



**Team Member:** Matthew Johnson

**Age:** 33

**Profession:** Planning Director

**Employment:** Town of Jamestown  
Jamestown, North Carolina

**Sponsored by Rotary Club of Greensboro-Airport,  
Greensboro, NC**

### **Personal Profile**

Matthew was born and raised on the Eastern Shore of Virginia, a small peninsula located between the Chesapeake Bay and the Atlantic Ocean. Matthew attended Virginia Tech and earned a B.S. in Forestry. After working several years in the urban forestry profession, Matthew returned to school at the University of North Carolina - Greensboro to earn a M.A. in Geography, concentrating in Urban and Regional Planning. As a city/town planner, Matthew is looking forward to having the opportunity to observe how development occurs in Australia. In his position at the Town of Jamestown, he is responsible for reviewing plans for new development. This includes the location of utilities, zoning, parking, appearance, and many other aspects. While in Australia, Matthew hopes to be able to learn how developments are regulated by Australian town planners. More specifically, Matthew is interested in sustainability, conservation, water resources, and how Australians have overcome these challenges in their communities.

Matthew works in a small town (population 3,400), which is situated between the two larger cities - Greensboro and High Point. The population of the Greensboro-High Point-Winston Salem Metro Area is approximately 1.5 million. While in Australia, Matthew would relish the opportunity to visit both small towns and large cities to see how urban planners meet the different challenges they face. Additionally, Matthew is further interested in becoming a manager in the future, and would welcome the opportunity to meet with city and town managers in your district. Since Matthew was initially trained to become a forester, he still exhibits an interest in how forests are managed - both in rural settings and urban forests. If it were convenient, Matthew would enjoy meeting and working alongside an urban forester or an arborist.

Matthew also hopes to visit some of the "less travelled" areas of your country and visit with others outside of the urban settings. Matthew was raised in a very rural area and would relish the opportunity to meet and visit with locals, become immersed in your culture, and otherwise experience "daily" living in Australia. He also looks forward to visiting all corners of the host district - both rural and urban. Matthew has no known allergies to foods or pets and is typically eager to try new things, including food and beverages.

Matthew has a wide range of interests and "hobbies", and is always interested in learning new skills. He is a licensed private pilot and enjoys flying light aircraft. Matthew grew up on a farm which had its own grass strip airport and is the fourth generation pilot in his family. Over the past few years, this has taken a "back seat" due to the costs - but it is still a passion of his. Matthew is also very fond of boats, sailing, and generally being around and on the water. Matthew would welcome any opportunity to spend time on (or in!) the water. He knows your area is well-known for surfing, and although he has never taken the time to learn how to do that, he would be up for an impromptu lesson or two! In the recent past, Matthew has become interested in riding motorcycles and often rides to work and for pleasure. Additionally, Matthew is a Master Mason and, if time and occasion permit, he would particularly enjoy visiting an Australian Masonic Lodge.