



# ROTARY CLUB OF CROYDON & MONTROSE

Chartered 2<sup>nd</sup> March 1973



## THE CHRONICLE

**17<sup>th</sup>. December 2019 – Volume 47 No. 13**

**A publication of the Rotary Club of Croydon & Montrose ID No. 18360, District 9810.**

**President 2019/20 – Eric Thomas**

### UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Standard meeting venue and time: Dorset Gardens Hotel, 335 Dorset Road, Croydon  
6:00 pm for 6:30 pm start, unless otherwise specified.  
Meal following meeting at Dorset Gardens Bistro.

DATE	Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> January 2020
SUBJECT	Entering stories in local newspapers
SPEAKERS	Mandy Maguire & Noel Morely from 'Maroondah Voice' will speak to us on how to submit stories ONLINE.
DATE	Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> January 2020
SUBJECT	Business Meeting followed by Board Meeting

#### **PLEASE NOTE:**

*It is the responsibility of The Chair for the night to write a small summary of the night, 2 to 3 paragraphs and email to the editor so it could be printed in The Chronicle.*

**A reminder to all members: - If you are unable to attend any Tuesday night meetings, the Club protocol is to notify Jean Stuart.**

*(except for those with special circumstances who instead advise when they will be attending)*

# MEMBERS' CORNER

**It is the responsibility of each member to inform the club if they are unable to attend any Tuesday meeting, OR if they are bringing partners / guests to a meeting.**

**Please notify Jean Stuart on 0416 036 489 or at [jeanieos007@gmail.com](mailto:jeanieos007@gmail.com) before 10:00 am on Monday**

**Greeter for January : VIV BAUM**

**Warm Birthday wishes to all those celebrating their special day during December.**

Tony Wright	4 <sup>th</sup> .	December
Greg O'Neill	13 <sup>th</sup>	December
Carol Lawton	20 <sup>th</sup> .	December
Judy Wright	26 <sup>th</sup> .	December



**Congratulations to those celebrating their Wedding Anniversaries this month**

Carol & Frank Lawton	15 <sup>th</sup> .	December
Ruth & Stephen Bode	27 <sup>th</sup> .	December



**Chronicle contributions and any articles of interest are invited from all members and persons that have an interest in the promotion of Rotary International.**

**By emailing**

**[president@rotarycroydonmontrose.org.au](mailto:president@rotarycroydonmontrose.org.au)**

**By close of business on Friday.**

# President's Report: 17-12-2019



I wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and a big thank you to the directors and all who have served on club and district committees in 2019.

In 2019 the Rotary Club of Croydon and the Rotary Club of Montrose merged to form the Rotary Club of Croydon & Montrose. This created additional administrative duties, thankfully most of the additional work load is behind us.

There were other changes during the year including three presidents, new format for weekly meetings, our first corporate/organization members and 2 assistant governors. There is still more to do as a new merged club, the initial seeds of change have sprouted. We all look forward to a progressive 2020 year. Bring all those 2020 ideas to our meeting on the 21st January 2020.

Who said that the good old days have gone? At the Montrose Carols, Santa arrived in a CFA sleigh with siren and lights much to the delight of the not so small or young, mainly due to free lollies. Your rotary club supplied and served on free BBQ. A good time was had by all and the club promoted itself assisted by excellent weather and a near full moon.

Mark and Sharon Sidandi, together with Geoff Bartlett and Graham Blumfield, returned to the club to bring us up to date including the opening of the Captain's Choice Academy in Kenya. It was very pleasing to see the finished school and toilet block and hear about future activities. At dinner, Terry McEvoy and Mark swapped business cards as they discussed similarities between Swinburne's activities in Arnhem land and Mark's experiences in Kenya.

I was very impressed on my first visit to the Montrose men's shed. It is very obvious that they require more space. That is a much larger shed. The current one is about as large as the Dorset's board room and cannot be extended.

As the media would say, we had our traditional Christmas breakup at the Bodes. A very big thank you to Stephen and Ruth, the facilities were excellent, the food great, good entertainment, perfect weather – even if there was no moon. That was not the last function of the year, Viv and Stephen took the presents donated to Ray White's Little Ray of Giving to Safe Futures Foundation late on the 20<sup>th</sup> December 2019 and subsequently Stephen delivered Christmas wrapped biscuits to the Maroondah Hospital.

Afternoon tea to remember Richard (Dick) Gardner is on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2020.

District grants for projects within Australia open on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2020.

District Governor nominations for 2022-2023 are now open.

There is a Youth Service Showcase and Sign Up Seminar on 14<sup>th</sup> February 2020 to focus on 5 of the 13 different rotary youth services.

I look forward to seeing you all in 2020.

Regards,

**Eric Thomas**

## **A report on the recent visit by the Aussie Kenya Community Organisation (AKCO) team was provided at our meeting by Mark Sidandi.**

- The remaining phase of the Captain's Choice Academy Kenya was completed with the building project which included painting the school, glazing the windows, finishing toilets, plumbing and plumbing works.
- A 40 ft container was transported from Nairobi where it had been parked since arriving from Australia. The container contained donations such as school furniture, books, clothes and computers.
- The Captain's Choice Academy, Kenya was officially opened by Kenya Government education officials, community leaders and members, the clergy and witnessed by community members, teachers, kids and their parents.
- Items of clothing donated by well wishes in Australia were distributed to well over 1,000 members of the community in their village and from surrounding villages.
- A camp in the Maasai Mara Game Reserve was opened, where kids from the school as well as kids from other schools, youth and community members, volunteers and tourists alike can go to for periods of time and learn about the environment as well as enjoy game drives.
- The team set up and organised farming of food crops on a 12-acre piece of land in the Maasai Mara where kids on camp can come and learn how to grow food, tend to the crops and harvest depending on the stage of the crop when they are at camp. Food produced will be used to feed kids at the school.
- The team arranged for teachers to be hired who will be running the school when it opens in January 2020.
- A school management committee was put in place to oversee the enrollment of pupils to join the school in January 2020.

Mark reported that the project was running smoothly but there had been some challenges along the way such as adverse weather conditions that has been occasioned by excessive rainfall and flooding.

The Captain's Choice Academy grounds need proper drainage planned and installed. The landscaping needs to be done to give a good image of the school. Government regulations require that within the next 12 months the school grounds must be fenced and a ramp provided to enable access to the second level classrooms.

Mark indicated that the locals seem to lack such skills and Rotary could assist by sending volunteers who are able to impart such skills to the local people.

The Captain's Choice Academy is at its infancy. Many other projects need to be introduced such as Carpentry workshops, tailoring, computers, music, sports etc. These would benefit immensely if Rotary could send volunteers from Australia willing to put in time and energy to train kids and youth in best practice and better ways of doing things.

Contd.

Also attending the meeting were Sharron Sidandi and dedicated project supporters Geoff Bartlett and Graham Blumfield.





## Montrose Carols – Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December

Thank you all for your work for and support of Montrose Carols. Once again this was a special community activity and it was rewarding to see all the families enjoying themselves.

The Montrose CFA version of Santa's sleigh is always a great hit with all ages, this year was no different.

Mitchell Knight Brown did a mighty job, helping with packing bread, selling drinks and other things besides. He told me, 'I can help even though I'm not a Rotarian yet' – **I loved that!!!**

Kylie, can you pass on our thanks and appreciation to Brad and the boys

Past Montrose member Penny Christie came to help because it's an event she always enjoys. Partners Frank Lawton and Brad Brown provided invaluable help too.

Thank you too for the donations of food for 'The Holy Fools' hampers – those will be appreciated when they reach their destination.

Many thanks to Rotarians Stephen Bode, Tad Jung, Kylie Knight-Brown, Carol Lawton and Eric Thomas. It was also good to see Bev Thomas enjoying the evening and to have the opportunity to spend some time with her.

Whatever your contribution, it was all appreciated by the community we were serving – we had lots of positive feedback on that.

Best wishes to you all.

Carol Lawton

Rotary Club of Croydon & Montrose



## TOWN SQUARE CLOCK

### Here at Last!

If you wander past the Croydon Main Street Town Square you will see that clocks have finally been installed on both sides of the tower.

Discussion with the Maroondah Council will follow in the new year to design Rotary plaques (or similar) to accompany the installation.



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## RAY OF GIVING

We thank Ray White Croydon for again organizing the “Ray of Giving” Christmas gift program and for contributions by Croydon & Montrose members.

Pictured is the delivery of toys to Safe Futures Foundation for distribution to families receiving their care over Christmas



# Viliame

## Update on Viliame

by Glenys Parton, New Zealand ROMAC Chair.

11th November 2019

Four-year-old Viliame arrived in New Zealand from Fiji, feeling quite poorly. He needed surgery to treat a coronary arterial fistula – a connection between one or more of the coronary arteries and a cardiac chamber or great vessel. This is a rare defect and usually occurs in isolation. The majority of such fistulas are congenital in origin. They do not usually cause symptoms or complications in the first two decades of life, especially when small, and this explained this bundle of energy on arrival. After this age, the frequency of both symptoms and complications usually increases.

Viliame, supported and cared for by his mother Talia, underwent a relatively straightforward procedure at Auckland's Starship Hospital, involving a catheter closure using a variety of closure devices. Catheter technique results are mostly excellent with few complications and Viliame can expect a good outcome.

Since his initial treatment Viliame has spent the day at Auckland's Starship Hospital, mum Talei and David Skinner in support. The morning consisted of several examinations, X-Ray, Echo Cardiogram, Blood Tests, ECG plus general monitoring. The Cardiologist, on reviewing the Echo, decided that a further catheterization was required to stop the leakage of the coronary artery. In the afternoon Viliame had another two devices inserted that hopefully will overcome this problem.

I have been in touch since the procedure and Viliame is fine and has returned to Ronald McDonald house.

This week he will have another Echo and hopefully all will be repaired ok for them to return home.



Viliame, aged 4





## No more hiding Zoe's face under a blanket



*Beautiful baby Zoe 2 weeks after her operation*

Baby Zoe had an encephalocele (protruding brain tissue) which covered most of her face and restricted her sight. Her young mother covered Zoe face with a blanket so no one could see her.

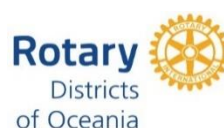
Zoe arrived from Vanuatu with her mother Qwendolyne for treatment at New Zealand's Starship Hospital in Auckland. The Neurosurgeon's work took over two hours to excise the protruding brain tissue. The faciomaxillary surgeon, the plastic surgeon and finally the facial cosmetic surgeons took over 5 hours to reconstruct Zoe's face.

Miraculously Zoe's eyesight had not been affected.

Zoe healed very well and Qwendolyne was very excited to be taking her home and able to show her off in public, no more hiding her behind a blanket.

A wonderful example of how ROMAC provides Life giving surgery to children from our nearest neighbouring islands.

12 March 2016



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## Donate Today to Help Save A Child's Life

Your donation helps ROMAC's mission to restore dignity and save the lives of children in our region. This benefits not only the lives of the children, but has a positive impact on their community as well.

All donations over \$2 to ROMAC are tax deductible. This humanitarian program is run entirely by Rotarian volunteers; surgeons donate their expertise, hospitals often reduce costs and there are minimal overheads no office, no paid staff etc – giving great value for every dollar you donate.

Even better, your donation is spent in our countries (Australia and New Zealand) supporting our local communities near the hospitals where the children are treated. ROMAC, the children and their families are most appreciative of all bequests and donations.



Made up of men and women across all vocations and cultures,

Rotary continues to make an impressive impact. Are you:

- Keen to help others and want to make a difference?
- Seeking more meaning and purpose in your life?
- Looking for ways to help your community?
- Want to be part of a worldwide network for good?
- Interested in a Corporate Social Responsibility program in which your company can participate?

Volunteering with Rotary can provide you with a great work life balance. It's an opportunity to extend your life experience and business skills, to benefit your local community and the wider world.

- It provides a bridge from your working and home life – to meet and network with other business and community people
- Ongoing personal development
- Grow your understanding and knowledge
- Open to both men and women
- Make a new extended network of friends
- Weekly contact opportunities
- Links to a vast international network
- Provides a pathway to do good in the world

The impact our members make takes shape at our Club meetings and activities. These gatherings allow you to join other passionate, visionary people to discuss and act upon community needs.

Rotary Club meetings are also a place to strengthen connections to friends and neighbours and form meaningful relationships that last a lifetime.

## Club Information

<b>Postal Address:</b>	<b>P.O. Box 226, Croydon Victoria 3136</b>		
<b>Meeting Venue:</b>	Dorset Gardens Hotel	335 Dorset Road, Croydon Victoria 3136	
<b>Facebook:</b>	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/CroydonMontroseRotary">https://www.facebook.com/CroydonMontroseRotary</a>		
<b>Website:</b>	<a href="http://www.rotarycroydonmontrose.org.au">www.rotarycroydonmontrose.org.au</a>		
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