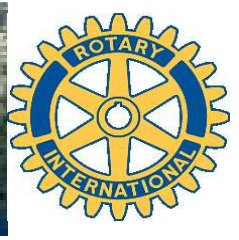




Bulletin of the Rotary Club of  
**MOUNT GAMBIER Inc.**  
 Chartered 11<sup>th</sup> October 1928  
 ABN 41 889 631 240 Club # 18243



DG 9780—Chris Sims (Christine) RC Highton Kardinia

AG Group 1—Robert Penny (Susan)

## Wed 03 March 2010 Meeting No: 3990

### Committee Meetings

Meeting rosters—Month of March	MEETING SCHEDULE	Market Roster	
Green Badge:	1st Wed Committees	Early Shift: (8am-10am)	Late Shift: (10am-Noon)
Reception: John Buchanan	3rd Wed Board	06/03 Brenton Jones	John Buchanan John Bueti
Meeting Setup: Ian McDougall	4th Wed Sub Committees	13/03 Allan Smith	Paul Gazzard Steve Phillips

### OUR FAMILY OF ROTARY

<b>Rotary Anniversaries</b>  Mike Ryan (10 Years on 7th March)	<b>Wedding Anniversaries</b>  John and Louise Waters (4th March)
<b>Birthdays</b>  Doug Castle (6th March) Trevor Buck (10th March)	<b>Partner Birthdays</b>  Judith Praolini (9th March)

### MEETING CALENDAR

DATE	SPEAKER AND TOPIC	CHAIR
10/03	TBA (WAS to have been the Library tour!)	
17/03	St Patrick's Day      Guest speaker Adrian Jamieson and Irish Joke session <i>See Program Coordinator Alan Richardson if you have a suggestion for a guest speaker.</i>	

### Unable to attend a meeting?

*Why not make up with friends at one of our neighbouring Group 1 clubs:*

- RC of Mount Gambier Lakes** Mondays 6:30pm Commodore on the Park
- RC of Hamilton** Mondays 6:00pm (Vic) Grange Burn Motor Inn
- RC of Mount Gambier West** Tuesdays 6:30pm Commodore on the Park
- RC of Hamilton North** Wednesdays 6:15pm (Vic) Grange Burn Motor Inn
- RC of Millicent** Thursdays 6:10pm Millicent & District Community Club
- RC of Casterton** Thursdays 6:30pm (Vic) Glenelg Inn

## THE ROTARY GRACE

O Lord, the giver of all good. We thank thee for our daily food.  
May Rotary friends and Rotary ways, Help us to serve thee all our days.

### REPORT ON MEETING No. 3989 Wednesday 24th February 2010

Visiting Rotarians and Guests	Partners	
Cathryn Harris (Mt Gambier Library) Josh Henman (2009 exchangee) Graham Henman Karen Henman	Sylvia Jones Denise Richardson Judith Praolini	Membership 32 + 1 Present Make Ups  <b>Attendance 78%</b>

### FROM PRESIDENT PETER

*“Good evening Rotarians. Welcome to meeting 3989”*

Welcome to Cathryn Harris from Mount Gambier Public Library  
Also welcome to Rotary exchangee Josh Henman and parents Karen & Graham Henman  
Also to partners, Denise Richardson, Judith Praolini and Sylvia Jones,

Circulating two papers from District re important events and projects of note  
Please do take a good look at them and pass them on. They cover the following....

- 2010 District conference
- Rotary Friendship Exchange
- Rotary Black Saturday Project

**Centurion members, a reminder that if you haven't already done so, your A\$100 annual contributions are to be sent to PDG Ted Gaffney at the address below....**

**Edward 'Ted' Gaffney PDG 9780  
PO Box 244 Stawell Vic 3380**

### SPOT TALKS

#### Trevor Buck

Reminder of social the social night at Periwinkes restaurant at Port MacDonnell, at 6.30 for 7pm on Friday the 5<sup>th</sup> of March. Please let Trevor know if you will be attending.

#### Alan Richardson

Apologies for stuffing up program, but we have TWO items on the program tonight. First of all, Josh Henman will speak about his experience over the last year as our exchange student in Japan. Afterwards, we'll all visit the new Mount Gambier public Library, to see what is considered to be a world class facility.

#### Jann Hart

TAFE is having maintenance done on light fittings at the complex. They are removing all the old fluoros, and taking them to the dump. We can take them to the Rotary Market but need a ute or trailer to pick up the 100 or so fittings. Need it on Friday perhaps. (Plus need a driver to help load the fluoros). Volunteer and ute were forthcoming.

#### President Peter

Forgot to mention that last Thursday night, he and John Waters &

Allen Smith attended a Council sponsored meeting of the combined services groups in Mt Gambier. It was an excellent gathering to kick off a future involving co-operative work for the community by all local service organisations. They talked about the goals of each group and projects undertaken. They also looked at possible projects they could tackle together as a group of service organisations. Hopefully more of these gatherings will take place in future.

Members should have received an E-Mail on the proposed changes to Rotary International Constitution from the Council on Legislation, We need to make comments soon as they need to be back with PDG Cathy Roth by the time the District Conference gets underway.

President Peter will open the floor at next week's meeting for comments from members.

#### John Waters

A reminder that on the 2<sup>nd</sup> March at Civic Centre, volunteers are needed to help tidy up after the aged care conference. The day after (Sunday) there's "Clean up Australia Day". (Cathryn Harris reminds us volunteers could have coffee at the Library afterwards!)

**Please advise Ian by phone or e-mail if you are unable to attend a meeting**

Don't forget our Website: [www.rotaryclubmtgambier.org](http://www.rotaryclubmtgambier.org)

## Guest Speakers

### **Josh Henman on his Rotary Exchange trip to Japan**

Josh gave a fascinating illustrated talk on the past year spent in Japan. The club he was originally hosted by actually split into two new clubs before he arrived, so in the end he was hosted by two clubs.

He stayed with four families overall and enjoyed being the only Caucasian student at the local high school. The girls were also pretty happy to have Josh there and he was the centre of their attention for a while it seems. Josh was keen to get involved in the Japanese culture and his host families gave him plenty of opportunity to do so. There were various traditional ceremonies, a "male bonding" camping trip with a host father in dismal weather, and a stint as the "slave" in the school archery club. While this may have taught him discipline and humility he eventually resigned from the club when he was not able to shoot even one arrow after quite a few months' membership!

His experience in the local Karate club was much more positive (though more physically and mentally demanding). He was able to train with some of the best exponents in the prefecture and was required to stand waist deep in snow while meditating and to suffer bruises and cuts in physical combat. However he got to attend the national Karate championships and to be ringside trainer for some of his Karate School mates in combat with some of the best exponents in the world.

Certainly earned him lots of "credibility" with his host fathers.

As did the occasional beer drinking session! (It's all about male bonding and getting to know your colleagues better).

### **Cathryn Harris. Tour of new Mount Gambier Public Library**

This library was designed by Cathryn looking at the good points of many other public libraries around Australia and NZ and then coming up with a layout that incorporated all those best features. The architect was willing to incorporate all these ideas and did not try to impose his own design bias.

The result is a library that has been described as the best small city library in the world.

It features fully electronic check in and check out of books and videos (using RFID tags embedded in each book). The video box cannot be opened unless it has been scanned and logged in the computer system.

There's also automatic generation of E-Mail and text messages once books are overdue, though the hard working library volunteers do have to mail out overdue slips to some customers.

The building features top amenities for staff and volunteers, an underwater themed children's retreat (modeled on Ewens Ponds, ..complete with skin diver), a state of the art nursing room, several electronically equipped community meeting rooms, a very well equipped IT training room, several lounge areas, a modern café and lots of computers and game consoles for casual users. There's also a wireless internet facility for anyone to use in the vicinity of the library.

The shelves and signage and décor all help patrons to easily find what they are after and create a welcoming and casual atmosphere. The result has been a huge increase in patronage.. About 400% more than predicted! Saturday mornings are pandemonium, and the trail Sunday opening has been a huge success so far. Even teenage fellers (who NEVER used to patronize the old library) are rolling up in large numbers.

Lots of new books and videos has been bought, but the shelves are often empty looking as so much stuff is now out on loan. The new library has been a huge success and in fact librarians are coming from across Australia (and NZ) to take a look and many are quite jealous of what we have. It's not just a library but a major tourist attraction!