

# VALLEY VIBES

Volume 8 Edition 7

Editor: Cara Champion

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## 4 Aussie Heroes – Progress Update



A rural Retreat specializing in live-in rehabilitation programs for military and first responder personnel, past and present, who are suffering and struggling as a result of their service to our Nation and our Communities.

In February 2018 we had the honor of meeting Mr Gerry Gerrard, Chairman & Managing Director, 4 Aussie Heroes Foundation Limited. Gerry did National Service in the Army as a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant in the Vietnam war from 1968-9. He has been involved in Corporate Management for most of his working life and alongside his wife Renita, who is a dual Olympic medalist in Hockey and now a Taxation Consultant, decided that they would like to do voluntary work in the demographic of mental health, particularly with PTSD sufferers who were suffering and struggling as a result of serving their nation.

Since starting their journey three years ago in 2016 they have established a non-for-profit unlisted public company, they have a Board of Directors and have worked towards researching and relationship building to put together a strategic plan. In 2017 saw the formation of a Guest Health and Welfare Committee who developed a 12 day live-in rehabilitation program named "Triumph over Trauma". After much fundraising they and searching they have found some rural land to establish "Camp Courage".

Gerry is our guest speaker this week, and he will give us an update on how the foundation is going, where they are at and how we can help this very worthwhile and extremely important foundation.

# Ian Parker

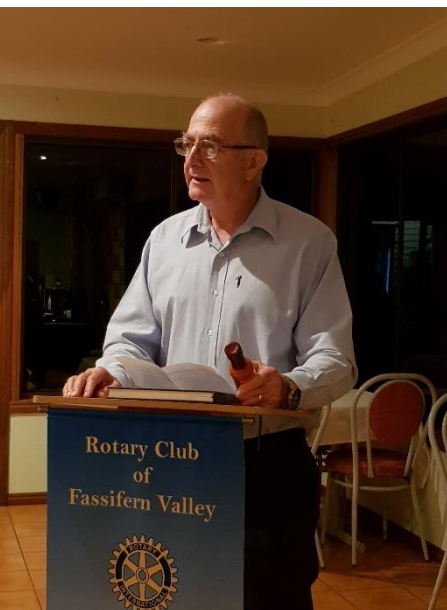


RCFV member Ross McInnes introduced Ian as the only person he could beat at squash! Ian was born in West Africa and at 15 he joined the Navy and served for 22 years in catering. In 1999 Ian came to Ipswich and his first job was selling snow cones at the Redbank markets, Ian thought that these probably wouldn't sell too well once winter came so he then started selling hot dogs. He was using some chilli sauce he purchased from the supermarkets, but wasn't happy with this so and started making his own Chilli sauces. Ian works and runs his business from home, making his sauces in 400 litre batches, gravity feeding and fill about 400 bottles per hour. The whole process from start to finish takes about 2 ½ days. After using the sauces himself, Ian then sold them to numerous outlets such as butcher shops until they started closing down and becoming scarce. Ian still sells to a select few outlets with his sauces, some butchers, select IGA's, tourist destination and on online at [www.chilliwillies.com.au](http://www.chilliwillies.com.au), but only sells about half the



amount of sauces that he was selling about 10 years ago. He found that the cost of freight getting bulk amounts of sauces to distributors was making it very tough and not profitable. Along the way Ian has tried growing his own chilli's, but he couldn't get them hot enough, so he sourced a supplier that now supplies the appropriate chilli's needed. He was buying up to 800kg of chilli's per year.

Ian makes 18 varieties of chilli sauce as well as making his own labels. He is passionate about the product he is producing and is experimenting with new and different flavours. The Carolina Reaper Chilli is very popular and has a unique flavor. Over the years he has attended a few chilli festivals and has noticed that the amount of stall



holders selling similar products has decreased over the years.

Ian volunteers with Meals on Wheels and has done so for 15 years and will keep producing his sauces from home. His handmade product will always be in demand as commercial grade sauces have a different taste.



*Ian Parker & Ross McInnes*



## SPR Johnny-Moore

Mohammed Jonathon Johnny-Moore (Johnny), opened the night by saying how privileged he felt to be speaking to us on the eve of ANZAC Day. Johnny, the eldest in his family, was born in 1984 in Sierra Leone, Africa and is a Pentecostal Christian. In Africa children are named after friends of family who are special to them, Mohammed was named after a friend of his fathers'. Johnny lived in Africa for 16 years with his family where they have districts, tribes and dialects which is very unlike Australia. His mother bought her children to Australia on the 29<sup>th</sup> May 2002, where they arrived in Hobart and lived for 7 years. Johnny then moved to Sydney in 2009 and Brisbane in 2010.

When Johnny was growing up, Sierra Leone, was in frequent upheaval which often saw the ruling government overthrown by powerful minorities. As a result of one such coup, his father was made the Sports Minister, randomly selected by the government and refusal meant he would be shot dead on the spot. This is the way it is in that country, and following another coup, Johnny's father was one of 24 people in the government who were tried and murdered by the incoming government. After this his mother fled and hid with the children, knowing that if they were caught they would also have been killed. They sought safety through the United Nations and waited 4 years to get approval to leave Sierra Leone. They originally wanted to go to the United States, but instead they were going to a country they knew nothing about. Johnny's mother was very upset about this until the UN delegate convinced her that because of her many children, the family would benefit more by going to Australia. Johnny will never forget the day they all arrived in Australia, it was like coming from 'hell to heaven'. Landing in Hobart was such a shock as it was so cold and his mother demanded they take her back to where she had come from because it was too cold. Rotarians and other volunteers showed them around and taught them all about life and living in Australia.

Johnny spent 2 years studying Politics at University. In 2003 he got his first job on an apple farm, but it was only seasonal. He then went to college and applied for another job. At one of many interviews, Johnny was all dressed up and got through the interview only to have the employer say "I don't employ black people". He then worked in many jobs, and decided that he didn't want to continue in Politics so he joined the Army Reserve. After a long period of 'not living a very good and productive life' he decided he needed to provide for a family and give back to Australia, so he joined the Army full time. He has had many ups and downs along the way but he has managed to find some good mentors which have kept him going on the right path, leading him to where he is today as a Surveyor in the Army. Johnny is married to his wife Adama and has 4 children, 1 girl and 3 boys. He is planning on building a new house soon and has been studying while working full time, planning for the next phase of his working life after he leaves the Army.



*SPR Johnny-Moore & one of his mentors, Scott Champion*

# Presidents Report



G'day all,

Our Rotary year is very quickly nearing the final stages but there is still plenty of activities for club members before that happens.

Our dinner speaker this week, Gerry Gerard, will give an update on his passionate project of supporting Defence personnel and first responders who have given so much to the community.

The weekend of the 18/19<sup>th</sup> will be extremely busy with a couple of our members involved in the Rotary Youth Program of Enrichment (RYPEN) while many others will be travelling to Warwick for our District Assembly.

District Assembly is a wonderful opportunity for our members to meet members from other clubs to create friendships into the future.

The day also gives new Rotarians a great opportunity to get a better understanding of the structure of Rotary and also the responsibilities of different directorships within clubs.

The various ANZAC Day services were well supported by our members and provided the opportunity to present our book bundles for the 7 Primary schools in our catchment area.

We always try to have a speaker from one of the Defence forces in that week and I would like to take the opportunity to acknowledge our guest speaker, Mohammed Johnathon Johnny Moore who gave a very chilling description of the sad realities of life in his African homeland and his journey to finally end up as a very proud member of the Australian Defence Force.

As a final word, the outcome of the Federal election will be decided in 2 weeks' time and I hope we (the taxpayers) have enough money to pay for the generous promises of the winners.

Yours in Rotary,

Andrew



## From the Secretary's Desk

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As the year progresses, the events that our members are attending are showing no signs of slowing. Over the past month, members have had the pleasure of attending ANZAC Day tributes in both Kalbar and Harrisville. A big thank you to Beve, Ross, Graham and Marjorie for presenting books to our local schools, while I enjoyed assisting the local QCWA ladies in Harrisville, preparing sandwiches for the lunch that follows our regular local service. I'd also like to take this opportunity to thank Kerri, from Chapters Book Shop, Café and Wine Bar (Formerly Books and Gifts Direct) for supplying books for our donation. If you are out that way, pop in and have a look at her amazing new shop!!

This month, we began working on a strategic plan for our club. While this is a long process, it is very necessary to provide direction and focus for all club members. This is a flexible document that will be completed over the coming months and amended according to changes within the community and membership of the club.

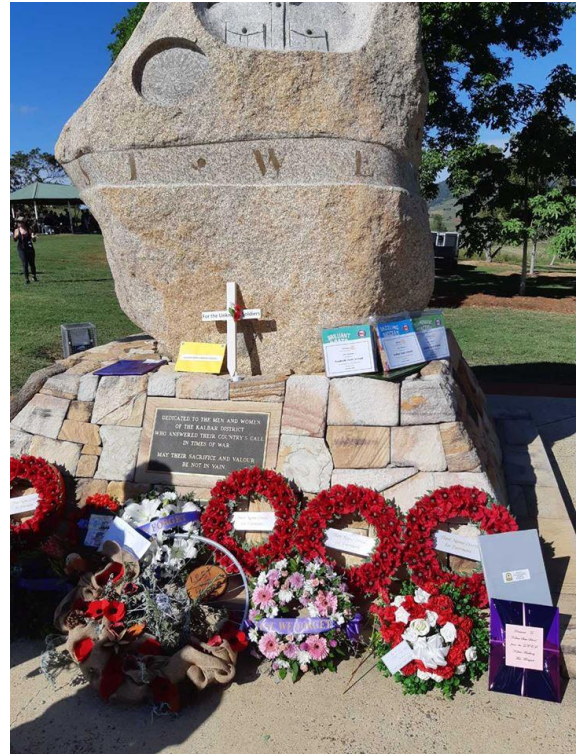
In a few weeks, Cara and I look forward to assisting the Purple Shirts at the RYPEN Camp for 14-16-year-old students, while other members attend District Assembly in Warwick.

On 25 May, we look forward to taking our catering van to the Peak Crossing Pig Races. If you get the opportunity, pop over to have a look. I am sure it will be an amazing day for our families.

On 26 May, Cara and I will attend the District 9640 PR Workshop. Having attended this event two years ago, I am sure that I will learn many tips and tricks for promoting our Rotary Club.

We are in the final stages of planning our Rotary Club Changeover dinner, with invitations to members and guests being sent out in the coming weeks.

*Aleeta Wozencroft*  
Secretary 2018/19



# Youth Matters

As a club we love giving to the youth in our community and it was again a privilege to present book packs to the school students in our area. I am looking forward to the opportunity this year to participate and assist at RYPEN. Our club has one awardee attending and I'm sure she will benefit in many ways having the opportunity to attend this youth leadership camp. I look forward to reporting back in the net edition.

Cara Champion  
Youth Director 2018/19

## Something to think about!



*Please contact one of our members if you have a friend or family member who might be interested in attending this Science camp.*

Don't forget to check us out on:

<https://www.fassifernvalleyrotary.org.au/>



## Upcoming Events

May	June	July	August
<b>14<sup>th</sup>:</b> Combined Services Dinner, Harrisville, hosted by Harrisville Lions Club. <b>19<sup>th</sup>:</b> District Assembly, Warwick <b>25<sup>th</sup>:</b> Peak Crossing Pig Races <b>26<sup>th</sup>:</b> PR Workshop, Gold Coast	<b>8<sup>th</sup>:</b> Inner Wheel Changeover <b>22<sup>nd</sup>:</b> RCFV Changeover Dinner <b>27<sup>th</sup>:</b> Boonah Rotary Changeover <b>29<sup>th</sup>:</b> Jimboombah Rotary Changeover	<b>1<sup>st</sup>:</b> Beaudesert Rotary Changeover <b>6<sup>th</sup>:</b> Jimboomba Sunrise Rotary Changeover <b>6<sup>th</sup>:</b> Winter Harvest Festival, Aratula	<b>25<sup>th</sup>:</b> Peak Crossing Car Display Day



Birthdays	MAY	Wedding Anniversary
<b>6<sup>th</sup></b> Bev Ward <b>13<sup>th</sup></b> John Brent	MAY	<b>1<sup>st</sup></b> Andrew Ann Kay <b>30<sup>th</sup></b> Neil & Jenny Summerson

# Meeting Program and Duty Roster: May

DUTY ROSTER	Wed 8 May '19 <b>Dinner Meeting</b>	Wed 15 May '19 <b>Planning Meeting</b>	Wed 22 May '19 <b>Social Meeting</b>	Wed 29 May '19 <b>Dinner Meeting</b>
Duty Officer	Jill Surawski	N/A	TBC	TBC
Chairman/ Rotary Reflections	Cara Champion	Andrew Kay		
Meeting Venue & Time	<b>Peak Crossing Pub - 6.30 for 7pm start</b>	<b>Harrisville State School, 6.50 for 7pm start</b>		
Program and/or Guest Speaker	<b>Gerry Gerard</b>			

**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 Secretary Aleeta of the change (Mob 0433 822 036)
3. Members please note: RSVP is important, if you don't RSVP there will be no meal for you - meals are only ordered if you advise you are attending.