

ROTARY CLUB OF BAIRNSDALE INC

Bulletin No. 34/ 24 April 2018

Monthly Theme: Maternal and Child Health Month

What's On

Our Meetings 5.45 pm for 6.15pm start

24 April 2018

Board Meeting

All Directors to have reports

1 May 2018

Gillian Reeve

NID Moradabad

8 May 2018

TBA

Other Clubs

Mitchell River ~ Bairnsdale RSL

Monday 5.45pm for 6.00pm

Leave Message 9517 1220 before 11.00am

Mondays

Bairnsdale Sunrise ~ International Motel

Wednesday 6.45am for 7.00am

Call Sue 0438 278 258

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 0429 591 012

DOOR & WELCOME ROSTER

April - John & Bonnie Walker

May - Rex & John Ariens

Marquee Dates

27 April - Field Days

7 October - Bairnsdale

The teams can have a rest for a while

FIELD DAYS 27-28 APRIL

As you may or may not be aware, the Rotary Clubs of the East Gippsland Cluster will be combining to man a marquee at the Field Days this Friday and Saturday. Each club is expected to have one member in attendance from 9.00am to 4.30pm on both days. A roster will be circulated at the Board Meeting and it is hoped that all members will give at least 1 ½ hours of their time to help on the stand.

Assistant Governor Judy has banners and also loads of brochures to showcase Rotary in general. This is an opportunity to promote Rotary and ultimately our own clubs. Those members who attend should wear their club shirt so that we are easily recognizable to the public.

See you all there

DISTRICT ASSEMBLY

Federation University Berwick

72 - 100 Clyde Road

Berwick, VIC 3806

Australia

Held on Sunday 29th April, 2018.

8.30am Start !!!!!

Venue - [Federation University, Berwick](#)

New format - facilitated learning.

New Member session (Rotarians under 5 years of service).

Let Gillian know who will be attending so that we can get numbers to District

BOWEL SCAN MONTH

Yes it's that time again and John B has been busy distributing kits to all the pharmacies in town. Kits are \$15 each, easy to use and you post back yourself. They have saved a few lives over the years, spread the word and buy one yourself.

Celebrations

Birthdays

John Beynon - 3 May



President RI: Ian H. S Riseley

D9820 Governor: Don Ripper

D9820 EG Assistant Governor:

Judy van der Vlugt

Club President: Tony Murray

Past President: Helen Crosby

Corres Secretary: Gillian Reeve

Treasurer: Gillian Reeve

Membership & Vocation: Brian Ross

PR, Bulletin, Facebook, Web: Bonnie Walker and Gillian Reeve

Youth Service: Ula Sheather

Community Programs: John Ariens

International: John Walker

Foundation: Margaret Macfarlane
Margaret Macfarlane

Club Meets at: The Bairnsdale Club
Tuesdays 6pm
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.

GUEST SPEAKER

Last week we welcomed Clair Griebenow from Orbost, who ten years ago served as a nurse on a Mercy Ship moored on the coast of Liberia.

At the time that she decided to apply to serve on board the Africa Mercy, she was working in Melbourne and heard a man speak at the local church about the trip he made every year, to cut carrots, for a month on board the ship. She was so impressed that she decided to serve on board for three months but when that time was up she asked if she could stay another three to finish the work that she had started.

On the Africa Mercy her role was as an HIV educator with the HIV/AIDS team. The team aimed for three to four workshops per outreach with 20 – 25 people attending. She was involved with two of these which were aimed at churches to educate them about HIV/AIDS and mobilise them to respond to the fear and stigma attached within the faith based communities who thought that if you had this disease you must be a prostitute or an adulterer.



The workshop and conferences that were held seemed to make a difference in the community and the enthusiasm with which they were received meant that the message was spread through their own families and the wider community. The acceptance of all people especially those affected by HIV/AIDS was truly encouraging. She felt that with the positive response to their work her time spent was worthwhile and so meaningful.

During these outreach trips she was also able to visit an orphanage run by a woman named Mother Edith who was a friend of one of the day workers on board ship. She started looking after children when, during the war she was running away from Monrovia with her two children. She rescued a baby that was at the side of the road, trying to suckle on her dead mother. She picked up the baby and has



been caring for children ever since. Currently she looks after 60-70 children without any assistance from government or non-government organisations. For



money to feed and clothe the children she makes laundry soap and charcoal which they sell at the roadside. In all the chaos and hopelessness Clair found these stories of determination, love and hope, an inspiration

While on board ship she also got to observe an operation by the head surgeon Dr Gary Parker. He removed a tumour from the face of a 17 year old girl which had been growing since she was nine. This meant reconstructing her face using muscle from above her temple and a skin graft from her leg. The operation took nearly eight hours and Clair found it incredible to watch. She commented that the surgeons who complete these amazing transformations day after day are God gifted artists.

She met some amazing people on the Africa Mercy some who give two weeks and others 10 years of service to this incredible organisation.

As she answered the many questions fired at her after her talk it was made clear how the time spent there changed her life and made her so glad that she lives in Australia. She also expressed a desire to take her husband and two children to work on board in the future.

The members were impressed with her impassioned talk and were given a detailed insight into how a Mercy Ship operates. As a club we have donated funds to them over the years and it is good to know that it would have most certainly have been put to good use.

