

VALLEY VIBES

Volume 5 Edition 7

BULLETIN

May 2016

NEXT MEETING 25 MAY 2016

Wendy Silcox

Out of the frying pan into the fire



Wendy in her Kalbar store

Recently widowed by the untimely death of her schoolteacher husband Mark, Wendy, also a retired teacher, has recently embarked on the life-changing career of being a convenience store owner in Kalbar. She currently lives in Roadvale and has family connections throughout the Fassifern.

Wendy grew up on the Gold Coast and was a student at Miami High School. She subsequently trained as a teacher at Mt Gravatt Teachers College and taught at six schools around Queensland over a period of 30 years, including Dimbulah in Far North Qld., Chinchilla, Mt Alford and Boonah.

Wendy and Mark had three children Kathryn, Amber and James. James has a Vietnamese wife Phuong who works with Wendy in her business.

While her topic *Out of the Frying Pan into the Fire* demonstrates well the challenging life of a teacher

today, nothing could prepare her for the hurdles encountered in operating a small business. Wendy's wonderful interpersonal skills will never leave her short of friends willing to advise and assist her in time of need. For relaxation Wendy spends time gardening and on mind puzzles.

Clearly, Wendy has a passion for family and people, two essential ingredients to own and manage successfully a family business. This she proposes to grow in serving the Kalbar community, possibly by offering a wider range of prepared take away food from an enlarged kitchen.

We look forward to hearing Wendy's hot topic.

RECENT ROTARY EVENTS

6 - 8 MAY 2016

District Conference



Attendees at the Rotary Conference, Murwillumbah



Enjoying the Friday night pool party with DG Anne Egan
(For Conference Snapshot please see Page 5)

GUEST SPEAKER 20 APRIL 2016 ANZAC Commemoration Captain Nicholas Perriman DSM



Nick, after thanking the club for its invitation turned his thoughts to the commemoration of ANZAC day, saying when he was young his impression of a veteran was an elderly gentlemen with a lot of medals, from a long forgotten war, walking down the street, without any understanding of what that person had been through. We often associate the term veteran with old people, despite the fact that 50,000 very young Australians, with an average age of 23 years, have served in Australia's longest war in Afghanistan, in the last few years. The average age of a veteran today is 31 years. While now 32, Nick explained he hoped to give us an insight into his experiences as a soldier, an officer and as a veteran in the modern era.

14 years ago Nick was a student at Mazenod College, Melbourne. He had no idea what he wanted to do with his life. While many of his friends were destined to attend Monash or Melbourne University, he knew he had to do something different. Having been an Air Force Cadet at school, it seemed a natural step to apply to the Australian Defence Force Academy (ADFA) where he was accepted. He commenced in 2002, studying a Bachelor of Arts while simultaneously learning how to be an officer in the Australian Defence Force.

In 2005 Nick progressed to the Royal Military College, Duntroon, (RMC) to be trained as an Army Officer. He described RMC is a tough institution, causing one to ask the question whether the pain was worth it. He spoke of a sleep and food deprivation exercise, having only 1 muesli bar and 2 hours sleep in four days. Its purpose was to discover one's own endurance limits, so, as an officer you know how far to push others.

Nick described RMC as a very special institution and one from which in 2006 he was proud to graduate as a Lieutenant. He was immediately posted to the 5th Battalion, Royal Australian Infantry in Darwin. At that time Australia's involvement in the Iraq war was escalating and just 4 months after graduation, as a 23 year old Lieutenant, he was deployed to Iraq as Platoon Commander leading 40 soldiers in the bloodiest combat in which Australians had been involved in 40 years.



(L-R) Duntroon graduates, Lieutenants Josh Neldner, Cameron Porter, Nick Perriman and Nick Trotter

Nick described his awareness of the situation as 40 soldiers with wives and families at home, who were all relying on him. He said "To say it was daunting would be an understatement. Iraq was everything I thought it would be plus a lot more".

Nick found leading soldiers into a war zone in Iraq as rewarding but frustrating at the same time, as the enemy constantly eluded them. His involvement taught him that war is not like *Blackhawk Down*, for 80 percent of the time it is boring, sitting around waiting for something to happen, and 20 percent of pure adrenaline. His Iraq experience taught him lessons that later on in Afghanistan would save his life and the lives of his soldiers. He described lessons of a 24 hour bloody engagement with the enemy on no less than 5 occasions, when soldiers were seriously injured which taught him resilience, discipline and restraint.

On returning from Iraq Nick undertook jungle warfare training here and Malaysia in complete contrast to his desert warfare experience. He spoke of his feelings as an officer to see how much his soldiers got from the experience. In late 2008 and 2009 Nick served as a peacekeeping platoon commander in East Timor. Again a rewarding experience for him, concentrating on community building. As a young man he never thought he would be advising community leaders on how to best provide support for developing communities as opposed to leading soldiers into battle.

In 2010 after hard training back in Australia, Nick and his soldiers were deployed to Afghanistan. Promoted to the rank of Captain, Nick and his 40 Australian soldiers were charged with mentoring approximately 120 Afghani soldiers. They were posted to a combat outpost located deep in the Uruzgan Province, to live, eat and fight with Afghani soldiers they were mentoring.



Because of IEDs the hostile area could not be traversed safely by road, relying on helicopters. "When the weather turned bad, we were very much on their own" he said. His extensive duties as the coalition forces main point of contact for the local civilians included resolving grievances from arrests, requesting medical support and requests for wells.



2013 Australian forces withdraw from Uruzgan province

Contact with the outside world was limited, with only a few minutes per week to call home via a single satellite phone. Letting his soldiers use it first often left no time for himself.

Making the outpost their home it was theirs to defend, coming under attack on many occasions. Casualties were high with two killed in action, Lance Corporal Jones and an Afghani interpreter and six wounded, four being Australians. Nick described these experience as being a heavy burden to bear, taking some time to recognise their significance due to the high adrenaline rush at the time.

LEST WE FORGET

<p>Lance Corporal Andrew Jones</p>	<p>9th Force Support Battalion</p>	<p>Killed during an incident at a Combat Outpost in the Chora Valley on 30 May 2011.</p>
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After a casualty Nick would bring his soldiers together to talk about it. He stated that he was blessed in having a very strong and supportive platoon sergeant whom he still considers one of his best friends. Nick said "Most importantly, each time something happened to a member of the team they would come together, draw strength from each other and move forward together".

We too were blessed to hear Captain Perriman's story of a life at war and to witness his devotion to his fellow soldiers. We should be proud of such people, who put themselves into harm's way for us. Being honoured with a Distinguished Service Medal (DSM) is recognition by Australia of his outstanding leadership and bravery.

In conclusion Nick showed a video produced by Channel 10 journalist Hugh Riminton. While embedded with them in late 2010 he recorded an incident when they came under fire.





GUEST SPEAKER 11 MAY 2016 Richard Christensen A Florist's World

President Lindy introduced Richard as an Ipswich florist.

Richard stated that he had been lucky to attend a small school where the principal encouraged children to follow their passion. This led him to gain entry into a TAFE course starting his career as a florist.

He set an early goal, when he was quite young, to work for Ipswich Florist. He got work experience with them for two years while in high school. However, on graduating he unfortunately was unable to get a job with them, but commenced work at Brisbane Markets. This followed by working with his parents and then working with an internet warehouse company. Lacking customer contact this was not sufficiently satisfying and he eventually got that job with Ipswich Florist where he has now been for six years.

Richard said that over the 13 years while studying the florist industry he has seen major structural changes. These include customers buying from a shop to them now buying through the internet. He shared an Interflora catalogue showing the types of floral displays commonly purchased on-line by local and overseas customers – it is now *A Florist's World*.

Above are examples of Richard's floral craft and awards.

Youth Matters

by Arthur Devin OAM
Youth Director

RYPEN

A benefit from attending District Conference is to hear what other Clubs are doing. This is particularly so with respect to youth programs. It was gratifying to hear the Conference MC Andrew Bradley speak of his positive youth program experience and the confidence gained allowing him to be our MC.

We heard the passion of Ken Barker, District Chairman of RYTS, and the strong bond he has established with numerous students, some of whom commenced with negative responses to their attendance. Many of these have developed into lasting friendships.

Ken praised the clubs which supported RYTS and in particular this young club of Fassifern Valley for sending half a dozen or so students to each Camp over recent years.

The weekend of 20-22 May will see our club sending four (4) young students to the annual RYPEN experience at Camp Bornhoffen. We look forward to hearing from them on their return, when they visit our Club.



Our guest speaker for our ANZAC Dinner Meeting was so inspirational to us all. Nick Perriman made our night extremely special and gave us an insight into the life of our revered Military personnel.

My apologies for cancelling the last Business Meeting but I knew time would be against me as I farewelled my dearest Aunty Joc, my much loved Aunt and Godmother whom I adored.

Richard Christensen gave us a wonderful insight into the life of a florist. I did not realise that competitions are held for florists and more importantly, did not know Richard has won Qld awards and competed successfully in National events as well! Congratulations Richard!

How wonderful we have Friends of Rotary as Myra Toombs gave up her Friday night to help with Regatta catering preparations. It was a successful day with fundraising and Bev, Cara, Aleeta, Jon and I also enjoyed the warm fellowship of our Club on that day.

Conference was well attended by our Club and Andrew outlined the highlight for him at last week's Dinner Meeting where by Rotary has been giving a hand up to deserving communities overseas, helping small businesses to develop and thrive. What a wonderful way to help make communities in need, become self sufficient.

Preparations are well underway for our Change Over Dinner To be held on June 18.

Till next time....Be safe, be kind to yourself and others. If you have a kind thought....share it.

Lindy Kirchner – President

Club President: Lindy Kirchner
District 9640 Governor: Anne Egan PHF
Rotary International President: Ravi Ravindran



Upcoming Events

May 20-22 RYPEN, Camp Bornhoffen
June 18 Changeover Dinner, Harrisville

Conference Snapshot

Keynote Speakers at Conference were outstanding with Lieutenant General David Morrison AO, 2016 Australian of the Year reflecting on the wisdom he has gained from a lifetime in the Australian Army to the 2016 Young Australians of the Year, Nicolas Marchesi and Lucas Patchett with their Orange Sky Laundry, who have just commenced their careers. The contrast could not have been more stark extending from the promotion and preservation of our traditional human values to social entrepreneurship, salvaging the less fortunate and through improved self-esteem open the window of opportunity to a better life.

Who could not have been inspired by wheelchair bound Megan Smith speaking about her work in Afghanistan and Pakistan conducting workshops, training healthcare providers and humanitarian aid.

Again we were in awe of the world leading work of Peter Silburn AM with neurodegenerative diseases. His before and after therapy photographs of patients were amazing.

Vietnamese refugee Anna Duong and teacher of English for 22 years demonstrated her mastery of the language while making us natives feel a sense of inadequacy. Holding a Bachelor in Primary Education and a Master in Inclusive Education (Special Education), that was not a surprise.

Then there was the young Australian couple Leanne Papas and Glen Mackley, founders of Kailash Humla School in Nepal, who spoke of their most amazing work in what must be the most remote place on earth. They truly uphold the Rotary motto, **Service Above Self**. Inspirational!

One can't overlook the chance meeting of former CEO of Tweed Shire Council, when, at a water conference in Japan, commenced an ongoing relationship between that Council and an impoverished state in Kenya for drinking water.

Next year's Conference – Ballina – 5-8 May 2017

Key note speakers: Ita Buttrose, Noel Pearson, Kerry O'Brien, Max Walker **Make diary note NOW!**

Secretary: Jon Gormley
Editor: Graham Porter OAM PHF

It's a Laugh!

Unless You've Been a Soldier

by Clive Sanders

Unless you've been a soldier,
You just won't understand.
The things that we have seen and done,
In the service of our land.
We have trained to live in combat,
To cope with awful sights,
That shouldn't be seen by anyone
And keep you awake at nights.

We don't discuss the wounds we have,
To the body or the mind.
We just put our hurts behind us,
And turn our memories to blind.
We are proud we served our country,
And remember those we lost.
For the freedom that you have today,
They paid the awful cost.



Yoga



I'm off to Specsavers for my appointment. By the way you haven't shaved very well and your tie is crooked!

Meeting Program and Duty Roster: May-June

DUTY ROSTER	Wed 18 May '16 No Meeting	Wed 25 May '16 Dinner Meeting	Wed 1 June '16 Business Meeting	Wed 8 June '16 Dinner Meeting
Duty Officer		Bev Ward		Bev Ward
100 Club , Stamps and/or Raffle				
Chairman/ Rotary Reflections		To be advised		
Sergeant at Arms				
Sergeant's Assistant				
Meeting Venue & Time		Royal Hotel, Harrisville 6.30 for 7.00 pm	Harrisville State School - Library 6.45 for 7.00 pm	Royal Hotel Harrisville 6.30 for 7.00 pm
Program and/or Guest Speaker	NO MEETING	Wendy Silcox Shopkeeper Topic: "Out of the frying pan into the fire"	Finalisation of Reports for Changeover	RYPEN Students

MEMBERS NOTICE:

1. To ensure a punctual 7.00 pm start, members are requested to arrive no later than 6.45pm.
2. When you have duties on the Roster and are not available, could you please arrange for someone else to fill in, and advise President Lindy of the change (Mob 0497 004 589).