



CLUB NUMBER - 18437

# THE BULLETIN

81<sup>ST</sup> YEAR - No 43 – JUNE 19<sup>th</sup> 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: JUNE – ROTARY FELLOWSHIPS

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

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

**Duty Roster: Dilani WIJESOORIYA**

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

Date	Event or Speaker/Topic	Venue
June 26	Belle Binder: Left Field - Cultivating Change in Agriculture	RSL
July 3	??	

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES – JUNE 2023

Birthdays		Wedding Anniversary		Club Anniversary	
7	Philipa KEARNEY	3	David/Robyn McCARTHY	21	Allan JAMIESON
				22	Ken MOORE
				28	Jay KOTAY
				30	Ian GUEST
				30	Douglas FORREST

RAFFLE WINNER	Sharon
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ATTENDANCE	??
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The funeral of our longest serving Rotarian, **Graeme Muir**, was held on Friday, June 16. See P5-6 for some notes of his time in Burnie Rotary.

**PP Paul was Acting-Chairman in Nigel's absence:**

- We have the opportunity once again to have space allocated at the Burnie Show in Romaine on 6-7 October. While it can be worth our participating, the issue for us will be ensuring adequate staffing throughout the two days! Start planning now what you can do to assist on those days – *we need volunteers!*

**Secretary PP George:**

- President Nigel is currently in Royal Hobart Hospital, having just had a large tumour removed from his brain; 'I spoke with him today and – while lucid – it would seem clear that he will need several months to recover.'
- This puts the spotlight on identifying a President – or two – for the 2023-2024 Rotary year.
- Roopa is in UK now until mid-August.
- Bunnings have placed our name on their list of BBQ operators. They suggest that Fridays are frequently available, as it seems most organisations try to avoid Fridays.
- Rtn June Crawford has helped me by securing next week's Guest Speaker – Ms Belle Binder

- PP John Glen has agreed to be Assistant Governor in 2023-2024 for Group 7 (linking those Rotary clubs west of Devonport)
- The contract to supply medical equipment to Plumtree Hospital in Zimbabwe has been awarded. Delivery (2 containers) is planned for the next 2~3 weeks
- Nigel has booked the venue for our Xmas function; Leonardoz Restaurant in Wivenhoe (lunch on Sunday Nov. 26)

### Guest Speakers:

We were privileged to listen to Xander Power (Marist College) and Jacob Rittman (Penguin HS), who were accompanied by Emma Cohen (Burnie HS English & History teacher). The two boys were very capable and did us Rotarians proud.



[L to R: Xander Power, Jacob Rittman, Emma Cohen]

The Frank MacDonald\* Memorial Prize is an annual competition that commemorates and preserves the meaning of the Anzac spirit in the Tasmanian community. Our speakers tonight were two of the six Year 9 students selected from around Tasmania to go on a 10-day Study Tour in April 2023 (incorporating Anzac Day) and:

- visit the Australian War Memorial in Canberra
- attend monthly educational meetings in the lead up to the Study Tour
- undertake research into individual soldiers prior to touring European battle-grounds.

\*Frank MacDonald, was born in Ulverstone in 1896 and died in August 2003 at the age of 107. He was one of the last of the 40th Infantry Battalion, AIF; the sole all-Tasmanian Battalion raised in World War I. Frank received the Military Medal for working courageously under heavy fire. He also served in World War II and in 1998 he received the Legion of Honour (created by Napoleon Bonaparte in 1802 as a way to reward both outstanding military accomplishments and other distinguished service to France.)

Emma explained that the Tas. Dept. of Education initially selected 12 students based on essays received from throughout Tasmania. Each student was then interviewed from which the final group of six was chosen to take part in the Tour. Emma was one of the adults who accompanied the students throughout the tour.

The group's time was split equally (5 days each) in Belgium and France.

### Belgium

Jacob said their time was focused on Ypres and surrounding locations. They saw the Menin Gate with its 54,000 names of missing soldiers who have no other proper grave and they participated in the 8 pm service, held every day since 1928. In Ghent, they climbed the 70m to the Cloth Hall Belfry. They walked in trenches that were *only* 1.2m deep and they visited the huge 100m diameter crater that is all that remains of Hill 60 which had been destroyed by explosives placed underneath by experienced British and Allied mine workers.

They also visited other famous battlegrounds, such as Polygon Wood, Fromelles (where there are remains of 5,500 Australian soldiers) and Tyne Cot cemetery – the largest cemetery for Commonwealth forces in the world, for *any* war.

### France

Xander said the group focused initially on the region near Amiens (Somme). More than three million men fought in the Somme battles, of which one million were either wounded or killed, making it one of the deadliest battles in all of human history.

They visited Ablain St. Nazaire cemetery, the world's largest French military cemetery with 40,000 French soldier's graves. They also saw the Neuville-St Vaast cemetery in Northern France, which is the largest German cemetery in France, containing 45,000 burials. They saw the famous Canadian memorial at Vimy Ridge, which bears the names of all Canadian soldiers who died in France with no known grave.

Pozières was another destination for the group. This part of the Somme battleground is of particular interest to Australia, as it was the scene of bitter and costly fighting by Australian Divisions in mid-1916. The Australians suffered around 12,000 casualties. Pozières was the start location of the 2023 Legacy Torch Relay. The torch arrived back in Australia in May.

Another destination in the Somme was Villers-Bretonneux, where the main memorial to Australian military personnel killed on the Western Front in WW One is located. The Sir John Monash Centre there is a museum and interpretive centre for Australia's most famous General in WW One. While there, the group left their hotel at 2:40 am to be present during the Anzac Day dawn service.

After all that, the group had one day in Paris before returning to Australia. Oh, and they ate snails too!

What an amazing experience!

Meeting closed at 8.05pm

For details of Graeme Muir's Rotary service, see over page.

The Rotary Club of Burnie hereby seeks to mark the very recent passing in June 2023 of Graeme Muir, our longest serving member. Some basic facts:

Date of Birth: 8 July 1930  
 Partner's name Dorothy (deceased)  
 Date of Induction: 20 Oct. 1968 (Graeme had been a member of Apex)  
 Classification: Fabric Retailing  
 Senior Active: 20 Oct. 1983  
 Awarded Paul Harris Fellow in 1992

Offices Held:

70/72 Community  
 74/75 Fellowship (+ 78/79)  
 79 – 81 Attendance  
 81/82 Program  
 84/85 Bulletin  
 88/89 Vocational  
 92/93 Pres. Elect & Membership  
 93/94 President  
 94/95 International Service  
 08 – 23 Attendance

Some of Graeme's Rotary experiences:

In 1971-72, Graeme was Community Service Director under President Ken Webb who was a hard task master. Near the end of Webb's year, President Ken said he wanted to build a rescue ambulance. 'There was a need to be able to mobilise auxiliary lighting, jacks, cutting tools, hoists, to name just a few items' Ken said. Graeme's committee, though, refused to help; they'd had enough of these never-ending jobs from their President! Graeme gave this news to Ken, but at the following week's club meeting – while looking pointedly at Graeme – Ken Webb announced that he had obtained a suitable ambulance and even had found most of the materials to equip it. The project was launched in May 1972; the vehicle was a superseded ambulance (1 ton Dodge 129); an inventory of 201 items was assembled and fitting out was done by Ambulance staff. The cost was \$4,200 (\$42,000 in today's money). The project was completed in September 1972 and an official handing-over took place in October 1972.

In 1992, the Burnie Marine Board and a company, North Limited, agreed to host a yacht race from Melbourne to Burnie. The Royal Melbourne Yacht Club organised the race details, while a consortium of Burnie service clubs (Burnie Rotary Club taking the lead) organised the on-shore activities at the Burnie Port. Graeme Muir, himself on the Burnie Marine Board, was also a member of the service club consortium. Graeme recalled that one man came to him and said; 'I think you have a problem with toilets.' Graeme agreed – there simply were no toilets on the wharf! The man said; 'I will supply all the toilets and I will supply the cleaners to look after them. You forget about it.' Many years later, that man, Murray O'Connor became President of Burnie RC.

Burnie RC held a Fancy Dress Ball for many years and Graeme and his wife were enthusiastic participants.



In fancy dress: Graeme & Dorothy



PDG Harold Ogilvie & Pres. Graeme



Enjoying his long life in Rotary