



Smoke Signals

Issue #21 17th January 2024



Apologies: Alma

Guests: AG Patrick O'Shea and Elaine
Birthdays and Wedding Anniversaries.
Gail and Alan 30th Dec
Evan's birthday
Margaret Johnston's birthday
Jones' WA

President's Report:

Big thank you to all those Rotarians for the book sale.
Next week back here.
Golf Day - please chase up sponsors

Secretary's Report:

Thank you card from Chloe Pasquinni (Marian Yr11 award recipient)
Australian touring RV club, coming to Showgrounds, want a quote to cater breakfast - John F will follow up.
Swimming club want BBQ for Sunday 21st
Ride to conference from 17th - 19th April
Certificate of Appreciation from Marian College for Marian 100.

AG report:

Update of upcoming events.
AGM
Ride to Conference

Phil - Australia Day Breakfast logistics
Email will come out to all concerned in relation to jobs on the day.

Raffle:

Ken
Patrick

SAA

'Myrtleford Rotary Open' in honour of the Australian Open
Sarah - youngest got married
Richard - two new grandkids in last few months
Maggie - daughter engaged
Evan - Karen's mum passed away, all grandkids there
Phil - blew a tyre
Carla - caravan fridge now working!



Welcome Home George

Myrtleford Rotary Club



Programme

Wednesday 24 January:

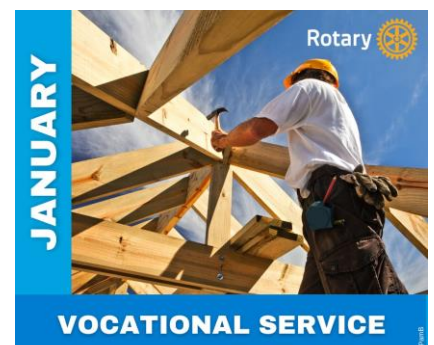
Toast: Magda
Chair: Sarah
Sgt. Richard
Guest Speaker:

Friday 26 January:



Wednesday 31 January:

Toast: Gail
Chair: Alma
Sgt. Alan
Guest Speaker:
Member Profile -Gail Robertson
Australia Day Logistics



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**



**From
 the
 President . . .**

Meeting Musings 17/01/24

A big roll up this week and our first meeting back at the Savoy this year. Everyone looked well rested and rearing to get into the 2024 program.

ADG Patrick and Elaine were guests with a timely reminder that registrations for the District Conference are still open. Shepparton beckons all Rotarians on April 19th for a couple of days of excellent guest speakers, fellowship and the chance to improve your Rotary knowledge. As the current Rotary theme is “Create hope in the world”, I believe the organisers of conference are hoping for a good showing.

Phil Mc outlined the logistics for Australia Day and we can tweak any last minute details next week which will now be at Club Savoy instead of the Rotary shed.

Surrey updated us on Emlyn and George’s return to Oz and they will present to the club in the near future. Meanwhile Vicki and Soren are enjoying an Ozzie summer and all the great outdoor activities we take for granted.

The question has arisen re succession for the Presidents position and it appears by a unanimous thought that the current Pres will continue as have the 2 previous title holders. On reflection and considering the times that a President is/has been absent, it is obvious that Myrtleford Rotary can actually survive quite well on auto-pilot. I am comfortable with the status quo as long as the members appreciate that absences are part of the deal. This brings us to the question of who will take on the role of Youth coordinator as Surrey has indicated he will relinquish the position in June. The Youth Chair can be a very rewarding role and I appeal to members to consider taking on this vital aspect of our club, remembering that Youth Exchange started here.

Quick reminder.....let me know who you have contacted re Golf Day donations so that I can issue invoices. The business email address is essential.

John

Rotary projects around the globe

January 2024

By **Brad Webber**

United States

The Rotary Club of the Lower Keys, Florida, is known for the Independence Day festival and fireworks display it sponsors in Big Pine Key. At last year's event, the night had a sweet send-off: the creation of a massive Key lime pie in celebration of Monroe County's bicentennial. Rotarians joined local chefs Kermit Carpenter and Paul Menta as they scooped free samples of the pie, which spanned a precise 13.14 feet in diameter. The dimension, harking back to the mathematical constant pi, squeezed past a 12.25-foot creation made in 2018 by a Florida business; its producers were awaiting certification of the grand concoction — made of Key lime juice and condensed milk spread atop a graham cracker crust — as the world's largest. The precise tally of servings was unclear, but club member Keara McGraw says it's safe to say it was "a lot."

Brazil

Improper disposal of household cooking oil is not only an ecological hazard, it's also a missed opportunity to recycle the waste into new products. Oil poured down drains also increases water treatment costs. Members of the Rotaract Club of Penápolis in São Paulo state distributed 400 funnels to help residents collect oil in bottles, along with pamphlets explaining the benefits of recycling and how to do it. Members of a recycling cooperative in Penápolis gather the bottled oil and sell it to be turned into biodiesel, homemade soap, paints, resin, and animal feed. "It's essential to reduce and prevent pollution in all its forms," says club member Lucas Silveira de Campos.

Finland

Rotary members are working with the Finnish Environment Institute to collect, categorize, and measure trash in the Baltic Sea. "Scientists have little time for this kind of work," explains Liisa Stjernberg, a past governor of District 1420 and a member of the Rotary Club of Helsinki City West. Stjernberg, the Finland country coordinator for the Environmental Sustainability Rotary Action Group, leads a group of volunteer members from her district who monitor blue algae blooms, raise funds for research, and promote marine conservation. In September the group enlisted 22 Rotary Youth Exchange students to join a measurement outing off the islands of Suomenlinna. They fished out trash including polymer fibers and shock tube detonators used in construction, Stjernberg says. Afterward they took up their oars for another cause: the Rotary-led "Rowing for Herring" longboat regatta, which drew 300 participants.

Nepal

Dr. Anand Jha, a pediatrician and past president of the Rotary Club of Birganj, noticed that many children in his region of Nepal, about 50 miles south of Kathmandu, were underweight. "Most parents would feed only [cow's] milk to their children," says Jha. "As a result, the children were mostly iron-deficient," a condition easily addressed with an improved diet. Since 2018, Jha has conducted 11 conferences on child nutrition, attracting as many as 80 parents at each session. The events include discussions of problems parents face, including, he says, the challenge of steering children from junk food. "I try to give them practical solutions. The biggest mistake that parents make is that they do not plan the diet" and fail to consider the nutritional value of foodstuffs, he says. Members of the Birganj club assist with the logistics and the management of the sessions.

South Africa

The Rotary Club of Polokwane, northeast of Johannesburg, has given new meaning to the expression "waste not, want not." The club has helped train more than 550 preschool teachers and caregivers to turn common household waste items — cardboard tubes, plastic sticks, egg cartons, newsprint, and more — into craft projects for children. In 2017, the club teamed up with Shayne Moodie, founder of an initiative called Empty Toy Box Education, to train rural educators to engage children with such projects. Club members collect recyclables and supplies such as glue and scissors, assist with the training, and provide the certificates for teachers. "The early childhood development program has been the most successful, sustainable program offered by our club in recent years," says club member Ursula Moodie, who is Shayne's mother. The program has reached as many as 17,000 preschoolers, the club estimates.