



Smoke Signals

Issue #16 29th November 2023



From the President . . .

Meeting Musings 29/11/23

Good to see the Hunters and Phil back on deck this week, none of them looking too worse for wear. Checking in with Ken J. – all good, happened to be at the Myrtleford Football club AGM on Wednesday night.

Wrap up of Senior Cits night is that Tracey Hamilton has been confirmed for Australia Day and the raffle raised \$530, a splendid effort.

Our Sargeant for the night, Phil Mac, reminded us all of the origins and role of the Sargeant maybe without the ceremonial garb in place. This led to a club discussion on what has been observed by members over the years at other clubs. Decorum and courtesy should naturally be present at any meeting and Phil has opened the door now for future Sgts. to fine, sin-bin or eject any transgressors.

It was also noted that the fine sessions don't raise a large amount and that leaves the question hanging as to whether we have regular fine sessions or change the way we do business. It could be a fine on a member when justified, a collection for a specific project or a concerted effort into maximising our other fund raising activities.

Up for discussion at a future meeting.

The Christmas party is now set and booked for Wednesday 20th at St Paul's Hall 6:30 start. Indicative numbers attending by 13th and we will organise the extras (salads, desserts etc) on the 13th as well.

John

Myrtleford Rotary Club



Programme

Wednesday 6 December:

Toast: Ken
Chair: Surrey
Sgt. Alma
Guest Speaker:

Wednesday 13th December

Fellowship – sorting books

Wednesday 20th December

Christmas Party
St Paul's Hall



**2 week break from meetings
over Christmas/New Year
period. First meeting back
will be a social night.**

The Rotary Club of Myrtleford

Reg No.: A0020847W • Chartered 27
 Sept. 1954

ABN 87 356 430 283 • Club # 18284

DISTRICT 9790

Meetings: Wednesdays 6.00pm for 6.30pm

Venue:Club Savoy, Myrtleford

Postal Address: PO Box 395, Myrtleford,
 Vic. 3737

2023 — 2024 BOARD of DIRECTORS

President: John Forsyth

Secretary: Helen Hunter

Treasurer: Magda Macdonald

Pres. Elect/Club Service:

Immediate Past President: Evan Jones

Rotary Foundation: Alan Garside

Public Relations: Vanessa & Gail

Service Projects:

OTHER OFFICERS

Community & Vocational Service: Alma
 Adams

International Service: Phil Macdonald

Youth Service: Surrey Hunter

Membership.....Carla Bau

Sergeant-at-Arms: Rotational

Fellowship:

Programme:

Public Officer:Ken Johnston

On to Conference: Evan Jones

Bulletin Vanessa Leonard & Gail Robertson

Community Bus Richard Dean

Book Fair Sarah Deas

BBQ Trailer..... Sam Crisci

Wood Raffle..... Alan Garside

District Governor:Neta Kirby

Assistant Governor.....Patrick O'Shea

President Rotary International
Gordon R. McNally



Meeting 29/11/23

Meeting Presided over by our President – John Forsyth

- It was a great night last week – a special thanks to our exchange students who helped make the night a fun time for all – over 120 in attendance – the food was really delicious
- Golf day donors – sheet passed around. If you can help obtaining sponsors please see John to ensure we don't double up.

Apologies: Vanessa Leonard, Ken Johnston, Sam Crisci

Chair: Maggie



Birthdays - Ken next Tuesday

Guests:

Past Exchange student: Trinity

Exchange students:

Viktoria – from Germany

Søren – from Denmark

Toast: Carla > RI / RCM / Peace in the world

Reports:

Secretary: Helen Hunter

- Marion College – Vanessa attending Awards night
- Tiny towns funding > please refer below
- Savoy donated \$1200 to Senior Citizens' Dinner

Treasurer: Magda Macdonald

- All the Shelter Box funding has come in & has been paid
- It was suggested that we write an article for RDU re the Shelter Box contribution

Directors:

Youth: Surrey Hunter

- George – refer following email – contact Surrey for more information.
- Søren – found himself handcuffed !!!! – careers day at school– there are photos
- Both Viktoria and Søren were given 1 Yuan each for their blazers - 1 Chinese Yuan worth about .22c

Sergeant's Session:

Please refer below to Phil's Sergeant-at-arms History

Raffle won by Evan & John Mc

Members:

- **Phil** – Aust Day – confirmed Tracy Hamilton
- **Richard**, John F & Sam cleaned bus – difficult to clean top – bus has been serviced & fire extinguisher changed

- **Evan** – had advice re secateurs
Golf > **Sarah** broke course record and now has a handicap of 22.
Fantastic – congratulations Sarah
- **Helen** – in paper – launch bush fire recovery
- **John** – re golf
- **Viktoria** – has exams this week / also won car show best costume for a teenager
- **Surrey** – departure and re-entry tax.
- **Richard** – return tax – Japan – transmission towers everywhere – Kyoto railway station massive structure – doesnt crack in earthquakes.
- **John F** – voted in as Mayor again – *Congratulations John.*
This is the third term on Council for John and his third term as Mayor.
- **Helen** – going to USA / Canada next year – looking forward to the fast train

Pres John – thanked Phil – for re-acquainting us with Sergeants duties.

- San Francisco Rotary Club – about 400 members – one person only gets fined at a meeting – this is usually about \$6000
- Catering for Christmas Party – organise salads – Alma pays – BYO – 20/12/23
- Sort Books @ John & Sarah's 13/12/23 - Pizzas
- No Board Meeting

7.39 closed meeting.



Sørren Handcuffed !!!

Sergeant-at-Arms History:

The position of Sergeant-at-Arms is derived from history going back to the days of the Crusades and to the Court of England. The position was established to safeguard the high officials of the crown and/or maintain security and order within the court and eventually the legislature. (The title of Serjeant-at-Arms takes its name from the time of the Crusades, when Philip the August, King of France, employed special bodyguards to protect him in the Holy Land in 1192. These sergeants d'Armes were encased in head-to-toe body armour and carried a decorated battle mace). Rotary International Manual of Procedures states "...The officers of a club are the President... and a sergeant-at-arms who plays a vital role in allowing the club President to concentrate on conducting the weekly meeting".

The functions of a Sergeant-at-Arms is to help maintain an orderly, dignified, and effective Rotary club meeting, one that will make the right kind of impression on club members, visitors, and guests. These functions include:

1. Be constantly on the alert to prevent any occurrence that might detract from the dignity and prestige associated with Rotary clubs.
2. To handle the physical preparations for, and the mechanical/logistical arrangements of a meeting, and, unobtrusively, to guide the general conduct of members and guests at the meeting.
3. Play an important role in overall following and maintaining a schedule of events and activity to provide for a pleasant and successful meeting.
4. Allow the President to conduct the meeting with confidence and a rule of order.
5. Assisting members and guests to be able to have a positive and enjoyable experience with the club meeting.

One of the many ways members can become active in the club and have a great time interacting with club members is to volunteer to serve as a Sergeant-at-Arms for club meetings and activities.

Members volunteering as Sergeant-at-Arms will be scheduled for duty once or possibly twice in a six-month period. Each duty period involves showing up approximately 30 minutes early to set up the meeting room, assist the Treasurer with ticket sales and sign-in activities, providing introductions of guests and visitors, performing recognition of member activities of note (which may include financial contributions), conducting the weekly drawings for large and small pot ticket sales, and cleaning up and returning club materials to storage after the meeting. Most Sergeant-at-Arms have completed their duties within 10 to 15 minutes following the meeting.

Our club has "happy dollars", made up stories, factual "of-sorts" stories and self-inflicted stories that result in dollars going into the Club's Fundraising Account, so I say, give generously.

When a sergeant extracts funds from members it should be done in a genial, harmonious and non-invasive way; that is, he/she can't nobble a person or threaten physical violence, nor intimidate them.

Indeed, these days, one must be extremely careful not to offend or upset any group of people in society who have a disadvantage, or who have been treated differently because of their sex, race, or disability.

One must also be cognizant of wokeism, you know wanting to be considered correct, and wanting everyone to know just how correct you are.

So, there you have it, who wants to be sergeant?

Thanks Phil – very interesting

Editors Thought of the Week: "You don't need to see the whole staircase, just take the first step" Martin Luther King Jr