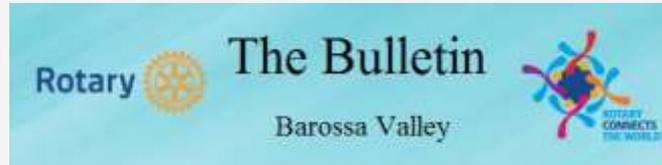


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2019-20 Issue 44 Meetings Suspended 7 May 2020

The news journal of the *Barossa Valley Rotary Club*

Club Information

Meetings Suspended due to Coronavirus.

The Clubhouse

45 Macdonnell St

Tanunda, SA 5352

Australia

Phone: 0418 856 569

[Send Email to Club](#)

[District Site](#)

[Venue Map](#)

World President: Mark Daniel Maloney
District Governor: Jane Owens
Club President: Keith Millington
Club Secretary: Sandie Simons



**The Four-Way Test
of the things we Think, Say or Do.**

1. Is it the **TRUTH**?
2. Is it **FAIR** to all concerned?
3. Will it build **GOODWILL & BETTER** friendships?
4. Will it be **BENEFICIAL** to all concerned?

Invocation:

Oh lord and giver of all good, we praise thee for our daily food.

May Rotary Friends and Rotary ways help us to serve thee all our days.

**No Meetings due to COVID-19 restrictions,
PLEASE REMEMBER TO ADVISE MARIE ROTHE OF
APOLOGIES (MEMBERS) AND ATTENDANCES
(FRIENDS/PARTNERS) EACH WEEK (Mob: 0411 524 156)**

Presidents Message

The final AGM of District 9500 will be on Sunday 17th May at 4:00 pm. The Board has nominated PDG Peter Thomas to be our voting representative with PDG Robert Brookes as the first reserve if Peter can not attend. We thought that as both Peter and Robert have played significant roles in the District then it seemed right that one of them should represent us at the final AGM. Peter and Robert decided that Peter would get the job.

All members can join in the meeting to be part of the District 9500 final AGM, but only Peter can vote on behalf of the club. I will provide joining information when I get it.

Birthdays Lillecrapp, Bryce May 10

Adams, Sandra May 09

Club Aniversary Canning, Roxane 6 years 0 months May 01 2014

Graetz, Sue 6 years 0 months May 01 2014

Haan, Hans 24 years 0 months May 01 1996

Tunnicliff, Anne 3 years 0 months May 04 2017

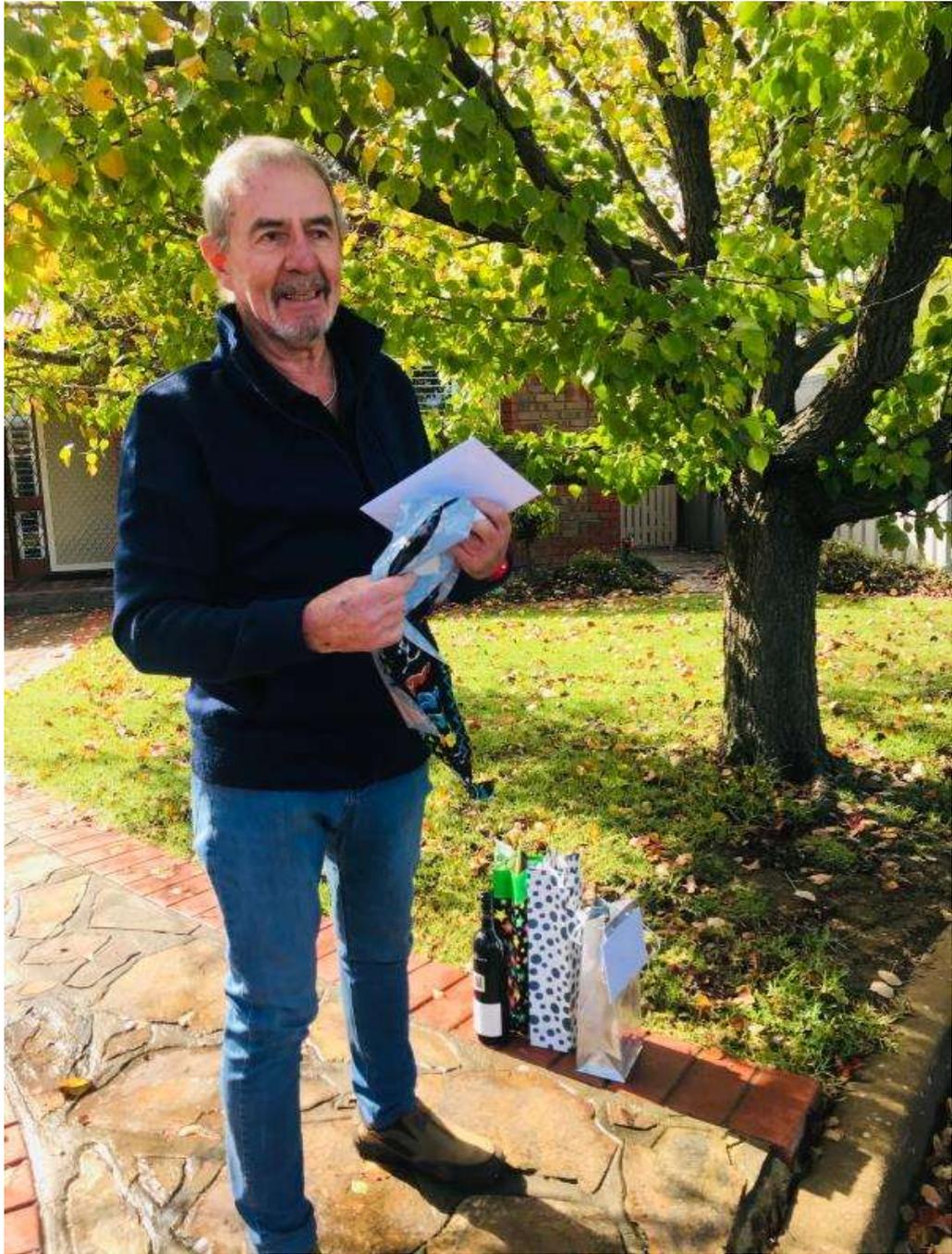
There was a significant birthday at the end of April when John Semmler reached 80 years. Several members did a drive past to mark the occasion. (see below)

The District Conference Committee has been working hard to put together a virtual conference and they will be having a Conference Launch meeting on Monday. Please join DG Jane Owens and Conference Chair Marie-louise on Monday 11th May at 6:30 pm as we launch the District 9500 2019/20 Virtual conference. I will send out a link to the meeting on Sunday.

Happy 80th Birthday John Semmler!

Last Thursday, 30 April 2020 saw a COVID-19 moment - the birthday of John being celebrated in quite a different style than would otherwise have been the case; a drive-by. It just goes to show that people will go to a lot of trouble for one of the Barossa's nicest men! What great photos - thank you Barb for supplying them so we can all appreciate the moment.











Indigenous Health Scholarship - Montanna Doudle

"Hello Rotary Club of Barossa Valley,

I have forwarded my below email which I sent to Joanne Perkins last year, but I did not receive a response and I wanted to make sure that my gratitude was passed on to thank your incredible Rotary Club for sponsoring my scholarship in 2018. I am now nearly half way through the third year of my program, and I am extremely thankful for the financial and emotional support that Joanne and the club offered to me in the first year of my program.

I also just wanted to send an email during this difficult time to let you know that you are in my thoughts. I hope that you are all doing as well as possible, and are keeping safe.

Kind Regards,

Montanna Doudle

Hi Joanne,

I recently received an email from Patsy Johnson from the Rotary Club of Gawler letting me know that they are my sponsors for this year and that Patsy is my mentor for this year.

I just wanted to send you, Peter and the rest of the Rotary Club of Barossa Valley an email to say thank you very much for your generosity and support over the past year. I know that I had not

seen you or the other members of the Barossa Valley Rotary Club much over the previous 12 months; however, I am incredibly thankful for your support, and knowing that I had you there if there was anything that I needed was a massive relief. I would like you all to know that your funding has gone toward paying for my University fees (which are almost \$10,000 a year), and that this amount is very helpful in the course of my career leaving me with a lower HECS-Debt to pay off when I have completed my studies. You have been a positive part of my journey to achieving my dream, and I thank you for that and for your assistance.

I am extremely thankful that I had the opportunity to meet you all, and I appreciate all that you have done for me. I certainly will not forget the kindness and generosity of the members of the Rotary Club of Barossa Valley, and I am very honoured to be selected as a recipient of one of these SA Health/Rotary Indigenous Health Scholarships. I wish nothing but the best for you all, and all the love and happiness that life has to offer.

Kind Regards,

Montanna Doudle"

My Life - Sandie Simons

At last night's Zoom meeting those online heard about Sandie's very interesting and varied life. I didn't think I could do all the content justice but Sandie has kindly supplied her speech. Enjoy!

"On the 9th of January 1956, in Quorn, South Australia, the Larkin children were told by an older sister when they woke up that "Mum's gone to hospital to get us another baby girl". Being a family of seven girls already, a baby brother was not considered even a remote possibility. The promised baby girl number eight, was named Sandra Josephine. That's me!

In November 1957, Mum and Dad were offered Commonwealth Railways employee housing at either Port Augusta or Stirling North Railways, a cluster of 97 houses located five miles outside Port Augusta. They didn't want to live in a "big town", and

without a car Dad needed to be able to walk to work, so Stirling North Railways was the choice. Most residents were young families, and in those days without television, computers and mobile phones, most of us kids spent many hours playing in the scrub and sand hills, exploring dry creek beds, climbing trees and catching tadpoles, or checking if any calves or lambs had been born in the railway yards. Sometimes we'd take a sandwich for lunch and we'd always make our way home in time for tea. I also loved being on my own, climbing trees to check for eggs or chicks in sparrows' nests, wandering around the railway yards ... occasionally sneaking a look inside a railway carriage. Inside activities involved board games, most of which ended with me throwing a tantrum after being beaten, making scrapbooks with pictures cut from magazines, making dolls clothes, playing at being a shopkeeper or a teacher, listening to records – initially 78s on the scratchy old gramophone then later vinyl 45s and LPs on our portable record player.

Although my parents were poorly educated I learned a lot from them – stoicism, humility, honesty and independence. I honestly can't remember many friends of my parents coming to visit – maybe one or two ladies to see Mum, and only 2 or 3 workmates ever visited Dad. Most of our socialisation as a family was infrequent and generally with other relatives. In fact I can't understand what the fuss is about with this current "self-isolation" – my parents were masters of it! So, what did I learn from Mum : how to use the treadle sewing machine and bake scones, but more importantly, a love of words – reading, writing, clear pronunciation, lots of Scrabble and library books. And not to backchat within hearing range. From Dad : drawing (his subjects always horses!), ability to see the funny side in everything, that weird black Irish sense of humour, the joy of being taken for a wheelbarrow ride really fast on a really bumpy track through the saltbush across the road. Oh, and how to wire a fuse, which as it turned out came in very handy about twenty years later.

After Dad won a brand new FB Holden in a raffle, we went for regular drives to visit family in Quorn and Melrose, and to the bakery in Wilmington to satisfy Dad's appetite for finger buns. Very rarely did we travel further, just a trip to Adelaide every few years to visit Dad's family, which necessitated flasks of tea and sandwiches, lots of stops along the way.

When I was eight or nine, two of my friends received brand new bikes for Christmas. After a lot of whingeing I finally got my bike for my birthday. Mine was an extra special model never seen before - Dad made it himself from only the best parts - picked up from that treasure trove, the local rubbish dump. No handlebar grips, no mudguards, no fancy paintwork - and no brakes! Had a few near misses but I didn't have any crashes, so I guess I was as slow riding that bike as I was getting ready for school.

I had some woeful but fortunately also some great teachers through school at Willsden Primary then Port Augusta High, and did quite well in most subjects, attaining a Commonwealth Scholarship in my third year of High School. During 1971, in my fourth year of high school, which was the last year of the old Leaving Certificate exams, I started working on Saturday mornings for one of the sales reps at CityState Motors, the Port Augusta Holden dealership. At that time, when US personnel left Woomera to go back to the US, their American car would often be sold to CityStates. It was very exciting for me to see those cars in the yard, after falling in love with the American cars I'd seen at Woomera during a stay with my sister at Pernatty Station a few years earlier.

Two and a half hours of typing gained me \$2 (generously rounded up from 75c an hour!), which was used to buy material to make clothes for myself or my nieces, using Mum's old treadle sewing machine. I usually bought patterns for myself, but with little money to spend, for my nieces' clothes I'd have them lay on the material on the floor and just cut around them!

My Leaving Certificate results satisfied the Manager, so I started working full time in the CityState Motors office mid-January 1972, with some of the most generous and supportive men - and two of the meanest women - I have ever worked with.

My oldest sister Cecily had married a career soldier and moved to Sydney before I was born. This might as well have been the dark side of the moon as far as my parents were concerned, so we never visited them, and because of their large family of four biological children and seven adopted children, they were not able to visit us. When I was thirteen years old, Doug left the Army and they moved to Adelaide. The following summer school holidays, I was duly despatched on the train - alone, aged fourteen - to Adelaide to stay with them. Although I had never met my sister and we had no recent photo, I was able to recognise Cecily on the busy platform in Adelaide Railway Station. She looked just like Mum. Because of our separation and

the 21 years difference in age though, we didn't really connect all that well; I related better to her adopted daughters who were closer in age.

Late in 1972 my second oldest sister Janice was diagnosed with terminal breast cancer, and she passed away early in 1973, aged 33 and with two very young daughters. My mother had already been fighting breast cancer since late 1971, and seemed to be winning until Janice's death; after that Mum's health quickly deteriorated and she left us in October 1973.

At this time I was working at the Regional Office of the Department for Community Welfare in Port Augusta, and I heard heart-breaking stories from the Welfare Officers about domestic violence and neglected children. I volunteered to spend three weeks helping with administration work in the District Office at Oodnadatta. It was a real eye-opener for me, to see the conditions in which the Aboriginal people lived, and it certainly made me question the lack of facilities and basic necessities, those comforts I had always taken for granted.

In September 1974 I married Peter, and in early 1975 we moved to Melbourne, then to Darwin in November 1976, two years after Cyclone Tracy. I worked for TAA, as it was then, before the change to Australian Airlines and later the amalgamation with Qantas. Access to discounted airfares, accommodation and car hire meant we were able to travel through Europe, England and Scotland for three weeks in 1978. During that trip we visited Sonja in Germany, my penfriend since we were fourteen.

Late in 1980 Peter wanted a change, so we applied for positions of Motor Mechanic and Administration Officer at Daly River Mission, south west of Darwin. During our second interview we were told that the Administration Officer had decided to stay, but the Store Manager was leaving, and that job was offered to me instead! After a nano-second of deliberation, I agreed – another childhood dream realised – being a shopkeeper! Daly River was managed then by Catholic Missions, but the Aboriginal population of around 200 had strong leaders, and still practised customs such as initiation for young men and women, and serious tribal punishment. We also enjoyed the spectacle of corroborees “just for fun”, where the Elders trained the young ones in traditional musical instruments, singing and dancing.

I really enjoyed a visit from Dad, and he really enjoyed going fishing for the first time ever and catching a bigger barramundi

than anyone else, as well as showing the younger men that he could still handle a shotgun.

We moved back to Adelaide in late 1981 but in mid 1982, we were asked to move to Bathurst Island, north of Darwin, me to manage the General Store during the absence of the Aboriginal Manager, and Peter to manage the Mechanical Workshop. The current Store Manager was exiled from the township for three months as punishment, because a small boy was taken by a crocodile from his boat while crossing over to Melville Island. When Bernard came back to the Store Manager job, I still performed many of the management tasks such as staff supervision, purchasing, stocktake and chasing dogs out of the store with a broom.

In April 1983, Dad came to visit us on Bathurst Island and had a great time getting to know the locals, checking out the horses used by the Aboriginal stockmen, and visiting our favourite waterholes and camp sites. It was a great shock when three weeks into his visit, he died in his sleep. Our friends on Bathurst Island and in Darwin were very supportive, helping us to arrange his return to Port Augusta, to be re-united with Mum at Stirling North Cemetery.

Late in 1983 Peter and I returned to Adelaide, I started working as a Secretary at Sellers Atkins, and after a crash and burn experience with a fruit and veg business, we went our separate ways.

I started a new job at Pipelines Authority of South Australia, and promised myself to not get serious about any man ever again.

Bill Simons and I met while I was working at Sellers Atkins, and the friendship developed further after I started at Pipelines Authority. Despite my promise about men - and the fact that he had a daughter only five years younger than me, and a two year old granddaughter! - I moved in with Bill in late 1986. We married on 18th March 1990, his Mum's birthday.

In November 1990 I started working as a Systems Support Officer in the IT department at Levi Strauss & Co, located at Elizabeth. This role involved rolling out personal computers to our sales offices, from building each computer to installing the software, writing manuals, training and ongoing support. After a few years I moved into a Business Analyst/Project Management role. I learned a huge amount about many different areas of the

business, and was fortunate to work with high calibre people from all over the world on high profile projects. Another bonus was a lot of interstate and international travel.

As a side project, I decided to achieve another childhood dream of teaching, so I volunteered as an English teacher through the ESL program, for a couple of years.

In August 1996, we bought the Corvette and that introduced us to a whole lot of new friends.

However, over time, with our unit at Tennyson having undercover parking for only one out of our three cars – shades of The Castle! – we thought it would be good to have more space. After a few visits to the Barossa Valley with the Corvette Club, we decided it would be a good area to live in, and started looking for an established property. We stumbled across one acre of land on Gilbert Street in Lyndoch, and decided to build instead. A four car shed was built first of course, and we often stayed weekends in the shed until we moved into our house in December 2002. Thanks to Bill's vast experience in the building industry, we enjoyed the process of designing and building our own home, and we worked very hard at landscaping and establishing a drought tolerant, mainly native garden.

In 2009, I took to art again, with intentions of having some serious fun. I had lessons at Norm's Art Studio in Gawler, did courses at the Art Gallery SA and at Adelaide Central School of Art, and whatever other workshops I could fit in. I entered several competitions and SALA exhibitions, and finally I sold some paintings and secured a few commissions. I haven't done anything serious for awhile, but it's still there, bubbling away in the background.

Bill retired at the end of 2010, and he started volunteering at the Barossa Bushgardens in Nuriootpa early in 2011. I was also involved there, helping with Open Days, the newsletter and memberships.

In mid 2011 we spent five weeks travelling through Europe, where we visited my penfriend Sonja and her family in Germany. In 2013 we travelled for six weeks in the UK, Spain, Italy and France, a highlight of which was four days in Paris with Sonja and her husband Dieter, then back to their home in Germany for a few days before coming home.

In July/August 2017, our holidays included a Baltics cruise, time in Cornwall and Germany with Sonja and Dieter, then a cruise on the River Douro in Portugal followed by four nights in Rome. A surprise wedding invitation from Sonja's daughter Julia, saw us off again in early October 2018 for a week in Strasbourg, joined by Sonja and Dieter for another week in Colmar, then to Liemen near Heidelberg in Germany for the wedding. A few days back home and we were visited by the honeymooners for a long weekend at Wilpena Pound.

At the end of February 2015, I received a redundancy from Levi's – not unexpected, but after 24 years there, most of which was quite intense, and having worked almost continuously for over 40 years, it still took a good few months to adjust.

After a holiday in Tasmania, I started volunteering at BBBfm Community Radio, helping to produce an interview format program. Following technical training I began to present my own music program. For the last few years I have been Secretary of the Board of BBBfm and work on other projects and functions including Sponsorships.

We've been members of Probus since September 2016 – after 15 months on the waiting list!

After duly serving our Apprenticeship as Friends of this Rotary Club, Bill and I were inducted as full Members on February 1st, 2018. Despite not having been involved in a service club before, we have found it easy to embrace the culture of giving back to the community, with the support of you, the Club members being so willing to share your experiences and knowledge. And of course there's the additional benefits of great friendships.

Since Bill and I have been together, I have lost many within my family but I have been very fortunate to be part of his family in a way that many others would envy. I have gained a daughter who is also a wonderful friend, and I adore our two now grown up grandchildren. My remaining sister lives in Gawler and we are very close.

I feel blessed with my life and hope the fun continues for many more years!"

From Robert Brookes

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL – YOUTH EXCHANGE PROGRAM

Over the years the Barossa Valley Club's members have been very strong supporters of RI's Youth Exchange program. Several of the club's members have hosted international students from various countries. That student's country would then host a student from the Barossa for the following 12 months. It has been one of the most successful and popular programs of Rotary International. Some of our members still keep in contact, have visited and stayed with families of students that they have hosted.

Likewise some of these students have returned and revisited the club and their host families as married adults. So many of our club's members will have fond memories of their connections with the Student Exchange program. When I was young guy in the Morialta Club, the club hosted its first youth exchange student (Annette Jaegerlund) from Helsingor Denmark. A year or so later I visited the UK and flew to Copenhagen, and stayed with her parents (up the top end of the country). Wonderful memories.

Barossa Valley Club last hosted a student in 2010-2011 Philip Sederstrom from Uppsala in Sweden. Philip is a fine young man who turned 18 years of age during his stay. He attended most club meetings and also joined in and worked with members on most projects that the club was involved with at that time.

A few years ago our International Committee held a Swedish night with a range of delicacies of that country. Philip sent us a video of home and country which was shown during the evening. I am still in contact with Philip through Facebook and he sent the following to me a couple of days ago. He wrote:

"Hi. Robert! I was so happy when I saw your Facebook message the other day. Glad to hear that you're still active in the club.

Sometimes I find myself thinking back at my time in Australia, it feels almost like a dream today. I still talk about the trip to Port Lincoln where we ate Tuna-steak (at the Tunarama) and I got wind-burned, a concept many of my Swedish friends have a hard time to grasp. What a wonderful trip that was.

Nowadays I'm studying to become a psychologist. I've made many friends at the Uni, the studies are going really good and I've nailed every exam we've had this far.

But now during the Covid 19 all our courses are held on-line. How are you affected by Covid 19? I hope you and Peggy are well and that the pandemic will perish soon and that everything will go back to normal.

Yours sincerely

Philip."

"I did not know that!"

Perhaps not many people know I have been leader of two Scout Troops. In 1992 I became leader of the Kangaroo Island Group during my year on the Island. After asking the locals what young people on the Island needed, I was told the Scouts needed a Leader! I had previously been a member of the Girl Guides and become a Queen's Guide. I then joined the Burnside Ranger Guide group, becoming a leader in 1975. This experience was invaluable as I bravely took on leading the KI Scouts.

I was living on the Island by myself for the year, as Brian stayed in Clapham for his work and the children's continuing education. Brian was a wonderful help in school holidays as he came over to KI and joined me leading the Scouts in camping in Flinder's Chase. Brian had a long history of involvement in Scout leadership both in Australia and England.

On returning to the Mainland, I took up the position of Leader of the Panorama Sea Scouts, a position I enjoyed very much for several years.

Being invited to participate in the Scout Movement's development of Child Protection Policy and Practice, I served as the Project Commissioner in that area for some time, and managed the

Welfare component of the large national Australian Jamboree held at Woodhouse, Stirling, S.A., in 2004.

I know some fellow Rotarians have also had experience themselves and in their families, in the Scout and Guide movement, and would be very interested in hearing more about these.

I hope this is of interest. Ro Forgan

Attendance Report

Total Club Members Attending
Total Friends Attending
Partners Attending
Visiting Rotarians
Guests Attending
Apologies/Leave of absence

Coronavirus Bulletin Board

The Club meetings provided lots of Fellowship, allowing everybody to catch up with what everybody else had been doing. In an attempt to keep some of that fellowship going, I ask members to submit information, anecdotes, gossip or jokes so that we can use the Bulletin to keep in touch with each other.

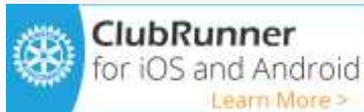


To fill in time John Semmler (JS Pioneer Reproductions) has been getting some items ready for auction when we have an opportunity.

Duty Roster		
	Non-meeting No.43 Venue: Meetings cancelled	Non-meeting No.44 Venue: Meetings cancelled
Invocation		
Loyal Toast		
Sergeant		
Rotary Info.		
Chairperson		
Speaker		
Subject		
Bulletin	Roxane Canning	Roxane Canning
Setting Up		
Cashiers	Marie Rothe Bev Stephenson	Marie Rothe Bev Stephenson
Clothing Bins Angaston	30 April - 14 May Collection Cancelled	30 April - 14 May

Nuriootpa Tanunda		Collection Cancelled
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"On hearing ill rumour that Londoners may soon be urged into their lodgings by Her Majesty's men, I looked upon the street to see a gaggle of striplings making fair merry, and no doubt spreading the plague well about. Not a care had theses rogues for the health of their elders!"
Samuel Pepys Diaries - London 1664



This email was sent to Marie-Louise Lees by Roxane Canning
Rotary Club of Barossa Valley | PO Box 251 | Tanunda | SA | 5352



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