

**Rotary**  
CLUB OF BURNIE



CLUB NUMBER - 18437

# THE BULLETIN

81<sup>ST</sup> YEAR - No 30 – FEBRUARY 13<sup>th</sup> 2023



**IMAGINE  
ROTARY**



President – Nigel Morgan  
Secretary - George Austin  
Treasurer - David Bennett  
Bulletin Editor – Allan Jamieson

## **INVOCATION**

For good food, for good fellowship, may the  
giver of all our blessings make us truly thankful.

ROTARY MONTH: FEBRUARY – PEACE & CONFLICT PREVENTION & RESOLUTION

**Apologies: please call before 1:00 pm Monday**

**Dr Themba Bulle on 03 6432 2222 or George Austin on 0438 450 801**

**Duty Roster: Graeme MUIR & Dilani WIJESOORIYA**

**Club website: <http://www.burnierotary.org.au>**

Date	Event or Speaker/Topic	Venue
Feb. 20	<b>NO</b> Meeting (Rotary Bowls night will be on Feb. 23)	BBC
Feb. 27	Jarrold Ranson Enterprize	RSL

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES – FEBRUARY 2023

	Birthdays		Wedding Anniversary		Club Anniversary
8	Sue-Ellen LICHT	8	Bruce/Marie CLARK	2	Paul KEARNEY
				28	Barrie CRAWFORD

RAFFLE WINNER	"C" (a Zimbabwean visitor), Themba said
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ATTENDANCE	?? ("75%")
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- Visitors:**
- June Crawford
  - Ant Dry (Guest Speaker)
  - Jarmain, Cuthbert and Gibson from Zimbabwe
  - Carmel Allen and Olivia Bray from Table Cape Rotaract club

**President Nigel:**

- A report on the Slime Challenge will be presented when next we meet here.

**Rotary Information PP Allan:**

- Allan took the opportunity offered by our recent success in receiving a Global Grant to highlight the potential value, in *domestic* terms, of these grants. The 24 Rotary clubs in Lebanon received a total of 20 Global Grants over the past eight years – value total of US\$1.75 million – to enable the clubs to provide safe drinking water to over 1,000 schools (i.e., to 600,000 students) in Lebanon. The project was initiated in 2013-4 by *Lebanon's* Rotary District Governor.

**Secretary George:**

- The Bowls night is on 23 Feb., so we will **not** be meeting at RSL on Feb. 20.
- The Golf Day is on 19 March. All members are asked to 'chase' sponsors ahead of time.
- Our local Federal MP, Gavin Pearce, has alerted us to the existence of the Federal Gov'ts "Stronger Communities Programme" which offers grants up to \$20,000. Any ideas?

### **Table Cape Rotaract:**

President Carmel Allan and Secretary Olivia Bray told us of their club's current plight: membership is down to four! The club was formed in late 2020, just four months prior to arrival of Covid and its associated bans on meetings, etc.. It has been hard to get going again and to generate local community support.



Olivia (at left) and Carmel (at right)

The club met online during Covid, but now they meet face-to-face as well as having occasional online meetings. They carry out some community service work with the Wynyard SES (*"we supply 'teddy bears' that are given to 'trauma' sufferers by SES volunteers"*).

Carmel said it was hard to find a contact person at the UTas campus in Burnie – does anyone have a suggestion? *Ditto TAFE!*

The Rotaract club would like to establish a working relationship with Burnie Rotary club. [We should definitely keep these young, enthusiastic people in mind when planning projects. – bulletin editor.]

### **Guest Speaker – Ant Dry:**



Ant Dry (seen at left with PP Paul Kearney and Treasurer David Bennett) was introduced by PP Allan, who said Ant is Chairman of EVRG (Emu Valley Rhododendron Gardens) and is their Treasurer as well. Allan went on to explain that, some three weeks ago, Burnie Rotary club became aware that EVRG was struggling to survive and could plausibly be forced to shut down. Thus, Ant was invited to address the club.

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Ant explained that the gardens were started some 40 years ago by a small group of enthusiastic people who were dedicated rhododendron enthusiasts; some with quite valuable expertise. Unfortunately, this cohort has largely disappeared in the intervening years. Their effort, though, has resulted in EVRG today having the largest collection of rhodos in the southern hemisphere and the greatest number of rhodos growing outdoors (*i.e.*, not in glass houses).

What do we lack? Expertise with rhododendrons is very much needed to guide everything we do from now on in the gardens. We must also find a replacement for our General Manager, Geoff Wood, who is an excellent organiser, but he is now 73 years old, has worked for us for eight years and has never received any payment. Such persons don't grow on trees! These two key persons will not be found without costing us a huge sum of money - which we do not have. To replace Geoff, for instance, would cost plausibly around \$120,000 p.a..

There is also the ongoing need for maintaining the paths and roads within the gardens, together with repairs to our many bridges and pavilions.

The cruise ship "season" does produce an income (*"we are one of the three main attractions in this region"*), but such does not continue throughout the rest of the year. We do have several platypus families living in our gardens and we have identified spots where continuous camera monitoring would be feasible, however the internet bandwidth available in the gardens is totally inadequate to enable viewing online.

It appears unavoidable that we must depend on state and local subsidies. We have found Roger Jaensch to be a politician who listens and tries to help us.

**In a nutshell, government support is absolutely necessary.**

Question time:

- Is there a Strategic Plan? Yes; it was reviewed prior to the advent of Covid, but needs to be reviewed again now.
- What 'big ticket' item is needed? A new community bus is certainly needed; the current bus is rapidly wearing out. Cost? Around \$75,000.

Close: 7:55 pm