



CREATE HOPE in the WORLD

Rotary Club of Mordialloc Inc.
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PRESIDENT PAUL'S MESSAGE

District 9810 has had its final District Conference. Warrnambool was perfect for the occasion. There were a number of inspiring and very interesting Speakers. My favourite was Professor Arnold Dix, the Australian Engineer that led the rescue mission to save 41 miners in India. If you have not heard about this, I encourage to do a google search and learn about this fantastic effort. The Gala night at the Warrnambool racetrack was also an inspired choice.

We have also had two wonderful speakers in recent weeks with Gary Spencer and his project "Operation Grain Harvest Assist" and Jessica Taranto with her talk on "Mercy Ships". With many members away over the coming weeks we will be holding off on having Speakers come to the Club. However, when the Speakers return, please keep in mind to ask people along who you think may be interested in the topic.

The first District Conference for District 9815 will be held in Bendigo over the period March 28 to March 30. Please put these dates in your diaries and keep an eye out for details on accommodation etc.

Our support of ReLink and their opening event for the season was a great success (despite some showers). The ReLink organizers and the ReLink participants were very appreciative of our Club being there and supplying the sausage sizzle and bottled water. Thank you to Alan Opie and Trina Williams for their involvement in this activity.

TUESDAY, APRIL 9, 2024 is on ZOOM

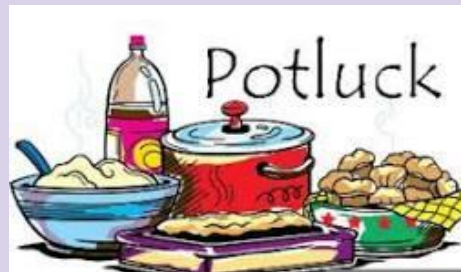
**Meeting # 2460
Zoom Committee Meetings
Acknowledgement to Country & Toasts – Brian Foley**

TUESDAY, APRIL 16, 2024 is at Modi HQ

**Meeting #2461
Guest Speaker – Steve Low – Ping Pong-A-Thon
Chairman – Jenny Cloke
Acknowledge of Country & Toasts – Trina Williams
Bulletin Notes – Di Taranto
Vote of thanks – Alan Opie**

TUESDAY, APRIL 23, 2024 is at The Tarantos

**Meeting #2462
Fellowship Evening
At The Taranto's – 6.30pm
49 McIndoe Parade Parkdale
POT LUCK DINNER**



**Bring your favourite signature dish ready to share
BYO drinks
BYO spouse, partner, friend
RSVP 21.4.24 0400326033**

TOASTS & WELCOME TO COUNTRY

We acknowledge the Bunurong Peoples of the Kulin Nation as Traditional Owners and Custodians of the land on which we meet, and pay respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.

Loyal Toast

Please charge your glasses and assist me in toasting our great country,
Australia

(Pause) To our great country, Australia

Rotary Toast

Please drink a toast to our organisation, Rotary International

(Pause) Rotary International

NOTES – ROTARY CLUB MEETING TUESDAY MARCH 26 #2458

Guest Speaker – Garry Spencer



Garry Spencer provided club members with a very interesting talk on the topic “From Tanks to Tractors”.

OBJECTIVE:

- To support Growers across the nation to harvest their produce
- By mobilising and training former and retired ADF men and women – our Veterans!
- With the active support and involvement of Australia’s Ag Industry sectors

Background

- Landline advised the problem in 2021

Scope

- Was Grains Industry only – but soon to be called the ‘Veterans Supporting Agriculture Foundation’

Website - www.opgha.org.au

WHAT’S IN IT FOR VETERANS:

- Ability to add substantially their Defence Pension during the harvest

- Satisfaction of again serving the Nation's interests
- Fun and enjoyment factor - but it is demanding work!
- Setting up a new interest/new network in the great outdoors
- Learning in-demand skills for future employment
- Chance to do the same, this year/every year, at same or different locations
- Profession of International Grain Harvester? FAMO?
- Working within a large, vital, diverse, National revenue earning industry
- With prior agreement, take caravan/wife/dog

WHY VETERANS?

- **Qualities of Veterans:** resilience, strength, adaptability
- **Service life:** continuous, world class training; challenge beyond what many could even imagine; close and reliable teamwork as the norm; action-focused leadership as a way of life
- **Service equipment:** designed to achieve its specific lethal objective; often weapons focused which requires the highest levels of safety awareness; leading edge, expensive, highly effective – so gets well managed, properly serviced, well looked after
- **Other attributes:** love of the outdoors, commitment to achieving objectives; 24 hr battlefield – day/night operations the norm; desire to learn; easy to train; service focused; reliable and trustworthy; a local and an Australian citizen! Combat fitness.
- **2021 Census:** 500,000 Veterans in our community; 1 in 20 households; 90male; a potentially large, hidden workforce; impediments to participation need to be removed; idea needs to be attractive and 'sold'

FROM TANKS TO TRACTORS - how it all started -

Similarities

- Dust!
- Teamwork vital – on and off the farm!
- Objective focus – on-time harvest
- High capital costs
- Complex equipment
- Endless maintenance/servicing
- Flawless logistics vital
- Lots of vehicles and equipment
- Long days/often night work
- Safety emphasis vital
- Time constraints but not same urgency
- Resilience, strength and adaptability
- Love of the outdoors and desire to learn

Differences

- Fast paced / high urgency
- Speed/surprise - vital to armour
- Shock action of an armoured force
- Offensive action mindset
- Objectives – could not be more different
- Tank crew of 4; squadron of 18 tanks
- Consequences of failure for crews
- 2-way firing range
- Never-ending training/improvement
- Constantly-evolving threats
- One farm Vs operate anywhere!
- Love of adventure!

**NOTES – ROTARY CLUB MEETING TUESDAY APRIL 2 #2459
GUEST SPEAKER – JESSICA TARANTO**

Once again Jessica Taranto spoke on the wonderful work of the Mercy Ships. Jessica will be embarking on her third stint as a volunteer in Madagascar this coming July.

Mercy Ships is an international charity based on Christian values that operates the largest non-governmental hospital ships in the world, providing hope and healing in Africa through surgical care and surgical education, community development projects, community health education, mental health programs, agriculture projects, and palliative care for terminally ill patients. Its headquarters are in Garden Valley, Texas.

Mercy Ships has visited more than 55 developing nations and 18 developed nations around the world, with a focus on the countries of Africa for the past 30 years.

A major inspiration for Mercy Ships founder Don Stephens was the work of the international hospital ship *SS Hope*. Stephens' research showed that 95 of the 100 largest cities in the world were port cities. Therefore, a hospital ship could deliver healthcare very efficiently to large numbers of people. The birth of Stephens' disabled son, John Paul, also inspired him to move forward with his vision of a floating hospital. A visit with Mother Teresa in Calcutta, India, further deepened his commitment to serving people in need.



For anyone interested, the link to donate to fund Jessica's next volunteer service on the Africa Mercy ship in July is below. Donations are made directly to Mercy Ships and are tax deductible.

<https://mercyships.org.au/?form=FUNPPZLEEYW&fundraiser=NAAMSFZF&designationId=E8WCNNJK&member=SLVCFRDF>

COMMITTEE REPORTS – ROTARY CLUB MEETING TUESDAY APRIL 2 #2459

TREASURER – Much the same as last reported – Gnome and Fairy Festival still being reconciled.

SECRETARY – all thank you certificates to volunteers of the Gnome and Fairy Festival have gone out – thank you Trina – it was a big job and always done with grace and a smile – Paul Allwright expressed his thanks for being involved once again.

COMMUNITY – RecLink BBQ to be held on Wednesday 3rd March – thank you to Alan, Trina and Paul for volunteering to assist on the day. Mentone Market to be held on Sunday 7th March – thank you Alan, Ernie, Trina, Trevor and Wendy for volunteering to assist.

YOUTH – nothing to report.

FOUNDATION/INTERNATIONAL – Sky Hydrants – at the district conference Paul talked to Disaster Aid Australia and the hydrants we sponsored are in Bhutan ready to be installed and we should know the identity of the school shortly.

PROJECTS – nothing to report.

MEMBER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS – none.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

DATE	LOCATION	EVENT
Tuesday 9 April 2024	Zoom Meeting #2460	Committee Meeting
Tuesday 16 April 2024	Mordi HQ Meeting #2461	Guest Speaker – Steve Low accompanied by his wife Kishani - Ping Pong-A-Thon, Stop Slavery/Free Lives
Tuesday 23 April 2024	Tarantos #2462	'Pot Luck Dinner' – details as above
Tuesday 30 April 2024	Mordi HQ Meeting #2463	Guest Speaker – Pamela Johnson and students – Members of the Diversity Inclusion Group at Parkdale Secondary College

UPCOMING EVENTS

DATE	LOCATION	EVENT
Thursday 11 April 2024	St Nicholas Church, Bear St, Mordialloc	Parkinson's Peer Support Group 1.00pm
Friday 19 April 2024	Bunnings Mentone	Sausage Sizzle
Sunday 21 April 2024	Princess Park Carlton	RCH Family Day BBQ – 11 am - Details TBC
Sunday 21 April 2024	Lake Karkarook Park Heatherton – more details below	Fight Parkinson's Victoria A Walk in The Park 11.00am 21 April
Sunday 5 May 2024	Mentone Heritage Railway Station	Art and Craft Market

Fight Parkinson's Walk – Details - The walk will be around Lake Karkarook (entry via Fairchild Street, Heatherton opposite Bunnings car park) The walking trail is bitumen base suitable for wheelchairs and about 2.5km easy walk or some shorter walks as well. The cost is \$25 for adults and pooches \$10. For a concession for early birds, the cutoff is 25 Feb. After that the standard rate applies. Entry is via the Fight Parkinson's Victoria website and made directly to them. Cost includes your T shirt. Am sure later entries welcome on the day.

The link is: [A Walk in the Park 2024: Fight Parkinson's – Together we can \(fightparkinsons.org.au\)](https://fightparkinsons.org.au)

WHEELCHAIRS FOR KIDS



We're getting so close ...

Watch this space because we are closing in on dispatching our 60,000th wheelchair loving made by volunteers since 1996!

Where did January and February go! Two months have passed within a blink of the eye here at Wheelchairs for Kids Australia (WFKA) as our volunteers returned to the tools after their Christmas and New Year break. We're all excited and counting down every wheelchair dispatched as we strive for the exciting milestone 60,000th wheelchair.

I'm pleased to bring you our first update for 2024 with our latest issue 107 of **THE DRILL**, a quarterly newsletter created by volunteer Bob Sheridan. Bob has been joined this edition by volunteer Joy Angerson who will help Bob collate stories from around the world showing where our wheelchairs go and the impact they make in the lives of mobility impaired children and their families.

Let me say a huge thank you to everyone who answered the call to help us unwrap the gift of mobility with our Christmas Appeal. You'll see in The Drill that we've had some amazing donations and support over the Dec-Feb period. This will allow us to go from strength to strength as we strive toward increasing our monthly production and yearly distribution of wheelchairs for kids in less developed countries.

For these children a set of wheels is a ticket to freedom, dignity and boundless new opportunities to explore the world around them.

Warm regards

Greg Hebble
CEO, Wheelchairs For Kids Australia
wheelchairsforkids.org

**GNOME & FAIRY FESTIVAL
GREAT FEEDBACK FROM BENDIGO BANK
IN THEIR APRIL COMMUNITY NEWS**

Gnome and Fairy Festival 2024.
Congratulations Rotary of Mordialloc for another wonderful event this year.
We are proud to get behind and support a great community event.



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**CREATE HOPE
in the WORLD**



PHOTO BOARD



**RECLINK BBQ CELEBRATING THE
START OF THEIR SEASON**



**JESSICAR TARANTO
SPEAKING ABOUT MERCY
SHIP**

Veterans sign up for Operation Grain Harvest Assist, as farm labour shortage bites

By RHIANNON DOWN
REPORTER
Follow [@rhi_down](#)

9:36AM NOVEMBER 2, 2021
 11 COMMENTS



Farmer Adam Bensch (left) with son Lawson, 3, worker Sarah Conway and former soldier turned seasonal worker Bob Carlos. Picture: supplied.



Bob Carlos was in the army for four decades and has joined Operation Grain Harvest Assist helping out farmer Adam Bensch near Moonie, Queensland. Picture: Supplied.

