

Rotary
CLUB OF BURNIE



CLUB NUMBER - 18437

THE BULLETIN

82ND YEAR - No 24 – February 19th 2024



CREATE HOPE
in the WORLD

President – Barrie Crawford
Secretary - George Austin
Treasurer – Paul Kearney
Bulletin Editor – Allan Jamieson

ROTARY MONTH: MARCH – WATER AND SANITATION

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
Mar. 4	??	RSL
Mad. 18	??	RSL

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES – MARCH 2024

Birthday		Wedding Anniversary		Club Anniversary	
5	Dilani WIJESOORIYA			16	George AUSTIN 1987
21	Douglas FORREST				
31	Marie CLARK				

Raffle Winner:	David Bennett – <i>SHAME!</i>
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Acting President David Bennett:

- David listed all soon-upcoming BBQ commitments.

Secretary George:

- One more, David: Burnie Primary School now wants us to help them run a BBQ at the school on Wed. Feb. 28, from 3.15 to 5.15 (this timespan *includes* 15 mins. at start to 'set up' and 15 mins. at end to 'tidy up').

Wayne Richards and Leanne Cullen offered to undertake this task.

- Our club seeks to know names of potential candidates (age range 18 to 30) for us to send to the upcoming RYLA week at Camp Clayton. Nominations will close on April 19th, but our club needs to know of suggested candidates well before then. RYLA is a very exciting experience for these people and they will benefit throughout their life.
- I understand that we sponsored a student at Parklands HS to attend the RYPEN camp this year.

Who can now follow-up, as our practice is to interview the student *before and after* he/she attends the camp and invite the student to speak at a club meeting? No response! **Was it YOU, an absentee??**

Attendance: 16 Apologies included Steph. (COVID) and Ian (close proximity to Steph).

Treasurer Paul:

- Finances:

Service acct.	=	\$17,743
General acct.	=	\$5,657
Plumtree acct.	=	\$230

- Letters have been sent out to potential sponsors of our Golf Day and all Rotarians have been given names of these sponsors; please contact your sponsor and encourage them to support us.

Guest Speaker: Rot'n Allan was asked to stand-in as speaker in lieu of Steph... Owing to the inordinate amount of time spent by the Acting President and Secretary at the start of the meeting, Allan came to the podium at 7:35pm, well *after* the allotted time.

Allan said he would take a few minutes to outline the topic he had in mind, then he would invite questions from the floor. "*If none come, we will get home early*" he said.

Allan's lead-in:

- I call myself a Gypsy. I use this dictionary definition: "Gypsy – a nomadic or free-spirited person."
- I lived in thirteen towns in country Victoria before I was 17 years old.
- At 17, I went to university and after graduating, I moved to Canada. In the next 17 years I lived on three continents and worked in twenty-three countries. My Canadian employer sent me to Sweden for two years – I ended by joining the Swedish company. This company arranged for me live in Japan for two years. My job was to transfer Swedish technology to a Japanese engineering company (70% of my time) and to learn how to do business in Japan (30% of my time.).
- I have flown into or out of over 250 different airports situated on all continents except Antarctica.
- I averaged one plane flight every four days for 30 years.

Any questions from the floor?

1. Why all the moves as a child?

Answer

My father joined the Railways as a young man. Initially a "Lad Porter" he had the ambition to rise to the top as a stationmaster. He made it to the very top rank position, Flinders Street in Melbourne. He took every promotion offered him, hence all our moves, averaging once every 18-months.

I pitied my Mum. No two railway houses were the same size – even the windows were of different heights, so Mum had to adjust the hems on all our curtains at every move and our Lino floor coverings came to resemble jigsaw puzzles. Eighteen months later, she had to do all this again.

2. Of all the countries you have seen, which one is your favourite?

Answer

Japan is my favourite.

- 2.1 Because Kuniko is your wife?

No! I had come to love Japan sometime *before* I was introduced to Kuniko by the Engineering Manager of the Japanese company. My immediate impressions of Japan were overwhelmingly positive. a) Cleanliness everywhere; 2) dependable reliability – If you are standing on a railway platform

and it is 2 minutes *after* the advertised departure time for your train, I can tell you that you are standing on the *wrong* platform – your train has already come and gone; c) fantastic food d) fascinating, very old culture.

3. Can you read and write Japanese?

Answer

Written Japanese is a lifetime learning experience. Even a Japanese child is not expected to be able to read a Japanese newspaper before he/she is 14 years old and this is despite the newspaper proprietors all agreeing to utilise only a limited range of Kanji characters (those very stylised pictorial images that comprise written Japanese). Perhaps I can recognise the meaning of, say, 100 Kanji. OK, but you will rarely if ever find more than one of these in a sentence, so I can *never* understand a sentence.

It is possible to learn to speak passible Japanese, though one has to be mindful that there are three levels of language in Japan. If I am speaking to someone superior to me, or inferior to me, or someone on the same level as me, then I must use one of three quite different languages intended for use in such situations.

All this said, however, you can get by in Japan with knowledge of only *three* words.

[At this point, Allan explained how to use these words. The explanation is not included here, as foreigners are not *expected* to know them.]

Close: 7:55 pm