



# Ashmore in Action

Issue N<sup>o</sup>. 19 30<sup>th</sup> August 2020

The Meeting Venue for Wednesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> September is:  
Ashmore Rotary Community Centre

Club President



Norman Coventry

R.I. President



Holger Knaack

District Governor



Andy Rajapakse

Assistant Governor



David Bisiker



Rotary Opens Opportunities

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**ATTENDANCE ADVICE**

IT IS APPARENT THAT THERE HAS BEEN SOME CONFUSION AS TO WHEN TO ADVISE OF INTENDED ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS.

**AS FROM**  
**WEDNESDAY, THE 2ND OF SEPTEMBER**  
**ALL MEMBERS MUST ADVISE**  
**no later than 11:00 a.m. on the day of the meeting**  
**ATTENDANCE AT ALL MEETINGS**  
**ASHMORE SEAFOOD AND STEAK RESTAURANT**  
**AND AT**  
**ASHMORE ROTARY COMMUNITY CENTRE**

Contact Robyn Schatz:  
Mobile: 0439 794 092  
Email: randgschatz@gmail.com

**Club Officials for the Year 2020-21**

**President:** ..... Norman Coventry  
**Vice president:** ..... Heather Yarker  
**President Elect:** ..... Denise Payne  
**Treasurer:** ..... Ian Wilson  
**Secretary:** ..... Joan Adams

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**Service Directors**

**Club Service:** ..... Denise Payne  
**Community Service:** ..... Barbary Healey  
**Youth:** ..... Jan Heap  
**Foundation & International Service:** ... Justine Dillon  
**Membership:** ..... Norman Coventry  
**Vocational Service:** ..... Robin Schatz

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**Support**

**Attendance:** ..... Robyn Schatz  
**Welfare:** ..... Marcia Waller  
**A.I.A.:** ..... Michael Hyland

## Report on the meeting of 26th August 2020

Venue: Ashmore Seafood & Steak Restaurant.

Meeting Coordinator: PP David Grant.

Meeting Commenced: 18 35

David proposed a toast to Southport Rotary on the occasion of the 75th Anniversary of Foundation.

In the absence of the President and Vice President, on their behalf President-Elect, Denise Payne took responsibility for Rotary matters

She first thanked the meeting for the good wishes following her fall and although still bruised and somewhat battered, is feeling much better than at the weekend. She thanked the club for the flowers received.

Members with information were:-

*Brian McAllan:*

The Club has been allocated barbecue duty at Bunnings Southport (500, Olsen Avenue) on Saturday the 12th of September. There will be two shifts, 08:00 to 12:00 and 12:00 to 16:00, five on each shift. Each shift will have a nominated supervisor—who is required to just supervise and Bunnings will have an “overseer” in attendance. The Men’s Shed on duty there this weekend (29th August) so we should learn from their experience.

*Barbara Healey:*

Vocational visits are hard to arrange at this time; not the least because of the Covid-19 restrictions. Another barrier is the difficult posed by safety regulations imposed on operators allowing public access to work places.

The club has been offered a visit to an opal cutting & polishing operation at Mount Tambourine. This has been arranged for Saturday, the 19<sup>th</sup> of September. The event will take place in the morning. Lunch will be available from the food outlet next door. The meeting time will be advised closer to the date. Consensus is that car-pool is the favoured option of travel but if sufficient numbers are available (14 required), Mark Woodhouse has offered the Molendiner Community Bus. **To those intending to join this Vocational Visit please advise Barbara Healey (0407 522 526) by the 9th of September.**

Although social distancing regulations in Queensland have been relaxed, there still remains some restrictions when meeting. Please refer to the section overleaf for the latest regulations that may affect us.

### Future Meetings

Day/Date	Venue	Duty Team	Speaker
26 Aug.	AS&S	<b>GOLD</b>	Rod Preston
<i>Mysteries of the Mail: Secrets &amp; Spies etc.</i>			
01 Sept.	ARRC	<b>RED</b>	FATHERS’ DAY
09 Sept.	ARRC	<b>GREEN</b>	D.G. VISIT
16 Sept.	ARRC	<b>GOLD</b>	
23 Sept.	AS&S	<b>RED</b>	
30 Sept.	Social Event		
07 Oct.	ARRC	<b>GREEN</b>	

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Denise Payne:

An update on the Fiji Kids Project (see AiA Issue 17, 16-08-20).

The organisation is now recognised as a Rotary-sponsored entity and therefore qualifies for RAWCS\* assistance. Both the District Governor and the Assistant Governor know the president of the Nadi Rotary Club and will liaise with that organisation. It was apparent that *Julie Hoskison* has been working in Australia as an individual with little local support. Rotary Ashmore have now assured her that she has the support of the club which is prepared to work with the organisation both within the club and enlisting the support of the wider Rotary community.

#### \* Rotary Australia World Community Service

David Grant:

“Lucky Door” prize - winner *Brad Francis*. Wine

“Raffle” prize-winner, *Peter Debelak*. No Eggs this week! Consolation, Wine

Denise Payne:

Introduced guest speaker, *Rob Preston*.

Rob retired from Australia Post and not surprisingly, developed an interest in mail systems throughout the world. His previous presentation to the club was both interesting and amusing and we welcome him back with anticipation that we will be treated to more of the same.

The History of Mail Part 2: Secrets, Spies & James Bond’s Kilt

In 1786, Arthur Phillip was appointed Governor-designate of the proposed British colony of New South Wales. He was tasked with assembling a fleet of ships and sailed as captain of the *Sirius* to the new territory in May 1787. He arrived, first at Botany Bay but finding no secure anchorage, poor soil and little fresh water, he moved the fleet along the coast to the inlet he named Port Jackson. Towards the end of 1792 he relinquished his Governorship due to ill health and returned to England.

Shortly after Phillip departed, two Spaniards arrived, ostensibly to research the flora of the territory with a view to taking plants back to Spain. They left early in 1793. Through “pillow-talk” information gained by prostitutes working with British agents, letters sent back indicated that the two “Botanists” were really Spanish spies sent to provide intelligence to the King of Spain with a view to capturing the territory.

This confirmed Britain’s suspicion that almost 300 years (June/July 1494) earlier after Columbus’s return from the Americas, a treaty, The Treaty of Tordesillas had been signed between the Spanish and Portuguese Empires. This gave lands of the world outside of Europe and east of a line 370 leagues west (Meridian of Tordesillas) of the Cape Verde Islands, to Portugal and those west of the line to Spain. They didn’t think of a line on the other side of the world until 1529 when they put a line (Meridian of Saragosa) from the west coast of Cape York down to round about just west of the SA border. Thus, most of Queensland, NSW and Victoria, a bit of SA and all of Tasmania would belong to Spain and Northern Territory, most of SA and all of WA would be Portuguese. We then went on to learn that a letter from Napoleon to Nicolas Baudin commissioning him to provide detail of the settlement at Sydney Cove with a view to invade the colony was intercepted by the British.

We then went on to hear about spies in the employ of Queen Elizabeth I who discovered letters written by associates of Mary, Queen of Scots plotting to establish Mary on the English throne. After spending over 18 years in custody at various castles and manors in central England, she was beheaded at Fotheringhay Castle in 1587.

We heard of the Mail Packet Service used by governments to carry confidential correspondence, often intelligence documents and bullion between British embassies, colonies and outposts. These small, fast, lightly-armed ships could often outrun the heavier naval vessels but were occasionally the target of privateers and warring nations.

Hearing briefly about the background to the career of Ian Fleming and the “birth” of James Bond, we were treated to the story of an Aussie who worked at the Melbourne outpost of Britain’s Bletchley Park. This was the centre of the Allied code-breaking operations. Edith Jessie Flanders (née Edgar) was born on a sheep farm between Edenhope and Harrow, Victoria. Educated at home until she was 14, she transferred to St Catherine’s School, Melbourne. She moved to Business school at 18 before joining Shell Oil Company for 2 years. With a sharp sense of adventure Jessie enlisted in the Navy. She did several jobs in the navy, including driving trucks before, at the age of 22, volunteering for a one-week deciphering course. Jessie’s skills at deciphering complex messages in a foreign language were such that she was sent to work at secret offices called Monterey, just off the St Kilda Road, Melbourne. Here Jessie joined the Special Intelligence Bureau, later to be renamed FRUMEL—Free Radio Unit Melbourne where she decoded Enigma messages between Japanese Commanders, their ships and aircraft.

### **Covid-19 Restrictions - Queensland As of 30<sup>th</sup> August 2020**

- Gold Coast City Local Government Area is now listed as a RESTRICTED AREA
- Contact Tracing Areas: Coomera & Pimpama. & G.C. University Hosp. Fever Clinic.

If you have been to these areas, check the website for locations of interest.

- If you feel sick, get tested
- Maintain Social Distancing –1.5 metres
- Maintain a list of attendees for 56 days after the event.
- Observe Physical Distancing (min. 1.5 metres).
- **President Norman is working with Queensland Health to determine if meetings can go ahead at ARCC. Keep up to date with your emails.**

### **ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS**

**Please note that the decision of the Public Relations body, to rescind the delivery of the email edition of Ashmore in Action to members is as a result of the difficulty of some to cope with the complexity of the Internet.**

**Whilst this is understood, it is hoped that with assistance, as many members as possible will use the internet option. The more members that do use it, the better will be our ability to spread the Rotary Word.**

### **PRIDE OF WORKMANSHIP AWARDS**

Pride of Workmanship is an approved Rotary project instigated in 1975 by the Rotary Club of Pennant Hills, Sydney.

The Pride of Workmanship Program enables managers in our society to help employees achieve the goal of job satisfaction, and publicly recognize them for their efforts.

**The awards night is set down for the 28<sup>th</sup> of October. If you have someone who you would like to nominate, Would you please contact Barbara Healey for the form as early as possible.**

Her work is credited with saving the lives hundreds of Australian Naval personnel.

Jessie Edgar remained in the navy for five months after the Japanese surrender, retaining her rank as a leading WRAN officer and moving to Adelaide. Leaving the navy and returning to a rural life, she married Bob Patterson. She returned to Victoria, marrying John Flanders after her first husband died.

In 2010 British Prime Minister David Cameron recognised Jessie Flanders’ war efforts when, at the age of 90, he awarded her the “We Also Served” medal together with a Certificate of Appreciation for what was described as “Vital Service”.

Denise thanked Rob for his interesting talk, liberally peppered with amusing comments and pictures purported to be but quite obviously not, relevant to the commentary.

Rob Indicated that he was now working on a third part in the series to which we look forward to hearing.

The meeting closed at 19:57.

**From the Editor's Desk**

I draw your attention to the request on Page 1 related to advice of attendance at ALL meetings of Ashmore Rotary. There appears to have been confusion over when to advise and what to advise. That confusion has now been removed and one should simply advise attendance for meetings at both the Community Centre and the Restaurant. This will ensure that numbers for catering are precise.

Covid-19 still remains an organisational difficulty throughout the community. Not the least to the Hyland family. A fine celebration was organised for the matriarch's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday; with relatives and friends descending on a winery in the Hunter Valley for a long weekend of (safely) socialising and (prudent) eating and drinking. As a result of the decision by Premier Whatsername, it had to be cancelled. As a result, a gathering of some twenty-odd in NSW was reduced to a rather dull and chilly two in Ballendean. We are hoping that a similar but smaller function in Port Macquarie in November will not be suffering the same fate.

September 6<sup>th</sup> is Father's Day. Ashmore Rotary is celebrating the event the ARCC on Wednesday with four of our members giving a brief talk about the man responsible for helping them into this world. Some of us might have occasionally clashed with our fathers during our years together but I would suggest that all of us would have much to thank them for. I know I did .... on both accounts.

It will be interesting to hear how the experiences of the Four compare with each other and me.

There was some criticism of the articles that I have put in previous issues of Ashmore in Action. My intention has been to try to make the document interesting and informative. Perhaps my interpretation of "interesting and informative " is not quite meeting up with accepted standards.

Whilst it would certainly be less onerous to simply list the dates and essential information relevant to the week in question, I would prefer to continue with the style I have adopted. If you disagree, please tell me but if any member has subject matter or a style of document as a preference, I would be happy to add it. This is a document for all members to contribute to and to read

Michael Hyland

**Celebrations**

*There are no birthdays to celebrate this week.*

*but*

*Ian and Heather Yarker will celebrate the anniversary of their wedding on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of September*

*and*

*On the 4<sup>th</sup> of September, Pat Fleming will have been a member of Ashmore Rotary for 18 years*

*Congratulations to all three .... for their fortitude!*

**member's Welfare**

If you are aware of any member who is sick or is in need of help, please contact Marcia Waller on:

Mobile: 0413 730 820

Email: marcialampshade@gmail.com

**A Funny Finish**

A couple from Joan.

*A woman goes into a dentist's surgery and says,*

*"I think I'm a moth".*

*The Dentist says*

*"I'm sorry dear, I can't help you, you should see a psychiatrist".*

*"Oh! But I am seeing a psychiatrist".*

*"Then why did you come into a dentist's surgery"?*

*"The light was on".*

**The first apple..**

A woman ran a red traffic light and crashed into a man's car. Both of their cars are demolished, but amazingly neither of them was hurt.

After they crawled out of their cars, the woman said; "Wow, just look at our cars! There's nothing left, but fortunately we are unhurt.

This must be a sign from God that we should meet and be friends and live together in peace for the rest of our days."

The man replied, "I agree with you completely. This must be a sign from God!

The woman continued, "And look at this, here's another miracle. My car is completely demolished, but my bottle of 75 year old scotch didn't break. Surely God meant for us to drink this vintage delicacy and celebrate our good fortune." Then she handed the bottle to the man.

The man nods his head in agreement, opened it, drank half the bottle and then handed it back to the woman. The woman took the bottle, immediately put the cap back on, and handed it back to the man.

The man asks, "Aren't you having any?"

She replies, "Nah. I think I'll just wait for the police."

Many years ago, Adam ate the apple.

Men will never learn!



Wartime cypher clerk Jessie Flanders, nee Edgar age 90 years showing her "We Also Served" medal presented to her by British Prime Minister, David Cameron and a picture of herself in her Navy Uniform