



**EUROTA**  
 June 29, 2019  
**Rotary Club of Euroa**  
 Chartered October 12, 1946  
 P.O. Box 33 Euroa 3666



**Upcoming Program**

**President**  
 Bernie O'Dea  
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**Secretary**  
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**Board**

**Vice President**  
 Brian Bamford

**Past President-Foundation**  
 Richard Nettleton

**Treasurer**  
 Neville Harris

**Club Administration-  
 President Elect**  
 Ken McLennan

**Community Service**  
 Michael Stubbe

**Membership**  
 Denis Nolan

**Vocational**  
 Ronnie Mason

**International**  
 Michael Bell

**Youth Service**  
 Bob Irving

**Conference**  
 Richard Long

**Public Relations**  
 Linda Bennett

<b>Date</b>	<b>Thursday, June 27 No Meeting</b>	<b>July 4, 2019</b>
<b>time</b>	Changeover Dinner	6:00 for 6:30
<b>Venue</b>	Saturday, June 29 Butter Factory 6:30	Euroa Golf Club
<b>Speaker</b>		Kylie Penny
<b>Topic</b>	<i>Change Over Dinner</i>	Yoga for the Ages
<b>Chair</b>		Helen Waterworth
<b>Bar</b>		Bill Sargood Res David Cerini
<b>Stewards</b>		Trevor Smith Michael Stubbe Michael Tehan
<b>Sargent</b>		

**Apologies and guests to Noel O'Meara on 5795 2783  
 by Thursday 11 am**

**Sarges**  
 Brian Bamford  
 Donald McNeur

Any changes to the roster or reasonable suggestions to the editor should be emailed, as the editor and assistants are of an age that they need reminding,



# Bernie's Last Buzz

At last Thursday's meeting, Roger Morgan presented his maiden speech which incorporated his life's journey.

Having been born in Williamstown like myself one can understand why he is a fine gentleman.

I have spoken to several Rotarians and they are very much looking forward to the Changeover Dinner on Saturday evening.

Those who have not paid by Saturday please ensure they pay on the evening.

I wish Ken and his Board every success for the forthcoming year and they will have the support of the members and their partners as I have had this year.



Rotarian Rob Morphet & Lion Ray Day were part of the combined team who cooked for An Evening to Forget, held at the at the Showgrounds last Friday night, a free event to come together to socialise and find out about the networks and services out there to support those need to need some help. Our club had a great roll up to support the event!

## Thursday Night's Meeting

Chair Michael Bell welcomed: guests Ian and Annie May. Ian being a Rotarian from the Rotary Club of Malacca, Malaysia. Ian and Annie are now residing in Benalla.

Chair Michael made reference to World Refugee Day (20.6.19)

<https://www.unrefugees.org.au/get-involved/world-refugee-day/>

### REPORTS

#### President Bernie

1. Welcomed our guests Ian and Annie.
2. Reminded members that there is no meeting next Thursday.
3. Changeover is Saturday 29<sup>th</sup>, please pay ASAP.
4. Lily Gould has decided not to take up membership of the Rotary Club of Euroa.
5. AG Sally Mathieson thanked the club for the flowers and best wishes.
6. Edith Halsall sent a letter of apology as she cannot attend the Changeover dinner, she also sent a \$100 donation.
7. Neville Mawson has given Bernie a verbal confirmation that the club will manage the BBQ at the 2019 Euroa Show. A confirmation letter will be sent to the incoming President.
8. Invitation received to the District Changeover Lunch: Wangaratta Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> June 11:15 for 11:45 start; \$45.00 per head; let Bernie know if you wish to attend.

#### No Secretary Report

#### Directors Reports

##### **Michael Stubbe: Community Service**

1. **An Evening to Forget. Friday Jun 21<sup>st</sup>**, everyone is welcome. Approx. 100 people are expected to attend. Rotary, Lions and Apex are assisting with the function. Let Michael know if you can lend a hand.

#### Sarah Bullen: Piano recital report

Very successful event, a wonderful afternoon enjoyed by 66 people. Sarah presented Treasurer Neville Harris \$967.80.

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#### **GUEST SPEAKER – Club member Roger Morgan – Maiden speech**

***Roger gave an entertaining and thought provoking maiden speech. With Roger's permission his speech has been published below:***

## THE RE-CYCLED ROTARIAN

So where to start? I suppose a good place to start is at the start and endeavour to work through this in some sort of chronological order. I was born in Williamstown on 25th July 1947 and spent most of my early years living above or behind Milk Bars around Melbourne plus a short stint at the Reservoir Hotel at Kennington near Bendigo. My parents would purchase a run-down business and work extremely long hours over a couple of years to build it up before selling at a handsome profit and moving on to the next one.

This is where my retailing life commenced at around 6 or 7 years of age selling milk, confectionery and newspapers across a counter that was taller than I was.

As a result of all the above movements, many Primary Schools were attended during my earlier education. My father's last Milk Bar was the Castle Bar at the Kew Junction and for the first time we lived in an actual house located in Mont Albert.

My secondary education was at Trinity Grammar Kew where I attended until successfully completing 5th form. My father was smart enough to see the oncoming demise of Milk Bars and was on the lookout for a more secure retail future and wanted me to join him in a new venture. He was pursuing a Newsagency.

I left school and walked the streets of the Box Hill CBD looking for a job. I found one at Tom The Cheap Grocer and quite enjoyed my short time there. My father took note of this and decided a Licenced Grocery store would provide an opportunity, the boy liked the grocery business and he had enjoyed his time selling liquor at the Reservoir Hotel.

By this time I had a younger brother and a younger sister and a just born baby brother which as I recall was quite embarrassing for an 18 year old whose parents were clearly still "doing it".

In 1966 a small Licenced Grocery was purchased in Waverly Road East Malvern and in 1967 we set about on a major renovation however my time there was limited because May 1968 saw me exit for two year's National Service.

Recruit training was at Puckapunyal and this was followed by Corp training also at Puckapunyal. All through recruit training we were threatened with being "back-squadded" to a terrible place called Kapooka in western NSW where "everybody lives in hot as hell corrugated iron Nissen Huts and the temperature was always 45+ degrees". Clearly this was a terribly scary place and none of us snotty nosed kids wanted anything to do with it.

On the completion of Corp training we all received our postings – no prizes for guessing what I received – that horrible Kapooka hell hole. Our Lieutenant offered the opportunity to request a posting change outside the room afterwards and I was first in the line putting my hand up for Vietnam, "had to be better than Kapooka" in my mind.

Well, my request didn't work so off to hell near Wagga Wagga NSW I drove. On arrival I found this new military camp some 10k's out of the beautiful city of Wagga with very new three story brick barracks, ample sports fields, modern gymnasium, in fact the works. I was part of a Service Corp Supply and Transport attachment to 1RTB (1st Recruit Training Battalion).

After a few months I was promoted to Lance Corporal with the title Petrol, Oil & Lubricants NCO. I was now the battalion bowser boy. Had to be one of the toughest jobs in the army because everyone wanted free fuel. I soon learnt from the old hands that if the super tank was too low, top it up with standard, if the standard tank was too low top it up with super and if both were low, just add water.

Life was good at Kapooka working 8-4 Mon to Fri and a weekend duty every 7 weeks. Sneaking Land Rovers out through the Fire Station to go out the back of the camp to catch Yabbys or card schools in the back of one of the ambulances with all the fans going to suck out the cigarette smoke. Life became even better when I met the Area Commander's personal driver at the petrol bowser, an attractive young lady named Jill who later became my wife and mother of our 4 children.

The East Malvern licenced grocery business was sold a short time before my military service was over and the word from those who were aware was to build a supermarket at Melton in Melbourne's west where all the growth was going to happen. That business was opened with the launch of the Tuckerbag group in December 1971 by my parents, my brother Peter, myself and six employees. It was always hard work with long hours but quite successful and was followed with other supermarkets at Bacchus Marsh, Sunbury, Gisborne, Meadow Heights, Delahey and Footscray.

During that time my youngest brother Neal joined the family business also. I am still a Director alongside my two brothers but now have no day to day involvement.

In the early 90's I joined the Rotary Club of Melton Valley (District 9800) and enjoyed being Bulletin Editor and Webmaster for many years and along the way was presented with a Paul Harris which I am very proud to have. I served as President in 1999/2000 and afterwards took up the position as an Assistant District Governor however that didn't last long because during this time my wife Jill was diagnosed with Bowel Cancer and lost her fight with this insidious disease in December 2001.

Jill made me promise a couple of weeks prior to her passing that I would have a colonoscopy.

That colonoscopy was had 10 weeks later and a huge growth was discovered lurking in my bowel – I had absolutely no idea. Four weeks later I was opened up and the orange sized growth plus 18 inches of my bowel tract was removed. Every three months for the following 5 years my surgeon welcomed me into his rooms with “and how is the luckiest man in the world”.

No history of cancer in either family.

My first of two diabolical lessons to share - Bowel cancer is still killing people however in most cases early detection can beat it. Rotary Bowelscan kits are available at the pharmacy for a very cheap \$15 each or tell your doctor you want a colonoscopy. The colonoscopy process is a pain in the butt, but it really doesn't hurt because you are sound asleep for the few minutes it takes.

After these two scraps with cancer my life changed for ever. I didn't know it then, but clearly the

“Black Dog” had me by the throat. I was nocturnal, wracked with pain, unable to go to work, in fact terrified of going to work. Luckily I became involved with a fellow Rotarian (Christine) who had just escaped from a toxic relationship and together we looked after each other.

In 2004 I gave my brothers three months' notice that I was going to withdraw from the day to day operations of the of the business that I had really loved and nurtured for 35 years as MD but I simply could no longer continue. Christine made it clear I wasn't going to sit at home and turn into a vegetable and suggested we start a small business utilising her skills. At the time she was with Pioneer Road Services in Laverton managing Health, Safety Quality and Environment for Victoria,

South Australia and Northern Territory. Christine had noticed that lots of small sub-contractors needed help with their OH&S legal obligations and no one was fulfilling this need.

During that year with some friends we took our 4wd's up the full length of the Canning Stock Route and on to Broome where I proposed while double dinking on the back of a camel on Cable Beach.

Smarter Safety commenced trading in January 2005 with my then fiancée Christine utilising her specific skills in Occupational Health & Safety, Quality and Environmental Management and my skills in Business Management, Marketing & Communications. We married a few months later at Mt Franklin near Daylesford.

The business was setup in Christine's sole ownership to avoid accounting issues with my investment in the family business. I am employed as Business Manager and am paid in diesel fuel and quality shiraz; 'tis a good formula. I source new clients, communicate via newsletter to existing clients every week and maintain some other components of the business. I really love what I do and don't plan on giving up work anytime soon.

I had a long history of four-wheel drive touring with Jill and our four children as members of the Toyota Landcruiser Club of which I had served as state President for two years in the early 90's. This has continued up to relatively recently with Christine and many of our “Old Fart” 4wd mates.

The outstanding memories of that activity are the Victorian High Country, Fraser Island, Cape York, Simpson Desert, Canning Stock Route, Gunbarrel Highway, Anne Beadel Highway, Oodnadatta Track, Tanami Track, The Gulf Track, Talawana Track and the incredibly remote Rudall River National Park.

It seemed logical to me that Christine and I should head off around the country to grow this new business by meeting potential clients and pressing the flesh while enjoying the touring and sightseeing. So with a laser printer in the back seat of the Landcruiser and our Camper Trailer behind off we went on this new adventure.

So what does Smarter Safety do? It provides all the documentation (Policies, Procedures, Safe Work Method Statements, Plant Risk Assessments, Safety Data Sheets, Induction Booklets etc.) lawfully required on worksites, particularly those with high risk activities and then provides an annual support facility for clients to ensure everything remains up to date and compliant.

I would post our offer to geographical regions and whoever rang directed us to where we went. This was a good idea at the time but it didn't take long to get over the canvas abode we were towing so an air conditioned Off Road Caravan soon replaced it. Due to the aging process and my chronic lower back issues the van has now been replaced with a Motor Home which is even more comfortable and much easier – simply pick up the keys and go.

In 2019, that small business that Christine suggested back in 2004 now has almost 300 systems installed across all states and territories and is no longer paper based. Every client has their own web page on our portal where all their documentation is provided in an electronic format plus access to our online integrated management modules. All of our software is developed in house by two of our children who are IT wizz kidz and all of the systems are now primarily developed and managed from our office in Binney Street or home offices in Chirnside Park and Vancouver Canada. The business now consists of six people, five are family members including Christine and I.

Given Christine and I have four children each and due to the multiplication effect, we are now the proud and very busy grandparents of 17 grandchildren and recently, one great grandchild.

This growing family has a lot to do with us purchasing a quite remote 140 acre unloved off grid property at Ruffy some 10 years ago and owner building what the kids named Camp Ruffy, a long colourbond building that has a comfy cottage at one end and a five room bunkhouse at the other and a huge undercover entertaining area in between that looks out over Creightons Creek and at Mt Wombat for family get togethers. It is fully wired with 240v like any normal house however all our power is collected from solar panels and a mini hydro plant on one of our spring fed streams. This energy is fed into a battery bank and converted to 240v by a large inverter.

Each of the grand children have sections of Camp Ruffy named after them and each one of those is identified by a replica street sign with the appropriate name on it to give them all a little ownership.

We run a small flock of Damara Fat Tail Sheep, a few Alpacas, half a dozen Chickens, 10 Guinea Fowl, a decent sized domestic orchard and a huge but currently unhappy veggie garden and from time to time an enormous Black Panther wanders through.

The Longwood-Creighton's Creek fire in 2014 took out half of our property however the only infrastructure lost was quite a lot of fencing and some sections of the 92mm poly pipe that feeds our mini hydro system. On inspection afterwards, 2 x star picket and chicken mesh fences appeared out of the burnt Bracken. We had already discovered a couple of bathtubs hidden up a valley we now call Happy Valley – perhaps someone was growing Tomatoes up in those hills before our time.

I did a few years on the Ruffy Hall Committee where I ran the annual Chizia (Challenges, Quizzes & Trivia) night and some time on RuffArtZ where I withdrew from my position as President in late 2018 due to a medical scrap I was starting to have.

We purchased a small townhouse in Euroa late last year as a result of forward planning for the aging process and ironically, I was diagnosed at around the same time with Primary

Liver Cancer which stopped me from immediately joining Rotary as planned. A couple of doses of direct chemo into the tumour followed by a seven-hour operation in February to remove nearly half my liver sorted the problem. I have dodged another bullet as I have been recently advised I am now squeaky clean.

My second diabolical lesson to share – visit your doctor at least once a year and ask for every blood test possible because this is how Dr Wong identified my issue.

We now live most of the time in Euroa however we do spend a lot of long weekends at Ruffy which we want to retain for the enjoyment of our grandchildren plus an Air B&B offer is in the pipeline for Camp Ruffy to hopefully have it pay its way.

Thank you all for the warm welcome I have received since attending meetings, it has been for me a very pleasant experience and I look forward to becoming an active member of Rotary again.

### Birthdays

Mavis Nicel  
Edwards  
Linda Bennett  
Max McBurney  
Dennis Rebbeck  
Robyn O'Meara  
Sargoods

### June

3  
  
12  
14  
19  
27

### Anniversaries

7  
  
  
  
  
27



**For a few weeks the Walking Group has changed to a Thursday. Notification will be made when it returns to Wednesday. Walking Group meets every Wednesday at 7:30 at the Rotary Barbecue, all members and friends are most welcome.**

- **June 27-** No Meeting
- **June 29-** Changeover, Butter Factory, \$55 a head
- **June 30-** District Changeover
- **July 4-** Kylie Penny
- **July 11-**
- **July 18-**
- **July 25-** Mark Carr - Aviation
- **November 28-** AGM & election if needed
- **December 14-** Christmas Party
- **March 20-22, 2020** District Conference Albury