

Meetings: Tuesday 12 Noon

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DECEMBER IS DISEASE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT MONTH

Happy Birthday	Happy Anniversary
	Dec 10: Peter & Ineke Boekhorst
	Dec 14: Shashanka & Laxmi Vangari

Upcoming Speakers:

Dec 10: Susan Pynn My African Adventure	Dec 17: No Speaker Joint Zoom meeting with Italian Rotary Club	Jan 07:
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LAST WEEK'S MEETING

Laurie Anderson presided.

Cheque Presentation

Michelle Jones-Ruppel and Sonja Jones, on behalf of **The Ron and Alma Jones Family Foundation**, once again (as they did last year) presented a cheque to Ineke Boekhorst, in support of the Starfish Pack Program, in the amount of **\$5,500**. Upon learning that our Club will no longer be able to continue with this program after December of 2024, they nevertheless presented the cheque on the understanding that the club would make sure that the funds would be used for a similar or other food security purpose.



Thanks again to the Jones family for their generous support, both past and present.

AGM of our Meadow Ridge Rotary Club

Our Annual General Meeting was held today with the following persons elected by acclamation as the officers and directors of the Meadow Ridge Rotary Club for the Rotary year July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026:

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| President | – Alex Pope |
| Immediate Past President | – Laurence Anderson |
| President Elect | – Eric Mollema |
| Secretary | – Debbie MacRae |
| Treasurer | – Walter Volpatti |
| Director of Club Service | – Adrienne Dale |
| Director of Community Service | – Mike Davies |
| Director of International Service | – Ineke Boekhorst |
| Director of New Generations | – Sharon Kyle |
| Director of Vocational Services | – Brenda Jenkins |

AGM of our Meadow Ridge Foundation

The Meadow Ridge Foundation is the registered charity of our Rotary Club, and as such can issue tax-deductible receipts for donations made to it. Under its bylaws, the officers and directors of the Meadow Ridge Rotary Club become the directors of the Foundation effective July 1, 2025 for a term of 12 months.

Our Annual Christmas Social and Gift (and Steal) Exchange

Ineke started off the fun by asking us if we ever noticed how Santa Claus perfectly embodies the Rotary spirit – **why Santa Claus is definitely a Rotarian.**



She said, first off, let's talk about "Service Above Self". The man spends his entire year working behind the scenes, coordinating a global operation just to make other people happy. He doesn't get paid, doesn't ask for recognition, he just gets the job done! That's classic Rotary behaviour – serving selflessly (and elfishly) with a big heart (and a big belt buckle).

And what about "The Four-Way Test"? Santa nails it every time:

1. "Is it the truth?" Santa checks the list that says "you've been good"... So keep being good for goodness sake – no fake news allowed on his list.
2. "Is it fair to all concerned?" Coal for the naughty, gifts for the nice. Sounds fair, right?
3. "Will it build goodwill and better friendships?" A gift exchange is practically his whole vibe.
4. "Will it be beneficial to all concerned?" Um, Yes – he's literally spreading joy worldwide.

And let's not forget Santa's logistical genius. He's the ultimate project manager, overseeing a diverse team of "service above self" Christmas elves, maintaining a zero-emission sleigh (that's sustainable leadership!), and ensuring timely delivery of the billions of items. If anyone knows how to organize an event or run a fundraiser, it's this guy. Santa could run a district conference in his sleep, with room for cookies and milk on the agenda. Finally, Santa's red suit? That's his Rotary-at-work shirt in disguise. The cheerful demeanour, the relentless energy, and the commitment to community are all Rotary trademarks. So this year, when you see Santa Claus, just remember – he's been a Rotarian all along, and he's already planning his next big project: Peace on Earth!

Ineke then conducted our Annual Christmas Gift (and Steal) Exchange [also known as the "Yankee Swap" or "Dirty Santa"]. Ineke randomly drew everybody's name out of a basket to determine in which order we took turns selecting the gifts. (President Laurie was the first name out of the basket, with our President-Elect Alex being picked last.) Once all gifts were selected and before the gifts were unwrapped, each person's name was again randomly drawn, and had the choice of either keeping their selection or of "stealing" another's gift. Adrienne's first choice had an elf attached to it as a decoration, and was the subject of more than one theft. But her name was the last out of the basket, so she was able to rescue it from the last Dirty Santa.

Happy and Sad dollars included:

Clint was happy that his daughter Peyton entered the 'most advanced' stage of her dance competition and passed with flying colours, and now will be able to compete anywhere in the world in competitions.

Susan, back from her African Adventure (where she did not get lost once) was traumatized last December when she and Brenda couldn't find Adrienne's house (the location of the Christmas party) because she was given the wrong address by the host. So she presented Adrienne with a couple of road maps so the host could avoid the same stressful holiday experience.

Alex was happy to report that his daughter's boyfriend's mother (or was it the mother of the boyfriend of his daughter?), who had previously given a presentation to our club, belongs to an organization that funds a program to cure young kids of serious and often life-threatening food allergies, and was able to raise \$100,000 in support of this effort.

Ineke was obviously impressed with her 12 year old grandson who, as a school project, made and sold 120 Christmas buttons that Ineke attached to the package of chocolate treats which we all received as a gift on our lunch tables. [Guess from whom we think he inherited his entrepreneurial spirit and talent!]

Adrienne, on behalf of herself and **Eric** and their legal team at Centra Lawyers LLP, presented a cheque in the sum of \$500 to Ineke in support of the Senior's Christmas Lunch that will be held at the Maple Ridge Alliance Church on December 11, 2024. (Ineke is a major volunteer for the event.)



Our Club will be peeling potatoes and carrots for the event at the Salvation Army kitchen on December 6, **10am** and are reminded to help out at the lunch itself on December 11, 11am at the MR Alliance Church.

Club Announcements

Friday **Dec 6**, 10 a.m. peeling potatoes and carrots at MR Salvation Army (back entrance/kitchen)

Friday **Dec 6**, 6:30 p.m. Rotary Christmas party at Clint's home.... Bring an "appy"

Monday **Dec 9**, 1 p.m. packing senior's Christmas bags at Community Services – pizza provided!

Wednesday **Dec 11**, noon, Seniors Christmas Lunch at MR Alliance Church... Can you assist?

Tuesday **Dec 17**, noon, Zoom interclub with Italian Rotary Club (at Meadow Gardens!)

Tuesday **Dec 24** and **Dec 31** – **no regular club meeting**

Quote for the Day



The foundation upon which Rotary is built is friendship; on no less firm foundation could it have stood.

— Paul P. Harris —

AZ QUOTES

Submitted by Laurie Anderson