



Club No. 18278
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THE COG

HEIDELBERG: DISTRICT 9790

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www.rotaryheidelberg.org

Meets on Mondays
12.30pm for 1.00pm
Venue: Vasko Restaurant

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THE COG
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A word from the President



It was lovely to have a couple of PHFs, namely our Honorary Member Mike Stansbury and Lyn join us last week, as well as four other visitors. Our weekly numbers are good, notwithstanding that a few are off enjoying the sunshine or whatever. The spirit and camaraderie at our meetings is a good sign, something to encourage our potential members.

Our speaker, Veronika Tsilomanis, is the duty manager of the RSL on Bell. Details of her speech are inside. Their Club is trying to raise funds to purchase a bus to help their elderly members. When I approached her I had in mind that we might try to assist, perhaps in conjunction with the Rotary Clubs of Rosanna and Ivanhoe. Better still (and notwithstanding her negative comments about hotel venues which profit from poker machines) Tom Payne suggested that she contact the Community Support Fund. This is where some of the taxes raised from poker machines end up. The funds are available for charitable causes. It may well be that they could raise all necessary funds from there. This is another example of what Rotary can achieve, utilising contacts and advice for the benefit of others. If this is unsuccessful we can revisit the idea.

35 years ago I took my bride to Bali for our honeymoon. This week we are heading back for my niece's wedding. I gather that the place looks a bit different, changing size and shape in various ways, just like us! I am an apology and I leave you in the capable hands of PP Leigh Aitken.

President
Tony

CLUB CALENDAR

**August is Membership and
New Club Development
Month**

28 August
TOPIC: Brexit and Trump;
Sanders and Corbyn,- can
Australia find a Macron?
SPEAKER: John Funder
CHAIR: Max Chester

**September is New
Generations Month**

04 September
TOPIC: Club Assembly
CHAIR: Tony Bowlen

11 September
TOPIC: Future Careers for
Young People
SPEAKER: Judy O'Donohue
CHAIR: Barbara Winter

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:

*"If Rotary ceases to be
a responsibility and
becomes a mere
relaxation or pastime,
its usefulness will
cease."*

Paul Harris 1914

WHERE ARE THEY NOW

Wayne and Doreen: Europe cruise and Spain

Laurie and Jane: USA and Canada

David and Jan: Sri Lanka, Canada and Alaska

Geoff and Sandy: ??? then Amsterdam

The Physical

During my physical yesterday, my doctor asked me about my daily activity level, and so I described a typical day this way:

"Well, yesterday morning, I waded along the edge of a lake, escaped from wild dogs in the heavy brush, marched up and down several rocky hills, stood in a patch of poison ivy, crawled out of quicksand, and jumped away from an aggressive magpie."

Inspired by my story, the doctor said, "You must be some outdoors man!"

"No," I replied, "I'm just a lousy golfer."



Mike and Lyn down from Echuca



Tom strikes it lucky with a bottle of Lindemans but no Joker this time!



Leigh just back from Hawaii

Chris excited about forthcoming trip to Bali (with Tony)

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK...

MEMBERS	20
APOLOGIES	11
GUESTS	6
MAKEUPS	2



Tony with guest speaker Veronika Tsilomanis

RSL on Bell - Courtesy Bus

Good afternoon Rotary Club members.

Thank you for giving me this opportunity to come in and speak to you.

It has been a little over a year since the reopening of the RSL on Bell, and it's our chance to make an even bigger difference to our ex-service men, their families and the community of Heidelberg. We are striving to help those in need. We feel that a courtesy bus is the next big step in achieving that goal.

The RSL on Bell has 67 service members and 187 affiliate members. All together with our social members we have 830 members.

With the ownership of a courtesy bus, the benefits for our ex-service men and their families would include taking them to doctors' appointments, driving the legacy ladies home after their meetings at the RSL, in which we always call for over five taxis when they only live close by. In the future, we want to host free luncheons for our ex-service men, and most would have to be picked up by the bus. We would also be able to drive them to the Shrine of Remembrance for Anzac Day and other events at the Shrine.

For the community of Heidelberg, we wish to provide a pickup service for outings to the RSL on Bell. Events would include Morning Melodies and in future free bingo and movie days. We have priced Morning Melodies as \$7.50 to make it affordable for everyone. The RSL makes no profit from the event.

In Heidelberg, close to the RSL on Bell there are over fourteen retirement villages and homes that could benefit from us having a courtesy bus.

I feel that it is important for the elderly to have outings, even though I've been told they have in house entertainment. They should have the opportunity to have a choice to go somewhere different and a chance to interact with others other than the same people every day.

Our first Morning Melodies was last month. We had 37 guests and all had a smile on their face when leaving. Unfortunately, our carpark was full of taxis and some had to wait for taxis to come. A very good example why we want a bus. Even though we would have a 12-seater, all places are close to the RSL so it wouldn't be a long wait. Imagine the money they could save not taking taxis.

Also in our area, we have a lot of elderly still living in their own homes. We would also want to provide the bus to pick them up to come to events at the RSL. I feel that by being picked them up at their door they might be more inclined to come out. Sometimes if they're on their own it's easy to feel isolated from the community, but knowing that we are there for them might make them feel a part of the community. The RSL on Bell gives free memberships to over 75s as an incentive to come out.

Our first bus would be a 12 seater with no wheelchair facilities, as the cost rises with these additions. The reason why there would be only 12 seats is that if it's over 12 seats you would require a special licence to drive the bus. Our bus will be driven by volunteers and at the moment I only have one with a special licence.

The bus price will be a little over \$20,000 as we need an automatic bus as most of our volunteers can only drive automatic vehicles. So far, we have raised \$6000 of community funds. We do have welfare money that we are contributing but the way it works is that it's percentage based. So, to use the bus for service members and the community the funds would have to be 50% each. So, we have \$10,000 from welfare and the rest we will need to make up with community funding, so we are very close.

I have been to car dealers in the hope for a bus to be partly donated for exchange for advertising on the bus, but I was unsuccessful. However, I have had other support from other businesses in our area being Heidelberg Mowers Kmart Northland, Harvey Norman, and Bunnings Northland to help our fundraising, and we have also had big support from our members.

In finishing I feel that with your support we can get closer to achieving our goal to making a difference for the Heidelberg community and for our service members and their families.

Veronika Tsilomanis