



The Mordialloc Bulletin

News and Views of the
Rotary Club of Mordialloc

Rotary Club of Mordialloc Inc.
Reg No A0011994G
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Website: <http://mordiallocrotary.org.au>

Club meets at Woodlands Golf Club
109 White Street Mordialloc
Melways Map 87 H 11
Tuesday 6.00 pm for 6.30 pm

Meeting 2233
19 December
2017

District Governor 2017-18: **Malcolm Chiverton**

Assistant Governor: **Ken Mirams**

THIS WEEK'S MEETING



Annual Christmas Dinner
Woodlands Golf Club
6.30 for 7.00 pm
\$35 per head for two-course meal
Drinks at bar price



**ROTARY:
MAKING A
DIFFERENCE**

RI theme 2017-18

Message from President Paul Taranto

Welcome everyone to our twenty fourth meeting for the 2017-2018 year and our last meeting for 2017. It has certainly been a busy and productive first half of the year for our Club.

The year started with us welcoming Ernie and Trina Williams to the Club and their willingness to get involved in many of the Club activities has certainly been appreciated. The Club also took on the responsibility of hosting an incoming youth exchange student and providing the opportunity for an outgoing student. I am sure that Club members have enjoyed having Sarah among us and we are looking forward to hearing about Nicola's experiences in the New Year.

Club members have again been practicing the art of sausage sizzles with two successfully held at Bunnings and the feeding of those that participated in the SIDs day of Remembrance at Jells Park and the Salvation Army Christmas function. The Club has continued to support Youth programs with sending attendees to MUNA, NYSF and providing interviewers for Parkdale Secondary College's mock interview program. On the international front the Club supported and facilitated the day to assemble birthing kits, continued to support the End Polio campaign and Wheel Chairs for Kids.

At the local community level, the Club continues to be active with its support of several projects and continuing to sponsor/host activities such as the Christmas lunch for people who live alone. At the national level the Club got behind the Australian Rotary Health "Lift the Lid" campaign and held a successful raffle raising funds for research into youth mental health. The Club lifted its profile in the local community with our meeting flyers now appearing in the retail strips of Mordialloc, Parkdale and Beaumaris. Thank you to the members facilitating this.

The next six months will be just as busy and hopefully just as productive. The Club has the Gnome and Fairy Festival to conduct, the Interplast golf day, more Bunnings BBQs as well as a number of other program involvements. I also look forward to our marketing efforts bearing fruit with the Club attracting more new members.

Running in parallel with all these activities we have our Club meetings and a different speaker each week. I think Club members would agree that our speakers have covered a wide range of topics that have proved to be both very interesting and worthwhile. This would not be the case if it were not for the efforts of Glenyse who coordinates our speaker program. Thank you Glenyse and I thank all members who have identified and invited people to speak at the Club.

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President's message continued from Page 1

My thought/s for this week come from Michael McGirr the Dean of Faith at St Kevin's College (my old school) and he is someone whose column in the school newsletter I look forward to reading. Michael offers us an interesting insight into the use of words and what words can mean at this time of the year. Michael's words are printed at the back of this week's bulletin

I certainly appreciate what Club members do each day in **Making a Difference**.

Yours in Rotary

Paul

Club Meeting No 2232 – 12 December at Woodlands Golf Club, Mordialloc.

Attendance: 20 members, 3 guests

Apologies: David Brunt, Kelly Banks, Trina Williams.

Guests: Charles and Carolyn Wilkins (speakers), Helen Goode

Sickness: Kay Gordon's grandson Callum is continuing to improve at Royal Children's Hospital and his future is now looking good.

President's Announcements

President Paul welcomed members and guests and gave the following thanks and announcements:

- Thanks for all who helped at the Bunnings sausage sizzle last Sunday.
- Thanks to all who contributed gifts for the Christmas raffle. Paul and Di have a great range of prizes.
- Thanks to those who have been distributing flyers to local shops and businesses.
- A number of plastic collection boxes are now available to be placed in local shops with the aim of receiving donations for Rotary under "Coins for Kids". Some were spread around the tables.
- Paul referred to the letter of thanks from the Birthing Kits Foundation that appeared in last week's bulletin. It had a list of countries that kits had been sent to.
- Time "chits" for members to record their hours of Rotary service work are available again.
- Reminder of the board meeting on the following evening.

Jack Cooper chaired the remainder of the meeting

Director and Member Announcements

Jack Pyziakos again thanked all who had worked so hard at the Bunnings sausage sizzle on Sunday 10 December. The profit made was \$3030, the best result ever achieved by the club.

Brian Foley on behalf of David Brunt took names of members and guests attending the club dinner on 19 December.

Brian then asked for a show of hands for a croquet and picnic night on Tuesday 9 January. There is sufficient interest and the function will go ahead. Details to be circulated separately to members.

Brian also mentioned for anyone wishing to attend the 2018 Rotary International Convention in Chicago, the "Early Bird" online registration ends on 15 December.

Sylvio Tang (International) reminded of the committee meeting to be held that evening

The weekly raffle raised \$47 with Helen Goode and Don Butler as the winners.

Sergeant at Arms

Sergeant Cliff started by calling out President Paul for usurping Chairman Jack's role and also Jack for accepting the situation. While football season is many months away, Cliff still found a fine for Collingwood supporters. Barry Donaldson incurred several fines but the best was for putting money in the "Coins for Kids" box but then taking it out!

Damian asked the question about which is the most serene animal. His answer was "The Dalai Lama". Helen Goode proudly announced that her Year 10 granddaughter has won a scholarship to Melbourne University.

Guest Speakers: Charles and Caroline Wilkins – "Holidaying in Cuba and Mexico".

Chairman Jack Cooper introduced Charles and Caroline who he had known for many years. Charles had been CEO of Dandenong TAFE where former member the late Max Crimmins also worked. He joined Woodlands golf Club and played regularly with Max and Jack.

Charles and Caroline travel extensively and like to go to less popular destinations to meet and live among the ordinary people. They became interested in Cuba three years ago while attending the Wangaratta Music Festival where they heard of the Cuba Jazz Festival. They first visited Cuba in 2015 in a party of 17 Australians and two Americans.

Some facts about Cuba:

It is about half the size of Victoria with a population of 11 million made up of 65% whites, 25% mixed races and 10% Africans. They also seem to get along harmoniously.

Cuba has a 99% literacy rate and a well educated population with one doctor to 149 people, much better ratio than in Australia. Infant mortality rate is 1.1%. Education is free right up to university level.

The capital is Havana with a population of one million people and located 90 miles south of Florida USA. Cuba is a very poor country and tourism is a major industry. Some of the main exports are sugar, tobacco, cigars and nickel. Many Cuban expatriates living abroad send money home

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Guest speakers (cont.)

President Fidel Castro was in power from 1959 until handing over power to his younger brother Raul in 2008. Fidel Castro established a very brutal regime with tight control over the population, industries and organisations. While the situation has eased somewhat under Raul, life is still harsh. For example, Wi-Fi communication is only available in public places although some young people seem to get around that. Under Fidel, almost all business and industry was state run although a few private companies have been set up over the past five years.

The continuing blockade of Cuba by USA makes travel there a tortuous process.

Music of all forms is widespread and being a musician is a very popular profession.

On their first trip to Cuba in 2015, Charles and Caroline enjoyed the people and the sights so well that they decided to return there early this year. Their trip was delayed until August due to Caroline sustaining an ankle injury. On arrival in Havana, they were met by Fernando, a qualified doctor but no longer practising, who became their driver and guide. Evidently Fernando earns more as a driver than as a doctor on a low government wage.

While they were in Havana, Hurricane Irma hit with 200k/hr winds causing widespread damage and flooding. While they were safe in their hotel, there was much damage elsewhere. Due to the hurricane, they could not get around Cuba so they moved on to Mexico. Shortly after arrival in Mexico City there was a severe earthquake that severely damaged many surrounding buildings although their hotel was safe.

Charles showed many photos of Cuba and some from Mexico. These showed the people, many musicians, an interesting bicycle themed art exhibition and gracious old buildings, many now in decrepit condition.

Brian Foley proposed the thanks.



SUMMARY OF COMING EVENTS

Please note the following dates and events in your diary. It is important that all members support the club in these activities.

19 Dec (Tues)	Club Christmas Dinner, Woodlands Golf Club 6.30 pm for 7.00 pm
20 Dec (Wed)	Gnome & Fairy committee, Taranto house. 7.30 pm
31 Dec (Sun)	Sausage Sizzle, Bunnings Mentone 8 am to 4 pm
2 – 4 March 2018 (Fri–Sun)	District 9810 Conference, Bendigo
18 March 2018 (Sun)	Gnome & Fairy Festival George Woods Reserve, Mordialloc

Members on Leave

If you plan to be absent for three weeks or longer, please request leave of absence through the secretary.

Kay Gordon – to end December 2017

Bayside Kingston Prostate Cancer Support Group

WHEN: First Monday of each month

TIME: 9.30 to 11.30am

WHERE: Mentone RSL

Palermo Street, Mentone

Melways Map 87 A8

Wives and Partners welcome, bookings not required

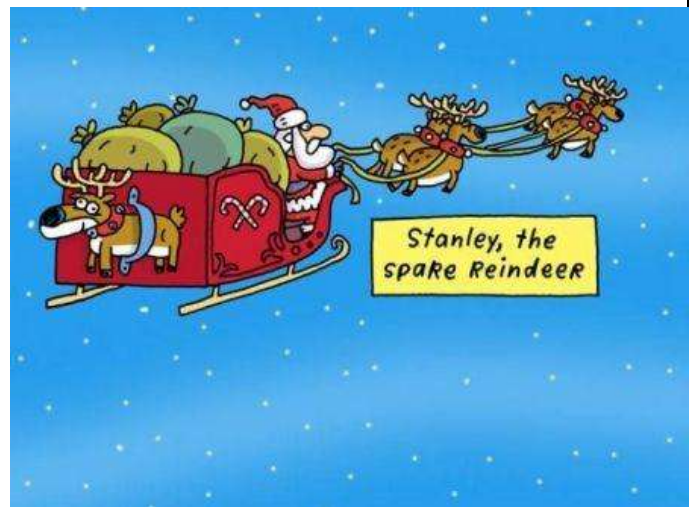
For further information contact Bob Wilson 9589 4282

Apologies for non- attendance

Apologies for meeting absences should be advised to **David Brunt**. These can be by telephone or text to **0418526140 no later than 1.00 pm on Monday before the meeting**. Names of any guests can also be advised at this time.

Wheelchairs for Kids

Please remember to put \$2 in the box on each table each week to go to the "Wheelchairs for Kids" program. Every \$150 contributed gives one child the freedom of mobility and also liberates a carer



Forthcoming Meeting Program & Rosters

No Meetings 26 December and 2 January

Date: 9 January
Sports Night and Picnic, Sandringham Croquet Club
Foreshore Reserve, Beach Road, Sandringham (opposite Abbott Street) - Melways Map 76 F9. Parking area B10
4.00 pm – 8 pm
BYO food and drink. Tables and chairs, cutlery etc provided
BBQ facilities are available
All croquet equipment is supplied.
Please wear flat soled shoes – sneakers or joggers are ideal.
Cost: \$20 per head
Please advise Brian Foley if you wish to attend.

And the next..... Partners night

Date: 16 January
Speaker: Dr Kathleen McGuire
Topic: Giving Back. How Rotary helped shape my life in music
Chairman: Brian Foley
Desk & Regalia: Barry Donaldson, Rob Goode
Fellowship: Glenyse Cooper
Bulletin notes: Jill Brear

And the next.....

Date: 23 January
Speaker: Tony Currie
Topic: Special Operations Group, Victoria Police
Chairman: Ernie Williams
Desk & Regalia: Don Butler, David Brunt
Fellowship: Jack Pyziakos
Bulletin notes: Kelly Banks

TOASTS

Australia:

Please charge your glasses and assist me in toasting our Great country, Australia. (Pause) to our country: Australia.

Rotary International:

Please drink a toast to our organisation: Rotary International, (pause) Rotary International.

ROTARY INVOCATION:

For good food, for good fellowship and the opportunity for service through Rotary, We give thanks.

The Object of Rotary

The Object of Rotary is to encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise and, in particular, to encourage and foster:

FIRST. The development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service;

SECOND. High ethical standards in business and professions, the recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations, and the dignifying of each Rotarian's occupation as an opportunity to serve society;

THIRD. The application of the ideal of service in each Rotarian's personal, business, and community life;

FOURTH. The advancement of international understanding, goodwill, and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional persons united in the ideal of service.

The Rotary Four-Way-Test

1. Is it the TRUTH?
2. Is it FAIR to all concerned?
3. Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
4. Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?"

SUPPORT
YOUR LOCAL
TRAVEL AGENCY
WHO SUPPORTS
OUR LOCAL CLUB

DESTINATION HQ
TRAVEL DIFFERENT TRAVEL REDEFINED

Beaumaris
23 North Concourse
9589 3294

Mentone
Thrift Park Shopping Centre
9584 3833

A Reflection on Words – by Michael McGirr

When the original telegraph was sent by Samuel F B Morse on May 25 1844, he allowed a young relative to choose the content for first message. This was a momentous occasion in history, the first time that words had moved through space without a physical being such as a human or a bird to carry them. It was the beginning of something that we take so much for granted now that it is easy to overlook how significant it was; it was as amazing in its own way as human flight. Words could suddenly move faster than the person who uttered them. The young woman seemed aware of this. She chose a text from the book of Numbers 'what God has wrought.' For her, such an act of creation was nothing short of godly.

It was a bit different when, on March 10 1876, Alexander Graham Bell became the first person to speak on the telephone. The content of the world's first phone call was rather more mundane than the first telegraph. Bell said famously "*Mr Watson, come here, I want to see you.*" This was hardly the Gettysburg address; more profound sentiments have been spoken through the speaker in the drive through of Red Rooster. But, in their own way, such functional words are also worth pondering. Bell had the presence of mind not to tell Watson that he needed to speak to him. He was doing that already, even if others found this hard to believe. More important, the first phone call of the countless millions that were to be made in the 141 years since then acknowledged something that has been in the background of every one of those subsequent calls, even if there have actually been billions of them. Speaking on the phone is not the same as being with somebody in person. Our words are communicated by much more than our voice.

A little over a century later, in 1971, the first email was sent. The author, if you can call him that, was a researcher known as Ray Tomlinson. He set up two computers in close proximity and sent the world's first message to somebody who could probably have guessed what he wanted to say anyway. That person was himself. As it happened, the message was blank. You might even say it was spam. It was a fitting moment, the harbinger of all the needless and vacuous messages that have devoured the world since then and chewed through hours and hours of time. Email is not to be disparaged. But it is good to have days without it.

These three dates came to mind last weekend as we celebrated the twenty fifth anniversary of the world's first text message. It was sent by a 22 year old engineer on Dec 2 1992. Take a moment to think about what might have been in the message.

It contained two words: They were '**Merry Christmas.**'

Of course, those two words can be as bland and colourless as a greeting on a cheap card.

Of course, they can be as manipulative as the December consumer frenzy.

Of course, they can be as sad as the loneliness of those who grieve while others wear funny hats.

But...

They can also point to the light that has come into our world to overcome the darkness. They can point to the creativity of a God who comes among us as one of the poor of the earth. They can point to a hope that is bigger than any ego.

Perhaps that word might reach us by telegram, phone, email or text. But it is more likely to turn up in the company of real people.

Merry Christmas

