



Volume 69, Number 34

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2017

## Rotary Club of Maffra

PO Box 154, MAFFRA 3860, VICTORIA AUSTRALIA

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**WEB:** [www.maffrarotary.org](http://www.maffrarotary.org)

The Rotary Club of Maffra meets every Thursday, 6 pm for 6.30 pm  
Duart Receptions, 20 McLean Street, Maffra

*(Apologies and visitors to Nathan Smith by 1 pm. Telephone (03) 5147 1985)*

**TOAST: "To The Privilege of Community Service"**

### MEETING SNAPSHOT

**14 members present** for an astronomical evening totally out of this world.

**3 members** on BBQ duty.

**70 visitors** from various Rotary clubs, all members of the Recreational Vehicle Fellowship of Rotarians.

**Raffle winners:** Catyrnes from Marlo Plains and Marjorie Cheesman from Warragul.

**Ian Wake, President of the RVFR** gave a brief address thanking the club for its hospitality.

**Roger Malouf** gave a brief report on the Police Mentoring programme and reminded everyone of the visit to Sale Police Station on 2<sup>nd</sup> March followed by a Chinese banquet. Partners and guests encouraged to attend.

**Guest speaker John Gwyther**, local astronomer who spoke on "Life, the Universe and everything". And no, the answer was not 42. (DON'T PANIC! ask the bulletin editor if you don't know).

### THERE ARE NO SQUARE STARS

When have you ever seen the following?

- A square leaf
- A square fruit
- A square tree
- A square raindrop

Nature, unlike man, does not produce

- Square moons
- Square suns
- Square planets
- Or square galaxies

There are no square rainbows

Nor square flowers

Nor square heads that could fit inside a square box

Yet more often than not, that's exactly what we do.

We try to put everything inside a box

We try to make all things black and white

We try to make everything spic and span

as though we could put a square peg inside a round hole  
and then congratulate ourselves for the feat we have done

Since the dawn of man-made technology,  
we have certainly lived in a world of squares:

- square houses
- square buildings
- square computer screens

We write on square papers using square tables

We sleep on square beds and enter upon square doors

Where has all this taken us?

These square things have made a war with our own hearts  
And against all mysteries that enrich and empower us.

The next time someone tries to put your immortal soul  
inside a small box

Kindly remind yourself:

There are no square stars in the Universe. . .

**A man was  
arrested  
yesterday after  
falling into a  
combine  
harvester whilst  
trying to steal it!**

**He's due to be  
bailed tomorrow!!**

## RECREATIONAL VEHICLE FELLOWSHIP OF ROTARIANS IN TOWN TONIGHT FOR DINNER.



caravan/*noun* plural noun: **caravans**

**British:** a vehicle equipped for living in, typically towed by a car and used for holidays. A covered horse-drawn wagon. "a Gypsy caravan"

**Historical:** a group of people, especially traders or pilgrims, travelling together across a desert in Asia or North Africa. Any large group of people, typically

They arrived in town, Sale actually, on Thursday for the weekend. The Fellowship has over 100 members, with an average of 70-90 on a muster. Musters are held three times a year in February, May and November. The group was formed in 1995 following the Melbourne convention and their first muster was to Dromana. When they go on a muster they usually book out a caravan park, taking all the caravan sites and cabins.



*Ian Wake, John Gwyther  
and President Sue Gray*



*Warragul Rotarians: Frank & Margaret Beavis,  
Cliff & June Wilkinson, John & Marjorie Cheesman*

There are two other groups, the Northern division and the Eastern division. The group is open to accepting more members so any Rotarian with a caravan, tent or is happy to sleep in a cabin is welcome to join.

Their presence certainly added value to our regular meeting night.

## GUEST SPEAKER JOHN GWYTHYER: THE NIGHT SKY.



*Cartwheel Galaxy from Hubble*

An absolutely fascinating and mind blowing talk by a very learned man.

John was raised on a dairy farm in Leongatha.

He studied Computer Science and Meteorology at Melbourne University.

He was part of the systems development team on the Bionic Ear.

He started a software development business in 1981, that he then sold to Ericssons in 2004. Since then he advises tech start-ups.

He was Chairman of the Australian Information Industry Association 1999-2002. A Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and a lifelong glider and power pilot.

John moved to Lake Glenmaggie in 2012 where he has a huge garden and an astronomical observatory. His photography and lots of birds keep him busy.

Unfortunately, to retell what John talked about here would require a tome of some magnitude. He spoke about the night sky, our solar system, our galaxy and beyond.

His talk was amply illustrated with slides and videos which held all 80 odd attendees spellbound. He spoke about and showed photos from the Hubble Space Telescope and tried to get across the mind-numbing figures involved in measuring distances, not only from Earth to wherever, but of the stars involved, which in some cases measured millions of kilometres across.



*A selection of attendees from Thursday night's meeting  
listening to Roger Malouf's report.*

**An example:** 1 light year (the distance light travels in one year) equals 9.46 trillion kilometres

To gain some idea of what John told us he has indicated a few websites that can be visited, the links are below:

**Google:** Astronomy Picture of the Day

[www.hubblesite.org](http://www.hubblesite.org)

[www.stellarium.org](http://www.stellarium.org)

or a search on Google or [www.YouTube.com](http://www.YouTube.com) for anything dealing with astronomy, especially star size comparison, would yield a bounty to anyone vaguely interested in this area.

## ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES 2016-2017

### BOARD MEMBERS

|  |                  |
|--|------------------|
| <b>President</b>                         | Sue Gray         |
| <b>Immediate Past President</b>          | Ross Neilson     |
| <b>Secretary</b>                         | Dianne Honey     |
| <b>Treasurer</b>                         | Graeme Hemming   |
| <b>Club/Vocational Service Director</b>  |                  |
| <b>Community Service Director</b>        | Pauline Hitchins |
| <b>Foundation/International Director</b> | Shane Smallwood  |
| <b>Youth Service Director</b>            | Sharon Knight    |

### OTHER ROLES

|                                    |                            |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>Sergeant at Arms/Fines</b>      | Rob Noble/Ted Mitchell     |
| <b>Program Co-ordinator</b>        | Brian Gray/Veronica Dwyer  |
| <b>Club Bulletin and Publicity</b> | Shane Smallwood            |
| <b>BBQ Co-ordinators</b>           | Hans Van Wees/John Watts   |
| <b>Attendance</b>                  | Neil Wishart               |
| <b>Arthur's Swindle</b>            | Cath Noble/Sandra Houghton |
| <b>Family of Rotary</b>            | Dianne Honey               |
| <b>Club Protection Officer</b>     | Sjors Duursema             |
| <b>On to Conference</b>            | Ross Neilson               |
| <b>Club Website</b>                | Logan Connolly             |

**Rosters - Registrations / Friendship / Property / Caravan / BBQ** Shane Smallwood

### COMMITTEES

| Community Service  | International Service/Foundation  |
|--|---|
| <b>Pauline Hitchins (Director)</b><br>Cath Noble, Rick Dare, Hans Van Wees, Veronica Dwyer, John Watts, Brian Gray, Peter Quennell, Nathan Smith | <b>Shane Smallwood (Director)</b><br>Rob Noble, Ross Neilson, John Osborn, Neil Wishart           |
| Youth Service  | Club Service/Vocational Service   |
| <b>Sharon Knight director)</b><br>Sjors Duursema (Protection Off.), Logan Connolly, Sandra Houghton, Roger Malouf, Ted Mitchell                  | Sue Gray (Pres), Ross Neilson (IPP)<br>Dianne Honey (Sec), Graeme Hemming (Treas), Helen Lanigan. |

### UPCOMING CLUB EVENTS

Here is a reminder of some of the exciting events that are coming up.

**Rotary Club of Maffra Mardi Gras, 18 March 2017: The theme for 2017 is "Beauty and the Beast."**



Beginning in 1957, this community fundraiser is one of Wellington Shire's oldest events. Local community groups nominate an entrant to represent their organisation, and a friendly six-week period of fundraising rivalry, precedes the event. The Rotary Club of Maffra Mardi Gras will culminate with a street parade in Johnson Street followed by the announcement of the winner.

The Mardi Gras runs from 4 pm to 9 pm and will include market and food stalls, street entertainment, carnival rides, face painting and an animal nursery before the street parade. The Mardi Gras is a proven family-friendly event, with opportunities for many community organisations to raise much-needed funds.



**April 30<sup>th</sup> Rotary Club of Maffra will attempt a world record for the most throwers of gumboots.**

The most people throwing Wellington boots simultaneously is 431, achieved by Burwell Village College Primary (UK), in Burwell, UK, on 1 July 2016. While this is a lot of fun, it is also for a world record attempt, so there are rules and regulations.

Guinness World Records have given their approval and

PP Dianne Honey is busy organising all the intricate ins and outs for this attempt. This will also be an excellent opportunity to raise some much-needed funds for community projects, as well as give Rotary a high public profile and hopefully attract a few potential members.

Be part of history on this day by attending, and assisting in the organising. See Dianne Honey for details.

Go to: <http://www.guinnessworldrecords.com> to find out more about Guinness World Records.



## HOUSEKEEPING PAGE

Please take note of your roster, **IT CAN CHANGE**.

When **YOU** are rostered on for duty and **YOU** are unavailable, please arrange **your own swap**.

Special instructions for those on the BBQ rosters, please make sure you collect the tear drop flag.

### PROGRAMME

| Date                  | Programme  | Host                 |
|-----------------------|--|----------------------|
| 23 <sup>rd</sup> Feb  | Extra ordinary general meeting<br>All members to attend please!!<br>Committees and Board Meeting | Sue Gray             |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> March | Tour of Sale Police Station<br>Partners & friends welcome  | Snr Sgt David Markum |

**PLEASE APOLOGISE!**  
**if you cannot attend the meeting.**  
**If you do not apologise you will be asked to pay for the meal that has been provided for you and for which the club has had to pay.**

### CARAVAN ROSTER

| Date                   | Deliver        | Pick Up         | Booked by                      |
|------------------------|----------------|-----------------|--------------------------------|
| 17 <sup>th</sup> Feb   | Brian Gray     | Cath Noble      | Mardi Gras.                    |
| 17 <sup>th</sup> March | Peter Quennell | Shane Smallwood | Mardi Gras.                    |
| 7 <sup>th</sup> April  | Rick Dare      | Nathan Smith    | Maffra Catholic Women's League |

### MEETING DUTIES

| DATE  | GREETING         | REGISTRATION                  | PROPERTY       | MARKET BBQ with Hans  | WOOLIES BBQ  |
|-------|------------------|-------------------------------|----------------|---|--|
| Feb   | Roger Malouf     | Shane Smallwood<br>John Watts | Hans Van Wees  | 5 <sup>th</sup> : John Watts,<br>Shane Smallwood,<br>Logan Connolly | 11 <sup>th</sup> : Roger Malouf,<br>Helen Lanigan,<br>Sharon Knight. |
| March | Pauline Hitchins | John Osborn,<br>Neil Wishart  | Ross Neilson   | 5 <sup>th</sup> : Rick Dare,<br>Graeme Hemming,<br>Ted Mitchell     | 4 <sup>th</sup> : Brian Gray,<br>Jean Heasley,<br>Robert Noble       |
| April | Rick Dare        | Ted Mitchell<br>Cath Noble    | Peter Quennell | 2 <sup>nd</sup> : Pauline Hitchins,<br>Sharon Knight,<br>Sue Gray   | 8 <sup>th</sup> : George Duursema,<br>Dianne Honey,<br>John Watts    |

### MILESTONES 23<sup>rd</sup> February to 1<sup>st</sup> March 2017.

| MEMBER               | MEMBER'S B/DAY            | PARTNER'S B/DAY | WEDDING ANN. | JOINED ROTARY |
|----------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|--------------|---------------|
| Rotary International | 23 <sup>rd</sup> Feb 1905 |                 |              |               |
| John Osborn          | 25 <sup>th</sup>          |                 |              |               |

1. Mickey Mouse has a sister named Amelia Fieldmouse.
2. More people have been to the moon than the bottom of the ocean.
3. In 2009, Nigerian Police detained a goat on suspicion of attempted armed robbery.
4. Your body is creating and killing 15 million red blood cells per second!
5. The king of hearts is the only king without a moustache on a standard playing card!
6. The Mona Lisa has no eyebrows. It was the fashion in Renaissance Florence to shave them off!
7. Every day 20 banks are robbed. The average take is \$2,500!
8. The most popular first name in the world is Muhammad!
9. When glass breaks, the cracks move faster than 3,000 miles per hour.  
To photograph the event, a camera must shoot at a millionth of a second!
10. A Boeing 747 airliner holds 57,285 gallons of fuel!
11. Forest fires move faster uphill than downhill!
12. The two-foot long bird called a Kea that lives in New Zealand likes to eat the strips of rubber around car windows!

