: Ian Chappel

CLUB CONTACT INFORMATION

PHONE ENQUIRIES:

9484 4889

EMAIL:

rotaryclubpennant_hills@gmail.com

TO NOTIFY MEETING
APOLOGIES &
GUESTS:

9294 2107

before Noon on
Saturday



ANNUAL CONFERENCE

at Fairmont Resort, Leura

on Saturday 10th & Sunday 11th March 2018

The purpose of the District Conference is to provide opportunities for networking, inspirational addresses, and discussions on Rotary-related matters.

The event recognises the service programs, projects, and public relations achievements in our District in order to inspire Rotarians to become more involved in service.

The conference also gives Rotarians and clubs a vision of Rotary beyond the club level and provides a memorable fellowship experience.

Many Rotarians have said that they were never truly enthusiastic about Rotary until they saw an inspirational presentation at a District Conference.

Registration is open online at - <http://rotarydistrict9685.org.au>

You can register for the whole program over the 2 days, or perhaps you would prefer just to attend the Saturday sessions?

OUR NEXT MEETING

January 15th

Australia Day Planning Night

Chairman: President Alex Reporter: Phil Stanton

Our First Half (July-December, 2017)

Our president's reflection on the first half of the Rotary year.

It is amazing how half a Rotary Year has gone, and we are now into a New Year and the second half. Our Theme this year is "Rotary: Making A Difference". How have we made a difference thus far?

- ◆ We began the Rotary Year with the Ronald McDonald House Evening. It was a great time of cooking, serving and making new friends.
- ◆ We just completed our Christmas Trailer Raffle and The Tree of Joy as we got ready to conclude the Year. We sold successfully 4,615 tickets and raised \$7,000. We received and distributed over 400 gifts to Stewart House and Paramatta Mission.
- ◆ International Service – saw us in Timor Leste in Sept doing RYLA & RYPEN and continuing our ongoing work with students from Barker College and our fellow rotarians, the Glockemanns and Frasers. The report that the Barker College students made to us was excellent. It only showed how much the students were impacted by their involvement with us in Timor Leste.
- ◆ Charity Golf Day in October was a stunning success raising over \$24,000 towards PKU Research. The number of Golfers (82), sponsors and the auction saw greater response and participation leading to the great result.
- ◆ Rotary Foundation involvement and focus were good. PP Ian Chappel also led us through the ARH Hat Day and kept us informed on Mental Health Awareness including his run in the City2Surf event where he raised over \$1,000.
- ◆ Youth avenue saw involvement in RYDA with Mt St Benedict College. We have a candidate for RYLA in January; two for RYPEN and one for Young Endeavour, and 2 going to the National Youth Science Forum in Canberra.
- ◆ The AGM last month saw the election of new Leadership for the next Rotary year. It also showed the willingness of our members to chip-in to assist and be involved. I applaud the involvement of each member. We may be a small club but the willingness of our members enables us to do big and extraordinary projects.
- ◆ We need new Members urgently. I appreciate the enthusiasm members showed to reach out to people in community and share Rotary. As a result, we have half a dozen persons in the pipeline. Let us now work to convert interest to commitment of membership. This will be the one Goal we will work on vehemently in the second half we enter into now.

The cooks at work at R M House!



Tree of Joy gifts for Stewart House

Phil Stanton on right with our trailer raffle winner



Thank you very much for your continued support, involvement and enthusiasm. I look forward to working towards new heights and achievements in the second half with you all.



President Alex Thomas



We did unfortunately farewell Peter & Susan Wilson (above) and Michael Bradley this year

SOME HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR WEEKLY PROGRAMS

Thanks to the efforts of our Administration Director, Phil Stanton, we have enjoyed an array of interesting keynote speakers as the following list will attest:

The District Governor's visit, a combined meeting with Beecroft and an opportunity to talk about our plans and to hear of the DG's plans .

Rev David Reichardt gave a very interesting account of his "Motor Bike Ride for Peace" in Northern India.

Karen Long, daughter of Sandra and Pat Parker, gave a fine talk on her volunteer excursion to Uganda to work with the Watoto Organisation, and particularly with their orphanage.

Past member, Rev Alan Lowe, returned to talk about his experiences as Senior NSW Police Chaplain with its range of events impacting on the lives of officers throughout the state.

Iodine Deficiency has been a passion for Professor Cres Eastman for many years. He returned to bring us up to date with the subject and how it continues to be a problem even in first world countries like ours.

Beecroft club arranged an excellent zone meeting with RI General Secretary John Hewko as our speaker. John gave a very interesting talk on Rotary's future and changes already made and others which are likely.

John McCorquodale provided an insight into the silent world of gliding, a passion of his.

Alphasia was a new subject for most of us, but Colleen Kerr gave an excellent introduction, assisted by Amy Jennings and Sean O'Brien. A very inspiring story.

Tim Skinner provided another passionate talk entitled 'Engaging Humanity's Most Vulnerable' in which he talked about the power of education as he experienced in Uganda with his parents, the need to promote peace, and saving mothers and babies. He applied each of these to programs of Rotary.

And the autobiography of Ahmadul Ameen - who was able to give us an insight into life in East Pakistan, and then Bangladesh and then his role in establishing Nanyang Technological University in Singapore.

The above does not include the very valuable contributions to our programs by various members.

FINAL WRAP UP OF THE TREE OF JOY

As reported at our final meeting of 2017, Pat Parker and I delivered about 300 gifts to Parramatta Mission on Monday 18th December for which they were very thankful (see photos below). As usual, gifts continued to arrive at the tree during the week. On Friday 22nd December, with the assistance of Heather and my grand daughter, I was able to deliver a further 60 or so gifts which they will distribute either for Christmas or as birthday gifts during the year.

DLF



THE FORWARD PROGRAM

DATE	PROGRAM	SPEAKER	CHAIRMAN	REPORTER
Jan 15th	Planning our Australia Day meeting	Various	President Alex	Phil Stanton
Jan 22nd	AUSTRALIA DAY MEETING PARTNERS NIGHT	Caitlin Bell	Phil Stanton	Adrian Bell

A REMINDER FROM THE TREASURER

Fellows, this is just a reminder that those of you who are paying your membership fees on a six monthly basis are due for your second instalment of \$200 now. If you could pay this before the end of January, that will allow us to maintain our Club Account with an appropriate balance to meet the costs of running the club.

Thank you in anticipation!



*Economic and Community Development, and Peace
17 March 2018 — Sydney, Australia*

The [Rotary International Presidential Peacebuilding Conference 2018 \(RIPPC 2018\)](#), will be taking place on the **17 March 2018** at **Sydney Town Hall**. This is a Conference you do not want to miss with this being one of the six Rotary Peace Conferences to be held across the globe.

The Conference Program includes keynote lecturers and presentations from international and national leaders in the industries of 'Economic and Community Development and Peace'. Delegates will hear about the underlying causes of conflict including poverty, disease, lack of water and food security and the lack of education from our inspirational and stimulating speakers.

ATTENDANCE AT OUR LAST MEETING

Member Attendance: 86.7%

Apologies: Claude Rigney, Phil Stanton

Guests: Wendy Bell, Bev Chappel, Heather Firth, Esther Fraser, Georgia Glockemann, Peter Hudson, Maureen Pankhurst, Sandra Parker, Ruth Reid, Elizabeth Thomas, Priscilla Walsh.

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

BIRTHDAYS

Nil

ANNIVERSARIES

Graeme & Margaret Ashdown - January 4th

Theo & Georgia Glockemann - January 4th

INDUCTION ANNIVERSARIES

Nil

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

**"Be at war with your vices, at peace with your neighbours,
and let every new year find you a better rotarian."**

— *with acknowledgement to Benjamin Franklin*