



SPOKES

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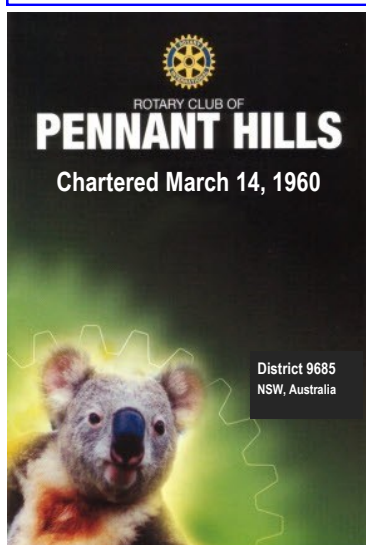
OUR PROGRAM THIS WEEK

The 2018 District 9685 RYLA Experience

Guest Speaker: Jade Upton,
our RYLA awardee

Chairman: PP John Ellis

Reporter: Pat Parker



Rotary
District 9685



CLUB CONTACT INFORMATION

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GUESTS:

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before Noon on

Saturday



Welcome to our newest member, Ahmadul Ameen, who was inducted last Monday evening at our Australia Day meeting. President Alex conducted the induction assisted by District Governor Nominee Kalma McClellan from the Rotary Club of Ryde. Ameen responded by thanking the club for its welcome and he is looking forward to lending his hand to the club's activities. Your reporter did notice that Ameen has quickly mastered the 'heads and tails' competition with one held on Monday!



OUR NEXT MEETING - February 5th

TBA

Speaker: TBA

Chairman: President Alex Reporter: Jim Fraser

AUSTRALIA DAY MEETING REPORT

Well, how do you accurately report on what was a really wonderful Australia Day meeting? There was so much to record - with numerous highlights culminating in the presentation of the 2018 Australia Day Merit Award to Caitlin Bell, such a worthy recipient. In the middle, we managed to induct our newest member, Ahmadul Ameen! Much of the credit for a great program must go to Phil Stanton who arranged the program and the running sheet, as well as inviting several of our political leaders to the meeting.

So we got underway with a welcome to all from President Alex and then Julian Leaser MP proposed the toast to Australia which included a fine acknowledgement of the work of Rotary, particularly in our local area. This was followed by a brief background to the club's Australia Day Merit Award by yours truly after which the toast to Rotary was proposed. District Governor Peter Ward responded to the toast, highlighting the success of PolioPlus and emphasising Rotarians as People of Action.

The chef had arranged a menu reflecting Australia Day with lamb as the main course, followed by pavlova and lamingtons - all very acceptable. This was followed by a game of 'Heads and Tails', otherwise known as two up—what could be more Australian? It was notably won by Victoria Watson, wife of the Golf Club President.

The induction of Ahmadul Ameen was then conducted and he was warmly received by all present. It was unfortunate that his wife, Mamooda, was not able to join us on the night. We trust we can meet her in the near future.

PP Theo Glockemann, who has had a long association with our keynote speaker, Caitlin Bell, then introduced her. Caitlin was the inaugural 'Young Endeavour' awardee in 2001 and won the Order of Australia Association Medalion for the voyage. This undoubtedly led to her appointment to the Young Endeavour Board of Directors in 2007 where she served until 2009. She attended RYLA in 2003 - was a facilitator at RYLA from 2004 to 2007 - and helped form the Crosslands Rotaract Club. 2005 was a big year for her as she turned 21, attended the International RYLA and Rotary's Centenary Conference in Chicago. He continued on with highlights of her employment with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) which she joined in 2009 as a graduate trainee. Then in December 2017 she was awarded Master of Law by the Australian National University.

Caitlin's talk was illustrated by a powerpoint presentation with her dad, Adrian, advancing it on cue. She commenced by paying tribute to Barry Denning who was her original contact with the Rotary Club through Penrith Hills High School. For 17 years - half her life - Rotary has afforded her opportunities to develop valuable skills that will make her a good ambassador for Australia in the future. She then talked about some interesting highlights of her diplomatic career to date. As she enters her 10th year in the service, she has worked in seven countries, including almost a year in China, and 3 years in India. She has written talking points for an Australian Prime Minister; attended a royal wedding in Bhutan; reported on the largest election in the world in India in 2014.

Caitlin then related her story of buying a helicopter in Vanuatu for 18 hours to extract 2 young Australian girls from North Vanuatu back to Port Vila to meet the Foreign Minister in the response to a major cyclone there. Then there was her involvement in Australia's pavilion at the Shanghai World Expo where, during the 10 months it was open, over 2 million people were hosted. She went on to relate her experiences heading up the Australian relief effort in Fiji following Cyclone Winston in 2016. She was the civilian military coordinator aboard HMAS Canberra, effectively the leader of the response team, but as she was called, "Boss Lady".

Caitlin concluded her talk by discussing her latest appointment as Deputy Ambassador to Lebanon based in Beirut. It is a 3 year appointment commencing in 2019 after she has completed an eighteen month intensive - as in one on one tutoring 40 hours per week - course in Arabic. She is expected to master both the written and spoken language. She has recently passed her level 1 proficiency test, the first of four she needs to pass. Over ➡



Continued After some questions, Caitlin thanked the club for the evening and wished everyone a happy Australia Day! President Alex proposed a vote of thanks to Caitlin, noting her remarkable experiences in such a relatively short career as a diplomat. He then invited Hornsby Mayor, Hon. Phillip Ruddock, to present the 2018 Australia Day Merit Award with DG Peter assisting. When Caitlin's name was announced by Phillip, she was visibly taken aback. Phillip, in presenting the plaque, commented that the future of our diplomatic service is in very good hands with people of Caitlin's quality and competence.



Caitlin responded very humbly and thanked the club for this award.

After thanking all our guests for coming, MC Phil asked Caitlin to draw 2 winners of the raffle conducted by Beecroft. Amazingly, yours truly won one bottle of wine while Julian Leaser's Media & Policy Adviser, Tom O'Brien, won the other.

And, fittingly, the meeting closed with the singing of the National Anthem, followed by an extended period of fellowship. A great night all round!

Reporter: The Editor

AUSTRALIA DAY 2018

An item of note is that the flagship of the Australian Navy, HMAS Canberra, which is a helicopter carrier and amphibious landing ship, was the centre of one of Caitlin Bell's remarkable diplomatic experiences. And those who went in to the city on Australia Day and were at Circular Quay for the official opening of festivities will have seen HMAS Canberra the centre piece again - see below.

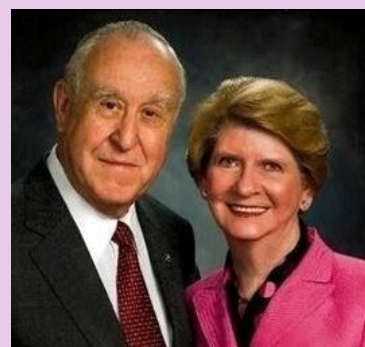


D9685 Rotary Foundation - Paul Harris Society Dinner, 5th March 2018

We are joining with Beecroft Club for this special dinner on Monday, 5th March. The keynote speaker will be the Past Rotary International President, John Germ, who was president last Rotary year, pictured here with his wife.

PDG David Rands has issued the invitation with some of the generous personal donors to the Rotary Foundation to be acknowledged.

The **Paul Harris Society** recognizes Rotary members and friends of The Rotary Foundation who contribute \$1,000 or more each Rotary year to the Annual Fund, PolioPlus Fund, or approved Foundation grants.



THE FORWARD PROGRAM

DATE	PROGRAM	SPEAKER	CHAIRMAN	REPORTER
Feb 5th	TBA	TBA	President Alex	Jim Fraser
March 5th	Rotary Foundation Combined meeting with Beecroft club	Past RI President John Germ	PDG David Rands	Theo Glockemann
March 10&11	District 9685 Conference	at Fairmont Resort, Leura	Come for a day,	or for the weekend



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: 75.0%

Apologies: Pam Hudson, Jim Fraser, Claude Rigney, David Walsh

Guests: Caitlin Bell, Alexis Bell, Alan & Sally Monsted, Kaye Carter, Nicole Bondoc, Samantha Strahan, Julian Leaser, Hon Phillip Ruddock, Peter & Margaret Waite, Betty Graham, Bea Roche, AG John Fenessy, DGN Kalma McLellan, Allan & Victoria Watson, Tom O'Brien, Wendy Bell, Heather Firth, Georgia Glockemann, Maureen Pankhurst, Ruth Reid, Lyn Stanton

Visiting Rotarians: DG Peter Ward,

Leave of Absence: Nil

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

BIRTHDAYS

John Ellis - January 30th

Jack Reid - January 30th

ANNIVERSARIES

Jim & Esther Fraser - February 1st

INDUCTION ANNIVERSARIES

Jim Fraser - February 1st

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

'For those who've come across the seas we've boundless plains to share'

- National Anthem written by Peter Dodds McCormick