



Rotary E-Club of D9700

Serving Humanity

rotaryclubofd9700.org.au

President: John Roberson

johnroberson@bigpond.com



Next E-Club Meeting

Wednesday 14th January, 2018

7.30pm

Hi all, how wonderful to catch up with you all. Unfortunately Sharon was still at work but she was watching us. Sharon we did miss you!

Members, in attendance were, Marilyn Roberts, Debbie Schache, Cameron McKern, Ruth Barber, Donna Vaughan and Monica Vaughan, and Sharon had us on the screen but had no mic. According to Sharon the meeting looked to be fun, which it was.



Here is the photo that I took during the meeting, Cameron, showed me how to do it, apparently I was the only who didn't know, but I can honestly say, I learnt something new at our meeting. How cool is this.



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Here is my take on our group photo.

Debbie, obviously shy.



Marilyn, another photo with her mouth open.

(According to Gary, it's hard to get a photo of me with my mouth closed. I just ignore him. After 45 years of marriage, we are both probably right!)



Cameron, patient knowledgeable teacher.



Ruth, Donna and Monica, waiting patiently



Ron, showing his hidden desires!



Sharon, watching.

(Couldn't decide, so used them all.)



President John

Mal, Where are you?





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Now down to business:

Congratulations President John.



First on the Agenda was the announcement that President John was awarded a Ruby Pin for support to Foundation. For many years John has been a dedicated Rotarian, who has worked towards assisting many humanitarian causes. John's association with RAWCS for many years has been exemplary and he has held many different positions in that organisation and assisted many projects working to improve the lives of those who need assistance. John has also worked hard supporting Foundation projects and to have this work recognised by

Rotary is well deserved. Congratulations John from your very proud club members.

(Sorry Debbie, both guesses wrong. He wasn't getting married or having a baby. 😊)

Condolences.



The members of our e-club extend our condolences to Caroline on the loss of her brother just after Christmas, and also to Cameron who lost his step-mother last November. Our sympathy to you both as you adjust to the loss of your family ones.

Kiva

Notification came through from Kiva that we have received repayments and have \$49.42 balance. Sharon could you possibly find another project or two for us the support? Let us know what you have found.

End Trachoma 2020

President John, sent a message regarding the End Trachoma 2020 project being set up as a Rotary Australia Project and suggested we support this excellent project.

PDG Michael Milston, is in the process of approaching District regarding supporting this, I will give more information re this program in the next newsletter. FYI, At the end of this newsletter is information regarding what Trachoma is.



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District Conference

Leeton.

District Conference will be held May in Leeton this year. Home of Governor. Saturday being the main

I am hoping to have booth at the distributing information regarding will need a couple of members to publicity. The conference is an informative weekend along with social events, which is always great to catch up with Rotarians and club members on a social basis. Ruth has offered to help, and I will be there but may not be able to committee 100% of the time due to my other Rotary District commitments. I am appreciative of the e-club membership being different to other clubs, however, it would be nice if we could met in person occasionally. Please think about it.



May 4th -5th -6th
our District
day.

conference
our club. We
help with this

National Rotary Conference in Hobart

14 – 16 September 2018

The Australia New Zealand Rotary Conference (formerly the Tasmania on Zealand. This will be a combined conference for Australia and New

The then President of Rotary International and his wife Esther will be in attendance as will



(formerly the
Tasmania on
Zealand.
This will be a

Barry Rassin
be the

Immediate Past President of Rotary International Ian Riseley and Juliet. As the Convenor for this Conference I would like to extend a personal invitation to all Rotarians to attend and participate in the weekend. I would like all past officers of Rotary International to invite those Rotarians who are new to Rotary as well as those long time Rotarians. I am sure if all Rotarians can experience this Conference they will leave enthused and motivated to become more involved in Rotary. The Organising Committee have organised a great venue and the programme will be of interest to everyone. Plus this year we will have a number of breakout sessions on a wide range of topics.

Noel Travaskis, Zone Director

<http://www.rotaryinstitute.org.au>



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Please note it is now 1 week later and I have not had time to complete this newsletter, and I am also having trouble reading my notes and I am relying on my memory. So forgive any errors.

Discussion

At the end of the meeting, we all enjoyed catching with each other's news.

Mine, had a great weekend in Yackandandah, I had the pleasure to meet Yackandandah's "Basil Faulty". Fabulous little town. Enjoyed Opera in the Alps, even though it was very hot.



Went to Narrandera as my husband was selected as a Baton bearer in the Queen's Baton Relay. All our family attended and we had a great family weekend together, which in itself was fabulous as we don't get together all that often. We were all proud and excited to witness Gary in uniform enjoying this special moment.

Debbie and John enjoyed their Christmas day serving lunch and giving joy and support to those who may find Christmas a difficult time. Debbie comments on how this service is appreciated and Debbie and John I think it would have a special day for you two as well.

Cameron, is off to Whistler, skiing with the family. I know it has been a great season and I am sure having the family together, particularly as your son lives in USA, it will be nice to have everyone together. Take care and don't come back limping.

Monica, has had knee problems (?) and has been immobilised, which I am sure has been very frustrating and painful. I do hope everything is improving. Only consolation I can think of, is, in this heat, it's nice to stay home. Not sure if that helps or no. Get better soon, Monica.

Donna and her partner, we able to travel to Colombo, Sri Lanka together and where they have programme teaching teachers to be teacher. I am sure it is very rewarding to go back a see the fruits of your work. Donna was also able to meet one of her original students who is now a teacher, who has just given birth to her first baby. I can only imagine how gorgeous that baby was. I am sure it was lovely to be able to share in such a happy occasion.

Ron mentioned a number of interesting facts, one being, when in training, (I think Theology), they were required to exercise living as different Religions, ie Judaism, Islam, Buddhism, etc and understand the implication this has on individuals.

Sharon, is extremely busy with work and having difficulty making meetings, please do not feel under pressure Sharon, the beauty of this club is that you don't have to attend every meeting, and you can sign on and fulfil your commitment through our webpage. We do miss you but understand, I will try and figure out how we can assist you.



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Discussion re meetings, it was decided and agreed upon that the speaker will be 2nd Wednesday of the month and fellowship 4th Wednesday of the month. Therefore, next meeting will be fellowship, would really appreciate if someone could come up with ideas for fellowship.

Well that's about it, thanks for your patience and take care.

Marilyn.

FYI

Trachoma.

This program will cover the scope of the Project in the District, the what, the why and the how. It will also identify likely costs to assist Clubs and Rotarians to gain maximum impact.

The **timeframe** will broadly operate as follows:

- Year1 (2017-18) – getting the project 'out there' and collecting resources;
- Year 2 (2018-19) – developing targets for local donations, identifying stories of projects in action, encouraging Club involvement in area-wide fund and awareness raising;
- Year 3 (2019-20) – supporting progressive funding and targeting some key needs; and reporting on progress and achievements highlighting areas of need.

2a What is Trachoma?

Trachoma is the leading infectious cause of blindness globally. ***Australia remains the world's last developed country where it persists.***

It is caused by the bacterium Chlamydia Trachomatis and spreads by personal contact (via hands, clothing, towels or bedding), or by flies that have been in contact with the discharge from the nose or eyes of an infected person.

Blindness from recurrent trachoma infections is irreversible. **But trachoma is an entirely preventable disease, and infections can be treated quickly and effectively.**

2b History of trachoma

Throughout the 19th century, trachoma was a major cause of blindness among urban non-indigenous people. In 1888, it was described in Melbourne "*as the most common eye disease met with, and occupied most of the time and anxiety of the oculist*". Many of today's most famous ophthalmic hospitals, including the Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital in Melbourne, were established in the 20th century to manage trachoma cases. **Improvements in housing, water supply, sewerage and rubbish disposal infrastructure by the 1940s saw trachoma disappear from urban and remote non-indigenous Australian populations.** Unfortunately, *however, blinding trachoma still remains in Australia* a significant number of our remote Indigenous communities, being particularly infectious among children.

2c Why trachoma?

Australia is the only developed country in the world where trachoma still exists as a public health problem. BUT IT IS PREVENTABLE! To date, Australian health services and NGOs have significantly reduced the rates of blindness from trachoma, through surgery and the administration of antibiotics to affected and at-risk populations. Efforts in promoting health hygiene and environmental improvement are underway, but sustained elimination has proven to be a challenge.

The **WHO** has a global goal to eliminate trachoma by 2020, and recommends all affected countries adopt a simple and **effective strategy known as the SAFE** strategy. This incorporates: **S**urgery, **A**ntibiotics, **F**acial cleanliness and **E**nvironment improvement. The strategy has already seen the elimination of trachoma from many countries. Most recently, China, Gambia, Ghana, Islamic Republic of Iran, Morocco, Myanmar and Oman have reportedly achieved their elimination goal.

