



Rotary Club of Mordialloc Inc.
 Reg No A0011994G
 PO Box 289, Mentone Vic 3194
 E-mail: info@mordiallocrotary.org.au
 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 2247
17 April
2018

District Governor 2017-18: Malcolm Chiverton

Assistant Governor: Ken Mirams

THIS WEEK'S MEETING

Speaker: Paul Fraser, Director of CSIRO
 Topic: Greenhouse Gas and Climate Change Research
 Chairman: Trina Williams
 Desk & Regalia: Len Dawson, Don Van
 Fellowship: Ernie Williams
 Bulletin notes: Carol Quayle



RI theme 2017-18

Message from President Paul Taranto

Hello and welcome everyone to our thirty eighth meeting for the 2017-2018 year. I am writing this message Saturday evening in Beijing so I send you greetings as well from China and its capital. Yesterday I finished the accreditation visit/activity at Tianjin University, farewelled my two colleagues from Cambridge and Birmingham Universities (as they headed to the airport to fly back to the UK) and Dianne and I hopped into car and drove the 120 odd kilometres to Beijing. The visit to Tianjin University, the drive to Beijing and the touring Dianne and I did today to the Great Wall and the Summer Palace have reinforced several thoughts/impressions that I have gained from my travels to China over the years.

Let me start first with the Great Wall and the Summer Palace. The Great Wall was initially built (or at least parts of it) as a means of defence. In later years further sections were added and it acted as a tolling point to collect tax revenue. It demonstrates that the Chinese (like the Egyptians and others before them) were capable of undertaking extensive civil engineering works, building structures that would withstand the ravages of time and completing them. Similarly the Summer Palace built under the command of the Dragon Lady again showed they could create lakes and mountains from a flat terrain through human skill and effort. China today continues those traditions.

The drive from Tianjin to Beijing highlighted the extensive freeway network that now carries who knows how many cars. Running in parallel to it is the elevated very fast train network. On arrival in Beijing one then sees buildings that house, facilitate commerce and provide government for nearly 30 million citizens in Beijing and over 1.4 billion citizens in total. China is not backward in doing what is needed to provide for their future.

This theme was reinforced as I noticed a few changes from my previous visits. The first was that the air in both Tianjin and Beijing was noticeably cleaner (still not what we enjoy in Melbourne but this time around I could see blue sky). The second was that several coal fired power stations were now idle if not completely mothballed. They were the smaller older power stations and demonstrate that China is moving to cleaner power supply. The third observation was the extensive tree planting that was being undertaken in Tianjin and along the freeway to Beijing, possibly a sign of using trees as a form of carbon capture and storage. The final observation was how clean the two cities are now. I think all of these observations are an indication that China is taking seriously what they believe they need to do for their future.

This brings me back to why I am in China - Tianjin University. This university is the first modern university established in China in 1895.

Continued P 2

The founding fathers were a Chinese and an American who believed that China needed an educational institution following the Western European approach to higher education and research (I have put their motto below). This university takes students from all over China based on a merit entry system. The student fees are very modest (less than \$1000 per annum with the Government making up the rest of the funding) and they are also provided with housing (they do have to provide their own board). Tianjin University has just completed a massive building program and their new campus is one that makes many other tertiary institutions envious. The engineering school has laboratory facilities that are fantastic. This university is producing hundreds of graduates each year and they are going into the various engineering, technology and research entities in China that focus on the technologies needed for the future.

I would have liked to be present at this week's meeting to hear about climate and the research being done by the CSIRO. They play a part in Australia looking to the future. I cross my fingers that Australia can do what China is doing in preparing for the future.

Thank you to club members for what they have done and continue to do each day in **Making a Difference**.

Yours in Rotary

Paul

"Seeking the truth through facts"
Motto of Tianjin University

Club Meeting No 2246 – 10 April at Woodlands Golf Club, Mordialloc.

Attendance: 17 members, 4 guests

Apologies: Kay Gordon, Paul Taranto, Ernie and Trina Williams, Cliff Riley

Guests: Cathryn Turnbull (guest speaker) Helen Brunt, Kathy Thompson, Netra (guest of Sylvio)

Make-Ups: Jack Pyziakos (President Elect Training)

Illness: Bob Travers is now home following a recent stroke and is attending rehab sessions. Damian West is still undergoing medical tests.

President Announcements

President-Elect Jack Pyziakos presided in the absence of President Paul. Jack welcomed members and guests and announced the following:

- The next Bunnings barbeques will be on Sunday 1 July and Wednesday 26 December (Boxing Day).

Len Dawson chaired the remainder of the meeting

Director and Member Announcements

Len Dawson reported assisting Damian West to buy new trousers. It was a slow process but they succeeded.

Barry Donaldson reported on the recent Interplast Golf Day. Despite the late cancellation of nine players, the day was very successful and raised \$6,300. There were 24 new players which was pleasing. Cliff Riley was in the winning team.

Brian Foley (community) commented that the Mordialloc Neighbourhood House has requested financial assistance towards the cost of replacing the safety flooring in the playground area. This project could be considered in our program of works next Rotary year. Brian also advised that Greg McMahon, Principal of Doveton Secondary College, was one of 12 recipients (from 443 applicants) of a Commonwealth Bank Teaching Award that recognises outstanding school teaching and leadership especially for those working in challenging circumstances. This award is valued at \$45,000 to cover further professional development and a project at the recipient's school.

Exchange student Sarah is currently undertaking the Youth Exchange safari to Central Australia. On return Sarah will transfer to the Quayle family.

Jeff Needham (youth) reported on the MUNA program. Mentone Girls Secondary College will represent Egypt. Any member with information about Egypt is invited to assist the students in their preparation. Three applications have been received so far for the next NYSF program.

The weekly raffle raised \$29 with the winners being Cathryn, our guest speaker, and Kathy Thompson..

Sergeant-at-Arms

Sergeant for the evening was Jack Cooper in the absence of Cliff Riley. Jack ran a short session covering the US Golf, various sports in the Commonwealth Games and football. Collingwood won but St Kilda did not. Who knew that the planets of the solar system are named after Roman gods? Sylvio found a rubber band – in his sausage!

Guest Speaker: Cathryn Turnbull "Life in Myanmar"

Cathryn Turnbull has worked as a volunteer for a church missionary group in Myanmar for the past years and only returned to Australia in recent weeks. However, Cathryn has some heritage in Myanmar as her father was born there and came to live in Australia as a young man.

Myanmar has a population of some 53 million and has the second largest land mass in Asia. It is bordered by five countries, viz., Laos, India, China, Bangladesh and Thailand. It was once a very wealthy nation as a large rice exporter but in the 1950s the military took control and the country began to go downhill. Natural gas and minerals such as jade and ruby are the main exports.

Cathryn showed a number of photographs of various aspects of life in Myanmar and she spoke about each of these. The U Bein Bridge is 11.2 km long and believed to be the oldest and longest teak wooden bridge in the world and attracts visitors from around the world. It is located on a lake in the adjacent capital of Amarapura close to Mandalay.

Guest speaker continued

Tourism is a growing industry and provides income for local people. Bagan is an ancient city and in the 9th to 13th century some 10,000 temples, pagodas and monasteries were built of which about 2,200 remain. This area is an very important historical site. Some 250,000 foreign tourists visit the Bagan area annually and this is expected to increase. An earthquake in 2016 destroyed some 400 temples and these are being restored with assistance from UNESCO.

Myanmar has 135 distinct ethnic groups further grouped into eight major ethnic races. The people are regarded as warm and friendly although generally shy with foreigners so it takes time to build friendships.

Buddhism is the main religion and around 88% of the population follow it as a way of life. Other religions, in order, are Christianity, Islam and Hinduism.

Cathryn then made a number of comments about the political situation in Myanmar. The country has been under military rule for over five decades and that has had a devastating effect on the economy, education and self-esteem of the people. Aung San Suu Kyi was the unsung hero of the people although it was taboo to speak about her in 2013 when Cathryn first arrived. However, the situation has changed due to international pressure and Aung San Suu Kyi's photograph is now displayed widely. However, the military still has significant power including 30% of parliamentary seats and that is probably why "The Lady" has not been able to stop the carnage of minority groups.

The Rohingya situation is a very sensitive topic in Myanmar. It cannot be talked about openly as most of the locals hold racist views and are against Muslims. Apart from the Rohingas, other ethnic minorities have also faced atrocities from the Burmese army. The Rohingas have been persecuted for many years and are regarded as non-citizens with very few rights. In 2017 some Rohingya militants attacked some army outposts and killed 12 soldiers and this led to a severe backlash by the military. Of an estimated population of one million people, some 688,000 Rohingas were forced to flee to Bangladesh which also does not want to know them.

Cathryn then described her life in Myanmar. She worked both as a volunteer and in paid work as an English teacher. As a volunteer she worked in organisations that helped children at risk. One such organisation is the Ian Richardson Foundation, set up by an expatriate couple Margaret and the late Ian Richardson, who have established a number of homes for orphan children or those from very poor backgrounds. Cathryn then suggested that the club, or individual members, might like to consider sponsoring one of more children at these homes.

Cathryn responded to a number of questions mainly relating to the Rohingya situation.

Carol Quayle 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.

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| 16 April (Mon) | Dr Kathleen McGuire song project recording session. Abbotsford Convent. |
| 26 April (Thurs) | Board Meeting Taranto house. 7.30 pm. Note change of date |
| 20 May (Sun) Morning | District 9810 Training Assembly. Deakin University, Burwood. |
| 2 June (Sat) | District 9810 Changeover. Southern Golf Club. 6.30 pm start, \$62 per head |
| 26 June (Tues) | Club Annual Changeover Dinner Details to come |
| 1 July (Sun) | Bunnings sausage sizzle 8 am to 4 pm |
| 7 July (Sat) | Exchange student Sarah Wich returns home to Germany |
| 26 Dec (Wed) Boxing Day | Bunnings sausage sizzle 8 am to 4 pm |
| 15-17 February 2019 | Victorian Multi-District Conference Melbourne Convention Centre |

Members on Leave

Damian West: - to end of April

George Aivatoglou – end May

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

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

STOP PRESS

The District 9810 District Governor nominating committee has selected PP Alma Reynolds of the Rotary Club of Doncaster to be the District Governor for the 2020-21 Rotary year.

Forthcoming Meeting Program & Rosters

Next Meeting

Date: 24 April
Speaker: Ricky Dunbar
Topic: Professional running
Chairman: Jeff Needham
Desk & Regalia: David Brunt, Don Butler
Fellowship: Len Dawson
Bulletin notes: Jill Brear

And the next.....

Date: 1 May
Speaker: Greg McMahon
Topic: Doveton Secondary College
Community Support Program
Chairman: Brian Foley
Desk & Regalia: Rob Goode, Don Van
Fellowship: David Brunt
Bulletin notes: Jill Brear

And the next.....

Date: 8 May
Speaker: James Nicholas
Topic: The Mystery of Fairyland
Chairman: Len Dawson
Desk & Regalia: Don Butler, David Brunt
Fellowship: Kelly Banks
Bulletin notes: Glenyse Cooper

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