



Rotary



Club of Eaglehawk

R.I. President – Gordon McNally
District Governor – Ron Payne
Assistant Governor – Rob Foran

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Club No 18317
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Chartered 8th August 1966
President – Eric Smith 0438 688 806
Secretary – John Jones 0419 113 065
Bulletin – Mandy Costello 0427 468 298

We meet every Wednesday at the Mechanics Facility, 8 School Street, California Gully for a dinner meeting.

**Weekly meeting
@ 6 pm for 6:30pm**

Wednesday 21st February: Guest speaker: Anatta – 2024 RYLA candidate

Happy Birthday to you in February!

19th Trevor Lock



Reminders:

1. **Tuesday 20th February** - Youth Directors Cluster meeting – Mick & Lynne to attend.
2. **Friday 23rd February**- ESC Swimming Carnival at Faith Leech Aquatic Centre:
Catering BBQ - 11am – 1 pm
3. **Saturday 24th February** – invitation to join the Htamane/YarGu Festival Cooking Day – see details below.
4. **Sunday 25th February**- invitation to join the Htamane/YarGu Festival Celebration Day – see details below.
5. **Wednesday 28th February** – O Week @ La Trobe Uni- *Catering: 12- 2 pm*
6. **Thursday 29th February**- Burra BBQ at Eaglehawk Secondary College – *cooking BBQ*
7. **Friday 15th, Saturday 16th, Sunday 17th March** – Dahlia and Arts activities.
Eaglehawk Rotary Float on Saturday 16th March.
8. **Friday 22nd March** – Imagination Library Breakfast
9. **Friday 29th March** (Good Friday)- Easter Book Stall – *Eaglehawk Rotary stall* – all day

10. **Saturday 30th March** – Bunnings BBQ- *members assisting as per roster.*
11. **Friday 12th April**- Cluster Dinner at Bunja Thai – Eaglehawk Rotarians invited.
12. **Friday 12th - Sunday 14th April** – District 9800 Conference –in Bendigo!

The **Rotary International Convention 2024**: Singapore, 25—29 May 2024; mark the date in your diaries; registration is open at <https://convention.rotary.org/en-us/registration>

President's report:

A smaller group was in attendance this week, with several members away for various reasons, some unwell, and others unable to attend. We hope you all are on the mend and that we have a boost in numbers returning next week.

As most would know Mick went into hospital this week for some minor surgery. From reports, he is home giving Mandy a hard time, and apparently otherwise doing okay. The difficulty seems to be keeping him doing the right thing for at least a few weeks!

The word on the street is that Nacho has settled in with his new family (Rod and Liz Bell) at Lockwood South. Nacho is enjoying life on a small farm (especially the pet goats) and is currently commuting into Bendigo on the country school bus- all new experiences. We will continue to stay in touch with Nacho as he is now supported by Bendigo South Rotary Club.

The other whisper on the street, is that our own Media specialist has been head hunting someone to keep him on track while on air. It appears that he has been successful in his endeavours and like some of the Melbourne radios stars, went to air this morning. Listen in next Thursday to Phoenix FM around 8:00 am. The ratings for the radio station should rapidly climb with this duo on air.

It was quite a different approach by our Guest speaker this week (John Stewart), as he shared his recent trip to Antarctica. John then added the photos taken of the inhabitants and some of the behaviour they observed. It was a very interesting talk and gave us quite an insight of what to expect if we were able to take a similar trip- we can dream! Thanks, John, for you time and efforts with your presentation.

Keep Safe and I look forward to seeing you next week.

Eric.

Guest Speaker: John Stewart

John Stewart and his son left from Sydney 14.10.2022 headed for the Antarctic. It was a little drawn out at first, they flew from Sydney into Santiago then onto another couple of South American locations, before catching the ship at the Falkland Islands. This then took them to the South Georgia Island. They continued to island hop around that area for a while.

The Ship was an ex-Navy vessel, converted to take tourists on a cruise. The vessel holds 100 passengers and 48 Crew -which include the guides and various experts.

All passengers required a negative Covid 19 test prior to boarding. Two passengers actually failed and disappointedly could not board the ship (despite travelling all over the place from Sydney).

The ship anchored offshore upon arrival and passengers were transferred via Zodiacs. This was consistently the case, to ensure there was no transfer of mice or diseases onto shore. This was a significant issue in the early days. Enormous efforts were made to ensure no diseases were transferred either way (coming or going) and still remains the case.

John showed us photos and videos of the various native animals and birds that are in residence there. There were many photos of penguins etc (ie 1000's) as they came onto the island to breed before going back to sea (for what might be a lengthy period).

John also had some amazing photos of killer whales as they swam near the Zodiacs.

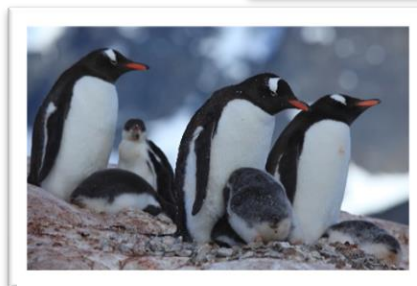
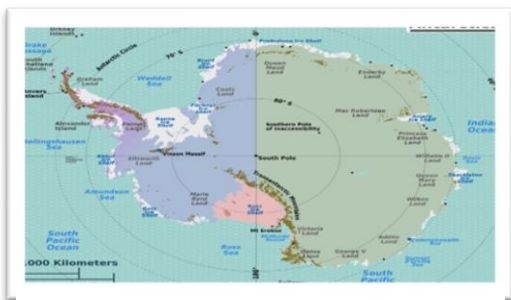
Many of the scenery photos were beautiful, with snow covered mountains, glaciers, and icebergs, which they had to negotiate both with the Zodiacs and the ship itself.

They needed to wear 4 layers of clothes but found it difficult to operate their cameras. They needed to remove their gloves, resulting in very cold fingers and hands.

John indicated that he would like to go back, but perhaps not in the short term.

His was a highly informative talk about a land mass that we find still very much uncharted territory and a mystery.

Again, thanks John for your time and preparation and for sharing your experience with us.



Youth Report:

A meeting of the Cluster Youth Directors has been arranged for next Tuesday 20 Feb at The Bendigo Club at 5pm.

This is a valuable time for us to all work together. We share ideas and knowledge and save a great deal of time.

Minutes will then be provided after the meeting to all the clubs.

Kind regards- Lynne

A message from GP with an invitation for everyone:

Everyone is invited to our traditional Htamane/YarGu Festival - 2024

Htamane is a traditional savoury dish prepared on the full moon day of Tabodwe (The eleventh month of the traditional Burmese calendar) in February. It is also an indication of the end of winter. Back home, a large quantity of Htamane is usually prepared in an open space at monasteries.

Cooking day

Saturday 24 Feb: 8am at 35 Moon St, Sailors Gully 3556

Celebration day

Sunday 25 Feb: 9am to 2pm at 5 Murdoch St, California Gully 3556

Many thanks, - GP

President Eric Smith – interviewed by the Bendigo Advertiser:

Congratulations to our Eaglehawk Rotary President: Eric Smith, for the great article in the Bendigo Advertiser last Thursday 8th February, commemorating 15 years since the Black Saturday Fires.

It is timely to show our appreciation (yet again) for all emergency service workers and volunteers, without your selfless efforts our communities could not remain safe.

The full article can be viewed on- line and my apology that this copy (below) is not particularly clear.

BLACK SATURDAY, 15 YEARS ON Former CFA captain hopes it never happens again
Eric Smith recalls 'remarkable day'

Jonathon Magrath

THE Black Saturday fires will be permanently etched in the memory of former Eaglehawk Fire Brigade captain Eric Smith.

Fifteen years since hell and fury visited Victoria, Mr Smith said he can still picture the flames as they travelled from Bracewell Street, Maiden Gully towards the centre of Bendigo.

Mr Smith was in Melbourne on the morning of February 7, 2009, but with the temperature reaching 45 degrees and winds of 100km/h he knew he needed to get home.

"At about 4pm there was a number of us here... hoping like hell nothing happened."

"And then a couple of cars with ladies, a few minutes apart, pulled up and said 'do you know there's a fire out the road?'"

"We were looking to the north and didn't really see what was happening behind us."

The Eaglehawk tanker was in Redesdale, leaving Mr Smith and his crew to fight a running grass fire with a pumper which had to be operated stationary.

In Bendigo, one man died, and 57 homes and 115 out-buildings were destroyed.

More than 70 tankers, many from northern Victoria, helped fight the fire.

Mr Smith said he never expected the fire to start in the west, let alone jump Maiden Gully Road.

"From a firefighter point of view, and being the captain of the brigade at the time, nobody really thought the fire was going to start over that side," he said.

"We were expecting it to come through straight in from the Whipstick [Forest], so it was a bit of a shock to us

that it started over there.

"It could have been worse. It could have gone straight past the Salvos down here at Marong Road and kept going, as it turned out, it was about 700 meters from the [Alexandra] Fountain, which is a bloody bit of a shock."

"It just happened to be that the wind changed when it did and it came back where it started towards the tip, so we were fairly fortunate from that point of view."

As well as the devastation, Mr Smith said he'd never forget the bravery.

"There were so many of the community that were throwing water from Eskis and buckets and goodness knows what, as they do."

"They shouldn't have been there because the blimmin' fire was licking around their ears, but they were still throwing water at it."

"It was a remarkable day," Mr Smith is convinced the people involved, and the community, still suffer.

"They still have nightmares and that's never going to go away, they just keep working at learning to live with it," he said.

"You can't change it and it must've been scary for a lot of them; it was bad enough for us."

The community pulled together in a way he had never seen before.

"On the night, a couple of shopkeepers brought in big trays of lasagna for us."

"The next weekend there were little stalls outside the shops in the main street and they were raising funds and cooking sausages... and then the funds come into the brigade."

"The community just worked together so well, not only to help us but to help



Eric Smith with a map of the fire boundary, and photos of the aftermath. Picture by Darren Howe



The Black Saturday fires destroyed almost 60 homes in Bendigo. Picture by Peter Hyett

the rest of the community as well, and that was the good part of it."

Nobody wants to go through Black Saturday again, but Mr Smith said every time the weather is hot, dry, windy, or all three, it was "a good reminder".

"It's not the sort of day we want to happen again, but with the weather we've been

getting, don't be surprised."

"Being 15 years since Black Saturday, it's a good reminder for people to have a look at their property and see what they can do to make it safer."

Mr Smith said people should check over their fire plans and practice them.

"It can happen anytime, so we've got to be prepared."

Groovin The Moo festival tickets are selling fast

GROOVIN The Moo tickets went on sale on February 5, and already the first release of the Fast Forward tickets are sold out for the Bendigo music festival.

Fast Forward entitles the ticketholder to an express entry line, express bar lines, dedicated toilets and a dedicated lane for merchandise and cloakroom within the general admission area of the event.

The first release of the general admission tickets are also sold out.

Second release of Fast Forward tickets are still available as well the second, third and fourth releases for general admission.

Groovin The Moo will be held at the Prince of Wales Showgrounds in Bendigo on Saturday, April 27.

Among the acts are DMA's, Hot Dub Time Machine, The Jungle Giants, Mailrat, San Cisco, Alison Wonderland and Mel C from the Spice Girls.

To reduce scalping, festival organisers don't email tickets until much closer to the event.

The confirmation email is all that festival-goers need for the moment.

Moshtix is the festival's only official online ticketing outlet.

Festival organisers urge fans to double check they are buying from Moshtix only, and not a third-party ticketing website (such as Tixel, Viagogo, Gumtree, Facebook etc).

"We cannot confirm the legitimacy of any tickets purchased via a third-party ticketing outlet and don't want to see our genuine GTM fans scammed out of their money," festival organisers state on their website.

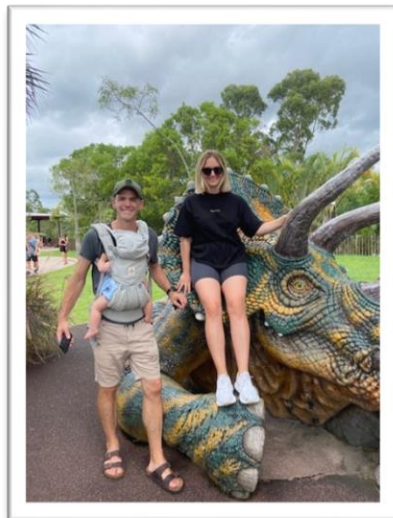
Bendigo Advertiser



'They still have nightmares'

Fifteen years on from the horrors of the Black Saturday fires, former Eaglehawk Fire Brigade captain Eric Smith says as well as the devastation he would never forget

Lynne has been having a well-deserved break and holiday in Queensland (Australia Zoo and Noosa) with her family:



[District 9800 Conference:](#)

Here is a link to the D9800 web site promotion of the Conference – it provides all updated information, outlines guest speakers and the Conference Programme and provides accommodation and showcase links!

<https://rotarydistrict9800.org.au/sitepage/district-conference-bendigo-2024>



Bendigo Conference 2024

12-14th April

Rotarian, Partners & Friends:	\$390
First-time attendee:	\$300
Rotaractor & Youth Exchange:	\$200
Foundation Breakfast:	\$40

Book now at: www.trybooking.com/CMCUD

'GATHERING ON THE GOLDFIELDS'



February 2024

Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention Month

23 February — Rotary's anniversary

