

VALLEY VIBES

Volume 10 Edition 4

BULLETIN

November 2020

Guest Speaker 11 November 2020

ERIS RASHFORD Remembrance Day

Eris has been a member of the Harrisville community for a long time having managed the Harrisville Post Office for 20 years before her recent retirement. Her husband Mick has had a connection with the Fassifern Valley having grown up at Mutdapilly where his family lived since 1863.

Local history and the lives of those who have served Australia in all wars are of particular interest to Eris. As a member of the Harrisville Historical Society, to mark the Centenary of ANZAC she researched and documented local war history in her book *WW1 Soldiers of the Normanby Shire*. She is currently researching the "*History of Harrisville Hospital*".

War memorials hold a special interest to Eris. She has investigated the lives of 126 veterans whose names appear on several Harrisville district rolls of remembrance. Remembrance Day provides Eris the opportunity to speak of her military interest with a special focus on the families of local veterans.



Harrisville Memorial Gates with World War 1 Roll of Remembrance



“One Thousand Men are Walking”

By Joshua Dyer, Nov 2019: a 14 year old from Herefordshire county, England. He said “I’m glad that I’ve managed to touch so many people with it.”



One thousand men are walking

walking side by side,

Singing songs from home

the spirit as their guide,

They walk toward the light milord

they walk towards the sun,

They smoke and laugh and smile together

no foes to outrun,

These men live on forever

in the hearts of those they saved,

A nation truly grateful

for the path of peace they paved,

They march as friends and comrades

but they do not march for war,

Step closer to salvation

a tranquil steady corps,

The meadows lit with golden beams

a beacon for the brave,

The emerald grass untrampled

a reward for what they gave,

They dream of those they left behind

and know they dream of them,

Forever in those poppy fields there walks one
thousand men.



Hello to Everyone!,

Our last month has been dotted with positive events for which we are all very grateful! Donations to the tune of \$2500 were given to us via Neil and Jenny, from kind car club enthusiasts who were not able to meet for their annual rally but they still wanted to help our cause of raising funds for use in our Community.

Rain has fallen, albeit with patchy totals in our beautiful Scenic Rim, but that green tinge as far as the eye can see, is a sight to behold.

Thank you to our members who have attended community events as part of our “getting out there” plan to increase our image in 9640. A kind bee keeper from Aratula gave us honey which we will raffle at our next Dinner Meeting on November 11th. I look forward to that meeting as our guest speaker for that night, will speak about community members’ involvement in war conflicts, as we celebrate Armistice Day. This day means so much to me as it was my dear Mum’s birthday as well.

Our recent Dinner Meeting held at the Roadvale Hotel, was, by all means, a huge success. Our guest speaker, Simon, was truly inspirational, speaking candidly from the heart with raw emotion. I can speak on behalf of all who attended when I say that we all learnt so much about living with chronic epilepsy but this has not stopped Simon making a success of his life. We all learned a very valuable lesson about walking in someone else’s shoes. Our donation to Epilepsy Australia, of behalf of Simon, was truly deserved. We chatted to a number of locals during the evening and left copies of our Valley Vibes for patrons to read. We also raised \$78 for Polio Plus, always a designated day in the Rotary International calendar in October.

Christmas is approaching with haste it seems- 7 weeks to go!!

Till next time,

Let us continue to be kind and stay safe.

Lindy x – President

Previous Guest Speaker 21 October 2020 – Simon Mc Quillan



President Lindy and Chairman Ross present Simon with a donation of \$250 for the Epilepsy Foundation

My Adventurous and Traumatic Life

Simon was introduced to the meeting by Ross Blanch, a friend and former neighbour of Simon's parents at Tallegalla, where they lived on a cattle property. Ross has known Simon from the early age of 10 years and claims he "knows him inside out". He lamented the loss of a good friend in the passing of Simon's father, a couple of years ago.

Simon, began by highlighting his inexperience at public speaking and his self-consciousness at talking about himself. He stated that from an early age all he wanted to do was to become a truck driver as his family had about 100 vehicles. He claims he learnt to appreciate the land and its improvements from his loving parents. He attended Tallegalla State School of 13 pupils, moving on to

Marburg State School and then Ipswich Grammar "along with what seemed thousands" of pupils. He claims the transition was enormous as he came to terms with his new school, including its war cry as if it were "tattooed to his chest". He admits school was not his forte, causing his relocation to West Moreton Anglican College to study agriculture. Despite misbehavior and disciplinary detention while at school, he was invited back some years later as "guest speaker", since while at school he

stood out as someone who knew what he wanted to do on graduating, such as transport, sales, customer service, earthmoving, travel, managing cattle stations etc.

His teacher confessed that he used to be the subject of conversation around the teachers staff room nearly every day due to his misbehavior.

On entering the workforce at the age of 18, he was forced to come to terms with his health and wellbeing, as a sufferer of epilepsy. Further investigation showed its cause may stem back to his birth, when his mother and he suffered rough treatment from the delivering doctor. In his early 20s he suffered anxiety and depression from the medication he was prescribed, causing behavioral issues such as "flipping his car one evening on suffering a seizure" while driving, resulting in the severance of fingers.

At age 21 with improved health he joined the mining industry. After 6 month he was considering the purchase of a house when he suffered a relapse, causing the loss of all he had saved, forcing him back to live with his parents until about age 25. During this time while suffering 30 to 40 seizures a week he lost friendship with mates and became depressed as he could not work.

Medical advice encouraged him to consider brain surgery called a *temporal lobe lobotomy*. Similar surgery was performed on Wally Lewis about the same time. It coincided with his surgeon moving from Sydney to Brisbane, with Simon becoming his first patient at the Royal Brisbane Hospital. Brain surgery is high risk as demonstrated by his sharing the ward with four other patients with whom he became close mates. It was difficult for him to report that he was the only survivor.

Given the position of the tumor in his temporal lobe he was given only a 60 percent chance of success. Post operation he went from having about 40 seizures a week to none. After 6 months of recuperation and a basic job with Dairy Farmers he bought his first house. As a reward he decided to go on a "walkabout" overseas for a short 4 weeks which turned into 2 years. In this time he travelled Europe and took a job on a dairy farm at Wiltshire, caring for 500 cows.

Feeling he should move on, on his way home he travelled to Canada, United States then back to Australia starting at Perth and then hitch hiked across Australia to Queensland. He made it clear that he would not repeat such a trip due to the risk associated with meeting strangers as he did.

A consequence of his life to date was a loss of self esteem and self confidence. It was a delight to hear this return to him as he went on to enjoy life, as evidenced by such things as participating on the reality TV show *Married at First Sight*. Here he began a relationship with a Lebanese lady whose family was both Muslim and Christian. Due to cultural differences the marriage was unable to last long term. However, it had its rewards as she was a trained nurse and able to care for him when a seizure occurred, especially at night and when he had no access to medication.

The stigma of having an illness like epilepsy has undermined employer confidence in hiring Simon. Eventually he decided to become self-employed and formed his own company Atlas Balance Co. making heavy vehicle accessories.

In his effort to see people suffering from illnesses such as epilepsy, not being discriminated against, he came a member of Epilepsy Australia, which

has been in existence since 1952, as a not for profit information group. Today he attributes management of his illness to doctor prescribed medication which includes medicinal cannabis, notwithstanding the associated ill-informed associated social stigma. After much research he has now been taking medicinal cannabis for seven months.

Despite its benefits, the downside of medicinal cannabis is its affordability, which he demonstrated with a packet containing 20 mls, costing \$500 and which lasts him 2 to 3 weeks. He attributes the drug's exclusion from the PBS to the political ignorance over the product.

Simon concluded by acknowledge his parents, the late Joe and Peta McQuillan, while apologizing to them for the stress he brought to their lives due to his moodswings and seizures. The lesson they taught him was, *If you stumble, pick yourself up, dust yourself off and carry on.*

President Lindy thanked Simon for his inspirational address while presenting him with a donation from RCFV for \$250 for Epilepsy Foundation research.



The Object of Rotary

The Object of Rotary is to encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise and, in particular, to encourage and foster:

- **FIRST.** The development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service;
- **SECOND.** High ethical standards in business and professions; the recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations; and the dignifying of each Rotarian's occupation as an opportunity to serve society;
- **THIRD.** The application of the ideal of service in each Rotarian's personal, business, and community life;
- **FOURTH.** The advancement of international understanding, goodwill, and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional persons united in the ideal of service.



ROTARY YOUTH EXCHANGE

....an opportunity of a lifetime
....to follow a dream

The Rotary Youth Exchange Program enables youth aged 15-18 years to study for up to 12 months in an overseas country.

The student's natural parents or guardian provide for all of the following costs: an administration fee; return airfare, as arranged by Rotary; personal insurance, as defined by Rotary International; internal travel in overseas country including Rotary organized tour; day to day living expenses of the student, postage, phone calls, personal items, clothing, footwear etc., and a small emergency fund (redeemable at conclusion of exchange, if unused)

Rotary provides: Rotary approved host-families who provide a family environment for the student; schooling and the payment of normal school fees and expenses; a monthly allowance of approximately \$100 to the student; a student counsellor, both here and in the host country; and back up support and counselling for the family of the student.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions into 2021, both in Australia and Internationally, YEP proposals may be postponed. Confirmation of the program will be required early in the New Year.

If you are interested in the program for when restrictions are eased please contact the Club Secretary for details on sec.rcfv@outlook.com



The 24 October 2020 was determined by Rotary International as World Polio Day. It was a time for Rotarians across the world to raise awareness about efforts to eradicate polio for good. It invited Clubs to raise their profile within the community by conducting an event which gave prominence to the cause.

RCFV members gathered at Arthur Clives coffee shop, Aratula for coffee. This prominent venue situated on the Cunningham Highway is a popular stop-over for travellers before and after negotiating Cunningham's Gap. The photo below shows RCFV Rotarians attired in highly visible "End Polio Now" T-shirts with restaurant co-owner Mark Samele on left, after serving "the best coffee".



President Lindy opened the 21 October '20 meeting inviting AG Cara to read the following story "The Puppy"

The Puppy – A Story from Chicken Soup for the Soul

By Jack Levine



A farmer had some puppies he needed to sell. He painted a sign advertising the pups and set about nailing it to a post on the edge of his yard. As he was driving the last nail into the post, he felt a tug on his overalls. He looked down into the eyes of a little boy "Mister," he said, "I want to buy one of your puppies."

"Well," said the farmer, as he rubbed the sweat of the back of his neck, "These puppies come from fine parents and cost a good deal of money."

The boy dropped his head for a moment. Then reaching deep into his pocket, he pulled out a handful of change and held it up to the farmer. "I've got 89 cents. Is that enough at least to take a look?"

"Sure," said the farmer. And with that he let out a whistle. "Here, Dolly!" he called.

Out from the doghouse and down the ramp ran Dolly followed by four little balls of fur. The little boy pressed his face against the chain link fence. His eyes danced with delight. As the dogs made their way to the fence, the little boy noticed something else stirring inside the doghouse.

Slowly another little fur ball appeared, this one noticeably smaller. Down the ramp it slid. Then the little pup began awkwardly wobbling toward the others, doing its best to catch up. "I want that one," the little boy said, quickly pointing to the runt.

The farmer knelt down at the boy's side and said, "Son, you don't want that puppy. He will never be able to run and play with you like these other dogs would."

With that the little boy stepped back from the fence, reached down, and began rolling up one leg of his trousers. In doing so he revealed a steel brace running down both sides of his leg attaching itself to a specially made shoe. Looking back up at the farmer, he said, "You see, sir, I don't run too well myself, and he will need someone who understands."

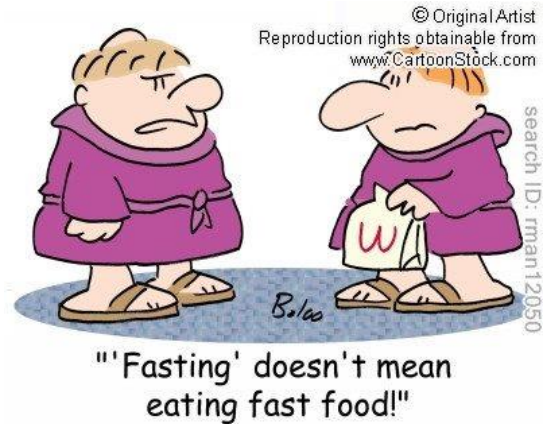
With tears in his eyes, the farmer reached down and picked up the little pup. Holding it carefully he handed it to the little boy.

"How much?" asked the little boy. "No charge," answered the farmer, "There's no charge for love and understanding"

Like that special puppy, the world is full of people who need someone who understands.

Our theme for this Rotary year is to help the community in which we live by handing them that "special puppy".

It's a Laugh!



Why do banks leave vault doors open and then chain the pens to the counters.

Birthdays	Sept - Oct	Anniversaries
2 Nov Tim Vanderwestern 5 Nov Arthur Devin 27 Nov Jim Kirchner 29 Nov Mary McInnes		Nil

Meeting Program and Duty Roster: November

DUTY ROSTER	Wed 4 Nov '20 Business Meeting	Wed 11 Nov '20 Dinner Meeting	Wed 18 Nov '20 No Meeting	Wed 25 Nov '20 Meeting
Duty Officer	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Chairman/ Rotary Reflections	Pres Lindy Kirchner	Beve Ward	Nil	Pres Lindy
Meeting Venue & Time	Lindy's Cottage 6.30 pm for 7.00	Lizzie's Cafe 6.30 pm for 7.00	Nil	Lindy's Cottage 6.30 pm for 7.00
Program and/or Guest Speaker	Business Meeting & AGM	Eris Rashford <i>Remembrance Day Address</i>	Nil	Packing Christmas Boxes

MEMBERS NOTICE:

1. To ensure a punctual 7.00 pm start, members are requested to arrive no later than 6.45pm.
2. When you have duties on the Roster and are not available, could you please arrange for someone else to fill in, and advise Secretary Jill of the change (Mob 0411 468 959).