

Rotary Club of Bairnsdale



BE THE INSPIRATION

Tuesday Meetings
5:45pm for 6:15pm
The Bairnsdale Club
68 Nicholson Street

BULLETIN 34
19 MARCH 2019

BIRTHDAYS

Ian Campbell – 25 March

SPEAKER OF THE WEEK

Di Fleischer
Antique Clocks

FARMERS RELIEF

Another eventful week, with the second load of 40, 4 x 4 bales arriving on Thursday, once again transported to Bairnsdale free of charge, courtesy of Paul Wilms, these bales came from farmer Joan in Yellingbo. Rex has been very busy on the phone and after contacting all the farmers, only four bales are left. As always Rex finds it an emotional roller coaster as he contacts farmers and listens patiently to the all too familiar stories of hardship.



The first tanker of Molafos will be arriving this week, to a farmer in Buchan who is acting as a depot, where 21 farmers will come with their own containers and decant the liquid supplement from the tanker. The second tanker, probably arriving the week after, will be going to the designated depot in Ensay, ready for collection. The farmers themselves have been instrumental in organising the containers from various sources and will clean after the first pickup and transfer to Ensay for the second pickup. Without the grant money from 9800 we would not have even contemplated this and thank you to Sandra Livingstone for putting the proposition to our club.

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FARMERS RELIEF SHOPPING DAYS

On Saturday I spoke with Bernie Eastman of the 'Shopping Days' promotion. Bernie said there was more shopping activity than usual, in some cases people did not buy anything, but gave money as they wished to donate for the cause.

There should be some figures by Tuesday, as each of the 16 shops will bank the money individually.

Thank you to Bernie for putting this together and whatever we make will be a bonus for the farmers.

EVENT CALENDAR

MAR 19: MEETING

MAR 26: BOARD MEETING

APR 02: MEETING

Carina Turner (Environment)

**APR 09: 36th ANNUAL CHARITY
GOLF & BOWLS DAY**

APR 09: NO NIGHT MEETING

**APR 10: CENTENARY HOUSE
BREAKFAST**

**APR 27: FARMERS RELIEF
FUNDRAISER**

RI President Barry Rassin
D9820 Governor Janne Speirs
D9820 EG Ass. Gov. Judy van der Vlugt

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Ben Gritt
'Ceramicist'

Last week Ben Gritt, Ceramicist spoke to us about himself and his work. Ben was accompanied by mentor and friend Malcolm Boyd, a name famous in this area for his wonderful pottery.

Malcolm spoke about himself and his involvement in the local pottery group. Malcolm told us that there is very little in Bairnsdale for artists with disabilities. With the work he has done with these groups, he knows that they enjoy creating and develop when pursuing art.

Ben has been blind since he was six years old, but during those years he had an artistic bent and used to draw. It was several years later that he took up pottery and using childhood memories was able to create some amazing pieces. Malcolm has been instrumental in encouraging Ben's talent, firing all his work in his own kilns.



Ben had brought along some of his pieces, the most lifelike boot, sea shells and a rabbit straight out of Beatrice Potter. Pat Phillips has said it was amazing to see him work with the pieces, often having to hold them close to his face so that he can see some of the detail that he is creating.

All of Ben's pieces are sculptured, no throwing on the wheel, just building it up one piece of clay at the time, although the seashells are made out of a single piece of clay! Malcolm often helps him with the colours and glazing, even telling an amusing story of when Ben insisted that the sculpture of a rabbit had the tiniest of shoelaces on the small shoes. It was obvious that Malcolm was very impressed with Ben's talent which came across as he spoke of his work. Ben on the other hand is very quietly spoken, but his love of pottery was very apparent.



Ben would love to be able to hold an exhibition in town, but local gallery's

are booked out for two years, plus the cost to hire the space is high and out of reach of many artists including Ben. What would be ideal is to use one of the vacant shops in town and create a popup shop. He is quite a prolific artist and has many, many pieces that are worthy of being shown to the public.

Ben used to have a seeing eye dog, but with recent operations, he has been retired. Luckily for Ben his mother has adopted his dog so that he can still see his mate, but this has meant that he is back using a cane.

Thank you to Ben for giving us an insight into your world and bringing along some of your superb pottery.



FARMERS RELIEF (Continued)



Last Tuesday we had President Ron from Lilydale, place an order for another 34 large bales from a source near them, at our cost and he has been able to secure free cartage to Bairnsdale, the business in question, just wants to help.

I was also contacted by a lady, who after seeing the article in the paper about the Shopping Days, offered one of her paintings which she is going to auction on line and give all the proceeds to the Farmers Relief.

Once again, the generosity has been overwhelming from all concerned.

Gillian Reeve

Welcome & Door Roster

March: Tony M & Martin

Marquee Erection Dates

Apr 18: Metung Book Fair

DISTRICT 9820 - East Gippsland Cluster Clubs



RC Mitchell River (Bairnsdale) Bairnsdale RSL

Monday 5:45 for 6:00pm
Leave message (03) 9517 1220



RC Bairnsdale Sunrise Bairnsdale International Hotel

Wednesday 6:45 for 7:00am
Call Sue 0428 278 258



RC Lakes Entrance Central Hotel

Wednesday 6:00 for 6:30pm
Call Lesley 0419 871 197



RC Orbost Orbost Club

Thursday 6:00 for 6:30pm
Call Gillian (03) 5154 3051