

This Week's Program: Tuesday May 10th Sean Hallahan – Costa Group Chief Executive & Managing Director .



Sean Hallahan's claim to fame is that he is the son in law of David and Pauline Proposch.



L to R Gary Scanlon, Sean Hallahan, Tracey Hallahan, Pauline & David Proposch

But aside from that, he is Chief Executive & Managing Director of Costa Group which is Australia's largest horticultural trader.

More on that later.

David & Pauline must be intimidating parents in-law because in Sean's opening remarks he said running a presentation in front of his in-laws made him more nervous than presenting to groups of high profile business people, bankers, politician and world leaders. (I thought I heard him say even talking in front of Vladimir Putin, Xi Jinping and Kim Jong-un was less scary.)

Driving into Geelong I often saw the large fruit and vegetable outlet and I had heard of Frank Costa through his

involvement with the Geelong Football Club. Little did I know the scale of the Costa operations.

But Frank Costa has "created a monster".

Sean's talk was inspirational. It was to do with a topic dear to my (and most of your) hearts and of course stomachs.

He talked about food. Lots of food: where they grow it, when they grow it, how they grow it, how much do they grow, what they grow, and why they grow it.

This is a very brief summary of what was a fascinating presentation.





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Where they grow it .

Australia, China and Morocco just to name a few places.

When they grow it

All year round. By having farms/growers in a variety of climatic zones and both hemispheres, Costa Group can supply product 12 months of the year. They try to produce crops when other suppliers cannot for a competitive advantage.

Page 16 and 17 of the 21 Costa Group Annual Report illustrated a “Harvest Calendar” show what grows when***

At right is the Harvest Calendar for Avocados.

	Avocados	Avocados	Avocados
	Hass (Fishermans Reach)	Reed	Shepard
January		●	
February			●
March	●		●
April	●		●
May	●		
June	●		
July	●		
August	●		
September	●		
October	●	●	
November		●	
December		●	

How they grow it

Sean emphasised the importance of genetics and scientific developments to create more robust and productive strains of plants.

He regularly mentioned the need for skilled people within the Costa group and what a great company they are to work for.

The company’s aim is sustainable, commercial horticulture. This encompasses environmental considerations, human needs and commercial interests.

Why they grow it

Obviously the company wants to make money. What company doesn’t?

But the passion with which Sean talked about the company made me feel as though their culture is also about meeting the need of customers and nurturing their suppliers.

What they grow .

My recollection is they grow berries, mushrooms and avocados. I was so amazed by the statistics of the amount of berries, mushrooms and avocados produced each week my brain seized up.

Numbers such as

- 5 million trays of avocados a week or was it a year??
- 40 hectares of tomatoes under glass
- 70% of their citrus product goes into Asia.

In the Annual Report page 10 was a map of Australia and Morocco showing what they grow and where***.

Thank you Sean for a very interesting presentation.

*** as someone who has never closely looked at an Corporation Annual Report this was a fascinating document



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<https://investors.costagroup.com.au/investor-centre/?page=annual-report>



President Gary presents Bill Petschack with his Certificate commemorating 15 years in Rotary.



Russell makes a few announcements about Santos Science Experience and MUNA

Groups Responsible for June Programs

June 7 th , 14 th , 21 st	John Franklin	Tim Wills	Graeme Watts	Don Blackley	John Kinrade	Peter Konjevic	Max Hine	Keith Cook	Max Hine
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The Drouin Secondary College Training Restaurant, "Food 4 Thought" is open to the public every second Wednesday during the term from 6.00pm. The restaurant provides students from across West Gippsland with the opportunity to hone their culinary skills by planning, preparing, and operating the restaurant for the local community.

By attending a dinner at Food 4 Thought, not only do you partake of a great 3 course meal for around \$35, you are helping our students gain an excellent understanding of the joys



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and challenges of working in hospitality. Children's meals (12 years and under) are also available from \$10.

Bookings can be made by phoning the general office on 5625 100

For several years Merv & Jenny Deppeler organised a night to go to Food 4 Thought.

It was accompanied by a talk by a graduate of the College on where their life has taken them.

What about the June meeting organisers considering this as a meeting option.

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Birthdays and Anniversaries –

Birthdays

Liz Fankhauser 10th May, Pam Pretty 15th May, Bill Petschack 16th May,

Wedding Anniversaries

nil

Joining Anniversaries

nil

Market Saturday 21st May

As well as our signature Egg and Bacon Rolls we will be serving up Democracy Sausages.

Max will be asking members to help out so let him know in advance if you're available to help out.



New Member to be inducted

Josh Denehy is to be inducted into rotary next week. Josh will bring down the average age of the club by about a year.

Please come along to the next meeting to Welcome Josh.



Changeover Dinner

Tuesday 28th June at the Royal Hotel Drouin.

\$45 a head for a two course meal .

Details to follow.

But put that date in your diaries.



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Photos needed:

Rosie Scanlon and Bill Petschack are collecting photos of events from the last 12 months in Rotary.

If you have any photos, particularly people photos, can you please arrange to get them to Rosie and Bill .

Help Needed

Help Needed for the Market on Sat 18th June to collect.

A volunteer to collect and deliver the Bar B Que and associated tasks for the market on the 18th of June.

Santos Science Experience and MUNA

Both of these Rotary initiatives will be run this year after being interrupted by COVID for the last 2 years.

THE Santos SCIENCE EXPERIENCE

in Churchill from Sept 20th to the 22nd

Santos Science Experience

Three year 9 students from Drouin Secondary College will spend time at Federation University



MUNA Sharryn Marshall will be coordinating the **Model United Nations Assembly (MUNA)** later in the year.

More information to follow.



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Drouin Rotary Club Leadership Team 2021/22

President:	Gary Scanlon		
Secretary/Administration:	Russell Ford		
Treasurer/President Elect/On-to-Conference:	Roger Playdon		
Past President/Asst. Youth/ Rotary Centenary Directors	Russell Ford		
Community Service/Projects:	Bill Petschack	Work Force and Resources:	Kevin Roberts
Director Rotary Foundation:	Ian Symons	Youth/New Generations:	Sharryn Marshall
Membership & COVID Support:	Bob Vogt	Insurance & Risk Management:	Ian Haughton
Sergeants-at-Arms:	Ian Haughton/Jane Playdon		

Administration Assist Secretary in all areas of administration

Protection Officer: Ian Symons	Rotary Family: Pauline Maunder
Attendance: Peter Konjevic	Property: William Wong
Grants Coordinator:	Club Historians: Don Blackley/Russell Ford

Market: Manage preparation for and delivery of the monthly 'Drouin Rotary Craft & Produce Market'

Manager: David Veal	BBQ Control: David Proposch	Support & Manpower: Max Scott
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Public Image/Publicity: Manage communications, both internal and external

PI & Digital Media: Tim Wills	Bulletin Editor: Ian Haughton	Photography: Keith Pretty/Clarrie Debnam
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