

**Rotary Clubs of Sale**www.rotaryclubofsale.org.au**Rotary District 9820**

Incorporated

CLUB MEETING – MAY 18TH 2021

SPEAKER- Laurie Jeremiah



Laurie Jeremiah and Graeme Dyer

This week's speaker is Laurie Jeremiah who will talk about the Sale and District Agricultural Society. Keith Miller chairs the meeting.

Laurie Jeremiah kindly provided his biography

Personal life: Laurie was born in Healesville, early childhood on a dairy farm near Loch in South Gippsland, with his teenage years around Pakenham. Grandparents and uncles had orchards, and family dabbled in fresh produce – spuds, peas and beans. Hence his interest in agriculture. He can't eat an apple from the supermarket – apples ain't apples.

He obtained a scholarship on 17th Birthday at end of year 12 to attend School of Forestry, left home 2 weeks later. Scholarship bonded him to Public Service for 5 years, now in 46th year.

Employment: Laurie spent most of first 10 years of work walking through the forest assessing areas for commercial harvesting. Locations in the Central Highlands (Toolangi, Marysville, Powelltown) and northeast Victoria (Bright, Kiewa Valley / Mount Feathertop, Wonnangatta headwaters)

Next 30 years in operations managing staff and works crews, and managing bushfires. Elevated to highest level roles in bushfire, and trained others nationally for 10 years. Progressed in his career to senior management with roles in Business Management, and external roles such as Audit and Risk Committee for TAFE business. Worked in Executive role in Dairy industry.

His performance has been public scrutinised and reported via public enquiries such as Black Saturday Royal Commission, and the Hazelwood Fire Enquiry. He was an expert witness in the prosecution of Hazelwood mine.



Laurie addresses the meeting

Community: Laurie is an all rounder in sporting activities, football, basketball, table tennis, tennis, badminton, cricket, golf, deer hunting – master of none. Joined Rotaract as a young adult in Bright. Held various roles in community organisations including Treasurer and Secretary. Long period of involvement with CFA volunteers.

Family: Married to Helen, 3 Children Tom, Ruth and Adele and 2 grandchildren Piper and Lara. Pet free unless babysitting daughters fur children, Hugo the Golden Retriever or Cake the Australian Bulldog.

Qualifications – academic:

Australian Rural Leadership - Graduate Certificate (Masters) 2014 James Cook University.

Australian Rural Leadership Program 2011 – Aust. Rural Leadership Foundation Company Director, Australian Institute of Company Directors 2008

Gippsland Community Leadership Program 2006

Diploma of Training and Assessment, East Gippsland TAFE 2005

Diploma of Frontline Management, East Gippsland TAFE 2002

Bachelor of Forest Science, Melbourne University 1980

Diploma of Forestry, Victorian School of Forestry, Creswick 1977



Our Speaker was Laurie Jeremiah – President SADAS & Rotarian, on the topic of Sale and District Agricultural Society (SADAS) Leadership of volunteers in the Community Not for Profit Sector.

These are his notes

The Sale and District Agricultural Society was established in 1859

Our purpose (Extract from Association Rules)

The purposes of the association are:

1. To encourage and promote the development of agriculture, horticulture, the pastoral industry and the improvement of livestock implements and machinery for agricultural and industrial purposes.
2. To institute periodical exhibitions at which prizes or certificates of merit shall be awarded for superiority in all kinds of produce, stock and manufactures, fine arts, technical college work, agriculture and mining implements, machinery and miscellaneous exhibits.
3. To promote and encourage correspondence and friendly interrelationships with kindred organisations.

The Showgrounds

SADAS is very fortunate in that we own our showgrounds thanks to the vision and forethought of our early leaders.

The original parcel of land was purchased in 1888. The triangle closest to the Princes highway was purchased in 1939, and 2 other parcels were purchased from the McLachlan family in 1949 and 1971. We now own the entire triangle between Sale-Maffra road, Dawson street and the railway line.

The role of President (Laurie's perspective)

Most importantly, I consider it an honour and privilege to care for someone else's (the Society's) valuable property. I believe it is my responsibility to manage these assets in 'Trust' for the people of Sale and District.

President's should also have a vision for the entity which translates into growth. During my association with the Society I have seen:

- The building of the Committee Room and Multi-Purpose building (stables) – a project I led.
- The new office and ablutions (another President)
- New Caretaker's residence (a third President), and
- Establishment of the Caravan Park
 - This was more than casual camping on our land, compliance with Regulations including Electricity supply, Emergency Fire Service and Greywater disposal required significant planning and financial investment.

Management model:

- Volunteers. SADAS for most of its time has existed as a purely voluntary organisations, with all roles undertaken by volunteers.
- Executive and casual staff.

In recent years, as the effort required to manage our activities has increased, we have supported our Secretary and Treasurer with Honorarium payments to cover out of pocket expenses. Our level of activity varies across the year with a very busy and chaotic period associated with our Agricultural Show. By agreement we have annualised the Honorariums we pay and now reflect a component of casual labour.

We regularly review what the next likely progression may be, most likely a Board with paid Executive officer and employees. Whilst this is financially possible, we do not support this model as it takes away much of the community

ownership and volunteer participation.

Historic Assets

There are 3 Assets belonging to SADAS which are listed on the Shire of Wellington Heritage Register. We are proud that some of our assets have value to the broader community and we strive to manage them in a way that fulfills community expectations.

- The original Secretary's building which has been retained and incorporated into the new office building complex.
- The Skeen (arts and crafts) building
- The Elm Trees and white fence surrounding the main arena. The trees were planted in 1890 as part of an Arbor day event.

User Groups

Agriculture related

- Sale Greyhound Club
- Sale Showjumping Club
- Sale Dressage Club
- Sale Pony Club
- Sale Producers Market

Other

- Roller skate Club
- Fishing and Firearms licensing
- Quilters Club
- Drama Society

Several of the User groups are also associated with members of our Society – mutual relationships.

Managing these users and activities requires a detailed Calendar of Events. This enables our Secretary to accept casual bookings and allows time to manage the grounds between events.

Greyhound Club

Commenced in 1876, in early days known as North Gippsland Coursing Club). The Sale and District Greyhound Racing Club was formed in 1935.

The Greyhound Club has operated from many locations, initially from between private farms to later fixed venues close to Sale including the Turf Club. Their first meeting on the Showgrounds was in 1940, they then moved to land on the

opposite side of the Highway. They returned to the Showgrounds in 1963, and the first formal lease established in 1969. They move to their current (new) complex in 1982. Lease have been executed in 1973, 1981, 1993 and 1998. The 1998 lease has variations in 2003, 2006, 2008 and a 2021 in preparation. Their current lease term ends in 2045.

Our Business

SADAS has \$5 million in assets, \$2m in land and \$3 in buildings. Last year's revenue was \$400,000.

We actively seek and regularly receive community grants. Are larger infrastructure investments have been majority funded through Grants. A major element of our success has been our demonstrated ability to deliver these projects on time and on budget.

Volunteers

I draw on my experiences with other volunteer organisations to share an approach of sustaining a volunteer organisation – the Happiness Factor. Voluntary organisations are more successful and more viable when they can maintain member happiness. Happiness is a strong personal motivation emotion.

Conclusion

SADAS is a diversified mixed business with many sources of income. If our aim was to maximise our financial return, we might focus primarily on the Caravan Park for example.

We need to maintain and be 'true' to the purpose of our organisation, and respect the contributions made by our predecessors to create the community asset we now have. And manage the Community Asset in Trust and handover to the next President in a 'better condition'.

Laurie was thanked for his presentation.

Then President Philip's Announcements:

The Board needs suggestions for Paul Harris Fellows for assessment. President Philip reminded and encouraged members to take part in the District Assembly on Sunday 23 May as it is a particularly good forum in which to learn about Rotary and how it works and essential for learning about key Club roles.

Mike Smith has resigned from his position as Sergeant-at-Arms and Vice President. The Club needs to fill these positions on the Board.



Ted Pickering and President Philip Davis

Program Coordinator, Mike Smith, advised that next week the guest speaker is the Very Revd. Susanna Pain and it will be a partners night with Jeanette Henwood chairing the meeting. The following week Nicole O'Connor will chair the meeting when Gary Howard will be the speaker.

Other speakers lined up for June are Raj Mani speaking about the Sale Community Hub and the Principal of Gippsland Grammar, Lisa Harper, when Neil Ross will chair the meeting.

Trevor Watt announced that he is planning this year's book sale for 2 weeks in September and hopes to use the Fulham prisoners to pack up. The Bunnings BBQ is on Saturday 18 September but won't interfere with the book sale.

President Philip gave an outline of the Wetlands Project and said that the Club is now ready to accept the funds from Wellington Shire Council and the John Leslie Trust to commence work. He pointed out that the project needs volunteers for some hands-on work in re-decking the old boardwalk. The money saved would allow a second handrail to be fitted. We also need volunteers for planning and placement of the signage required for the project. Philip is looking for Club member engagement.

There will be a Club Assembly on Tuesday 22 June with the purpose of involving every member in all of the Club's activities. A Special General Meeting will be held for replacing exiting Board Members to fill the positions of Vice President, Sergeant-at-Arms and the Chair of Membership and Communications.

Philip concluded his announcements by asking "What can this Club do to enhance the liveability of Sale?"

A guest tonight was Alan Croft who was asked to draw the raffle. He obliged and drew Nicole's ticket.



**Birthdays for May – Happy Birthday to
Mike Smith 7th May, Rachel Strauss 17th May,
Keith Miller 24th May and Kerry McMillan 26th May**

Rotary Club of Sale Rural Nursing Scholarships 2021

We have received update reports from the current Rural Nursing Scholarship recipients following the commencement of their graduate rotation. Below are the Graduate Nurses and the hospitals in which they are working together with an extract from their reports. The full reports can be found on the Australian Rotary Health website.

<https://australianrotaryhealth.org.au/programs/rural-medicine-and-nursing-scholarships/>

	<p>Tori Patten working at Wilson Lodge, CGHS. "Something that I have found really rewarding and a passion for in this rotation is having the ability to make a resident's day, to hear them laugh and know that you are making their day better when you go in there with a smile and an excited and positive attitude. There is no better feeling when the resident and their loved ones is appreciative of your help you have provided".</p>
	<p>Renee Dukakis working in the Emergency Department, CGHS. "More than anything it has been an honour to be a support person for the patients under my care. To recognise their fear and hopefully relieve some of it to the best of my ability. Most people come into ED as a last resort and to be with them in their time of need is not something I take lightly".</p>
	<p>Rachel Schreuder working in Maddocks Gardens, BRHS. "Areas I have developed a further understanding of include a broader knowledge of these issues, as well as how communication issues, professional behaviour, and competence in clinical practice in nursing homes affects the care that is delivered".</p>

	<p>Julie Light working in McDonald Wing, Maffra Hospital. “Next, I am off to the Emergency department. I am feeling nervous but extremely excited to see what this specialised area has to offer. From the beginning of my nursing journey, I have felt this is the area where I would love to specialise in. I am grateful to be given this rotation and looking forward to grabbing every opportunity that comes my way”.</p>
	<p>Hayley Bartlett working in Operating Theatre, CGHS. “To begin with being in theatre was intimidating – I wasn’t sure if I was cut out to be a theatre nurse. The amount of procedures and instruments that need to be learnt is overwhelming. However, I can feel my confidence, knowledge, and skills improving every day. I have learnt that the only way to be a skilled theatre nurse is through experience and scrubbing in for as many surgeries as possible”.</p>
	<p>Brittney Potts working in Critical Care/Short Stay Unit CGHS. “I am so grateful I have been given this opportunity to complete a graduate year at my local rural hospital. I love how hands on we get to be as rural nurses and how much we are trusted”</p>

The ARH Program Co-Ordinator for the Rural Nursing Scholarships, Cheryl Deguara, will be visiting the Club on August 24 when she will meet some of the earlier Rural Nursing Scholarship recipients who will be receiving the plaques acknowledging their award.

FUTURE MEETINGS and EVENTS:

Tuesday 25th May- Anglican Dean Very Rev’d Susanna Pain

District Changeover is on Sunday 27 June and RSVP by 16 June.

Our Club Changeover is on Tuesday 29 June at the Criterion. Please book your place early and let Secretary Adrian know how many guests you will be bringing.

Any queries re future meetings contact Adrian: Mob. 0408 517 062 (Text or call) Email arijs47@gmail.com

Please send Bulletin contributions to Sandra at sandrah@vic.australis.com.au

Articles for next Bulletin need to be submitted by 20th May.

**Next Rotary meeting- Very Revd Susanna Pain
 Tuesday 25th May- 6.00pm Sale Greyhounds
 You must book with Adrian by midday.**

Last Name	First Name	Spouse/ Partner
Burgess	Lisa	Paul
Callinan	Gerard	Jenny O'Neill
Cartledge ^{PP PHF}	John	Liana
Castle	John	Pam
Davis ^{Pres PHF}	Philip	Elizabeth
Dyer ^{OAM PP PHF}	Graeme	Alida
Exton ^{PP PHF}	Rod	Gillian
Henwood ^{PP PHF}	Jeanette	
Houghton ^{PHF}	Sandra	
Hutchinson	Elisabeth	Alan Lewis
Jeremiah	Laurie	Helen
Lewis ^{PP PHF}	Alan	Elizabeth
MacRaild ^{OAM PHF}	Don	Meg
Mani ^{PP}	Raj	Tracey
McDonald	Andrew	Leanne
McKimm ^{PP}	Robert	Kathy
McMillan ^{PHF}	Kerry	Don
Miller ^{PHF}	L. Keith	Gwen
O'Brien	Danny	Vicki
O'Connor	Nicole	Patrick
Page ^{OAM PP PHF}	Michael	Jan
Pickering ^{PP}	Ted	Margaret
Rijs ^{PP PHF}	Adrian	Louise
Ripper ^{PP PDG PHF}	Don	Jude
Ross ^{PHF}	Neil	Maree
Smith ^{PHF}	Mike	
Smolenaars ^{PP PHF}	Daniel	Norissa
Smyth ^{PP PHF}	Laurie	Jill
Strauss ^{PP}	David	Rachel
Strauss ^{PP}	Rachel	David
Thomas	Jenni	
Tulloch ^{OAM PP PHF}	David	Judy
Vassiliou	Catherine	Wayne Gray
Versloot ^{PHF}	Andy	Debbie
Watt ^{PP}	Trevor	Liz
Webb	Carmel	
Wilson	Shae	Ben