

Rotary 
CLUB OF BURNIE

CLUB NUMBER - 18437

THE BULLETIN

81ST YEAR - No 29 – FEBRUARY 6th 2023



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. 13	Ant Dry EVRG - the reality	RSL
Feb. 20	NO 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	Doug Forrest
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ATTENDANCE	19 (73.1%)
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Visitors:

- June Crawford, who is becoming a regular attender.
- Marcus Turnbull (Guest Speaker).
- Jarmain, Cuthbert and Gibson (our three regular attendees from Zimbabwe).

GREAT NEWS!!: Our request for a Global Grant to aid the Plumtree Hospital in Zimbabwe has been approved by RI. US\$56,000 will wing its way to us sometime soon. PP Themba pointed out that we had *initially* planned to seek a grant of AU\$200,000. The hospital is in desperate need of a great many things.

Slime Challenge (Feb. 11 ... Feb. 12):

- Agreed: Wayne Richards is to draw up a roster of volunteers, noting that nobody is to feel duty-bound to attend continuously for more than four (4) hours. *All volunteers should help Wayne by telling him their preferred duty periods.*
- Wayne Licht alerted us that on Thursday, Burnie Council plan to move a large object to the “Challenge’s” Parklands site, but there will be nobody at that site to take delivery, nor to take care of the object before Saturday.

National Youth Science Forum (NYSF):

Wayne Licht, our club’s NYSF contact person, advised that the events held in 2023 were quite successful – despite the limitations imposed by COVID restrictions. A record 451 Year 12 STEM* students participated in Jan. 2023, with 61% being girls and over 40% coming from remote or regional areas of Australia.

*STEM = science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

Club members should visit some of these websites to gain a better understanding of what the forums provide to students:

- NYSF website: <https://www.nysf.edu.au/news/>

- Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/NYSFoz/posts/pfbid027JBCzhKoE4TJzHjxDGc78qhi5hJyC3iWy39w8rTaRPbhB7fRQ7YzRC814dy64YBzl>

- Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/p/CnRCIkvh-TA/>

Secretary George:

- Rot'n Jennie Kerrison, who greatly assisted us in formulating our Global Grant application, has been invited to speak to us on 17 April. Her topic will be Rotarians against Malaria ("RAM") with a focus on Timor.
- There is a hint that the intended Professional Development Exchange between our District and a district in New Zealand might not take place this year.
- We received a positive response from Burnie Council GM, Simon Overland, inviting us to put forward a plan to build a "Rotary" BBQ + Shelter near the Burnie Yacht Club. We combined with Somerset RC and West Burnie RC in approaching the Council with such a vision, based on utilising the funds derived from last year's "Milo tin" campaign by Nestlé.
- I have invited the Table Cape Rotaract Club President, Carmel Allan, to speak at our Feb. 13 meeting regarding her club's need for more members.

Guest Speaker – Judge Marcus Turnbull:

Judge Turnbull was introduced by Mark Studdert who worked for a time in the same Launceston offices of Ogilvie Jennings as did Marcus. Marcus praised Mark for "putting the law firm on the internet" during the pandemic. Marcus said, "This saved us!"

Marcus began his talk by saying he would focus on "*The Burden of Proof in the Twittersphere*"

He works in the Federal Court and the Family Court of Australia. While based in L'ton, he travels widely, providing legal services to regional Australia. He is often found working in

Burnie (currently using rooms in the Burnie Arts & Function Centre – but these rooms will no longer be available after March 2023). Marcus also travels outside Tasmania, for instance to Parramatta in NSW and even further afield. In Family Law; '*you work in every area of law; criminal, trusts, family violence...*'

There is a huge backlog of cases needing attention – noticeable being migration related matters – and this situation is being addressed with some success by



removing cases from inside a court to private mediation style conferences outside of court rooms.

Marcus is a Senior Counsel and a Child Representative in the child protection jurisdiction and an Independent Children's Lawyer in the Family Court and Federal Circuit Court of Australia.

Marcus exhibited extreme frustration at the way the recent Lehrman v Higgs trial in the ACT fell apart as a consequence of unprofessional behaviour by the media and by politicians, but even more so by the Twitter influenced behaviour of the general public. The Twitter environment, he said, is one where extreme accusations are aired daily *without* a skerrick of evidence being required to back them up, e.g., 'I don't like her face – that's why she is guilty.'

The ACT Chief Justice Lucy McCallum said: "*The more this case is ventilated in public forums, the more likely it is that the accused will not have a fair trial and the consequence that must follow is a stay, either permanent or temporary, of the prosecution.*" McCallum told the jury; "*if you've read or heard any of the publicity around this case, it's very important that you put it out of your mind.*"

The case did fall apart when one juror brought publicly available information into the juror's room.

The Rule of Law applies *equally* to *all*, Marcus said; "the State needs to prove guilt, not the complainant!" The more serious the allegation, the more specific the evidence needs to be, thus *beyond reasonable doubt*. In Australia how is this determined? The answer: **It is what the Jury decides it is!**

Close: 7:55 pm