

**Rotary Clubs of Sale**

[www.rotaryclubofsale.org.au](http://www.rotaryclubofsale.org.au)

**Rotary District 9820**

Incorporated

**CLUB MEETING – June 8<sup>TH</sup> 2021**  
**SPEAKER- Gary Howard**



**President Philip Davis presents guest speaker Gary Howard with a pen**

President Philip opened the meeting with a greeting to all 20 club members & guest speaker who attended and then hosted the Rotary Toast and four-way test. Philip then passed to Nicole O'Connor our chairperson for the evening who welcomed our invited speaker Gary (Pud) Howard.



**Nicole O'Connor introduces Gary Howard**

Gary was born in Sale and grew up with an appreciation of nature and enjoyed hunting and shooting and is now a life member of the Field and Game association Sale branch.

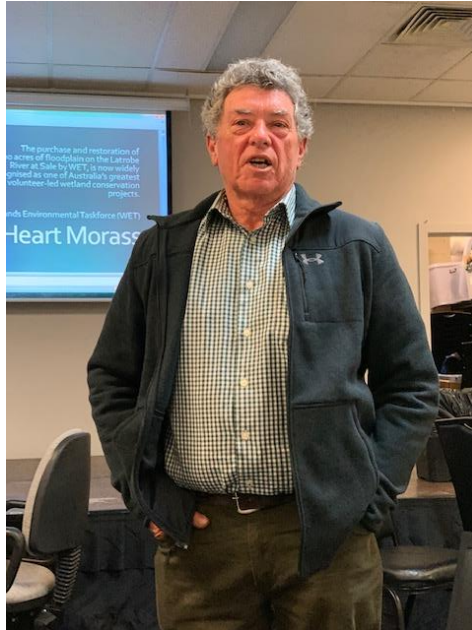
In 2006 the Wetlands environmental Taskforce (WET) was formed as an alliance between West Gippsland Catchment management authority, Bug Blitz, and with very generous financial support from The Hugh Williamson foundation and Field and Game state & local clubs fundraising.

A number of land purchases were made, the first of which in 2006 was 1980 acres of wetlands situated on the north side of the Latrobe River and towards the Sale common. In 2010 a second purchase of 1770 acres and followed in 2013 by the last purchase to date of 550 acres.



Large parts of the land were severely salt affected with minimal ground coverage so stumps and logs were dragged into the morass and staked/chained down to act as flood divergents and to support new native wildlife habitats. Blackberries and other weeds were controlled, broken fencing removed and replaced where needed, and rabbits and their warrens removed. At present Deer and wallabies continue to be a real pest eating newly planted trees and damaging regenerated areas.

Work done on clearing up and cleaning up the land has all been voluntary and with machinery and equipment generously supplied by locals Wayne & Ann Ferguson and Laser Plumbing.



**Gary Howard speaking about the Heart Morass**

The West Gippsland Catchment Management authority assisted with technical advice and a proper management plan was formulated by WET. This ‘hands on’ approach has been well recognised across Victoria by government departments and a lot of people are interested in the outcome to date.

The WGCMA also supplied over 6000 trees which were planted in one weekend to regenerate morass areas and reduce salinity levels. Seed is being collected and saved from the local indigenous trees/plants and all-weather tracks have now been constructed over approximately 6.5 kms of the total 10.5 kms from front gate to the back gate.



**Raj Mani, Laurie Smyth, Keith Miller, John Castle and Trevor Watt enjoy fellowship**

Water control structures have been renovated to allow better control and management of water egress into and out of the common on an as needs basis. Salinity still continues to be monitored however salt levels have now lowered and regular ongoing testing is helping to track this work. Carp still prove to be a pest



and over times past, more than 47 tonne of carp have been trapped and removed from the morass river system.



**Rob McKimm, John Cartledge, Don Ripper, Kerry McMillan, Carmel Webb, Jeanette Henwood, Mike Smith and Graeme Dyer (obscured)**

Grazing agistment of around 60 head of cattle is part of the overall management plan as is experimental burning, spraying and slashing of weeds to see what works best.

Life returns to the morass on a regular basis with Bug Blitz hosting regular school children's visits. One recent event was over 200 kids per day over three days, doing in depth investigation and recording of plants, bugs, etc. in small areas. This is a great opportunity for young people to become involved in environment, wildlife and land studies and preservation.



**Trevor Watt and Graeme Dyer**

The club members thoroughly enjoyed Gary's presentation and raised questions

around freshwater availability, rising hog deer pest numbers, the increase in wild duck and waterfowl numbers and concerns on wetlands PFAS contamination levels.

President Philip then gave an overview of the Sale Friends of the Wetlands restoration project with surveying underway of the proposed track area. After initial hesitation by Parks Victoria, they are now fully supportive.

This project will need the support of all our Rotary club members in many ways, strategic planning, heritage and sponsors signage, media and public image promotions and many more hands-on opportunities to become involved.

Kerry McMillan gave an update on the Changeover dinner and will confirm this coming week if and how the Criterion are affected by current pandemic restrictions which may limit dining numbers permitted.



**Club Secretary Adrian Rijs, President Philip Davis, Chairperson Nicole O'Connor, Gary Howard, Elisabeth Hutchinson and Alan Lewis (obscured)**



**Birthday for June – Happy Birthday to Carmel Webb on 23<sup>rd</sup> June**

**HUMOUR!!**

## **How Daniel saved his life in the lion's den:**

King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon was astonished that the hungry lions had not eaten Daniel. He summoned Daniel and promised him that if he would reveal his secret, the king would give him his freedom.

"It was easy, your excellency," Daniel said. "I went around and whispered in each lion's ear — 'After dinner, there will be speeches.'"

## **FUTURE MEETINGS and EVENTS:**

**Next Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> June the speaker is Leisa Harper – Gippsland Grammar school principal.**

**Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> June – Club Assembly get together and discuss the new year about to unfold and how we can all be involved in its success.**

**District Changeover is on Sunday 27 June and RSVP by 16 June. Register with PDG Don Ripper**

**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.**

**25<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> February 2022 District Conference Traralgon**

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

**Please send Bulletin contributions to Sandra at  
[sandrah@vic.australis.com.au](mailto:sandrah@vic.australis.com.au)**

***Next Rotary meeting-  
Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> June 6.00pm Sale Greyhounds  
Speaker Leisa Harper  
You must book with Adrian by midday.***

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