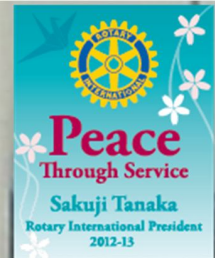




The Rotary Club of West Pennant Hills and Cherrybrook Club Bulletin

Volume 26

Issue No. 41, 27th of May 2013



Monday May 27 David Rosenberg - Inside Pine Gap: The Spy Who Came In From The Desert
Monday June 3 Miska presents on his year in Australia
Monday June 10 Queen's Birthday Holiday – NO MEETING

Duty Roster

Next Meeting – Monday 27 May		Following Meeting – Monday 3 June	
Speaker Host	Barry Lambert	Speaker Host	Rosemary Clarke
Night Reporter	Bob Myers	Night Reporter	Tim Bowland
Front Desk	Ian Roberts	Front Desk	Ian Roberts
Front Desk	David Turnbull	Front Desk	Bob Myers
Steward	Cawas Sahukar	Steward	Colin Sharpe
Steward	Jim Simpson	Steward	Tom Westcott
Photographer	TBA	Photographer	TBA

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Upcoming Events

Sunday May 26 Red Shield Door Appeal Knock	Monday June 3 Miska's presentation "The Year That Was"
Monday June 10 Public Holiday – No Meeting	Monday June 17 Pride of Workmanship Awards

Meetings

Monday 6.30pm for 7.00pm – Springfield House – 245 New Line Road, Dural. <http://www.rotarydistrict9680.org.au>
 Rotary Club of West Pennant Hills and Cherrybrook Inc. PO Box 103 West Pennant Hills 2125 Australia

APOLOGIES: If you are unable to attend or are bringing a guest (even if they are your partner) you must notify Jilda.
 Phone 9439 1422 or email accounts@lhogroup.com.au before 11am on the day of the meeting.

****If you are expected and do not show you may be required to pay for the meal****

Presidents Report



Phil Smith gave us an informed presentation on ROMAC (Rotary Oceania Medical Aid for Children). This is a wonderful program which gives badly disfigured or deformed children in third world countries nearest us much needed medical treatment – life changing stuff. I didn't realise that hospital accommodation costs the program so much, ROMAC is in need of significant donations to do their good work.

On Saturday we had our working bee at Barry Freeman's. There was an excellent turn up, and we tackled the gardens by giving them a makeover – not just a trim and clean up. Tom took his extension chain saw, and Col Baxter significantly pruned some of the trees. All the bushes were trimmed, gardens weeded, and in the afternoon we mulched with wood chips. Over 300Kg of green waste went

to the tip and we filled Barry's trailer again with about the same. Inside, some of the partners were with Joanie and they also did some needed work in the house. We had a splendid morning tea, giving everyone a chance to do a little socialising. Barry was so appreciative of what we got done, and I appreciated how so many of us got involved.

Next Sunday (26 May) is Red Shield Appeal. We have about thirteen volunteers, and more are welcome (let Douglas know). We meet at 8:30am at Barry Smith Holden, Pennant Hills Rd. The need is to drive four students to their designated collection area (they do the work) and to keep an eye on them. Then we bring them back to Barry Smith around noon where all volunteers are provided with a sausage sandwich (and Macca's vouchers for the students). It is a worthwhile morning.

Next week our guest speaker is David Rosenberg - Inside Pine Gap: The Spy Who Came In From The Desert. This will be a very interesting talk. The following week is Miska talking about his year in Australia. He returns from Safari this coming Saturday, and will have a lot of stories to tell. The following Monday (10th June) is a public holiday, so no meeting.

My year as President has been very enjoyable, but we are rapidly approaching changeover on 28th June. See the flyer in this Bulletin (you will receive your personal invitation shortly). This is the biggest event in our calendar being the conclusion of the current Rotary year and the start of the next so I hope that you can all accept your invitation (except for those of you who are travelling). It is a great opportunity to show off the Club at its best, so please invite any friends who you think may be interested.

Also, we have a backup Editor to ensure the Bulletin is published when Bev and I are away. Thanks Douglas.

President Bob Davison

Night Report

The evening started with President Bob welcoming members and in particular Philip Smith who would be talking to us about ROMAC (Rotary Oceania Medical Aid for Children). He also mentioned that Miska was in Coober Pedy, having a good time and will be back for next week's meeting.

Stan then thanked all the members who did a marvellous job at the weekend working bee at Barry and Joanie's house. As we all know, Barry has been doing it pretty tough and it does not take long for the gardens to get out of hand. However, with a concerted effort by members last Saturday the gardens soon looked 'loved' again. Barry read out the names of the 22 members who attended, giving a few hours of their time to bring about the transformation.

Douglas informed the meeting that next Sunday, 26th May, is Red Shield Day for the Salvos. He said that 12 drivers had already volunteered but if there were one or two more it would be good. Douglas also volunteered to be the Assistant Bulletin editor while Bob is away on holiday. Well done Doug.

Rob made comment that he could not understand all the "Yahooing" on Facebook. Well, it turned out that Denmark had won the Eurovision Song Contest! Well done Denmark!

Tim Bickford informed the meeting that Sharon had been doing some vet work in Mudgee recently and in the space of a few hours had treated an owl, a rabbit, a horse and a cow. Tim indicated that he really enjoyed the country lifestyle and had even made contact with a local Rotary Club.

Our guest speaker, Philip Smith, was then introduced, who has had a long association with ROMAC. He started his talk by saying that ROMAC's Mission Statement is to provide medical treatment for children from developing countries in the form of life saving and/or dignity restoring surgery not accessible to them in their home country. Since ROMAC began in 1988, a total of 342 different children have been treated over the past 25 years. ROMAC pays the hospital fees and generous surgeons and their teams (sometimes more than 20) provide their services free of charge.

He further explained that children with disabilities or medical conditions, whether through birth or acquired, tend to be 'hidden away'. In some of the cultures there is shame and stigma associated with abnormalities. Additionally, these children cannot work and earn money in what is usually a poor society to begin with. Philip pointed out that anyone can refer a child to ROMAC - there is just a referral form to complete, accompanied by perhaps a video or photos and the child would be put on a waiting list.

Cultural differences must, however, be acknowledged as many come from remote villages without any idea of what the Australian hospital system is all about. It can be a very frightening experience for child and parent. Getting translators is also difficult, especially if the family speak only one of the 900 New Guinea dialects. There are usually no birth certificates supplied in remote areas so it is often difficult to say how old a child is. The local people measure age by the seasons and it is not uncommon to refer to a toddler's age as being "four seasons of carrots" or any other produce that the family grows!

Philip had personally been involved with several children from East Timor, Cambodia, Fiji and Samoa. All children presented with various conditions and abnormalities – many of which were life-threatening. Some of the worst acquired trauma came through children suffering horrendous burns by falling into kerosene cooking fires. Sydney, Brisbane, Melbourne & Canberra Hospitals have all opened their doors to treat babies and children, whatever the presenting problems are. The hospital fees which ROMAC pays for amount to approximately \$30,000 for each child and with more complex operations necessitating longer stays in hospital, can be as high as \$120,000.

Philip also mentioned the invaluable help given by host families who provide a safe and welcoming environment for the children's families. He could not speak more highly about what lengths host families go to by providing a loving and caring base, in what must be confusing and uncertain times for parents.

Philip screened many photos of the care recipients who had benefitted through ROMAC and the benevolence of surgeons who donate their skills. The 'before and after' pictures were astounding and the success of treatment was overwhelmingly obvious. The healing process, both physical and mental would have completely changed the bleak future of these youngsters. There is no doubt that they were destined to lead appallingly sad and possibly painful lives if they had remained untreated. With the help of ROMAC they are no longer 'the hidden children' but have a much brighter future ahead of them and a role to play in this world.

At the end of his presentation, Philip was thanked for his heart-warming talk and his obvious passion for the work that he does through Rotary.

The night continued with the Sergeant managing to squeeze money from most of the members, especially over the lack of sartorial elegance and Heads & Tails was won by Keith Ball.

Night Reporter Sandy Burrage

The head table with Tim, Phil Smith, Pres. Bob and Sgt Tim: Phil presenting on ROMAC:



Some pictures from the working bee at Barry Freeman's

Hard at work:



Socialise at morning tea:



Finish off with wood chip mulch:



Birthdays and Anniversaries



Anniversaries - Barry & Helen Lambert – 27 May

Birthdays - Mark Doran-31 May (worth a mention!)

Food for Thought



Go to Heaven for the climate, Hell for the company.

- Mark Twain .

Humour



Did you hear about the blond who fired an arrow into the air?
.... She missed!

Didn't like that?, then try this one:

A string walks into a bar with a few friends and orders a beer. The bartender says, "I'm sorry, but we don't serve strings here."

The string goes back to his table. He ties himself in a loop and messes up the top of his hair. He walks back up to the bar and orders a beer.

The bartender squints at him and says, "Hey, aren't you a string?"

The string says, "Nope, I'm a frayed knot."

**Club Changeover Dinner
Epping Club
Friday 28th June 2013**



**Cost \$60 per head. Time 6.30pm for complementary drinks and 7.00pm for dinner.
Limited on-site parking available for members doing car share (discuss with Bob).
There is parking in nearby Council car park AND in Coles underground car park (open 24/7)
Register with Ian Roberts before 17th June (or Bob in Ian's absence).**

		Club Program 2012-2014		RED YES = PARTNERS on a meeting night.	
		Updated 07/05/2013 by RWH			
May-13		Community Service Month			
Sun	26	Red Shield Appeal doorknock		Yes	Bob Davison
Mon	27	David Rosenberg - Inside Pine Gap: The Spy Who Came In From The Desert			Rob Hamer
Jun-13		Rotary Fellowship Month			
Mon	3	Miska's presentation "The Year That Was"			Rosemary Clarke
Mon	10	Public Holiday - No meeting			
Mon	10	BBQ Bunnings Thornleigh.		Yes	Barry Lambert
Wed	12	Club Board Meeting - Bob Davison's home.			
Mon	17	Pride of Workmanship Awards		Yes	Peter Cleary
Mon	24	Ian Faulks - Australia's road safety performance: Seat belts, RBT, and speed cameras - so why are people still dying?			Rob Hamer
Fri	28	Changeover Dinner The Epping Club			Bob/Clive
Jul-13		Rotary Fellowship Month			
Mon	1	No meeting following Changeover.			
Tues	2	Club Board Meeting 7.15 for 7.30pm			Clive Denmark
Fri	5	District Changeover at Hornsby RSL			Clive Denmark
Mon	8	Tony Gatt, Business Development Manager, Foodbank NSW Limited. Confirmed 23/01/2013 by Barry Lambert.		Yes	Barry Lambert
Sat	13	BBQ Bunnings Thornleigh.		Yes	Barry Lambert
Mon	15	Geoff Otypka Confirmed 04/03/2013			Rob Hamer
Mon	22	Looking for speaker			
Tues	23	1st Trivia Night Meeting 7.15 for 7.30pm			Rob Hamer
Mon	29	Membership Night - Special Guest Speaker - Dominic Perrottet MLA			Rob Hamer
Aug-13		Membership Extension Month			
Mon	5	Alan MacLean - The Lights of Cobb & Co. Confirmed 05/05/2013			Rob Hamer
Tues	6	2nd Trivia Night Meeting 7.15 for 7.30pm			
Sat	10	SOCIAL		Yes	Social
Mon	12	Landscape Photography Rob Clarke. Confirmed 11/03/2013			Rob Hamer
Tues	13	Club Board Meeting 7.15 for 7.30			Clive Denmark
Tues	16	Final Trivia Night Meeting 7.15 for 7.30pm			Rob Hamer
Sat	24	Trivia Night - Cherrybrook Community Centre		Yes	Rob Hamer
Mon	26	Club Assembly			Rob Hamer
Sep-13		New Generations Month			
Mon	2	Councillor Dr. Michelle Byrne, Mayor, The Hills Shire Council		Yes	Rob Hamer
Mon	9	Looking for speaker + G/Sale Pickups handed out if any left over from previous week.			
Tues	10	Club Board Meeting 7.15 for 7.30			Clive Denmark
Sun	15	Meet at Fire Stn 9.30am for * Guide Hall grounds clean up and * Pickups.			
Mon	16	Membership Night			Ross Ballinger
Tue	17	Garage Sale - Meet at Fire Stn at 7pm for pickups.		Yes	
Wed	18	Garage Sale - Meet at Fire Stn at 7pm for pickups.		Yes	
Thur	19	Garage Sale - Meet at Fire Stn at 7pm for pickups.		Yes	

Fri	20	Garage Sale- Move Items to Fire Stn	Yes	
Sat	21	Garage Sale- at Fire Station. 6am start.	Yes	
Sat	21	Garage Sale-Dinner at Bivianso's Italian Restaurant (New Line Rd Dural) 6.30 for 7.00pm VENUE TBC	Yes	
Sun	22	Garage Sale- 8am at Fire Station for 9 am opening. Finish and clean up at 1.00pm	Yes	
Mon	23	No Meeting post Garage Sale - Rest night!		
Wed	25	DG Visit, Joint meeting Zone Clubs		Clive Denmark, Rob Hamer

Miska's Family Program

2012-2013

Week Ending Friday	Host Family	Planned Activities	Miska with You
Sun 5 May – Sat 25 May	Davison	Safari	
June - 20	Davison	Miska Flies Home	

Directors 2012-13

Rotary Club of West Pennant Hills and Cherrybrook

President	Bob Davison	0413 008 574
Past President	Colin McGowan	0438 810 773
Secretary	Barry Lambert	0412 465 819
Acting Secretary	Keith Ball	0401 895 333
Treasurer	Ian Roberts	0401 898 989
Membership	Carol Russell	0418 431 157
Club Services Director	Rob Hamer	0400 335 091
Youth Services Director	Rosemary Clarke	0439 819 965
Community Services Director	Douglas Lam	0419 421 659
International Director, Foundation and PR	PDG Larry Jacka	0418 690 898
Vocational Director	Peter Cleary	0419 499 827
Fundraiser Director and President Elect	Clive Denmark	0400 425 210
Club Welfare Officer (non-executive)	Stan Basely	9634 1084
Social Committee Leader	Colin Wright	0409 393 027