



WEEKLY MEETING OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF ROYAL HUA HIN – AMARI HOTEL
TUESDAY 30th AUGUST 2022

ALAN BROWN – AUSTRALIA BACK TO THAILAND AND THEN OUR GETAWAY TO EUROPE

Present: 25
Members: 16
Guests: 9

SAA David Range opened the meeting with the National Anthem.

The following guests were introduced:

- Mai Lawrence – Phil's wife
- Shubba Range – David's wife
- Charles Emond – USA
- Frank Mack – Germany
- Sompratthana Nawong founder of E-Jan
- Mukmanee Prongduansri – E-Jan
- Thongchai Kaewchingduang – E-Jan
- Sahachat Limcharoen Pakdi – E-Jan
- Tassuma Smarmitr – E-Jan

P Phil began by welcoming Detlev Schiess from Konstanz in Germany, who was formally inducted into the club and presented with his certificate, Rotary Wheel and Imagine Rotary theme badges by President elect and his sponsor Helmut Schepers and President Phil Lawrence. Club membership now stands at 53 people from 16 Countries.



Phil then welcomed some special guests Sompratthana Nawong and her team from E-Jan, the online Thai media company.

Earlier this year a teacher from the special needs section at the Nongkhon School wrote to E-Jan and asked them to help find a new classroom for the 40 students with learning difficulties as the current classroom was no longer fit for purpose.



E-Jan who have sponsored similar projects in Thailand to support worthwhile causes, agreed to build a new specialist school in Black Mountain at a potential cost of 20 million Thai Baht. Following several meetings, the Rotary Club of Royal Hua Hin (RCRHH) agreed to help sponsor a specialist audio sensory room at the school under phase two of the project starting mid-2023. The cost of this room is 1 million Thai Baht.

So far the we have committed 500,000 Thai Bhat to the project with the Rotary Club of Bangkok South



supporting this cause by donating 100,000 Thai Baht. It is hoped that through further support our club can make up the further 400,000 Thai Bhat required to complete this room.

Phase one of the project which started in May this year and was celebrated with a “Ground Breaking Ceremony” is progressing well with 50% of the external structural work nearly completed and phase one should be completed by June 2023.



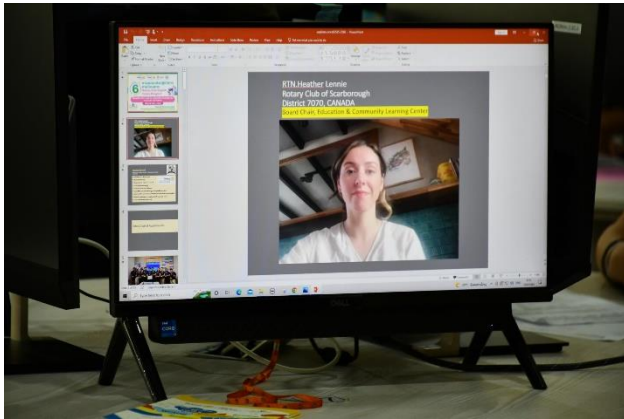
Five members of the E-Jan team attended the event, supported by 27 members and guests. Following the meeting the E-Jan team were taken to the Rotary Education Center at the Nongkhon school to look at the Education Facility our club have built.

Sompratthana who founded E-Jan was very impressed with the project and thanked our club for helping to improve the lives of Thai people.

The Rotary Club of Bangkok South are thanked once again for their support.



Phil then talked about the Rotary Education Centre (REC) and the launch on 13th August of the free online English programme run by the RC Thavaravadi. This will be the 6th year they have run this successful scheme which was originally designed to teach students; however, it was changed for teachers who would then use it to teach students.



The concept began with the RC of Scarborough in Canada, who wanted to teach English to worthwhile causes around the world. It offers an excellent opportunity to use the state of the art multi media centre at the REC at the Anubaan Hua Hin Nongkhon School.

32 teachers have signed up for the 1-year programme and on successfully completing the program they will receive a certificate. The event was opened by President Punnama Kunattada Khun Benjawan from RC Thavaravadi which is a new and vibrant club in Rotary District 3330.

Other guests included PDG Juthatip Thamsiripong from the RC of Pra Pathom Chedi and Romgarn Snebsattha Deputy Director of the Education Centre in Prachuap Khiri Khan. Members of RCRHH and Rotaractor President Asia from Stamford International University were also in attendance.

The RCRHH approved a donation of 10,000 Thai Bhat to support the initiative, which reinforces the image of Rotary as supporting and developing local communities through positive action and collaborative working.



Phil then explained he and Mai have attended D3330 Installation Dinners at RC Thavaravadi, Nakhon Hat Yai and Khok Samed Chun. His goal to be the opening up of the RCRHH within D3330 and more fully integrate within the district.

Phil advised that World Polio Day shirts for 2022 were also now available please let him have sizes. Cost is THB 180 and THB goes towards our club donation to the appeal, so a worthy cause. He also reminded everyone that golf shirts and caps were available for THB 300, these being left over from previous competitions and mainly in smaller sizes.

Regarding golf, the 12th Annual Golf Tournament is returning and will be held at **Banyan Golf Club on 25th November 2022**. Members are asked to actively seek sponsors and gifts for the raffle. All money raised will go towards the numerous projects we undertake to support. The cost is still THB 5000 to include, golf, caddy, snacks, evening meal etc.

He then announced upcoming events:

- 5 Sep 22 - Fellowship Evening
- 12 Sep 22 - Weekly Meeting Patrick Jacobs
- 19 Sep 22 - Board Meeting
- 23 Sep 22 – David Snakes of Hua Hin
- 4 Oct 22 – Fellowship Evening
- 11 Oct – Weekly Meeting
- 18 Oct 22 – Board Meeting

Phil then introduced today's speaker, member and Inter Services Country Chairman – Alan Brown to talk about his return from Australia and subsequent tour of Europe.



From Australia back to Thailand and then our Get away to Europe

Alan began by explaining that he and Nadia had planned a trip back to Australia in March 2020 for a month! They had already planned a European trip during May 2020 from Thailand. Little did they know the world was to be thrown into turmoil days later due to the pandemic and they walked straight into a lockdown in Australia, resulting in an enforced stay of not one month, but two years! Not returning to Thailand until January 2022



Alan and Nadia have a Staffy dog, Chilli, who went to the kennels for a month in March 2020! She of course was a consideration and was airlifted to friends in Chiang Mai, where she too was subjected to a two-year lockdown until reunited in January 2022.

Once the situation globally eased and travel became possible again, Alan and Nadia returned to Thailand in January 2022 via the Phuket Sandbox where they hired a car and drove to Hua Hin. Their worst fears were realised as their home was in Alan's words 'a disaster' with much general maintenance work required and their car was unserviceable, having to go to the garage to get it up and running again. Another priority was a drive to Chiang Mai to recover Chilli, who was pleased to see them after so long.

After the ordeal of the last two years Alan and Nadia decided to undertake their cancelled European Tour and planned visits to the following locations -

- Munich
- London
- West Country England
- Scotland
- Spain
- Italy
- Austria
- Munich



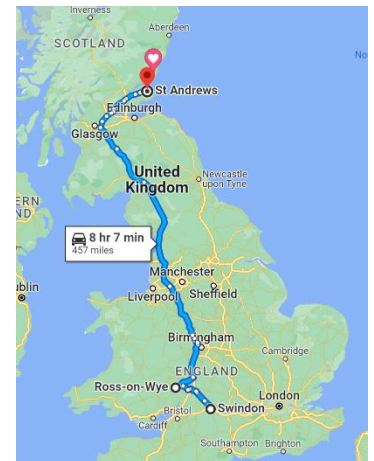
They decided on Munich as they had a Thai Airways voucher and the location was the best deal to Europe at the time.

Once in Munich they drove to Ingolstadt, home of Audi Motor Company, Alan has retired friends who worked at Audi. He also took the opportunity to visit RC Ingolstadt and swap banners (above).



Then back to Munich and a flight to London, then to Croydon and Swindon to see friends and where Nadia is from. Then Alan drove to Ross on Wye, Wales and

Scotland, where he hails from. It was an opportunity to see family, visit St Andrews and Carnoustie Golf Clubs, Fort William, Inverness and Portsoy and of course RC Clubs Arbroath and Banff and to swap banners.

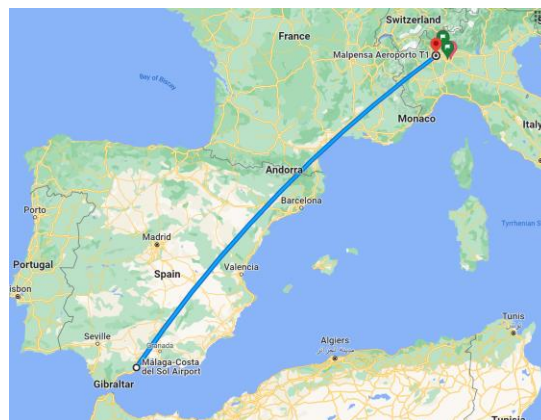


At RC Banff PP Andrew Brown is Alan's cousin and works with an organisation "Books Abroad"

The next leg was a flight from Glasgow to Malaga where they visited Estepona on the Costa Del Sol, Gibraltar, Al Hambra & Rhonda.



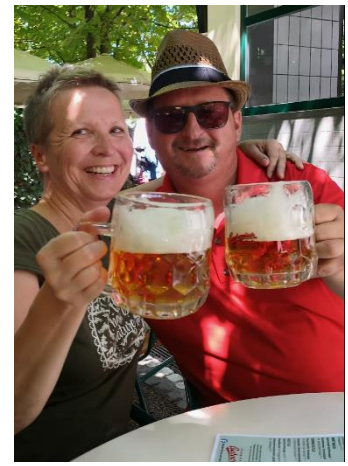
Alan's son and fiancé, who became engaged whilst Alan was visiting Rhonda.



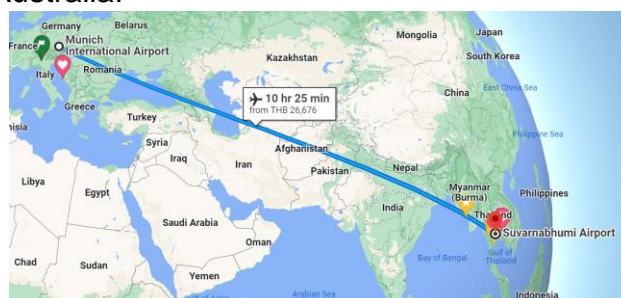
Another flight to Italy and visits to Milano, Como, Cinque Terre, Lucca (birthplace of Puccini), Ravenna, San Marino, Bologna and banner swap with RC Erba Laghi.



Then to Austria where they went to Vienna, The Danube, Salzburg.



Back to Munich and a flight back to Thailand for a well-deserved rest. Alan and Nadia certainly made up for their two-year isolation in Australia!



Alan’s presentation, nor this summary can do justice to the depth and cultural richness of such a journey, covering so many places and encompassing so many experiences.

Alan presented the banners he’d swapped to P Phil

