



**President:** Steve McLachlan

- Welcomed the members and the guest speaker, Jim Veterans
- The ghost walk being organized by Martin Monument will be held on the 3rd or 4th Tuesday of March and will cost \$30.00 plus cost of a bus from Joan; partners are welcome, and we can do a meal before or after if anyone is interested
- Youth Exchange is coming up- is anyone willing to be a host?

**Community Service:** Jenny Leadbeater

- The Fringe event is on Friday next week 17Feb23; we need more help getting all our equipment on site and setting up

## Important Dates

17Feb23	Gawler Fringe
5 March	Clean Up Australia Day
11 March	Fringe in the Park
18&19 March	Relay for Life
25 March	Playground Opening
16 April	Barossa Airshow
29 April	GCFC Gatekeeping
27-31 May 23	Rotary International

**Guest Speaker:** Jim Mavromatis - Guitars  
for Veterans

- I am 77 but I look young
- I walk 10,000 steps a day
- I joined the Army when I was 17, did 3 months, hated it, did my core training, was selected for intelligence but went into infantry
- Went to one battalion, where there were guys from the 2nd world war; I knew nothing about war but had 11 great teachers who had been in many different conflicts
- We trained for warfare; they taught me so much, like how you can eat the back legs of a frog
- Then Vietnam war started up; I was disappointed I didn't get to go with the guys then I was given 33 guys in my platoon who didn't want to be there
- Every day I ran these hippies to the rifle range then ran them back again; the main thing I learned was that you had to be fit and how to use your rifle ?
- I progressed and our battalion went to Vietnam; I didn't know when there I had illness
- I went to the medical centre; they thought I had a bleeding ulcer; I could not eat anything; I was then sent to an American Hospital
- A Jeep took me back to Australian Hospital meanwhile my blood count was getting lower and lower
- My phlegm was tested and they found I had hook worms
- They sucked fluid out of my lungs and my stomach; the eggs were getting into my lungs then going into the blood to the ulcer and feeding from the ulcer; they gave me 6 tablets and waited after the first test within days, the nurses were giving me iron tablets
- I was then posted to Balcombe which was a school of music and there I was invited to Vets USA
- We don't get support from the government like the USA does and we have a person in each State who looks after people in that State

## The never ending excellent adventures of Laurens

- We give them 5 free guitar lessons to Veterans who may be suffering from trauma
- We seek out Veterans who suffer from trauma
- All we do is tell our stories; I wait until I have 5 vets
- In one case the wife was being beaten; the veteran kept his guitar in front of the fridge and by doing that when he goes to the fridge for a beer, he sees his guitar and picks it up and starts playing and forgets all about the beer
- 400 veterans have gone through the program; since January last year we have dealt with over 100 vets
- I discovered that the only way you can change is from the inside
- I have written many songs, so now I have produced Big Jim's Album
- Booze doesn't work, pills work if you're working with a psychiatrist. My wife knew how to keep me focused, any change comes from within
- Jim played his guitar and sang two songs



At the ARH mental health walk



We are very grateful to Laurens for helping at the Breakfast Club

Box 1577, Gawler SA 5118

**Meetings:** Most Tuesdays 6.15pm for 6.30pm meal, (Optional) .  
7.15pm for 7.30pm meeting

Venue: Gawler Arms; 102 Murray St ,Gawler SA 5118.

Email: [president@gawlerlightrotary.org](mailto:president@gawlerlightrotary.org)

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/gawlerlightrotary](http://www.facebook.com/gawlerlightrotary)

**Instagram:** [@gawlerlightrotary](https://www.instagram.com/gawlerlightrotary)

**Youth:** Daryl Matthews

- At the Interact meeting last Monday, plans for a peace pole were discussed
- A shelter bag may be purchased
- A Quiz night is being planned for April
- Planning to launch a project to support Ukraine

**Administration:** Greg Morris

- During the past two weeks Richard and Greg have removed over 100 cal-trop plants from around the shed

**MEETING ROSTER**

	7-Feb-23	14-Feb-23	21-Feb-23	28-Feb-23
Meeting Number	1332	1333	1334	1335
Meeting Type	Partners Welcome	Partners Welcome	Partners Welcome	Partners Welcome
Chairperson	David Cockshell	Marilyn Curtis	Ian Curtis	Rob Eley
Rotary Information	Marilyn Curtis	Ian Curtis	Rob Eley	Roger Freeman
Thought for the Week	Ian Curtis	Rob Eley	Roger Freeman	Jenny Leadbeater
Vote of Thanks	Rob Eley	Roger Freeman	Jenny Leadbeater	Marie-louise Lees
Fellowship	Roger Freeman	Jenny Leadbeater	Marie-louise Lees	Darryl Matthews
Cashier	Peter Harper	David Weatherley	Greg Morris	Peter Harper
Guest Speaker	Jim Mavromatis	Marie Dorrington	Henry Carter	
Subject	Guitars for Veterans	Interplast	Barossa Medieval Fair	Committees
Meeting location	Gawler Arms	Gawler Arms	Children's Learning Centre at GDC	Gawler Arms

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