



District 9820

RI President: Jennifer E. Jones

District Governor: Paul Mee

Assistant Governor: Con Demopoulos

ROTARY CLUB OF FRANKSTON NORTH. INC

Chartered 7 May 1973

Web:
www.rotaryfrankstonnorth.org/

President: Simon Gillham

President Elect: Maree Hutchins

Past President: Charles Mallia

Secretary: Tony Spring

Treasurer: Brian Capon

Sergeant at Arms: Ron Cook

Directors:

Maree Hutchins Club Service

Keith Hopkins Fundraising

David Hanlon Membership

Maureen Gillham Foundation

John Tame Service Projects

Judi McKee Youth

Linda Tinney Public Relations

Club Meetings:

Mornington Hotel—Stratton Room

917 Nepean Hwy Mornington

5.30pm for 6.00pm or by Zoom

Club Contact

Secretary Tony Spring

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The Four Way Test

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Is it FAIR to all concerned?

Will it Build Goodwill & better Friendships

Will it be Beneficial to all concerned

ROTARY HO!

The Official Bulletin of Frankston North Rotary



**IMAGINE
ROTARY**

**VOL 50 Issue 36
Meeting Date: 18/04/2023**



President Simon's Musings

Hello !

What a moving, emotional and sometimes funny and joyful ANZAC Day memorial meeting we had last night. Ron Cook, ably assisted by David Hanlon and Eric Neil put together another great presentation encompassing some history of our ANZAC tradition moving through our Country's involvement in both world wars, Malaysia, Vietnam, Timor, various Middle Eastern conflicts and our Afghan involvement.

I was particularly touched by the showcasing of the John Schumann and Red Gum song "I was only nineteen" as during the time of Conscription, my "marble" dropped. Fortunately I was at Uni at the time and my military service was shelved. In came Gough Whitlam and the rest, as we know, is history. I was nineteen at the time.

Our Guest Speakers, Liz Brown and John "Pilko" Pilkington spoke at length about the challenges faced by returned Service Personnel and their work with them through the Noble Park RSL. The difficulties placed in their way by a faceless bureaucracy who seem hell bent on blocking access for our returned veterans to what would seem to be their basic entitlements must be immensely frustrating for Liz and Pilko. It is absolutely to their credit that they keep pushing ahead for their clients.

We are now seeing returned personnel from the Afghan conflict who will no doubt have their own unique issues, given the type of conflict that we were involved in over there, and the fact that the whole thing is unresolved.

Once again, well done Cookie and Crew, we look forward to your ANZAC Day commemoration in 2024 !

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Apologies:

Linda Tinney
Bev Unitt
Eric Neill
David Shimshon
Colin Price
Ian McConnell
Louise Welbourn
Kaye Aitchison

Leave of Absence:

Nil

Guests:

Maggie MacDonald
Danny & Denise Kuhl
John Pilkington
Liz Brown

Zoomers:

David Brook
Charles Mallia

MILESTONES:

Birthdays:

Nil

Rotary Anniversaries:

Nil

Wedding Anniversaries:

26/04/1969 - Geoff & Jeanette Magor



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APRIL DESIGNATION IS

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MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH MONTH

"What is the value of the life of one child saved? No one will ever know, but if the child were our own, the price tag would be marked: Not for sale - this life is invaluable." 1979-80 James L. Bomar Jr



TAKE ACTION: Join a Project

Club Announcements

President Simon

Welcome to members & partners present, Zoomers. Also a warm welcome to our Guests Speakers, John Pilkington & Liz Brown, and guests Danny & Denise Kuhl, Thanks also for the messages of support and good wishes for my rehabilitation from a knee replacement.

PE Maree

We have been invited visit Koorootang Court Retirement Village in Mt Martha sometime in June for morning tea, and to see what retirement village living is all about. Many club members has already shown interest, and if you want to be part of the tour, contact Maree.

Secretary Tony

The District Assembly for the next Rotary year will be held at Nossal High School in Berwick on Saturday 22nd April. Directors and Rotarians are invited to attend, but must register with District. There is a meeting for the incoming board at 6:00 pm on Wednesday May 3rd, at Maree's Flourish Café, 44 Norman Ave Frankston South.

John Tame

The door for the L2C container is expected to be delivered this week, and Stuart Ellam is planning to cut the hole and fit the door when his schedule permits.

We have spent over \$5538 on plants and minor expenses for the Banksia planting Project, and Ross expects to spend many more plants this month. We cancelled the planting day on Sunday last because of the weather. Another day will be scheduled as we still have over 100 trees to plant.

Judi McKee

We have received information from District on the Science Experience to be held at various universities, and the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) event from June 26th to July 1st. Although the proposed Interact Club being formed at McClelland College has not yet been formally approved, the students have been pushing ahead with their projects. They have already raised nearly \$2000 for the Leukaemia Foundation through a free dress day, selling raffle tickets for Easter hampers and auctioning off a staff members hair, beard and eyebrows, which was ceremoniously removed in front of the students. They are looking for more projects (and teachers?) next term.

Con Demopoulos

The new D9815 Nominating Committee nomination for District Governor Nominee Designate (DGND) to fill the role of D9815 District Governor in 2025 – 2026 is **Peter Behm** from the Rotary Club of Noble Park Dingley.

David Loudon

Our guests tonight, Danny & Denise Kuhl, are the proprietors of Seagull Press and have offered to print the official program for our 50th Anniversary Celebration on 7th May at no cost to the Club. Thanks to Danny and Denise for this generous donation.

Guest Speakers: John Pilkington and Liz Brown

“Veteran Welfare”

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Chairman Ron Cook, John Pilkington and Liz Brown

Chairman Ron opened the segment by playing the song by Redgum “I was only 19”. The song presents a soldier's experience of war and reflects on Australia's attitude to involvement in the Vietnam conflict. The song helped Australians to better appreciate the plight of soldiers that returned from the conflict and its lyrics were inscribed on the Australian Vietnam Forces National Memorial in 1992.

He then introduced John and Liz. John is a Vietnam Veteran who served in the Engineer Corps, and since 1997, became a Pension and Welfare advocate at Noble Park RSL. He is the Secretary of the Vietnam Veterans Noble Park Sub-Branch and is a life member.

Liz is also a Pension and Welfare advocate at Noble Park RSL since 2008, a year after her first husband (also a veteran) died. She had skills to offer and wanted to thank the Noble Park Vietnam Veterans for their support in the years before his death. She was on the Victorian Veterans Council for six years. After her family left home, Liz put herself through a Law degree. She is on the committee of the Noble Park RSL.

There have been several different Acts under the umbrella of the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) since the Vietnam War. They include the Veteran

Entitlements Act and The Defence Rehabilitation & Compensation Act and the current one is the Military Rehabilitation & Competition Act (MRCA).

And with the advent of each new Act, the treatment of Veterans seems to get worse. With the passing away of the WW2 Veterans, DVA reduced their staff and lost a lot of corporate knowledge. Then they introduced on-line claims, which led to claims being made en masse by the younger, computer savvy Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans, leaving DVA overloaded with claims and a lack of staff with corporate knowledge to process them.

This led to a massive re-think on how we help Veterans today. This has led to less face-to-face contact for the Vietnam Veterans and most of the communication with DVA is on-line, which is difficult for Vietnam Veterans.



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Pension & Welfare officers assist with submitting claims, getting Service and Medical records, doctor and specialists reports, getting accessing X-ray, scans, MRI's and any reports that can help with their claims. Listening to the Veterans is their major tool today. They also assist with Veteran's families, aids and appliances, appointments with therapists, doctors, physiotherapists and hospitals, emergency services and drug abuse issues.

Another difficulty is the DVA public service attitude and the role of advocate was now widened to include acting as a mediator between the Veteran, DVA and other like organisations. Our Vietnam Veterans deserve better.



This beautiful seat is at the RSL in Beaudesert. The sun shines on it and puts the writing on the ground underneath the seat. ❤️❤️❤️



Dates for your Diary

- Tuesday 25 April - Anzac Day. Meeting cancelled
- Tuesday 2 May - Roger Gunn - Frankston Council. **Chair:** John T.
- Wednesday 3 May - Incoming Board Meeting - Flourish Café
- Saturday 7 May - FNR Club 50th Anniversary Celebration - Sandhurst Club
- Tuesday 9 May - Meeting Cancelled
- Tuesday 16 May - TBC
- Tuesday 23 May - Club Assembly

Cashier's Roster

- 2nd May - Ian McConnell**
- 16th May - Louise Welbourn**
- 23rd May - Kaye Aitchison**
- 30th May - Eric Neill**

Abbeyfield Roster

Twice monthly on Wednesday mornings, starting at 9:20am. min 2, max 4 volunteers

May 3rd

Tony Spring
Charles Mallia
David Loudon

May 17th

Mike Goonan
Ian McConnell
TBA

June 7th

Ron Cook
John Tame
David Hanlon

June 21st

Eric Neill
John Tame
Simon Gillham

Next Meeting - 2nd May

Mornington Hotel

Ballam Park Shelter

Speaker: Roger Gunn - Frankston City Council