

ROTARY CLUB OF BAIRNSDALE INC

BULLETIN No 10, September 18, 2018

What's On

Our Meetings 5.45 pm for 6.15pm start

September 18th

Phoebe Hicks – My Health Record

Bring a Friend Night

September 25th

Board Meeting

Bulletin Editor

Ula is back now, and no doubt will take over the duties of editor. Remember the deadline for editorial will be Saturday.

DOOR & WELCOME ROSTER

September – Rhonda and Noel

October – John and Bonnie

November – John Crawford and Tony

December – Rex and Michelle

January – John A and Rex

Remember to find a replacement if you are not able to do your roster

Marquee

No booked jobs till after October

Celebrations

No celebrations this week

FARMERS RELIEF

A slightly less busy week but very productive none the less.

Last Tuesday another 30 bales of hay together with 4 bales of silage arrived in Bairnsdale and were stored at Donalds Motors. During the week all 34 bales were picked up by a total of 5 farmers who were very appreciative of the feed.

As you may be aware the Need for Feed project, which is run by the Lions Club of Pakenham, sent down 30 trucks of hay for our famers, we hope that it helps to raise the awareness of the plight of our farmers.

Plans for the BBQ on Sunday 7 October are well under way and we want to make this a memorable event for all the farmers. If anyone can get some giveaways for the day, go for it!

Gillian

Other Clubs

Bairnsdale Sunrise - Hotel International
Wednesday 6.45 for 7.00am Hotel International. Call Sue 0438 278258

Mitchell River - RSL

Monday 5.45 for 6.00 pm Bairnsdale RSL. Leave message 95171220 before 11.00 Mondays

Lakes Entrance - Central Hotel

Wednesday 6.00pm for 6.30pm
Call Lesley 0419 871 197

Orbost - Orbost Club

Thursday 6.00pm for 6.30pm
Call Gillian 5154 3051

Rotary Theme

**September is
Basic Education and
Literacy Month**



President RI:	Barry Rassin
D9820 Governor:	Janne Speirs
D9820 EG Assistant Governor:	Judy van der Vlugt
Club President:	Tony Murray
Past President:	
Corres Secretary:	Gillian Reeve
Treasurer:	Michelle Young
Membership & Vocation	Brian Ross
PR, Bulletin, Facebook, Web:	Bonnie Walker and Gillian Reeve
Youth Service:	Patricia MurrayWalton
Community Programs	John Ariens John Walker
International: Foundation:	Ula and Ken Sheather Ula and Ken Sheather
Club Meets at: Tuesdays 6pm	The Bairnsdale Club 68 Nicholson St Bairnsdale PH: 5152 4301 Phone Club before 12 noon

Web Sites to visit:
Our Facebook Page – rcbairnsdale
Our Webpage – rcbairnsdale.org
Youtube.com/rotary
Rotary International - rotary.org.au

Marquee Hire: John Crawford
0412432325

Marquee Volunteers are welcome



Correspondence to the Secretary
Rotary Club of Bairnsdale
PO 287, Bairnsdale. 3875.

BRING A FRIEND NIGHT – 18 September 2018

All members should have received a separate e-mail concerning our proposed Bring a Friend Night. Put the date in your diary and bring along a potential member.

Brian Ross – Membership

Guest Speaker

We had Paul Heaton Harris talk to us about an emotional trip that he and several family members made to PNG. This was in honour of his Uncle Daniel Ousley who was killed at the Tol Plantation. The story was quite horrific, but one that needs to be told



In early 1941 a speciality Battalion of 1400 Australian soldiers to be known as Lark Force were trained to take up a monitoring position in New Britain one of the Western most islands of the Papuan New Guinea group.

Their Mission was to ensure airstrips and infrastructure remained operational for Australian and Allied forces and to maintain a watch on any Japanese advance towards Australia.

In late December 1941 and in early January of 1942 significant Japanese activity had been observed of the coast and it soon became obvious that a massive fleet of ships, including aircraft carriers, were preparing for an attack on Rabaul and its secure deep-water harbour.

Australia was within striking range of land-based planes, if it was taken. It was obvious to the leadership on the ground that an evacuation was necessary, however only women and children were evacuated and the order to **“fight to the last”** was issued to Lark Force command, from Australia.

On the **23rd of January 1942** an overwhelming Japanese force of 30,000 troops landed at Rabaul harbour and quickly gained control resulting in the Australian commander declaring the order **“every man for himself”**. Many (approx. 900) Lark Force members were immediately taken as prisoners of war. The rest scattered into the jungle making their way to rumoured rescue points.

Tragically, 845 Lark Force members died along with 700 other prisoners on the prison ship **Montevideo Maru** which was sunk by an American submarine on route to Japan, with no survivors. It remains Australia's biggest, single action, wartime loss.

Circumstances surrounding their capture vary, however they were taken as prisoners on the morning of the 3rd of February 1942. About 148 soldiers were captured and held in a compound, huddled together in oppressing heat with their thumbs tied behind their backs with fishing twine.

Although initially thinking they would be treated as POW's, **on the 4th of February conditions changed dramatically. The Japanese commander ordered that all prisoners to be executed.** They were marched in groups of 8-10 into the surrounding jungle and either bayoneted or shot, covered in banana leaves and left.

After searching for many years, the family had discovered that their Uncle was part of this and were determined to find out what had happened to him. A chance meeting between brother Vin and another survivor Norm Furness, and Norm's words, **“if you really want to honour Daniels memory, leave him with his mates and go to Tol Plantation”**. These words inspired a two year plan to do exactly that. In May this year my brother, his wife, two sisters, two cousins and myself headed to Rabaul and Tol Plantation. What we experienced was the most amazing adventure and emotional journey imaginable.

The war memorial at Tol was constructed by locals and has been maintained beautifully, showing great respect and care. It is not a memorial recognised as an official war memorial by Australia. The memory of the 2/22



Lark Force and the story of the Tol Massacre is remembered each year and the history taught in schools. In 1987 four survivors took the plaque to Tol personally.

Paul told us that this was an amazing and emotional journey, but at its end they found that there is enormous peace in knowing that Dan's remains lie in good soil, no matter where that might be, for the beautiful people of this harsh and beautiful country retain a deep respect and reverence for the sacrifice he made along with so many of his mates.

Gillian

SAVE THE DATE

Sunday 23 September – A working bee to clean our BBQ at Michelle & Marks. If you want to come, not many hands required to clean up the BBQ, let Gillian or Michelle know.

Sunday 7 October – 10.00am – 2.00pm Community BBQ at the Buchan Caves Reserve. We are providing a free BBQ for the farmers of the Buchan and Orbost areas. It would be great to have all members attend on that day

Friday 19 October – A social night to see the Production Line performance of Calendar Girls. John and Bonnie are taking names of interested members for a meal at 6.00pm followed by the theatre at 7.30pm. Come along and support this local group

Sunday 21 October – A Night at the Dogs, \$28.00 per head, includes bus to Sale Greyhounds, two course meal and \$5.00 to spend at venue. Invite friends and family