



Rotary E-Club of D9700



Serving Humanity

rotaryclubofd9700.org.au

President: Marilyn Roberts

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Next E-Club Meeting

January 22nd 2019

8.00 pm



Our Christmas meeting was held Tuesday 11th December. In attendance was John, Ruth, Marilyn, Debbie, Monica, Debbie and Mal.

A short meeting with Mal speaking to us with a Christmas message.

Mal told us about a term used in the Solomon Islands which has a special meaning.

Wantok

English

Noun

wantok (*plural wantoks*)

1. (*Melanesia, Papua New Guinea*) A close comrade; a person with whom one has a strong social bond, usually based on shared language.

Usage notes: May be used to casually address a friend: *Hello wantok.*

Noun

wantok

1. a close friend, to whom one gives complete loyalty
2. any person with a shared set of Melanesian cultural values, usually based on speaking a closely related language.

Mal explained to us that in the Solomon Island Christmas is celebrated with the knowledge that although Jesus was born with nothing to poor parents, however he was rich as he had wantok. He was loved by his family and he had mercy, compassion and he cared for others. Wantok is belonging and being loved and valued within the family and extended friends.

Mal suggested we use Christmas to celebrate our wantok.

Thank you Mal for your effort, I hope I have done you justice, I have lost my notes.





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Mal also told us about his plans for another trip to the Solomon Islands in September with a team of 8 Indigenous members, 4 members of Anglicare, 4 teachers and 1 CPA. There is room for more participants. If your interested contact Mal.

Mal also explained that they are awaiting for a Visa to be granted for a young 15 year old Solomon Island girl, Tonka who will live with them for a number of years to complete her HSC. Mal and Rosie will be her guardian. Hopefully the visa issue will be solved soon and Tonka and commence her education in February. I know Tonka will be in the best of care.



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Recently Gary and I had a short break to Old Adaminaby, Snowy Mountains. Old Adaminaby is the original site of the township Adaminaby which was moved some 7 miles inland to allow for the formation Lake Eucumbene. The town was flooded, however, some homes were built on the hills overlooking the lake. My parents have owned a little cottage for some 40 years, as my father was a passionate fisherman and he loved Lake Eucumbene. It is a quiet little village that has about 25 permanent residents, Adaminaby nearby has around 1,200. It is close to the snowfields of Mt Selwyn, also access to Thredbo, Perisher, etc. It is 2.30 hours from Wagga Wagga. Here is a photo from our verandah.



On our return, Gary and I had lunch with John, Caroline and Ruth Barber. It was a great way to finish a holiday. So nice to sit and chat and hear all the news is person.



After the lunch I couldn't find my phone and it turned out, I had left it at Adaminaby, (oops!) and had to go back the next weekend to retrieve it. A great excuse for another weekend away. Love the "Find My Phone App"



Earlier in the month Gary and I also caught up with Cameron and Jenny in Yackandandah. I forgot to have a taken photo with Cameron. Next time! We had an enjoyable coffee together. It has been a lovely social time and I do enjoy catching up in person with our club members. It would be so nice if we could get together some time.



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Back to Christmas! We are all celebrating Christmas is different ways.



Debbie and John will have a well-deserved quiet Christmas this year after working last year. They will be in Canberra at “The Boathouse” an excellent restaurant in Canberra. I know that place and have enjoyed a number of meals there.



John and Caroline will be with the family Geraldton, WA, after starting their celebrations in Brisbane with family. They certainly don't stay in one place very long.



Mal will also be with his family although he will have a busy day at the office.



Donna and Monica started their celebrations last week with family and will be together for Christmas.



Ruth is celebrations have also started with her family, and if I remember will be in Wagga Wagga. Ruth also has two family birthdays on Christmas day.



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I will be in Geelong with our daughters, and their families, I think we are up to 20 of us, with my mother and sisters and their families along with Gary's mother and brother will be joining us for Boxing Day, around 35 family members. We will also meet the newest member of the family, 7 mth old Jonathon who will be travelling from London for his first Christmas, with his parents, my nephew Scott and his partner, Lisa. We will also celebrate Jonathon's christening in January before they return home.



Our daughter, Ivory, celebrated her birthday today (Sunday), so now we can now focus on Christmas. We have Gary's brother's 60th birthday on 23rd with my Uncles birthday on the 25th. My uncle who will be 85, says he likes having his birthday on the 25th, because he always has his family around him. How sweet.

Our next meeting will be on January 22nd. I will contact you all prior to this meeting.

Thank you all for your support over the past months, it's been a busy and perhaps a little more eventful than I would have liked, and I have been distracted, but I do enjoy your company and our meetings.

Stay well and enjoy a little break, you have all worked so hard to assist those who need support.

Below is a link to a great Christmas link that I love. Enjoy!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sQ2DewV1V7s>

If it doesn't work, search Youtube for "3 Santas Dancing".

Have a safe and Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, Wantok

Take Care, Marilyn

