

Rotary
CLUB OF BURNIE



CLUB NUMBER - 18437

THE BULLETIN

82ND YEAR - No 1 – JULY 3RD 2023



CREATE HOPE
in the WORLD

President – Nigel Morgan

Secretary - George Austin

Treasurer – Paul Kearney

Bulletin Editor – Allan Jamieson

INVOCATION

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

ROTARY MONTH: JULY – CHANGEOVER

Apologies: Before 1:00 pm Monday, call George Austin on 0438 450 801

Duty Roster: Dilani WIJESOORIYA

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

Date	Event or Speaker/Topic	Venue
July 10	Gabriella Conti West x North West	RSL
July 17	??	RSL

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES – JULY 2023

Birthdays		Wedding Anniversary		Club Anniversary	
22	Steph. Prendergast				
23	Barrie CRAWFORD				

RAFFLE WINNER	Wayne Licht
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ATTENDANCE	20 (77%)
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Secretary PP George:

- President Nigel is now out of hospital and resting with his parents. He said; *“Expect me to turn up at a meeting in the next few weeks.”*
- We shall run BBQ’s at Bunnings in August on 11th and 25th.
- The members who were asked (see email of June 28) to input details for our Annual Report should do so **SOON!!**
- Michael Patten, our District Governor for 2023-4, will visit us on 4 September.

Treasurer PP Paul:

- Dates and locations for a Changeover Dinner are being finalised. The date is plausibly July 29, though the timing (lunch or evening meal) is unclear and I still have some possible venues to contact.

Guest Speaker:

PP Allan Jamieson described his experiences while attending the 2023 Rotary World Convention in Melbourne. He said he had no intention of trying to see everything (impossible in any event), but focussed on those events that seemed of relevance to our club.

- There were two venues about 2.5 km apart. The Rod Laver Arena was only used for speeches, though the speaker times were never revealed in advance and there were physical hindrances that limited many members of the audience from seeing the stage.

- Having heard John Hewko at the Sydney Convention in 2014, Allan was keen to hear him speak in Melbourne. Hewko is the General Secretary and CEO of Rotary International and of The Rotary Foundation. Hewko's full speech is available as a video on Facebook and Allan urges everyone to take the time to watch it:

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=197203012811998>

- Allan then walked the 2.4 km from the tennis centre to the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre where he met Mario diGesù, the Truth or Consequences Rotary Club's Project Co-ordinator for that club's *Don't Meth With Us* project. The city of Truth or Consequences (pop'n 6,000, elevation 1,300m) is in New Mexico State USA.
- Mario said his club started to campaign against Methamphetamine in 2007. The club focuses on grade five students (10~11 yr old kids), hoping to catch kids who had not started using drugs. Most 15-year-old kids have already used drugs, he said, and his club's message was not heard by them to the same extent – the US is decades ahead of Tasmania in experiencing the drug scourge!

There are five primary schools in T or C city, hence five grade-5 classes. His club has presented to all classes simultaneously in one auditorium, but Mario is strongly in favour of speaking to only one school's class at a time (say 30 students), since distractions are kept to a minimum and the kids *do* hear the message. Hence, instead of talking to 150 or more kids at one time, the Rotary volunteers must spend longer in total, but the impact is clearly superior.

Every kid gets a wrist band and attached URL links on a 2-sided card. This URL has much more background information and a link to a 37-minute video presentation to a class, which is worth viewing.

<http://www.dontmethwithus.com>



Mario has more useful information to give us *if* we express an interest. After the Convention, he spent time with some Rotarians in Adelaide, who are trying to get ahead of the cannabis/meth/fentanyl problem. One Rotarian (Josephine Baxter) heads up Drug Free Australia and she was very interested in Mario's project.

- Allan then attended a 'Breakout Session' titled The Future is Now: Growing Youth Voices. The panellists comprised five young girls, from Australia, Philippines, USA, India and USA. Two girls were 18 yrs old and still members of Interact. They put it to the audience:

“In Rotary, young people are not asked what they like and want to see happen.”

“Please do not forget the importance of Youth Voice.”

“If you invite young people into a project, do you invite them to add value to the project? Shared Decision Making ought to be The Goal.”



The next day Allan met former Burnie Rotary President George Grant and his wife Mary. They are still quite active in Rotary. George turns 83 in August.

Later, Allan attended the “Breakout Session” titled; Doing Rotary Differently with Innovative Club Models, which in Allan’s view was the **real** highlight of the whole Convention.

- A great many ways of ‘Doing’ Rotary already exist; no need to reinvent the wheel, yet most clubs remain ‘traditional’ *despite* a growing number suffering death throes – or which are already dead to all intents and purposes.



[This session had been allocated a *large* breakout room (about 400 seats), but only around 60 seats were occupied. Allan saw this as a clear sign that more and more traditional clubs will soon die!]

- There were three speakers: **Drew Kessler** (New York State), age 42, sits on the Board of Directors of RI and is the current RI Treasurer: **Andy Rajapakse** (Gold Coast RC) is Assistant Rotary Coordinator Zone 8. He focused on two types of Rotary club; Passport clubs and Corporate clubs, but Allan only dealt with Passport Clubs: **Clark Fletcher** (member of D9790 E-Club), centred in NE Victoria.
- **Drew** noted:
 - *Rotary aims to be open to all demographics, but we can’t be if we continue to run our clubs in the traditional way*
 - *We must realise we are selling a product, but it is obvious that few people are ‘buying’ the traditional product*
 - *Rotary is regional; there is no one way that suits all*
 - *Rotary International in Evanston **permits** change; it is the traditional clubs that **resist** change*
- **Andy** said:

- The typical passport club membership ranges from 17 years of age up to 40 yrs of age
- "Passport" implies an intention to travel; to 'visit' other Rotary clubs (either physically or electronically). In the terminology of a traditional Rotary club, to 'make-up' and to join in helping these clubs do projects. Question: How many members of a traditional club ever 'make-up'!
- A passport club's focus is task orientated; the club 'meets' once a month (cost \$10); instead, the goal of each member is to complete 30 hours of service work per year, thus about two and a half hours each per month
- One project the Gold Coast Passport club engages in is "Say NO to Domestic Violence", but they also support international service projects.

Andy noted how clubs typically treat a visitor to a meeting: (a) Traditional: The Chairman welcomes the visitor by name, and the members might clap, then the meeting agenda takes over for the rest of the meeting time. (b) New-type: The Chairman (or convenor) welcomes the visitor by name and suspends normal business to give the visitor time to explain why he/she wanted to attend the meeting (and for members to ask questions, etc. of the visitor).

- **Clark** joined Wangaratta RC 38 years ago, when that traditional club had around 45 members. He resigned three years ago, when there were only eight members left and he joined the E-Club instead, because **'I wanted to continue in Rotary!'**

Clark said:

- If your club has not utilised the internet (e.g., Zoom) to help run your meetings, your club is history!
- There are 309 E-clubs, 70 Passport clubs and about 2,800 traditional clubs that use the internet to some extent. This leaves over 30,000 traditional clubs that do not use the internet at all.
- Clark revealed responses to a questionnaire he sent to clubs that do use the internet:
 - The big FEATURE of an E-club is FLEXIBILITY; members meet wherever they find themselves in the world, at any time that suits them, with no need to depend on a particular venue to have a meal, no need to pay for a meal
 - The benefits include a higher proportion of females who get involved, and a very wide range of backgrounds and experiences are found in an E-club – there is a much broader perspective available
 - A typical E-club member saves around \$3,000 per year compared to the member of a traditional club, though this saving is often utilised by E-club members to fund service projects instead

- From the audience, it was asked how to start one of these new types of club. From the panel, these suggestions were made:

- Word of mouth is very useful
- Don't promote the theme "Here's how to change". Instead say "Here's how to improve."
- Create and maintain an up-to-date website and social media site
- Seek out 'refugees' from traditional clubs
- Try out some cause-based themes for the club
- Try to find a mechanism for contact and collaboration with other (traditional) Rotary clubs – who otherwise might see your new club as a competitor

- In a new-type club, a member can initiate and work up a service project proposal *without* any input from the Board (which latter would be a *requirement* in a traditional club). Instead in a new type of club, use consensus to discuss change and be sure to try things.

- On the last day, Allan attended a “Breakout Session” on Enlisting the Superpower of Listening

The session had some useful information. In particular, when one person is trying to talk to a group, but nobody is listening, that person simply holds one arm up in the air. The chance is that someone else in the audience sees this and holds an arm up in support. Very quickly, other persons in the room raise their arms too. The talkers cannot avoid *seeing* the raised arms and they shut up!

Close: 8:05 pm