



ROTARY CLUB OF ASCOT

Chartered 26 February 1969 District 9465



Meeting Venue: Ingot Hotel

Address: 285 Great Eastern Hwy

Belmont Western Australia, 6104

Meets 2nd and 4th Tuesday's at 7.00 am for 7.30 - 8.30 am

BULLETIN 2019 - 20

Volume 51-17 February 11th, 2020

Ascot Rotary Club Meeting February 11th, 2020

President Hugh welcomed our guest speaker A.G. Ric Sneeuwjagt whose topic was very relevant: "to burn or not to burn." Ric, as State Manager of Fire Services, was able to offer an incredible insight into the history, role, use and effectiveness of planned burns in managing large bush fires in the south West of WA.

See Guest speaker notes below.

Belmont Community Day

Sunday, March 1st at the Belmont Sports and Recreation Club.

Belmont Community Day is an excellent opportunity to highlight the work our Club does in the Belmont area. Hugh is asking for members to help set up a stall to meet and greet locals and let them know of Rotary International and the many Rotary Projects our Club are involved with either locally, or internationally.

Rotary Short -Term Exchange Program

Kaede Nakamura, visiting from Japan and is the reciprocal student for Joseph Cadzow will arrive in our District on Sunday, March 5th. His flight arrives at 23.55, Singapore Airlines SQ 0215. He will depart on April 15th; we are hoping he will attend our Club meeting on March 10th. Kaede will study at Corpus Christie College while here.

Victoria Park Swap Meet

Wilf Hendricks from the Victoria Park Club is trying to arrange to move the Swap Meet stalls from the car park to the area occupied by the Farmers Market. Mike Bermann attended the Swap meet on Sunday and reported that only seven stallholders set up. As there is an overflow of stallholders at the Melville Swap Meet, a suggestion to maybe invite Melville to join Victoria Park.

Belmont City Council Grants

If any project in the Belmont area comes to mind, Hugh has a lot of information regarding possible funding sources from Lottery West, Heathways and Social Services.

District conference 20th – 22nd March at Rockingham

A reminder to members and request to support the conference if possible.

Next Meeting February 25th

Host chair Michael Metcalf requested members to make every effort to attend the meeting to welcome Cassie Rowe the MLA for Belmont.

Guest Speaker

Ric explained he has been 44 years in the business of fire control and has been retired for nine years. He also lectures at Notre Dame University.

He gave us a background reference to his talk; was a book written by Bill Gammage entitled: 'The Biggest Estate on Earth, How Aborigines Made Australia'.

The PowerPoint Presentation by Ric was extremely informative and interesting, highlighting many of the issues facing our country regarding wildfires



Fuel drives fires and climate plays a role as well as topography. The massive crown fires we have seen in the Eastern States are the result of extreme temperature, prolonged drought periods, accumulated leaf litter and embers from tree bark. The ignition of fires given the above conditions could be from lightning or human action.

In Western Australia, we have our Mediterranean Climate with a hot, dry summer and winter rains, combined with eucalypt forests of Jarrah, Marri and Karri. These forests have adapted to fire and over 40 -50 thousand years, Aboriginal people used fire skilfully to create a parkland effect that amazed early explorers and settlers. The Aboriginal people used this method of fire to enhance food gathering. For example, the grassland that grew after the burning attracted kangaroos. The patchwork controlled burning by Aboriginal people helped to prevent the wildfires we see around Australia today.

Sadly, the early settlers imprisoned Aborigines for lighting these fires, and Ric showed a slide of chained Aborigines at Rottneest Island.

Within a Karri forest, leaf and bark litter accumulates at a rate of 100 tonnes per hectare, so it is possible to see the level of fuel available after a lightning strike or arson occurring in one of these forest areas.

Ric was able to show that the work he has done with the Parks and Wildlife Service using regular controlled burns has been able to prevent catastrophic fires in the Hills area and throughout the South West of WA.

The effect of wildfires not only results in loss of life and property, but the damage to the ecosystem is massive. There is a loss of insects, wildlife and vegetation as well as erosion and silting of waterways.

Ric has studied the effect of prescribed burns and measured the return of the native vegetation and animals over time as a result of regular low-intensity burns. This program is leading the world in showing how to manage our natural environment.

The Club expressed thanks to Ric for his presentation of the topic, so very relevant throughout Australia presently.

PROGRAM 2019-2020 CLUB ROSTER

Please note the following dates and advise Ron Alexander of your Guest Speaker and Topic and promptly if dates are unsuitable

Date	Welcoming	Venue	Host Chair	Speaker and Topic
25 th February	Michelle Kendall	Ingot Hotel	Michael Metcalf	Cassie Rowe MLA Belmont
10 th March	Gerry McLernon	Ingot Hotel	Ron Alexander	Steve Rushforth "The Fathering Project"
24 th March	Alan Thomson	Ingot Hotel	Hugh Langridge	Tyana Orlando NYSF Experience
7 th April	Ngala (Fiona Beermier)	Ingot Hotel	Brian Smith	Jenny Allen "Growing Strong Brains Program"

MORE DIARY DATES

23 rd February	***** Club Birthday at Ros and Gerry's Place 4 pm *****
20 th -22 nd March	District Conference Rockingham

Guest Speaker Roster

Please Note: If you are unable to arrange a guest speaker or will be away on that date please arrange to change your allocated date.

Date 2020	Host Chair	Guest Speaker and Topic
25 th February	Michael Metcalf	Cassie Rowe - MLA for Belmont
10 th March	Ron Alexander	Steve Rushforth - The Fathering Project"
24 th March	Hugh Langridge	Tyana Orlando - NYSF Experience
7 th April	Ngala -Brian Smith	Jenny Allen - Growing Strong Brains Program"
21 st April	Gren Courtland	
5 th May	Joanna Kendall	Paul Hetherington - Girl guides
19 th May	Dianne Reed	
2 nd June	Starick (Leeanne Barron)	
16 th June	Stephen Kendall	
30 th June	Alan Thomson	
14 th July	Michelle Kendall	
28 th July	Gerry McLernon	
11 th August	Bev Poor	
25 th August	Jeff Stephenson	

