

# The Mordialloc Mentone Newsletter



**UNITE  
FOR  
GOOD**

Rotary Club of Mordialloc Mentone Inc.  
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District Governor 2025-26: Peter Behm

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## PRESIDENT MICHAEL'S MESSAGE 2.6.26

During our lives we often seek help for assistance, advice, or support to deal with a specific problem, difficulty, or situation. You may seek support from friends or professionals depending the assistance you need. For mental and physical health, we look for guidance from doctors, therapists or support hot lines. Personal & Daily Challenges to reach out to a counsellor that deals with the issues you may be having.

The idea is seeking help and not carry the burden yourself. Speak to people who may guide you were to seek help. Don't be an island in these matters.

**TUESDAY JUNE 2<sup>ND</sup>**

**SALVATION ARMY, GARDEN BOULEVARD, DINGLEY**

**Meeting #2562**

**Guest Speaker – David Brunt – Life as a Carer**

**Acknowledgement of Country & Toasts – Jack Cooper**

**Chair – Alan Opie**

**Newsletter Notes – Volunteer needed**

**Vote of thanks – Glenyse Cooper**

**TUESDAY JUNE 9<sup>TH</sup>  
ZOOM MEETING – COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Meeting #2563  
Acknowledgement of Country & Toasts – Jack Pyziakos  
Chair – Michael Mullan  
Newsletter Notes – Volunteer needed**

**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**

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

DATE	LOCATION	EVENT/GUEST SPEAKER
<b>PLEASE FEEL FREE TO INVITE PARTNERS, FAMILY, FRIENDS AND NEIGHBOURS TO ANY OF OUR MEETINGS IF YOU THINK THE GUEST SPEAKER WILL INTEREST THEM</b>		
JUNE 2 <sup>ND</sup> #2562	SALVATION ARMY, DINGLEY	DAVID BRUNT – A CARERS ROLE
JUNE 9 <sup>TH</sup> #2563	ZOOM MEETING	COMMITTEE REPORTS
JUNE 16 <sup>TH</sup> #2564	VENUE – TO BE CONFIRMED	

## UPCOMING EVENTS

DATE	LOCATION	EVENT
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THURSDAY JUNE 11 <sup>TH</sup>	St Nicholas Church Bear St Mordialloc 1pm	Parkinsons Support Group
FRIDAY JUNE 19 <sup>TH</sup>	Bunnings Mentone	Sausage Sizzle

## MEMBERS LEAVE OF ABSENCE

- Jack Pyziakos & Kathy Thompson – April 17<sup>th</sup> – end of September
  - Trevor & Wendy Salmon – May 1<sup>st</sup> – July 17<sup>th</sup>
    - Di & Paul Taranto – May 28<sup>th</sup> – June 6<sup>th</sup>
  - Trina & Ernie Williams – June 25<sup>th</sup> – August 5<sup>th</sup>

## UPCOMING BUNNINGS SAUSAGE SIZZLES

DATES 2026

JANUARY 16  
FEBRUARY 20

**NO SAUSAGE SIZZLES IN MARCH DUE  
TO GNOME & FAIRY FESTIVAL**

APRIL 17  
MAY 15  
JUNE 19  
JULY 17  
AUGUST 21  
SEPTEMBER 18  
OCTOBER 16  
NOVEMBER 20  
DECEMBER 18

### NOTES FROM ROTARY CLUB MEETING #2560

MAY 19<sup>TH</sup>, 2026

SALVATION ARMY DINGLEY

#### GUEST SPEAKER – SANTO GRECO – WHAT I LEARNT AT TOASTMAKERS

GUEST – Ida Santo

- Santo is a Biochemist
- Came to Australia in early 1960's from Italy.
- Received a scholarship to Monash University
- Worked in many hospitals in the course of his career – the longest was 35 years with Melbourne Pathology
- Joined Toastmasters and was a member for 10 years – at one point was President of the Rowville Club
- When giving a speech you were given an evaluation and the evaluator was also evaluated
- Toastmasters is not a competition at club level – it's a journey – the aim was to improve every time you spoke
- Santo's aim when speaking was "KISS" – keep it simple stupid!!
- When presenting speakers are given 7 minutes and the 'traffic light' system is used – green to start – amber when there is 3 minutes left to speak – red when time is up – you must finish up at that point or else lose points
- Santo's motto is "you learn when you listen"

NOTES FROM ROTARY CLUB MEETING #2561  
MAY 26<sup>TH</sup>, 2026  
STUART OPIE

Our thanks go to Stuart Opie for his most interesting presentation about the valuable service provided by BlazeAid to help communities rebuild after natural disasters.

BlazeAid was established in 2009 by Kevin & Rhonda Butler after the Black Saturday bushfires. With approx. 3K of fencing burnt on their property, they advertised for help to rebuild. The call was answered by 25 volunteers who were able to refence the property within a week. Kevin & Rhonda were then determined to pay it forward and help others in need.

Stuart joined BlazeAid in 2022 as a volunteer Team Leader, then Camp Co-ordinator. He has worked continuously since that time bringing together teams of volunteers to aid many seeking help after natural disasters.

BlazeAid operates solely on donations, with only 2 paid positions in the organisation. Volunteers come from all walks of life and can work in the kitchen, camp administration and fencing. The priorities are to get stock back on the land after disasters hit and also to link people to mental health counselling. Volunteers mostly bring their own accommodation and are provided with 3 meals a day.

Stuart talked specifically about Longwood. The camp opened in January this year and fencing started in February. As at 25 May, there are:

- 485 unique volunteers registered; volunteer working days: 3,774; average stay in camp: 8.3; volunteer meals: 3,134; average age: 47
- 382 farms registered
- Properties started: 69; Properties completed: 70
- Fencing estimated 1,569km; fencing cleared: 171km; fencing completed: 115km

Estimated labour value to date: \$1,056,720!!



Stuart and his team at work



# BlazeAid AUSTRALIA

if you enjoy meeting a diverse, generous mix of people and looking for an incredibly rewarding, heart warming and social experience

please visit [BLAZE AID.COM.AU](http://BLAZE AID.COM.AU) for more information

Love to see you at one of our camps

**BLAZE AID, DOING MORE THAN JUST REBUILDING FENCES,  
WE'RE REBUILDING LIVES**



## REPORT FROM BOARDMEETING ON 19<sup>th</sup> MAY 2026

Main discussion points and motions from this meeting were:

- We are looking for an alternative storage facility for our BBQ trailer and other items. If members are aware of potential venues please contact Dianne Taranto.
- **Financial report** was accepted. Treasurer Brian presented a summary of the Gnome & Fairy Festival. With 3 more items still to be accounted for, the net total for the event is positive.
- **Meeting venue** – we are very grateful to Jennifer Cloke for providing a meeting space for us at the Salvos while the rail works at Mordialloc continue to cause traffic chaos. We will return to the Mordialloc Neighbourhood House when things improve.
- **Club Changeover** night will be on 23 June.
- **Community:**
  - Jennifer reported on the Safe Sleeping Project – all involved are invited to a debrief and planning day on 16 June.
  - Salvos BBQ at Bunnings for the Red Shield Appeal on 23 May was supported by Alan, Ernie & Chris.

- Royal Children's Hospital Family Day was held on 24 May, run by Di, Paul, Michael and Jessica Taranto. Over 100 attended including the ColoRectal Champions.
- Parkinson's peer support group – David reported the group continues to go well. The next meeting is on 11 June.
- Heart Health walking group – Peter Ratcliff, together with Jenny Pudney, hopes to resume again soon.
- Mordialloc Neighbourhood House – the Board approved the donation of a new washing machine for the childcare centre.
- **Foundation & International:** a donation of \$3,000 to Interplast has been approved. We will present this to them when a guest speaker is able to come to a club meeting.
- **Youth:** the Board approved \$90 to sponsor a team from Parkdale Secondary College to attend MUNA in August 2026.
- **Projects & Marketing:**

**Bunnings BBQs** – the next one is on Friday 19 June.

**Gnome & Fairy Festival.** The Committee met in May to identify and allocate tasks needed to run it again next year. The next meeting will be in September.

**Community Market** – the Committee are working on getting permission to start the market up again at the Parkdale station.

**Future recycling scheme** continues to bring in steady revenue – thanks to Paul for his regular walks collecting bottles and cans around the community!

**Coles money spinner** also brings in steady revenue each month – thanks to Ernie for his care and collection from the spinner.

- **Membership:**

The Board accepted applications for membership from Laura Sarmiento and Wendy Merchan. Both were approved by all members.

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# PHOTO BOARD



19<sup>th</sup> May 2026

Dear Di & Paul,  
On behalf of Southern Suburbs  
Photographic Society, I would like  
to thank you (& the Rotary Club)  
for your very kind & generous  
assistance at the current Fairy &  
Gnome Festival.  
Our club members had a great  
time on the day & raised some  
funds for the Club.  
Having the 2 spaces and the  
tent provided free of charge was  
of great benefit to our project.  
For this we thank the Rotary

With many thanks from  
Southern Suburbs  
Photographic Society,  
Cheltenham, Vic

club very much.  
Kind regards,  
Marg Edwards  
President.

**MARGARET EDWARDS PRESIDENT OF THE SOUTHERN SUBURBS  
PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY PRESENTED DI WITH A CHEQUE FOR \$150 –  
THIS WAS HALF OF WHAT THEY MADE AT THE RECENT GNOME AND  
FAIRY FESTIVAL!!**



**CONGRATULATIONS JENNIFER CLOKE FOR HER NOMINATION AT THE RECENT KINGSTON COMMUNITY AWARDS – SHE WAS PUT FORWARD FOR CITIZEN OF THE YEAR AWARD – A WELL-DESERVED NOMINATION!!**