



DAYLESFORD ROTARY CLUB

Our Club was founded in 1953

OUR 2009 GUEST SPEAKERS

21st January 2009:

Andrew Azzopardi & Colin Dunlop – “The Daylesford Men’s Shed”. Started on 9th Oct. 2008, the shed has 16 members, meets on Thursdays at Victoria Park (later to move to the Neighbourhood Centre site), and creates a get together for local men to share building skills and to share time talking, laughing, caring and supporting. There are over 200 other Men’s Sheds in Australia. Current projects include reading stands for bed ridden hospital patients and building own shed near the old courthouse. Funded by raffles, donations, Hepburn Health, Hepburn Shire. Need help with equipment, particular a Wood thickiniser (?) (Ed. Note: we don’t even know how to use a hammer). Eager to help any local group with projects. New site will have full access for wheelchairs and dodgy knees/hips. Membership open to all – no need to know about tools – just want to spend time with other men.

28th January 2009:

Taylor Hofman, our tall, engaging, passionate and determined 2008 Dux of Daylesford Secondary School, winner of the 2008 **Colin Lelean** Scholarship and our 2008 RYLA participant – a most impressive young man. **Taylor** spoke of being the 2nd youngest of 90 participants (aged 18 to 25 years). He soaked in the opportunity to listen to serious leadership speakers, to mingle with older passionate and committed leaders, to establish a vision (“TO ALWAYS FOLLOW MY PASSIONS”), to survive within the strict timetables on little sleep but much intellectual and social adrenalin. **Taylor** takes on a B.SC. Course this year in Melbourne and has his passions of chemistry and mathematics.

1

4th February 2009:

Rotarian **Heather Andrew** spoke about her voluntary work (Vision Australia) as an Audio Describer assisting vision impaired people at theatrical performances. We were encouraged to imagine the difficulties of understanding theatre not knowing silent movements, stage settings and positioning of relevant props. **Heather**, with assistance, carefully describes these items between dialogue, actor movements and set changes. Her audio descriptions are transmitted via radio headphones to the clients. We appreciated how each descriptive word was so important. This work first began in Victoria in 1991 (helped with a Hawthorn Rotary donation towards equipment). **Heather** invited us to experiment at home with closing our eyes whilst watching a film and therefore to gain greater understanding of the issues of description.

11th February 2009:

Chris Sedgman and David Hall – Daylesford & District Community Bank – following the model already established with 125 community banks – looking for 2 types of pledges (1) to invest as shareholders in the Community Bank – 500+ shareholders being sought for total of approx \$750,000 – 10% is max for any



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shareholder (2) pledge to transfer to or continue with banking business through the Bendigo Bank – Discussion of current Bendigo Bank agency at the newsagency and its transfer to the Community Bank – all banking staff and banking the responsibility of Bendigo Bank – Community Bank responsible for building, promotion, fixed costs – net profits to be distributed throughout community – Maldon has distributed \$229,000 – Creswick Community Bank has been very successful

18th February 2009:

Glen Heyne (Journalist, Radio Broadcaster, Nursery owner, joint owner of Daylesford Cottage Directory) on “The Last Backyard” – a look back at the importance of the family backyard – the apricot tree, the dogs, the chooks, the mud pies, the space to play. Glen took us on the journey from outdoor toilets to carports, BBQs, outdoor rooms, patios, gazebos and jacuzzis – the demise of backyard space. He celebrated the backyards of Daylesford with the lyrics of John Williamson.

4th March 2009:

Mike Parker (co-founder & artist from **Stony Creek Gallery**) – we learnt about the dream & struggle of **Mike & Linda** to purchase, establish & develop a unique gallery space (on the Ballan Rd just past Victoria Park) – the process of purchasing artwork – the design of the gallery’s amazing floor (**Mike** worked 45 days on this including 27 hours non-stop on the base painting). **Mike** also gave us one of the great quotes for our community following our fire – “*We’re all brothers now.*”

11th March 2009:

Bronwyn Hayat (author of the book “**Dealing with an Operation**” – see www.operationinfo.com.au) – daughter of a Wagga Wagga doctor – committed post-surgical nurse who recognised the need for patients to be prepared physically, mentally and emotionally for surgery and to be fully informed and confident about the processes and expectations involved – the book which is self published has been an interesting tussle with surgeons and practitioners – **Bronwyn** highlighted different attitudes of patients from young “party animals” to “self sufficient farmers” - she explained the importance of correct breathing, pain management and fluid intake.

14th April 2009:

Margie Thomas on “**Lord and Lady Somers Camps**” – Margie has had a decade of involvement incl. Attendance by her 2 daughters and many years of voluntary work. The camps cater 100 16-18yrs olds and develop initiative, self reliance and team building – they have over 80 years of experience, have no class structures, offer great opportunities to those on the fringe as well as mainstream – 7 days of intense learning, participation and listening to role models. **Margie** hopes that the **Daylesford Rotary Club** will become involved.



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28th April 2009:

Paul Bernard, one of the 4 enthusiastic owners of the **Daylesford Inn**, explained their dream. With their collective experience in hospitality from **Bellinzona, Farmers Arms, Frangos** and Canberra, they are working hard to position the Inn as a restaurant of quality but affordable local produce cooking, together with a fun entertainment lounge (Public theatre through to Weddings to Karaoke to Sports broadcasts) and a competitively priced middle level accommodation. "We are bringing back the Inn – the southern gateway to Daylesford". It was so good to listen to their ideas, enthusiasm, love of food and their focus on blending local use with tourism excellence.

6th May 2009:

Jo Alexander (Manager of **Getaways**) – We learnt of Jo's life journey from Albury/Wodonga through Melbourne (law clerk & organic cafe worker) through Mildura (husband is a pilot) through Hong Kong (real estate worker) and to Daylesford since 2004 with pilot husband and 3 boys – **Oscar, Harry & Jack**. **Getaways** employs 10, caters for over 10,000 enquiries per year and 500 accommodation visitors per weekend in over 110 accommodations. We learnt of the slowdown in February & March (compounded by the fire threat), the importance of **Chill Out**, the client desires for plasma TVs & higher quality accommodation and for more activity experiences outside therapy.

13th May 2009:

Andrew Green (Owner of **the Book Barn – Lake Daylesford**). **Andrew** spoke of his life journey from birthplace, Birmingham U.K.; through being a €10 pom migrating to Oz at aged 17; through building a specialist transport business (when sold 25 drivers + 15 employees); through boredom of early retirement; through the love of his partner, **Katrine**; through their love of visiting Daylesford; through to buying the business of **The Book Barn** in 2006. With minimal knowledge of books at the start, he has value-added to the business greatly, so that book sales have substantially increased ("*I democratised the book selection*"), and are balanced with coffee/light snacks sales. The emphasis is on an inviting, casual, undemanding atmosphere; of going the extra length for customers; of providing value; of encouraging locals & tourists together; of emphasising repeat business; of employing and training locals; of supporting other businesses, and of being thoroughly involved in the commercial life of Daylesford. **Andrew** also spoke of **The Clunes Booktown Festival; Lake Daylesford**; the need for parking controls at the Lake, and praised the help from Council. **Andrew** also praised the highly successful commercial leadership of women in Daylesford.

20th May 2009:

Rob McDonald (co-owner with **Margaret McDonald** of the **Sailors Falls Winery & Accommodation**) - **Rob** told us of his life journey from rural schooling (plasticine, sport and horses) to completing teacher training and his first posting at **Fitzroy High School** (**Rob** played senior **VFL with Fitzroy**). After 16 years, he left teaching to work in a variety of high executive & project management roles with the State Government – introducing the work experience program for students; evolving the regional programs in Education, Road Safety & Drug Control, and Older Drivers & Firearm Collection programs for the Police & Justice



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departments. **Rob** then became Chief of Staff for the **Police Minister, André Haermeyer**. Finally, **Rob & Marg** semi-retired to **Marg's** historic family property at Sailors Falls where they have developed the award winning "Pinot specialist" vineyard & accommodation. **Rob & Marg** have heavily involved themselves in the **Swiss Italian Festa**, the Tourism bodies, the walking club and the community fundraisers. **Rob & Marg** presented the club with a bottle of their 2008 Pinot Gris for auction, which raised \$30 at the meeting.

3rd June 2009:

David Dawson (artist/owner/operator of 'Overwrought') – **David** told us of his life journey from Latrobe Uni, to being a builder, to specialising in wrought ironworks via requests for distinctive gates. **David** has achieved considerable success with his work for the "**Saddle Club**"; Community Notice Boards; Artist in residence at **Hoppers Crossing Primary School**, and specific commissions e.g. the cricket wicket/magpie for **Ian Tinetti**. **David's** wife, **Karen**, has just been appointed the Disability advocate for our region

10th June 2009:

Bronwyn Barlow – Careers Counsellor at Daylesford Secondary College – focused on the challenges that her students face in establishing their career choices and paths. **Bronwyn** outlined the effects of family expectations, the students' lack of self or outside world awareness, the economic and public transport handicaps; the lack of jobs locally for apprentices and in the hospitality industry and the cost of Melbourne based tertiary education lifestyle. She asked the Club to recognise its possible roles in assisting in work experience or employment preparation and to celebrate the success of students such as **Thom Woodruffe** (2009 Victorian Youth of the Year) and **Andrew McKay** (Horticultural Award winner).

4

15th July 2009:

Natasha "Tash" Harris – farmer, arborist – **Tash** outlined her beliefs in the power of understanding our conscious and subconscious skills & programmes. Her Mindset learning encourages us all to learn how to relax when the pressure is on. This enables our subconscious skills to balance our conscious thoughts. The Mindset learning indicates that intuition, creativity, memory, sleep, feelings and emotions are all skills & programmes of our subconscious mind.

22nd July 2009:

DG Colin Muir came to praise, assist, inspire and challenge and he succeeded well. **Colin** praised the work of **Bronwen Scarffe** - District leadership, **Lewis Bordon** – Cluster leadership and **Pres. Victor Szwed** in Club leadership. He inspired us with the vision of **John Kenny**, the Polio eradication programme, the commitments in providing safe water & sanitation, relief from hunger and the promotion of literacy. **Colin** offered his personal assistance with the Club concerns of costs of membership and unnecessary & wasteful magazine distribution. Then **Colin** challenged us to not neglect the doctrine of ethical behaviour (e.g. the 4-way test) – the basis of Rotary, plus the need demonstrated by 2,600, 000,000 people right now on our watch not having access to basic sanitation & clean running water, plus the need to sustain our work through both new members and the family/friends of members. For full details of **Colin's** speech, go to his website www.colinmuir.com



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12th August 2009:

Dep. Mayor Cr. Janine Booth spoke on her life journey from being born in Kingston (father a carrier); to family holidays at Vaughan Springs & on the Murray; to schooling at Ballarat, after which she became a trainee postal manager with the PMG – forsaking teaching ambitions; to marriage and returning to Creswick after 4 years in Melbourne; to working in post offices throughout the Shire – culminating in purchasing the Post Office Creswick franchise in 1998. **Janine's** community work has been a constant commitment – School Councils, Football Clubs, Creswick Council then Hepburn Council. **Janine** reflected on more constructive & positive community attitudes in Creswick since 2005 and gave us her understanding that Leadership essentially involves Perception. In questions, **Janine** supported the possibility of a Creswick/Clunes Rotary Club and offered to host an initial interest meeting.

19th August 2009:

Bernard Eisner, Daylesford Organics (website - www.daylesfordorganics.com), Vogue award winner 2009 for organic vegetable farming (category – Heirloom Vegetables). **Bernard** and his partner, **Kate**, bought an organic apple farm in Muskvale 8 years ago, moving here from inner Melbourne. They love the community and very quickly increased their 320 trees to nearly 1,000 with at least 40 varieties of apples. They bought 200 chooks and started selling free-range, certified organic eggs and some vegetables. They are very proud of their small mixed farm, where some 1,000 chooks eat all the excess vegetable matter; provide fertiliser for the whole farm and produce 110 dozen eggs per week. They have 2 x 10-year plans – the first is to set up a model farm (nearly completed) and the second is to use it as an educational tool. As well, they hope to offer farm gate sales next January. **Bernard's** experience was mostly obtained from courses he did at CERES in Brunswick before he moved here.



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