



The Mordialloc Bulletin

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 2362
29 September
2020

District Governor 2020-21: Alma Reynolds

Assistant Governor: Heather Chisholm

THIS WEEK'S MEETING Electronic Meeting using "Zoom"

Date: 29 September
Speaker: Russell Marnock
Topic: End Trachoma
Chairman: Dianne Taranto
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

Greetings everyone and welcome to our latest meeting.

As advised by Premier Dan Andrews in his address on Sunday, there has been some easing of restrictions from this week with further changes now scheduled for 19 October if the downward trend in case numbers continues. The improvement is certainly encouraging and I have my fingers crossed that the downward trend does continue.

Last week I was extolling the warmer weather. What a difference a week can make. In the week just gone we returned to very cold wintery conditions. Some of you may know that Dianne and I have a country retreat at Lal Lal just outside of Ballarat. The cold weather brought snow to Lal Lal. A friend sent some pictures and it looked like something you would expect in Europe or the USA at Christmas time, snow on the roof, snow on the ground, snow on the trees. It looked lovely and I was extremely disappointed that the 5 km restriction prevented me from getting up there to enjoy it.

The week just gone has brought the hotels enquiry, a resurgence of the virus in Europe and the USA and a ramping up of the election activity in the USA. I said last week that my mind had turned to "dissension".

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SUMMARY OF COMING EVENTS

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| 6 Oct (Tues) | Club committees |
| 12 Oct (Mon) | Board meeting. 7.30 pm |
| 13 Oct (Tues) | Governor Alma Reynolds, official club visit |
| 20 Oct (Tues) | Dean Beattie, Men's Health |
| 27 Oct (Tues) | Andrew Webb, CFA |

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.

This week I have moved onto an ancillary concept "truth". This is appropriate for a Rotarian as the first question in the "Four Way Test" is "Is it the Truth?" As a practising engineer one of the essential steps in dealing with a problem or issue is establishing the truth of the matter. A maxim I encountered during my career was the saying "In God we trust but everyone else bring data". As we work our way out of this pandemic I certainly hope that the decision makers are relying on the truth that the data/evidence is showing them rather than subjective positions on what they would like to be happening.

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If club members have not read the history behind the "Four-Way Test" then I encourage them to do so at:

<https://portal.clubrunner.ca/10783/Stories/history-of-the-four-way-test>

I salute club members in getting behind our continuation of the care packages. I delivered some goods to David Brunt earlier this week and he mentioned that members had been very generous in dropping off more dry good groceries for the care packs.

The club's EndTrachoma2020 project is evolving into a more hands on deck effort as we make and pack the hygiene kits for schools in the NT. I have included a photo below of what the kit looks like. My wife Dianne, together with Jill Brear and Kay Gordon, are leading this activity so stay tuned for when the call goes out for member involvement in packing the kits.

This week's saying comes from one of the world's influential figures.

"Three things cannot be long hidden: the sun, the moon and the truth".- The Buddha

Cheers Paul

"Rotary Opens Opportunities"



Trachoma Hygiene Kits for schools in NT

Club Meeting No 2361 – 22 September – Zoom Video

Attendance: 19 members, 2 guests

Apologies: Graeme Bruce,

Guests: Jessica Taranto (speaker), Margaret Aivatoglou, Greg and Anne Thorpe, Jo and Skenda Bregu, Suzie Jackson, Lisa and Ismaila (Jess' interpreter from Senegal)

President Paul welcomed members and guests and showed a short video of a young Italian child learning to gesticulate at an early age.

Carol Quayle chaired the remainder of the meeting.

Reports and Members' Announcements

Secretary *Trina* said that the profile of Don Butler prepared by Jack Cooper and Brian has been sent to the City of Kingston.

David (Community) advised:

- Preparation and distribution of care packages has recommenced – thanks for goods donated so far.
- Kay has prepared a newsletter for the Parkinsons support group. A reminder that Parkinsons Victoria is holding a "virtual walk" fundraiser in October. Please register with Kay if you plan to take part.
- Dianne Taranto is coordinating preparation of hygiene packs for the End Trachoma project.
- Following the recent meeting with Emerge women's and children's refuge, action is starting to create a sensory garden.

Brian (International) was to attend the District Foundation and International seminar held last Friday.

Ernie and Jack Cooper (Projects) reported on the Gnome and Fairy Festival. The committee met and reviewed all tasks and aspects including reducing the scope and seeking extra assistance. Paul agreed to approach the Parkdale Secondary College parents' committee. Extra Eftpos machines may be required. The poster for the 2020 event will be similar to last year's

Ernie said that "Can you help" posters are being distributed to local shops

Alan reported on progress of guitar sales. Guitar specialist Jamie selected 10 instruments initially – nine have been sold and another is to be raffled after being autographed by well-known musicians. Another dozen guitars are now for sale.

Alan also said some honey from last year has been sold. More should be available soon.

Guest Speaker: Jess Taranto – "The Mercy Ships"

Chairman Carol introduced Jess, a trained nurse specialising in paediatrics. Jess first undertook work for two weeks as a volunteer with Mercy Ships about three years ago in Guinea, West Africa. After that experience, Jess was keen to volunteer again for a longer period than previously. She worked for four weeks from 3 January to 3 February 2020 in Senegal also in West Africa.

Mercy Ships is a global charity that has operated hospital ships in developing countries since 1978. Mercy Ships mobilise medical specialists from around the world to bring hope and healing to forgotten poor people.

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Jess Taranto (cont)

Mercy Ships uses hospital ships to deliver free, world-class health care services and give sustainable development aid to the developing world. Founded in 1978, Mercy Ships has worked in more than 70 countries providing services valued at more than \$1.66 billion, with more than 2.77 million direct beneficiaries. Each year, more than 1,000 volunteers from over 40 nations serve with Mercy Ships. Professionals including surgeons, dentists, nurses, health care trainers, teachers, cooks, seamen, engineers, and support staff donate their time and skills to the effort. Mercy Ships seeks to transform individuals and serve nations at the same time.

Jess told us about the range of patients treated, the wide nature of illnesses and injuries treated and her specific duties as well as the wide range of people she met and worked with. She also showed us photographs of the excellent facilities available on the ship including medical, accommodation and dining.

In view of her nursing background working with children, Jess was allocated to a children's recovery unit responsible for attending to young people in the post-operative period. Her working day was generally around 8 to 9 hours, Monday to Friday. At weekends, she was free from work and had the opportunity to see some of Senegal and meet the local people who she found very friendly and welcoming.

As a volunteer, Jess had to meet all her own personal expenses including international airfares, visa, insurance, living and meal costs aboard the ship, around \$7000 to \$8000 in total. She also undertook the trip using annual leave from her Melbourne job.

Jess is keen to undertake another posting with Mercy Ships when the opportunity arises. In this regard, there is a strict protocol about fundraising and this is permitted only when she is accepted and allocated to a definite period of time. She says she gained and achieved much more from the four-week period than during her first tour that was two weeks only.

A number of questions were asked by members and guests and some of Jess's replies are summarised as follows:

- She found the Senegalese people friendly and welcoming to the medical staff
- Each visit to a country is planned some two years in advance with detailed examination of the political situation, demand and other strict requirements before a visit is confirmed. Over its 40-year history, Mercy Ships has developed good relations with most of the countries where it has worked.
- The Mercy Ship that Jess worked on was based in Senegal for 10 months in total.

Chairman Carol expressed our thanks to Jess for her very informative presentation.

Further information about Mercy Ships can be found on the following links:

Main organisation:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/mercyshipsvideos>

Mercy Ships Australia:

<https://mercyships.org.au/>

A postscript to Jess's presentation: One of the participants in our Zoom meeting last week was Jess's interpreter Ismaila who was online from Senegal. Jess was pleased to receive a message from him telling how he had enjoyed the presentation

On the Lighter Side

**The problem
with stealing
quotes off the
Internet is you
never know
if they are
genuine.**

~ Abraham Lincoln

