

The Life and Times of the Playdons – The Early Years

Around 20 Rotarians and partners tuned into Zoom for a presentation by Roger Playdon about his early years before meeting Jane and the early years of their marriage. Pleased to see Proposch's join from Sunshine Beach and Gary Surman even called in from Epworth, after having Open Hip Surgery earlier in the day. We were all grateful when he turned off his camera during the sponge bath.



But back to Roger's Story:

It is difficult to do justice to a presentation like his, but I will summarise it by saying: "Roger's life started when he was very young. and has continued as he became a lot older."

From humble beginnings in the village of Billingshurst, on an old roman road in West Sussex UK and about 6kms from Horsham via Itchingfield, Roger began his life journey.

Picture of Rogers childhood home

Roger's theme was "sliding doors" and how as one door closes and door (opportunity opens).

He attributed meeting Jane to one of these sliding door moments. After failing the entry test (twice) to gain entry to a prestigious grammar school he ended up at a brand-new Secondary Modern School, just completed in Billingshurst. I joined as the second intake. Jane was in the first intake.



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He met Jane a few years later at 15 and despite a warning from his parents that “That girl will do you no good at all” the rest is history.

Jane’s parents were unavailable for interview about what they thought of Roger.

Jane and Roger before they met.



Roger had hoped to become a policeman but was missed out by another sliding door closing and ended up joining the Navy.

Here is a list of some of the ships upon which he crewed.

The Cutty Sark, HMS Endeavour, HMS Collingwood, HMS Victorious, HMS Osprey, HMS Fearless and the Golden Hind.



A couple of the Ships Roger crewed whilst in the navy.



He and Jane married and commenced a family. Their son Mark was born in 1968 while Roger was at sea. For most of Mark’s first two years his dad was away. This must have been very difficult, and Roger and Jane used the latest in technology by posting voice cassettes so Mark could at least become familiar with his dad’s voice.

Their daughter Lisa was born on 29 October 1971. And Roger was able to be there and spend more time home at this time.

There has been a lot more to their lives than they were able to share on this occasion. We look forward to the next instalment

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It is always fascinating to hear the background of our fellow Rotarians. Not all of us have lived in as many and varied places as they have.

Thanks for sharing.

Presidents Report

1. Back to Zoom meetings & maybe another week or 2 going down this track. Hopefully we can return to the Hong Kong Inn for our regular Tuesday meetings. I thank Bob for releasing a note on Club Runner for all of us to look out for each other either via Media or the mobile phone system. Let's all try to keep in contact & keep everyone's spirit in the positive.
2. For those interested in **CONFERENCE 2022** to be held at Traralgon on the weekend of February 25th – 27th. Please contact Gary Scanlon on 0408 149802 for the weekend details & costs. Traralgon Rotary are looking for Registrations which are now open.
3. Programs for both September & October have all been filled. Thank you to all concerned who did make it happen. A few notable speakers have been organised, which include District Governor **Bill Degnan & Judy** on the 26th of October, District Governor Elect **Paul Mee & Adele** on the 21st September & West Gippsland Hospital CEO on the 5th October.

Upcoming Events

Live4Life - BBQ's

Still waiting on the Shire and schools re-opening.

Notes for your Diary Swap Meet

Date for Swap Meet is Sunday 7th November. Keep that day FREE. You WILL get a job.

News from Travelling Rotarians:

Don & Yvonne Kelly did get to go to the NT?

Kevin and Diane reached Lakes Entrance but abandoned their trip to Mallacoota.

Go on your own Trip:

Scan these QR Codes and see some exciting places you can go..



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Program for the next week(s)

Given the current restrictions it a bit premature to predict what the program will be. I suspect there will be a revisiting of Zoom.

- Tues 7th Sept - Ian Brooks
- 14th Sept - Ray Howe
- 21st Sept - Paul Mee (District Gov. Elect)
- 28th Sept - Judy & Pauline

A few Funnies to tide you over:



Many members will recall the Tour of the Silvan Warehouse which John Tricarico organised for us a few years ago. One of their big sellers is the Sherlock Wheelbarrow sold by Bunnings.



First day back at school after lockdown

