



PS Superannuants

The Association of Public Sector Superannuants Inc.
Formerly SA Superannuants
Established 1927

Welcome to Martin Howard, Ferntree Gully Rotarian



W 25 June 2025
APSS Victoria
Branch

**My Journey with Rotary and our work in
supporting young Australians.**

Themes of my presentation

- My own “journey”
- Friendships from working with others
- Retirement, activities, interests
- Rotary and its youth programs
- We can all make a difference!

“Martin’s meanderings”

- Some life experiences
- Travelogue – some favourite places
- Rotary and its youth programs
- How we can contribute and
make a difference

Happy days!



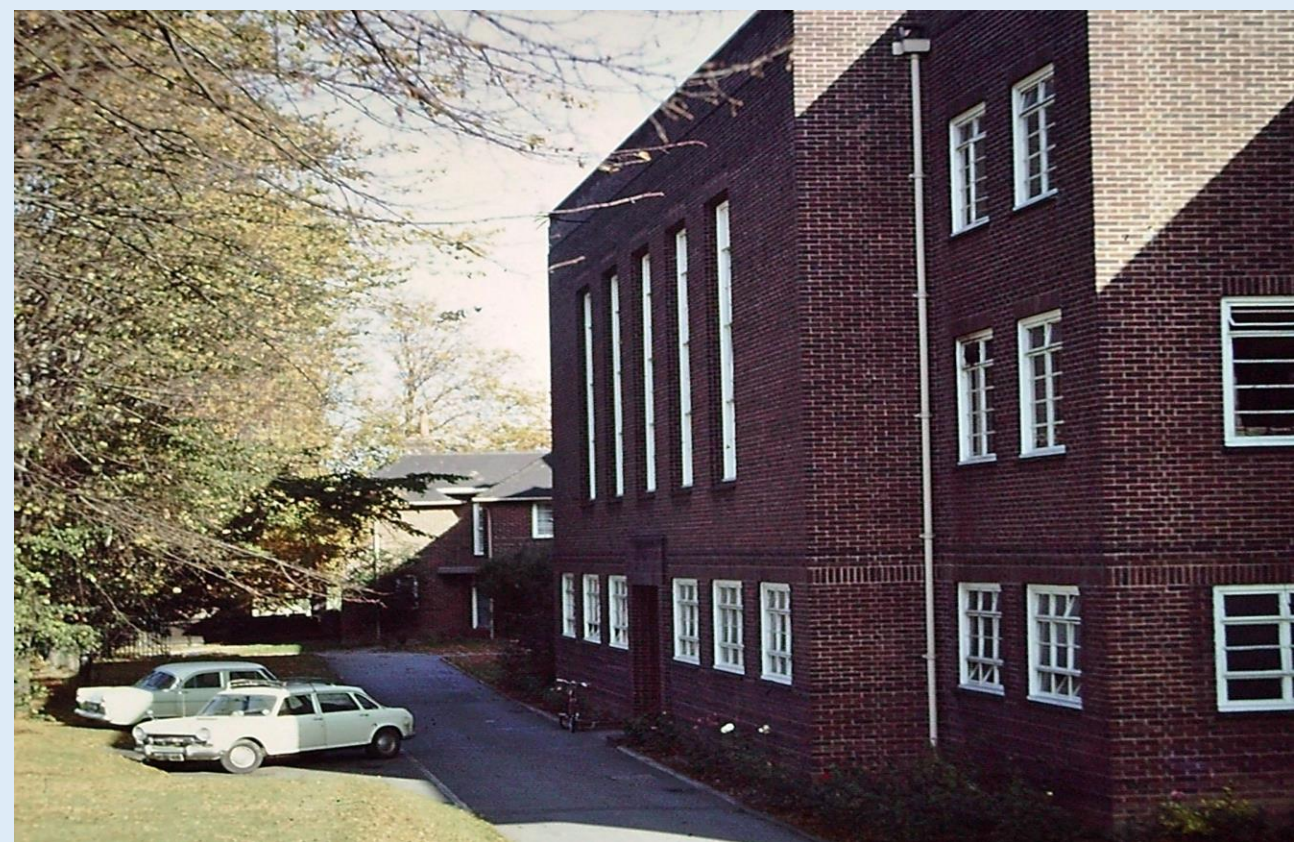
My family (1) “B.M.” 1930’s (2) Scotland 1958



My home town – Dartford, Kent



Brent School, Dartford and Gravesend Grammar School



First workplace – Norwich



My long-term friends

- Mostly people I or my wife have worked with:
 - In workplaces Norwich, Wellington, Melbourne, Ferntree Gully
 - Kindergarten or school committees
 - In voluntary organisations (YHA, Jaycees, Toastmasters, Rotary, U3A)

Mentors, then friends over 50 years



Second workplace – second country (NZ)



(Art Deco) Prudential Building, Wellington



YHANZ (Youth Hostels Association) trip 1966

YHA 1966 and Jaycees 1966

- YHA – many friends NZ, Australia, UK.
- Met Joan – married 1969
- Gave a Jaycee (“big Australian”) a ride – then I joined Jaycees!

Jaycees

(previously Junior Chamber of Commerce)

- Service organisation – peaked 1960's
- “Service, Education, Fellowship, Action”
- Excellent community work and education
- Similar philosophy to Rotary, Lions.
- Many new friends.

Wellington Jaycees 1966-73



President 1971



Jaycee Picnic – Martinborough NZ

Some Jaycees' projects

- Organised IHC door-to-door collection
- UNICEF Gala evening 1967
- Computer management game
- Defensive Driving
- National conferences –1500 delegates

Wedding 1969 – spot the Rotarians (1)



Toastmasters 1972-2002

- A Jaycee friend introduced me
- Member in NZ, then Australia
- Theme – communication
- “Better listening, thinking, speaking”
- Positive feedback

Toastmasters 1972-2002

- Education
- Communication
- Leadership training
- Public courses too

Toastmaster friend Lawrie – NZ and Finland



NZ - Golden wedding 2019



Geoff Hughes, Barbara, Nigel Cousins, Philip Worts, Sue Worts, Carolyn Howard, Alan Raven (sitting), Martin Howard, Ian Garrett, Margaret Garrett, Jenny Raven, Joan Howard, Lawrie Crighton, Ann Cousins, Carole Haigh

NZ – spot the Rotarians (2)



Mt Taranaki, New Plymouth



Wellington, Tulip time



NZ South Island



Queenstown



Milford Sound

Work after Prudential in NZ

Colonial Mutual, NZ and Australia

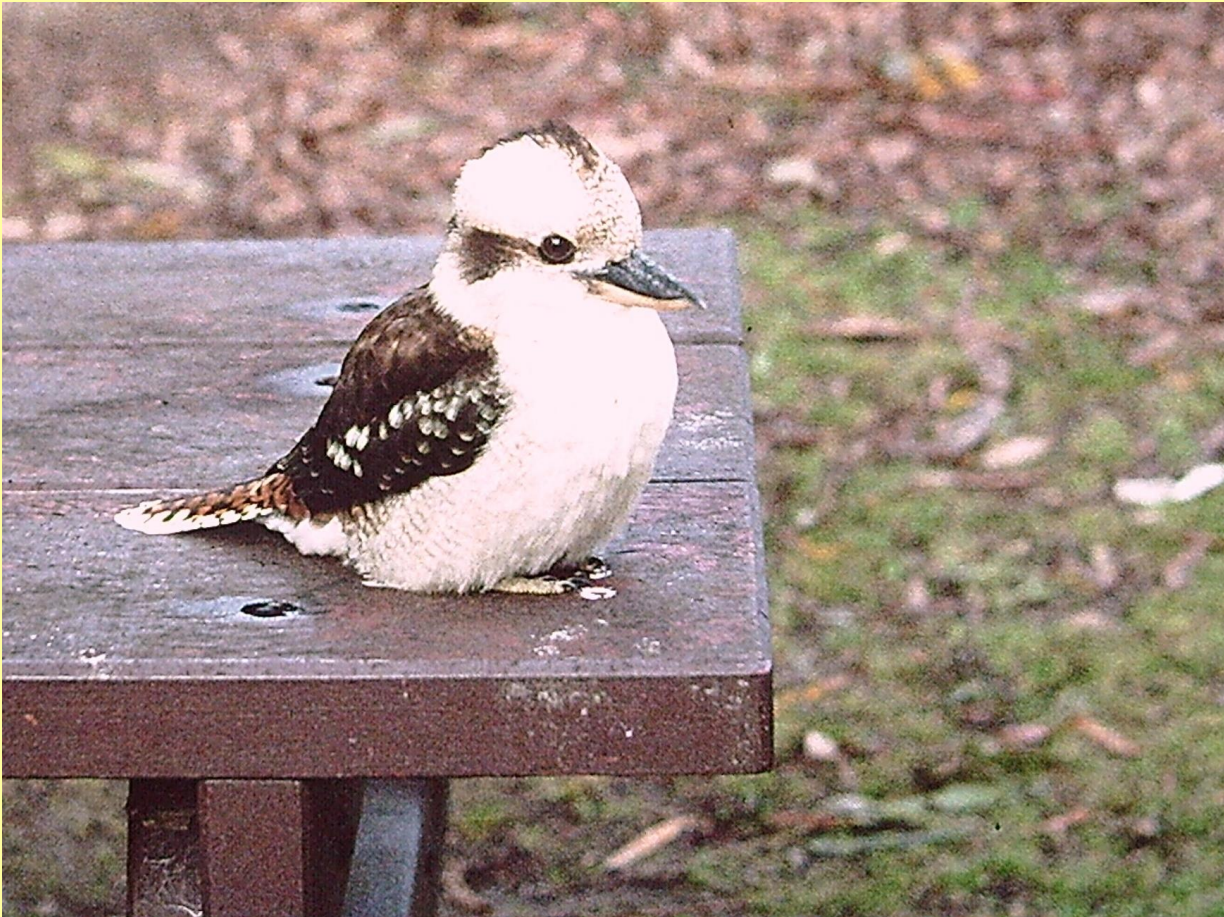
IT companies NZ and Australia

Moved to Australia 1984 and 1989

Swinburne University - teacher and coordinator

Swinburne friend introduced me to Rotary

Australia



Lunch guest - NSW



Begonias – Ballarat Gardens

Victoria



Jells Park, Glen Waverley



Wilson's Promontory

ROTARY facts - founded 1905



- Service club – registered charity
- 1.2 million members internationally
- 36,000 clubs, 528 Districts
- 22,500 members in Australia
- 975 clubs, 21 Districts

Our Rotary District 9815



- Melbourne City, then as far as:
- Sorrento on Peninsular
- Bounded by Hampton, Manningham,
Warrandyte, Healesville,
Maffra, Orbost, coast to Phillip Island

Rotary – I joined 2022



About opportunity -

- contribute to community
- much personal satisfaction
- new experiences, new friends
- variety of activity

Rotary “Changeover” Dinner & ukuleles



ROTARY - my own club's activities



Community – projects and donations

International – water projects, cleft palate surgery

Fundraising – mainly famous “sausage sizzles”

Fellowship – regular meetings, guest speakers, fun!

Youth – several programs

Rotary – Fern Tree Gully club

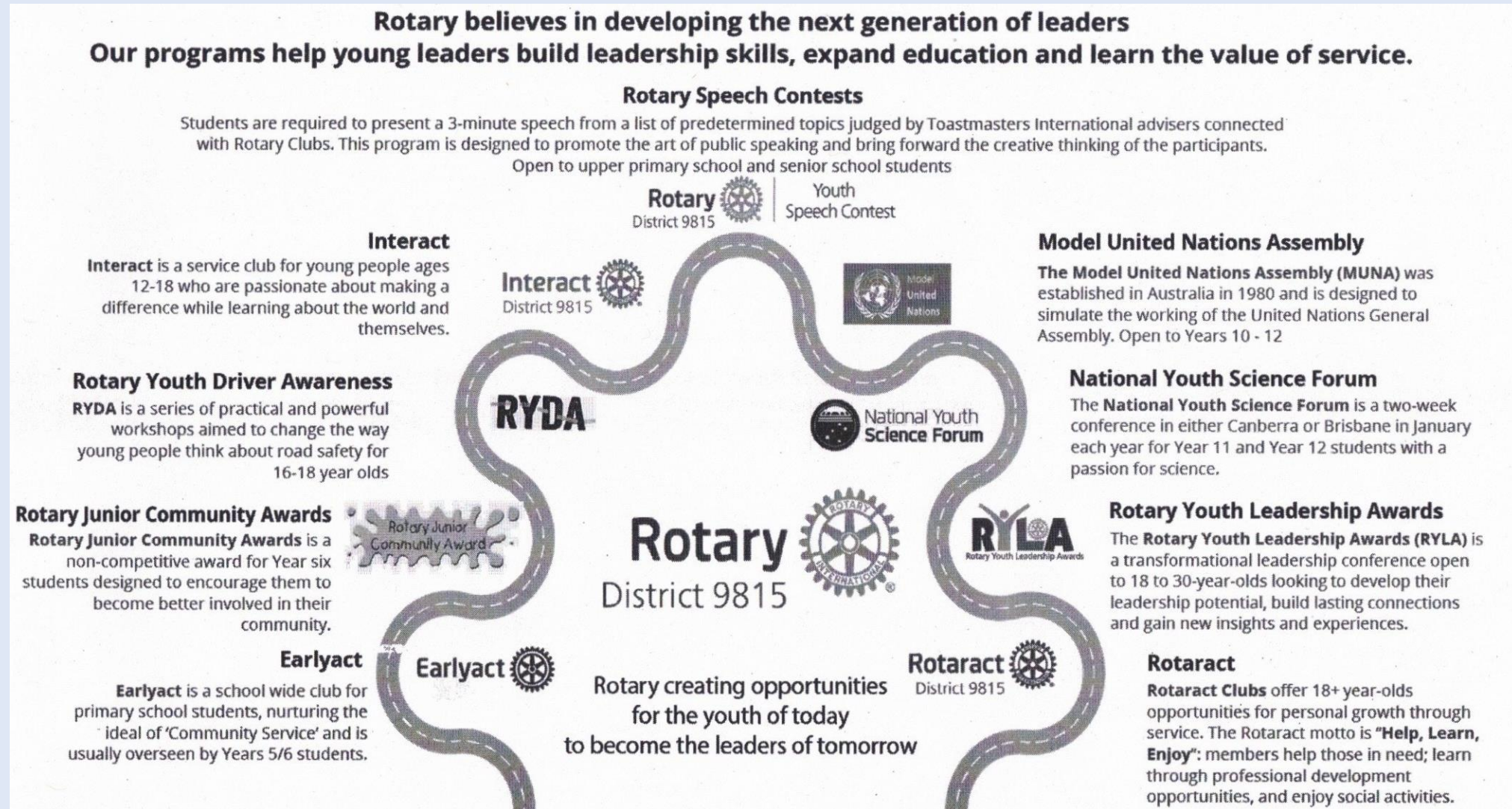


Helping Salvos at Christmas



Telling Rotary story – FM Radio

Rotary – focusing on youth (see handout)



Ferntree Gully club's youth programs (1)

Young Citizens Development Award

- FTG North Primary School.**
- projects by pupils expand horizons.**
- research of local organisations.**
- great educationally, students' presentations.**
- school and teachers great supporters**

Ferntree Gully club's youth programs (2)

“Wheelchairs for Kids” – FTG North Primary

- Intro by Rotarian Russell Hayes**
- \$6,000 for disabled children.**
- built in WA by volunteers.**
- 23 wheelchairs to Somalia - changed lives!**

“Wheelchairs for kids” – Fun!



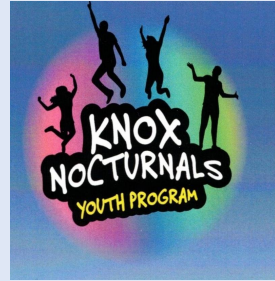
“Wheelchairs for Kids”

Brother Thomas Oliver Pickett AM,
a co-founder in 1996

Senior Australian of the Year 2025



Ferntree Gully club's youth programs (3)



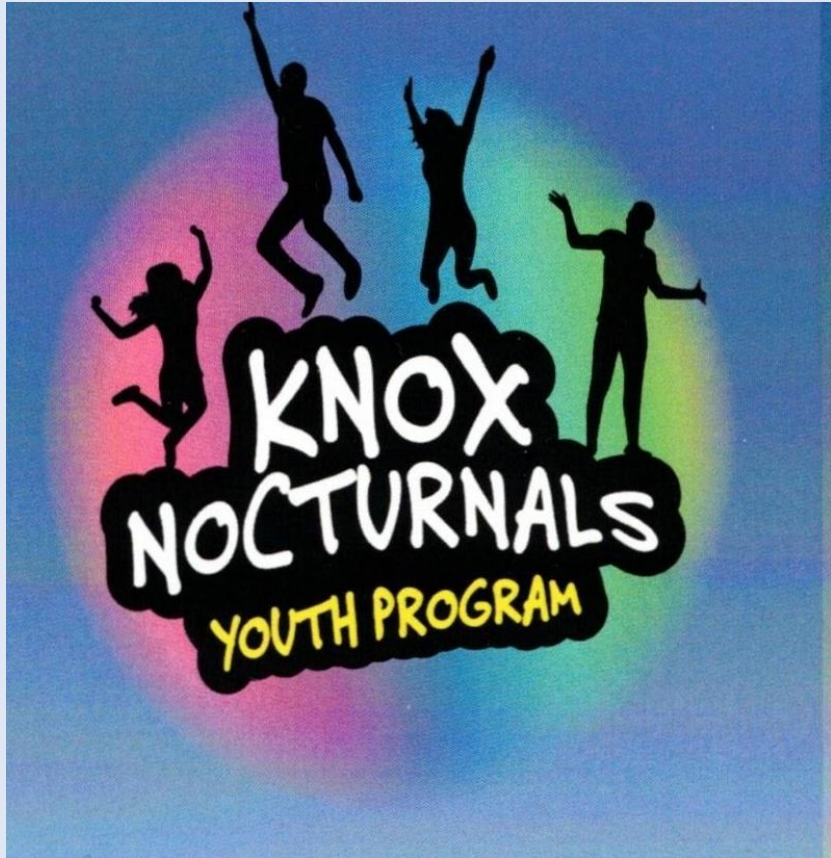
“Knox Nocturnals” youth (12-18) program

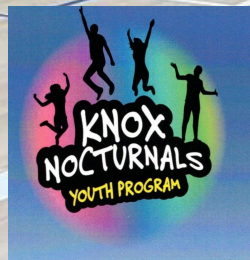
Objective – activity for Knox youth

Especially for marginalised, disadvantaged

Youth workers lead evening sessions

Games, life skills, music, meal, friends





Ferntree Gully club's youth programs (4)

- RYLA – a main topic of presentation**
- Club sponsors young person(s) yearly**
- \$1,650 cost per participant**
- 2025 RYLA on Phillip Island**
- Run by Rotary District**

RYLA – Rotary Youth Leadership Award

- Residential leadership program ages 18-30**
- Rotary club sponsors participants**
- Develop leadership skills (including public speaking)**
- Program organised, led by previous year's participants**

RYLA 2019 at Rawson, Gippsland



RYLA 2019 – the organising group

2018 participants organised & led 2019 event.

3 Rotarians assisted, guided when needed.



RYLA activities

- Group activities and projects
- Guest speakers
- Action learning (e.g. tree planting)
- Outdoor activities
- Fun and new friendships

RYLA outdoor activity

“Challenge by choice” – a challenging climb



Another challenging outdoor activity!



RYLA 2019 – certificate presentation



RYLA 2023 at Flinders – group presentation



After RYLA

- Participants attend club as guest speaker – tell of their experience
- Participants encouraged to maintain contact with their fellow attendees

Final topic – US!

- Us and retirement – what now?
- What can we contribute?
- So much life experience!
- How to make a difference.

What now?

- Busy! Have we really retired?
- Many interests - do you enjoy:-
 - Photography, music, stamps?
 - Family history, travel, gardening?
 - Meeting and working with community?

Community organisations

- Many opportunities, many organisations
- Knox's Volunteer Expo - 600 attended
- New friendships
- Keeps us active
- Good for health

How to contribute

- So many organisations want help:
 - Church and community groups including:
 - Salvos
 - Vinnies
 - Charities
 - Casual work!

Or.....

- Learn something new – piano, ukulele
- U3A (Uni of the third age)
- Visit the lonely or infirm
- Probus, TOSA, Travel, Toastmasters
- Infinite possibilities!

Finally – a “commercial”

- If you're not busy, and even if you are!
- Consider joining a local organization.
- And help change lives.
- Perhaps visit your local Rotary club!



See if Rotary is for you!

- members aged 18-98! Varied backgrounds.
- no restrictions on gender, ethnicity, race, nation, religion, occupation
- great guest speakers





You will be welcome at Rotary.

THANK YOU for coming today.



Australian Government

Be Connected

Every Australian online.

Presentation by Peter Baker, our IT Guru

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IT Topics

Maintaining Your IT Literacy

Be Connected Introduction

Back up iPhone or Android to Cloud

Presenter Peter Baker

Maintain your IT Literacy

- IT as part of daily living - Use it or lose it.
- Buy tools/brands family and friends use for local support
- Smartphones are common tools, Tablets for news, photos, Browsing
 - Buy name brand, above the cheapest if possible for better performance
- Use Apps with family – WhatsApp, social media – stay current
- Stay in one technology Android or Apple – less learning
- Explore, learn – Be Connected, think of keywords and search
- Use PC and Microsoft Office if you have that historical skillset.



Be Connected
Every Australian online.



facebook

Be Connected Introduction

- <https://beconnected.esafety.gov.au/>



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Your suggestions for future presentations

Membership questions

Website viewing

Your questions

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