

HORIZONS

Central Blue Mountains Rotary

Rotary District 9685 - Australia

Wednesday, March 05, 2025

Have you seen the Peace Poles
at Springwood?



Rotary Park, Springwood, where Ferguson Rd and
Moorecourt Ave intersect with Great Western Highway



Comin' up

Stuff you should know about



Fearless Leaders

Hi Blueys

It has been a sad week for everyone. Tom Hickey was unique and will be missed. The funeral service is this Friday. Details on page 3.

The combined Boards of Katoomba, Blackheath and CBM met last Tuesday 25/02 to progress the merger of the three clubs.

Committees have been set up to sort through the various issues.

Nominations are being sought for positions in the new club. A big thank you to Ian Scott for gently pushing everyone in the right direction.

The Mark Huddleston presentation last Saturday was brilliant. I will be sending out summaries of his messages.

The big message out of the presentation was that Rotary clubs have had an attitude that everything centred on meetings, when, in fact, it should be about projects.

More to come.

On that same day CBM had a barbecue at Woolworths, Katoomba.

We netted \$730 and it would have been more, except the team ran out of gas. No, actually they did run out of gas.

Coming up in the next few weeks:
On Wednesday 05/03, we have guest speakers from Homes For Older Women (HOW).

The Rotary Conference is on March 21 and 22 at the Pullman in Penrith

Having seen the program I think it will be a knock out. You need to register now.

On Saturday 29 March, we have a fundraiser at Rita Fisher's house. It is Sunset over Mt Solitary with Champagne and Chicken. Details on page 7.

Talking about our very active member, Rita Fisher, thank you for organising our visit to the Tiny Homes at Lawson. It was very informative.

Also Rita is seeking nominations for Pride of Workmanship awards in May.

That's all folks
Paul and Lora



Evelyn Prasad, our exchange student just returned from Brazil, was guest speaker 19/02.



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Remembering Tom Hickey



7 September, 1950 - 25 February, 2025

Tom Hickey was a proud, dedicated and active member of Central Blue Mountains Rotary Club for 32 years. He will be sadly missed.

Born in Katoomba, Tom joined Central Blue on March 1, 1992. He served as president in 1996-1997, and then for many years was club secretary. He was a Paul Harris Fellow.

A service for Tom will be held at St Canice's Catholic Church, Katoomba at 10.00am Friday March 7, 2025

At 11.00am you are invited to join the family at Katoomba RSL Club to celebrate Tom's Life.



Peace Poles at Springwood



Last week saw the completion of the installation of seven Peace Poles in Rotary Park, Springwood.

These poles form part of the 100 Peace Pole Project for Australia.

Springwood Rotary president Frank Ross said the installation was made possible by a district matching grant approved in 2023/2024 Rotary year for the Rotary Club of Springwood.

The purpose of the grant was to improve the impact and functionality of this small park which was established 40 years ago.

“It was decided to progress this project after discussions with Michael Rabey, Coordinator of the Peace Pole Project in June 2024. Our club was happy to support the initiative,” Frank said.

“What followed was the coordination of purchase through Peter Clapinski, the maker of the poles, to establish languages for them.

We also involved a Gundungurra elder, as we did not have a translation for that language, and we thank David King for that information. The Dharug language was on file.

We involved Blue Mountains City Council in the project, as they maintain the Rotary Park. Council was very generous, in that they covered the excess cost allowing us to meet the grant requirements.

They organised the contractors in consultation with me, and the installation was completed after some delays.

Springwood Rotary Club is pleased to have this installation in place, as it is the first of its kind in the Blue Mountains,” Frank Ross said.

Rotary peace conference seeks to heal in a divided world

Photo by Faid Elgiziry



Rotary International President Stephanie Urchick addresses a general session at the 2025 Rotary Presidential Peace Conference in Istanbul.

Story by Etelka Lehoczký

Building peace requires thoughtful, sustained efforts and meaningful partnerships, Rotary International President Stephanie A. Urchick told attendees at a peace conference in Istanbul, held 20-22 February.

The presidential conference, focused on “Healing in a Divided World.”

In her opening address, Urchick described the dedication required for true healing to take place.

“Our time together here is a testament to our shared belief in the power of peacebuilding,” she said. “But let’s acknowledge something essential: The act of ‘Healing in a Divided World’ is not something we can achieve quickly or easily. It takes an intentional commitment over time.”

Participants from various backgrounds outlined how that commitment could take shape.

At a session focused on technology and media, speakers discussed how technology can reinforce both peace and conflict.

They highlighted the impact of artificial intelligence, the ways technology can bolster peacebuilding efforts, and the expansive threat of misinformation.

Sheldon Himelfarb, an award-winning filmmaker and the founder of PeaceTech Lab, called for peacebuilders to forge a global response to misinformation.

The danger it poses, he argued, is comparable to that of war, pandemics, and climate change.

Attendees at the conference included the first 13 Rotary Peace Fellows at the Otto and Fran Walter Rotary Peace Center at Bahçeşehir University in Istanbul.

The newest of Rotary’s seven global peace centers, it offers peacebuilders based in the Middle East and North Africa the opportunity to earn professional development certificates in peace and development studies.

“Through its Peace Fellowship program, the center will equip a new generation of leaders with the knowledge, skills, and networks they need to address the root causes of conflict and to build sustainable peace in their communities and beyond,” Urchick said.

The Rotary Peace Fellows come from countries including Egypt, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kenya, Pakistan, Sudan, Somalia, and Yemen. During their fellowships, they will pursue projects such as aiding migrant single mothers, creating peacebuilding content for social media, strengthening grassroots organizations, and educating youth through sports programs.

In concluding the conference, Urchick called on the participants to forge partnerships to work for peace and said the new peace center reflected the essence of Rotary.

It “is more than just a physical space. It is a symbol of what we can achieve when we work together,” Urchick said.

“Rotary’s success has always been rooted in partnerships, whether it’s between clubs, with local communities, or with global institutions.

The challenges we face today demand the combined efforts of governments, nongovernmental organizations, academia, and grassroots organizations.

By fostering collaboration and sharing resources, we can amplify our impact and drive real progress.”

Peace Committee’s work has no borders

Posted: February 20, 2025

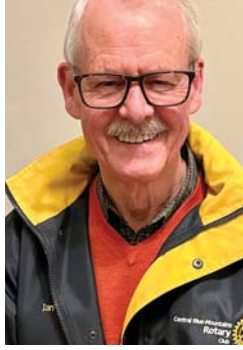
This photo was taken by Kathi Futornick, Newberg Noon Rotary, Newberg, Oregon, USA, at the Peace Pole Dedication in Istanbul Turkey.

And this is Rotary International President Stephanie Urchick leading the dedication! Rotary International creating opportunities to promote peace and bring our world together.



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Ian Scott says:



After the International Assembly and RI Board meetings, Jennifer and I headed to Istanbul for the Presidential Peace Conference titled "Healing in a Divided World".

The weather decided to put on some winter clothes, and it was cold and snowing most days, so even though our hotel was walking distance to the conference centre, we went by taxi to avoid the slips, slides and slush, not to mention indifferent traffic - indifferent to splashing pedestrians that is.

The headline sessions for the conference were:

- Peace in a polarized world
- Technology, media, and peacebuilding
- Environmental issues in peacebuilding
- Making peace last

These were followed by breakout sessions for lively interactive panels and workshops, where we could get actionable tips for building positive peace.

Much of the focus was on transforming the conditions and narratives that lead to conflict, and I believe that is what we Rotary members do every day around the world by, as PRIP Sakuji Tanaka's theme said, "Peace Through Service".

There are many Facebook posts and online material from RI on the conference, so I will not try to distil it all here. Suffice to say it was a truly international, professional and inspiring conference.

My highlight was catching up with friends from the 2015 "Great Gathering of Peace and Friendship" in Istanbul that was held on the same day as the Lone Pine Peace Park was dedicated in Leura supported by Tom Colless, Philip Hammon, the Katoomba RSL (Brian Turner was President) and Central Blue Mountains (Allan Byrnes was President).

Philip cleaned up and gave me 98 commemorative medallions and after Peter Hartley helped me with a DL flyer and case insert, they were my gift to Rotary Leaders, Rotarians from Türkiye and Australia, and many others at the conference.

The theme of peace and friendship threaded through both the 2015 and 2025 conferences and ties the enduring relationship among Anzac and Turkish Rotarians.

Back home the Clubs of Blackheath, Central Blue and Katoomba held a combined board meeting to discuss the way forward with our Hub and Spoke club.

Teams were formed to investigate the myriad issues merging clubs face, and to plan a way forward.

There was a great deal of goodwill on display and, although there is a lot of work to be done, I am confident it will be done harmoniously.



Not so silly Seagull uses a chimney stack to keep warm



Istanbul in February



Medallion presentation

Sunset over Mt Solitary Chicken and Champagne Take your camera

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Rotary
Club



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Please turn to the next page

Tiny Australian Peacock Spiders break records in speed-jumping

Writer: Fran Molloy

20 February 2025

Faculty of Medicine, Health and Human Sciences, Macquarie University



Recent research by Macquarie University scientists has shown that Australia's peacock spiders experience gravitational forces greater than those endured by fighter pilots during their high-precision jumps.

Associate Professor Ajay Narendra, from Macquarie University's School of Natural Sciences, led the research into Australian Splendid Peacock spiders (*Maratus splendens*), well-known for their vibrant colours and elaborate courtship dances.

This is the first detailed investigation of jump biomechanics in an Australian spider species, and reveals remarkable differences in jumping abilities between male and female spiders.

"These spiders are so small you could fit four or five of them on your thumbnail. Males weigh just two milligrams - one of the lightest jumping spiders known - while females are six times heavier," says Associate Professor Narendra.

"This gave us an opportunity to study how jumping kinematics varies between males and females, and what effect size has on jumping ability."

Co-author Anna Seibel, a Master of Research student at Macquarie University, conducted detailed analyses of the jumps of the Peacock spiders using high-speed videography.

"We had the spiders jump across a four-centimetre gap from a take-off platform to a landing platform, which we filmed at 5000 frames per second using a high-speed camera," says Seibel.

Jumping spiders employ a semi-hydraulic system to power their jumps. Unlike humans and other animals who contract and extend their muscles to create movement, spiders instead pump haemolymph - a fluid similar to blood that circulates through their bodies - into their legs to create the pressure needed for leg extension and jumping.

This remarkable system allows the Australian Splendid peacock spiders to achieve extraordinary acceleration despite their miniature size.

The research uncovered an intriguing evolutionary trade-off involving the spiders' third pair of legs. These specialised legs power their record-breaking jumps - but are also essential for male courtship displays.

"For animals like us, with more rigid bodies, the ability to withstand G-forces is far more limited than for spiders, whose soft and fluid-filled bodies deal with this pressure in a far better way," says Associate Professor Narendra.

He attributes this to the spiders' lightweight build and evenly distributed internal pressure.

"Their low body mass reduces forces acting on their body. This also reduces stress on individual body parts as forces are distributed over their entire body," says Associate Professor Narendra.

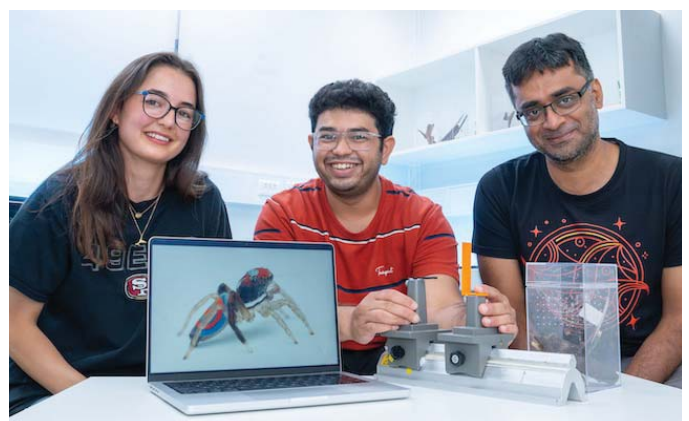
The findings could also have implications for robotics development.

"Jumping spiders have exceptional ability to control their jumps to reach specific targets - whether to land on surfaces or to catch small fast-moving insects," says Associate Professor Narendra.

"Robotics researchers are likely to be inspired to build robots based on the semi-hydraulic systems of jumping spiders that have efficient goal-directed movements."

Dr Ajay Narendra is an Associate Professor in the School of Natural Sciences, Macquarie University.

Researchers Anna Seibel, left, Pranav Joshi, centre, and Associate Professor Ajay Narendra, set up a miniature jumping gym with time-lapse photos to measure spider jumps Image: Chris Barlow



...That's all folks