

VALLEY VIBES

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BULLETIN

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CHRISTMAS GREETINGS TO ROTARIANS AND FRIENDS



Above is Neil and Jenny Summerson's home, Yeronga, Brisbane, created by Jenny. Congratulations!

This Christmas coincides with the 10th anniversary of the Rotary Club of Fassifern Valley. Quite a milestone for our Club. We share the passion of DG Andy and the formation of new Rotary clubs.

DG Andy's 2020 Christmas Newsletter (extract)

You know I am passionate about membership because it is like the blood in our body. If we do not have members in a Rotary club there is no club. There will be no doing good in the world. There will be no projects. There will be no fun Rotary experiences for you and me. So, we must grow our membership to survive as an organisation or we will be like 'Kodak', lost in history. To grow Rotary, we must be enthusiastic and focused. It is my enthusiasm that attracts strangers to Rotary. I love asking strangers if they would like to start a new Rotary Club in their town. That is how I started the new style Rotary Clubs as in Varsity Lakes Rotary in 2018, Gold Coast Passport Rotary in 2019, Gold Coast Corporate Rotary in May 2020 and Evans Head Rotary in November 2020.

Here is the deal. Instead of one member joining Rotary, we get 20 joining Rotary when we start a new club. You know it's cheaper and less stressful to build a new house than renovate an old one. To start a new Rotary Club, we only need 20 founder members. Tell me which town in Australia does not have 20 good people with a purpose? Believe me there are plenty of community champions in your neighbourhood who will be happy to help start a new Rotary Club. If you know of one, please introduce me and I will help you start a new Rotary Club and you can be my Governor's Special Representative. Likewise, there are plenty of good people waiting to be asked to join Rotary!

So, this Christmas may I invite you to share the joy of Rotary with your wife, husband, children, neighbour and best friend by inviting them to join our Rotary club. Thank you for your enthusiasm to be a Rotarian. May I wish you a joyful Christmas and a Happy New Year!

DG Andy Rajapakse

Remembrance Day - 11 November 2020

ERIS RASHFORD



Eris with her book *WWI Soldiers of the Normanby Shire*

Eris was a worthy guest speaker on Remembrance Day as demonstrated by her historical knowledge and extensive research. Besides being a member of the Harrisville Historical Society she has documented the lives and history of local soldiers who fought for their country in her book *WWI Soldiers of the Normanby Shire*.

Eris began outlining how Australians are very proud of their military sons and daughters saying we would be hard pressed not to find a town which does not have a memorial to them such as a statue in the middle of town; a park; an avenue of trees or the like. She cited the Roll of Honour in the Harrisville School of Arts showing 126 names of soldiers who served their country in WW1.

She explained her curiosity began when examining the names whenever in the hall wondering who the people were and thinking that someone should write a book about them. So in 2014, she decided that as it was the Centenary of ANZAC, and as no one else had done so, felt it was something she should do. She specifically thanked Ann and Andrew Kay for their assistance with printing the book. It includes the names of Peak Crossing serviceman and results in a total to 160 personal war history tributes of local service men and women.

Of the 160 names there are 21 sets of brothers, 4 sets of fathers and sons and numerous uncles, nephews, cousins, brothers-in-law, friends and neighbours. There are orphans, doctors, surveyors, general labourers, farmers, chemist, and two bank managers representing the whole gamut of society. They included several too young to enlist who changed their age in order to do so. Ten received military medals - one Military Cross, one Distinguished Conduct Medal, one Distinguished Service Order, and one Order of the British Empire. Eris said that whether they received an award or not they were all equally brave. She cited personal and family circumstances applicable to many whether from large or small families, but all with parental consent to their enlistment. Some parents requested underage sons not be deployed until age 19 years, which was honoured. One recruit on claiming he was 21years, when only 17, after serving for 35 days before the Army realized, was fined £1 for his trouble.

Many who offered war service were rejected on health grounds such as bad teeth, bad eyesight, varicose veins, with one described as having a sub-standard chest, the meaning of which was uncertain as it was a male so Eris assured us. Financial hardship was considered by Government as a valid cause for a sole farm worker to enlist. Also, should a soldier's wife be left widowed, she was offered special training in skills such as millinery, in order to support her family.

Some 5000 Australian skilled men in essential industry were sent to England as munition workers, working for such firms as Vickers, making weaponry. Eris demonstrated her thorough research in family outcomes whether by marriage before deployment or marriage whilst overseas (5 local soldiers) and the subsequent post war conclusion. She referred to "*Bride of an ANZAC*" by Queenie Sutherland, an English lady who married a soldier from New South Wales and life complications for many which ensued on arrival by ship in Sydney. Several claimed being duped by their husbands and demanded return passage to England. To avoid a recurrence of this during World War 2, the Government demanded a bond of £70

Lindy thanked Eris for her wonderful presentation.

Jenny reflects on Remembrance Day

*In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row*



Jenny Summerson – *Poppies from Flanders Fields*

Jenny reflects on a trip she and Neil made in 2016 to Ypres, Belgium. With the aid of a British guide she saw and learnt of the events in that area in the 1914 – 1918 War. She had two Great Uncles, brothers from Pine Creek outside Bundaberg, who had served in that area. One returned with three episodes of injuries and the other was killed on 27th September 1917 and buried in the Polygon Woods. As he had no grave his name is on the Menin Gate in Ypres. They also visited Flanders Fields, Passchendaele, Hill 60, Hell Fife Pass and more.

From a poem written in the trenches to the pins worn to honour the fallen, the poppy has spread across the world as an indelible symbol of the human cost of war.

On the battle fields of the Western Front, to soil churned up by shelling and trenches, poppies were among the first flowers to bloom. For many, their scarlet petals echoed the bloodshed of the Great War and they became a powerful symbol of the loss of life the conflict represented.

It was a Canadian doctor, Major John McCrea, who penned the poem that first associated poppies with remembrance. Devastated by the death of a young soldier, Major McCrae wrote the poem during the 2nd battle of Ypres in 1915 and was eventually published in *Punch*. His words are still read each year on 11th November.

Poppies as Symbol of Remembrance

*In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.*

*We are the Dead, Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie,
In Flanders fields.*

*Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.*

When she came across the poem three years later, American Moina Michael was so moved that she vowed to always wear a poppy in remembrance of those who had lost their lives, and began campaigning for the flower to be adopted as the national symbol of remembrance. She spoke about it at a meeting of YMCA secretaries attended by Anna Guerin, who began making silk poppies in France to raise money for war orphans.

In 1921, the Returned Soldiers and Sailors Imperial League – the forerunner to today's RSL – sold its first poppies for Armistice Day, importing silk flowers from France and selling them for a shilling.

Almost a century later, the poppy has become the enduring symbol of the human cost of war, and worn on lapels across the nation each November 11.



Above – Depiction of Flanders Fields



Hello everyone

Welcome to the end of the year of all years 2020. May we continue on the path of good health for our Nation.

Our Dinner Meeting at Lizzie's Kitchen with our guest speaker for Remembrance Day, Eris Rashford, was an outstanding success! Our Rotarian member Jenny, read two beautiful poems, *In Flanders Fields* and *The Inquisitive Mind of a Child* which stirred our souls and reminded us of the hard times folk endured and suffered during conflict. Thank you so much Jenny as it was an emotional role and one you carried with poise and experience from seeing war graves during your time overseas. Eris showed her prowess as a researcher of local past war heroes and delivered such a wonderful, informative and succinct view into the lives of our past local people whose surnames were familiar to many of us. Thank you Eris, as we all came away from that meeting, so much more aware and informed of the sacrifices made by many people on our behalf. Eris and Mick were also the lucky recipients of our raffle of local honey and all monies raised went to Polio Plus. Lizzie's kitchen staff made us a wonderful roast meal – thank you.

We all attended Neil and Jenny's country property for our annual Christmas party and a great time was had by all. Thank you to all members who provided such beautiful food. The traditional gift giving and stealing was an absolute hoot and made such a fun time for us all. Ross McInnes' Trivia Time was also so much fun with all groups having to participate in a tie breaker to determine the winner!! Thank you to Neil and Jenny, whose Christmas decorations displayed, set the scene for a festive night.

Our Executive will meet next week to determine our way forward when planning the Australia Day Community celebrations for which we have received a Rotary Grant. This is a wonderful way to be present in our Community and show the people in our area, the great work of Rotary.

Till 2021, have a safe and very happy Christmas and hopefully a well deserved break and relaxation. Thank you for all your kindness and support of me through this Rotary year so far.

X Lindy – President



The Inquisitive Mind of a Child

*Why are they selling poppies, Mummy?
 Selling poppies in town today.
 The poppies, child, are flowers of love
 For the men who marched away.*

*But why have they chosen a poppy, Mummy?
 Why not a beautiful rose?
 Because, my child, men fought and died
 In the fields where poppies grow.*

*But why are your poppies so red, Mummy?
 Why are the poppies so red?
 Red is the colour of blood, my child,
 The blood that our soldiers shed.*

*The heart of the poppy is black, Mummy
 Why does it have to be black?
 Black my child, is the symbol oif grief
 For the men who never came back.*

*But why Mummy are you crying so?
 Your tears are giving you pain.
 My tears are my fears for you child
 For the world is forgetting again*

From the
 **Secretary's Desk**

Our President Lindy Kirchner and Steph Van der Westen attended the Warrill View Primary School on the 1st December and presented a bursary of \$100.00 to the student who was classed as the best all rounder. While at the school a parent of a previous recipient approached Lindy and told her how grateful they were for the bursary and they had used the funds towards the purchase of a lap top. Fassifern Rotary have been giving out bursaries to our local schools who answer our requests every end of school year for a number of years now and our members love participating in these well-deserved events.

Fassifern Rotary is still obtaining a high interest in our advertising booklet with quite a few requests and funds coming in.

On 9 Dec our Australia Day grant committee met to consider a spending strategy. Ideas included thong throwing competition, BBQ, lamingtons, best dressed Aussie male and female competitors. Invitations will be forwarded over the next couple of weeks to first responders in our area as part of our thank you for their hard work.

Jill Surawski - Secretary



Harrisville State School Rotary bursary winner Evelyn-Grace McLeary receives her award from Principal Mrs Michelle White on behalf of RCFV.



This week, December 22 marks 10 years since the Rotary Club of Fassifern Valley was chartered.

Due to the efforts of Charter member Natalee Klan and Charter President Graham Porter, the preliminary work was undertaken with the support of then District Governor John Randel. It was with great excitement when notification was received from Evanston, USA, of our Club's Charter.

Also instrumental in the early days of our Club were PDG Arthur Devin and his wife Thyrlene. Prior to the last couple of years, when ill health intervened, their dedication to the Club has been exemplary. Arthur provided sage advice to members new to Rotary and could always be relied on to give HISTORY AND PERSPECTIVE to new ideas. Thyrlene, though in her early 80s, bravely took on the role as our third President, and contributed much to the growth and development of the Club.

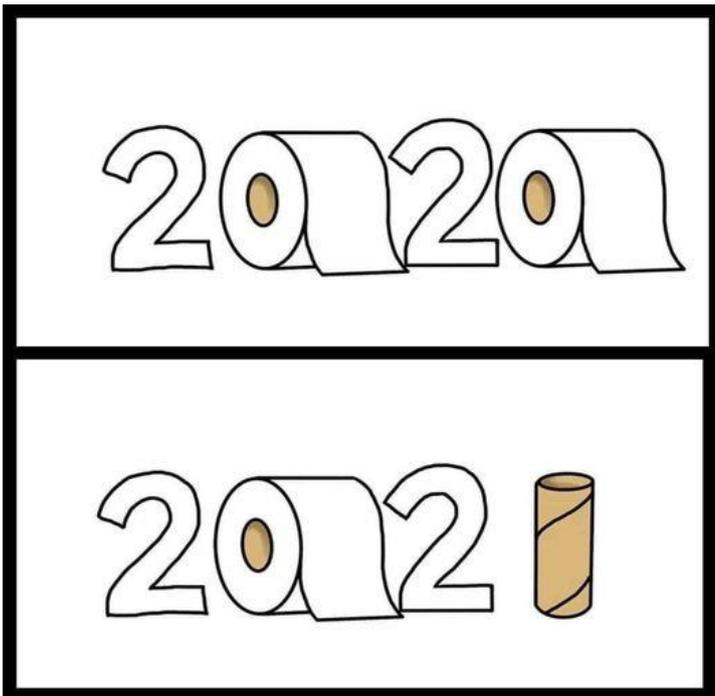
We are fortunate to still have five of the Charter Members – Andrew Kay, Lindy Kirchner, Ross McInnes, Graham and Marjorie Porter – each of whom has served at least one term as President.

Rotary International was formed in the USA in 1905, and this year marks 100 years since the first Rotary Club in Australia was chartered. Although Rotary was originally formed for fellowship, it was not long before members were using their skills and resources to serve the community. Over the last 115 years, the HOW may have changed, but the WHY has not, and the members of the Rotary Club of Fassifern Valley continue in the footsteps of members past to do good in the community.

Marjorie Porter - Charter Member.



It's a Laugh!



Birthdays		December	Anniversaries	
14 Dec	Scott Champion		12 Dec 1959	Arthur & Thylrene D