

Minutes of Rotary Club of Gawler Light
 Meeting Number: 1388
 Date: 26 March 2024

1 Meeting Duties

Cashier	Peter Harper
Chair	Ian Chase
Vote of Thanks	Richard Tucker
Thought for the Week	
Rotary Information	Bernie Goodwin

2 Guests

Nathaniel Hoffmann, Mark Branson, Vera (Youth Exchange 2017/18), Julie McLachlan, Jane Sanders, Sandy Nicholson

3 Chairperson / President Darryl Opening Remarks

Meeting 1388 opened at 7:30pm by President Darryl who welcomed visitors.

RC Elizabeth – guest speaker tomorrow night speaking about Lymphodema

Gawler Rotaract Satellite Club – 1 meeting of a working group. Meeting tomorrow with Cody about next steps – several events starting in July inviting people to participate. Salisbury City Rotaract will be the sponsor club.

Zone 8 Pilot – establishment meeting 2 weeks ago. 12 clubs in our community group. Ian has updated our brochure which details our projects and sent it out. 2 replies received.

4 Rotary Information – Bernie

Polio eradication – in 2000 Bernie presented to Rotary Groups and he was non plussed as he thought polio was gone. His dad had polio. Also went to school with a child impacted. He remembered lining up for vaccinations. In Cambodia in 2009 there was a child in a wheel chair who had contracted polio. 2 brother from Caltowie adapted the iron lung to be portable and was distributed across the British empire. Paul Alexander lived in an iron lung for over 70 years after contracting polio. He had a law degree and practiced in Texas. He joined Rotary and became a speaker about polio eradication. He passed away in March 2024. No WPV cases since October until this week when there were 2 in Pakistan. Rotary is a major contributor to the eradication of polio. Bernie said he is no longer non plussed

5 Guest Speaker – Vera – Youth Exchange 2017/18

Vera graduated from school after returning home. Covid meant she did not sit exams. She completed a bachelor's degree in pharmacy. She has moved out of home and is working in a histology laboratory. Vera is trying to get on to Board of Uni association. She was president for one year. Vera is in Australia for 6 weeks and will visit the Whitsundays and Perth before going home. Vera still gets our bulletin each week and found out she was guest speaker after reading it in the bulletin!!

Steve asked relationship status. Inappropriate question??? The is someone on the scene at the moment.

Matthew – how much Rotary involvement since she returned home? She spoke at the club, but it was not a good experience and so she did not return. Study and work has also got in the way of attending projects. Vera's family has hosted two exchange students.

Steve Arthur asked who her host families were: In the following order: Steve and Jenny Redden, Matthew and Jane Sanders, Rob Eley & Sandy Nicholson, Steve & Julie McLachlan

Diane asked where Vera is from:- Switzerland, near the German border. Currently living in Zurich.

Rob asked about future plans: Vera is starting a Master's degree in September. Two placements to do this year. Goal is to work in a hospital pharmacy. Also interested in work in the body which approves drugs. There are many employment opportunities for Pharmacists.

Steve Mc asked is Vera has to pay for her university degree? Vera said there are some fees, but they are not very expensive.

Mark asked what Vera took home from Australia? The slang language! A lot about life, including being more relaxed to approach people and speak with them – this is not what is done in Switzerland. Shapes and Boost Juice. Becoming more self-reliant and courageous. An Australian accent (well one that is noticeable in Switzerland).

Vera really appreciates catching up with people since coming back – even after 5 years. Vera has visited Xavier and spoken with the staff. She loved the year and recommended to her friends to consider doing an exchange. She appreciates all the support from everyone during the year.

Peter H asked if Vera was in contact with other students from the exchange? Only a few - a couple of other Swiss exchange students and one French student. But if they are in the same country they catch up.

Richard Tucker presented Vera with a mug as a token of our appreciation for her presentation.

6 [Reports](#)

6.1 [Dave Cockshell – playgrounds](#)

We have taken 2 from Gawler to date. There is another one in Willaston (Redbanks Road) which is also coming out. Dave and a couple of others will speak with the council about this. The bigger picture – RC Mt Barker have been coordinating and are getting a bit tired. There were thinking of stopping it. But it is a very good project. There is a plan to look at making it a project for the Rotary Community Group – share the love and the load. This is something we should seriously consider. Mark and Peter from Mt Barker will come and speak about it and also come up with a process and check list. Dave thinks our club is well placed to be part of the project team.

6.2 [Bron – Community](#)

Thanks to all the helped at Relay for Life. A great effort with the working and the walking

6.3 [International – Duncan](#)

25-31 January 2025 for visit to Cambodia. Duncan will have a draft itinerary next week.

Our 2 students passed their level 1 english – one with 60% and one with 84% - a great start for them

6.4 [Shelterbags – Richard](#)

Shelterbags should have arrived in Melbourne today. They will land at RARE soon.

Call from secretary RC Tea Tree Gully – they have ordered some bags and would like to have a look at the Shelterbags next week.

Richard attended the Red Room meeting. Statistics – since April 2022 when the Red Room started. +20% homeless in the stated in past 12 months. 60+ people sleeping rough, but significant reduction in crime involving homeless people. 7 people have obtained accommodation 19 people have used the lockers. 8 rough sleepers currently + 6 sleeping in vehicles. 4 of the rough sleepers have pets -which costs more money. Less people visibly sleeping rough –

most shelter bags have moved on from Gawler, some have come back and been re-used. 2nd bank of 8 lockers being installed. Some of the conditions for use of lockers are being tightened up – more secure, locked at night – to prevent congregation at night which has resulted in some complaints from residents.

7 [Member's Moments](#)

Steve Mc – received a late breaking SMS from Julie Wallen – advising she is expecting a son soon

Dick M – on Monday Dick resigned from the Dental School when there was another volunteer. This is the first time since 1966 Dick has been unemployed. The dog is very pleased, the cat and fish don't care and Dick will decided how he feels in the couple weeks.

Joan explained she has OCD which places some limitations on her – she must sit with her back to the wall, things must be straight, her washing must be hung with the right coloured pegs. It does have some advantages – being able to get up in the night and walk around with no issues. She walks the same way to a place every time! On cruises – if there is someone sitting at the usual table, Joan will wait for them to leave before eating.

Bron – thanks for everyone who supported the Relay for Life effort. Bron was sad she could not walk much as she was unfortunately sick! Better luck next year, Bron. Aim to raise \$10,000 next year!

Bron – Mystery Bus tour Sunday 14 April. Let he know if you would like to go

Stephen Arthur – has just returned from O/S. He visited Lachlan in UK. Toured Europe, including German where he met up with 3 of his host families from his Rotary youth exchange in 1984. It was quite emotional. He is happy to speak to the club about his trip later.

Deanne – will be disappearing for a while in the next month. Baby girl is now measuring 2 weeks ahead and so may be delivered early...possibly in 2 weeks! Good Luck Deanne 😊

8 [Sargeant Rhonda](#)

Vera was the tosser, Nathaniel collected the money. After a false ending with no winner there was a second run through, Steve McL won the wine.

A fine session reaped plenty of laughs and goodies for the club!

9 [Closing Remarks](#)

Darryl thanked everyone for attending and closed meeting 1388, especially the visitors.

10 [Meeting closed](#)

At 827pm.

11 [Thought for the Week \(Andrew\)](#)

Good judgement comes from experience, experience comes from poor judgement