



News and Views of the
Rotary Club of Mordialloc

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

Meeting No 2361
22 September
2020

District Governor 2020-21: Alma Reynolds

Assistant Governor: Heather Chisholm

THIS WEEK'S MEETING Electronic Meeting using "Zoom"

Date: 22 September
Speakers: Jessica Taranto
Topic: The Mercy Ships
Chairman: Carol Quayle
Bulletin notes: Brian Foley



Rotary Opens Opportunities
RI theme 2020-21

Most Rotary activities are cancelled or on hold until further notice due to the Coronavirus. However, we are holding board and club meetings in this period using Zoom.

Message from President Paul Taranto

Hello one and all and welcome to our latest club meeting via Zoom. What a week it has been. The Australian Rules Football season has seen the eight finalised and the process for renewal begin for the unsuccessful clubs. We had a day where the temperature went above 26°C, humidity was high and there was certainly the feel of summer everywhere. The Covid infections numbers have continued to decline and it was wonderful to hear Sunday morning that we had our first number below 20 with only 14 infections being recorded in the previous 24 hours. The day is drawing ever closer where we can once again meet face to face (maybe with masks?) and we can once again work for the community in a hands-on fashion.

The September edition of *Rotary Down Under* has an article on Jennifer Jones, Rotary's first female international president nominee in its 115-year history. It took 9 years of debate to get Rotary's constitution amended in 1987 to allow women to join Rotary. It does make you wonder how Rotary would be today if it recognised sooner the talent and energy it was fore going in not having female membership sooner. On a personal level, I was pleased to see that Jennifer is a Canadian.

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SUMMARY OF COMING EVENTS

29 Sept (Tues)	Russell Marnock, End Trachoma
6 Oct (Tues)	Club committees
12 Oct (Mon)	Board meeting. 7.30 pm
13 Oct (Tues)	Governor's official visit
20 Oct (Tues)	Dean Beattie, Men's Health

All meetings to be by Zoom video link until further notice
Club meetings each Tuesday at 6.15 for 6.30 pm
Board and any other meetings, as decided by the board.

I have some dear friends in Nova Scotia and the Canucks (an affectionate term for Canadians) and Australians are close in their outlook on life.

The week also brought the sad news that the USA Justice of the Supreme Court, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, had passed away. If you have not seen the movie/documentary *RBG* then I recommend it to you. She was a powerful voice for those who did not have a voice and she was a powerful example of the latent talent that is present in underrepresented groups in the halls of power. Her catch phrase towards the end of her career was "I dissent".

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We are privileged in Australia that we are still able to voice our disagreement with policies and government without ending up being locked up. In thinking about dissension it can be seen as the necessary mechanism that facilitates progress and advancement in many areas. Without dissension Rotary may not have had its first female international president nominee this year?

As members heard last week, the Board has given the go ahead on a number of project areas, the continuation of the care packages, the engagement with the Emerge Women's and Children's centre, the provision of hygiene kits for indigenous students and the Parkinson's walk. On Monday, the working group on the Gnome and Fairy festival will have their kick off meeting. I ask all Club members to get behind this and also get their families and friends to get behind this project. The way the Covid numbers are going, the community will be looking for events that get them living and coming together again. The Gnome and Fairy Festival can be such an event for the community.

Ruth Bader Ginsburg's tag line of "I dissent" certainly got me thinking about the role of dissension. There is dissension all around us every day whether it is the demonstrations in Belarus, the "Black Lives Matter" marches in the USA or the freedom breakouts in Melbourne. Some of this dissension you may disagree with, while some you may agree but I do think that at the end of the day it is "dissension" that is the engine that drives progress. It is people who are able to express and argue opinions that are at variance with those commonly or officially held that provide the framework that allows humanity to move forward. To bolster my thinking on this my quote for the week comes from one of humanity's greatest minds:

"Blind belief in authority is the greatest enemy of truth."

- Albert Einstein

Cheers Paul

"Rotary Opens Opportunities"

Club Meeting No 2360 – 15 September – Zoom Video

Attendance: 19 members, 2 guests

Apologies: Jill Brear,

Guests: Konrad and Mimi Erment (speakers), Margaret Aivatoglou, Greg and Anne Thorpe

President Paul welcomed members and guests and announced as follows:

- A nomination committee is needed to nominate the incoming president and other board positions to be considered at the AGM in November. Graeme, Ernie and Jenny accepted and will meet in conjunction with President Paul.
- Voluntary contributions by members in July and August totalled \$575. This has been rounded up to \$1500 from club funds and will be donated to the End Trachoma project. This is sufficient for 100 hygiene kits

- Voluntary contributions for the months of September and October will be directed to the "Give Every Child a Future" project to vaccinate children in eight Pacific Island countries against three childhood diseases.
- Paul then showed two short videos promoting the vaccination program.

Trina chaired the remainder of the meeting.

Reports and Members' Announcements

Secretary *Trina* gave a short report on the board meeting held the previous evening and attended by Assistant Governor Heather Chisholm. Jack Cooper and Brian have prepared a profile of Don Butler for publication by City of Kingston in "The Voice".

Treasurer *Graeme* advised that money is coming in from donations and also sales of masks and honey.

David (Community) advised:

- Distribution of care packages is recommencing and donation of similar goods as before is requested.
- Parkinsons Victoria is holding a "virtual walk" fundraiser. The plan is to register a team of walkers who will walk for a minimum of 27 minutes each day from 1 to 27 October with suggested donation of one dollar, or more, for each day walked. Sponsorships are welcome. The club will match \$ for \$ the total raised.
- A meeting was held recently with Paula Westhead of Emerge Women's and children's refuge to discuss their requirements. Carol submitted a comprehensive report to the board. First priority is creation of a sensory garden followed by other works probably over several years.

Brian (International) spoke briefly of the Give Every Child a Future project, one of the Centenary of Rotary in Australia projects.

Ernie (Projects)

- Gnome and Fairy Festive. The committee will meet this week and review all aspects including reducing the scope and seeking extra assistance
- Disposal of a number of donated prizes left over from this year's cancelled Festival is planned
- Conduct of a virtual art show is being looked at, including sponsorship from Bendigo Bank

Paul reported on progress of guitar sales. Our guitar specialist Jamie selected 10 instruments recently of which seven have been sold already and another is put aside for a raffle after being autographed by well known musicians. Sales have gone well due to good publicity by Phil through Facebook

Dianne (Youth) advised that the board had agreed to sponsor awards nights at several secondary schools. We will also sponsor students from several schools to science programs when these resume.

Kathy had spoken briefly by telephone with Damian West who is in good spirits. *Kay* suggested that the best way to communicate with Daman is to write to him at BUPA in Bonbeach. She can prepare a roster on members to write.

Glenyse advised that Len Brear is continuing to improve at home.

Guest Speakers: Konrad and Mimi Ermert – “Aphasia Victoria”

Mimi Ermert has the medical condition aphasia that results from a stroke, a head injury or other neurological disturbance. She then described how her aphasia came about and her long journey to recovery.

In November 2013 Mimi and husband Konrad drove to visit family in Canberra and she was feeling unwell on arrival that she thought might be motion sickness. However, she deteriorated further and was admitted to hospital where it was confirmed that she had suffered a stroke. She could not speak or understand anything.

Over following months, Mimi had many consultations with a physiotherapist, speech therapist, occupational therapist and a neurologist. By now her brain function had deteriorated that of a young child. Eventually after more than a year of speech therapy and other treatment she began to improve. She attributes her recovery partly to her iPad which she describes as her lifeline. On the iPad she discovered “Voice Over” and with tuition from Apple she could read again slowing down the words to a pace she could handle.

Her goal now is that all sufferers of aphasia should have a tablet for which there are aphasia apps now available.

Konrad then described the establishment of Aphasia Victoria an advocacy group for those with the condition.

Aphasia is a consequence of having a stroke and affects about one-third of stroke victims. There are some 120,000 sufferers in Australia and 30,000 in Victoria. It results in a low quality of life, is invisible and leaves many victims isolated and depressed. Despite this, it is a little-known condition and unknown to many in the medical profession. They have found major government agency or university research body examining aphasia.

Together with other sufferers, Konrad and Mimi established Aphasia Victoria which now is a registered charity with tax exempt status. Their committee consists of sufferers, family members, carers and supports – all volunteers. They have an extensive contact list of members and supporters throughout Victoria and they collaborate with similar groups in other states and New Zealand.

The many tasks that Aphasia Victoria undertake include:

- Acting as an information hub and contact point for Victorians affected by the condition
- Informing the community and governments about aphasia and its affects
- Promoting research among universities and research bodies
- Maintaining a website for information, publicity and as a point of contact
- Distributing brochures to a wide audience
- Hosting seminars

Other activities planned for the near future include:

- A program of activities for the aphasia community
- Seeking face-to-face meetings with health authorities and governments
- They have already been approached by the Centre of Research Excellence in Aphasia Recovery and Rehabilitation to assist their research programs
- Establishing points of contact in Regional Victoria to become regional hubs and expand our reach to into the regions
- They have just launched our support project to encourage and help people acquire and use therapy apps on their tablets.

A number of members addressed questions to Mimi and Konrad after this most informative presentation. Trina then expressed the thanks to them.

Further information on aphasia is available form the website at: <https://www.aphasiavic.org.au/>

I also have a PowerPoint presentation with additional information – Brian

The winner of the fortnightly club raffle was Ernie Williams who chose a “Just Italy” voucher.

On the Lighter Side

If Jealousy had a face

