

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

Incorporated

CLUB MEETING – June 15TH 2021
SPEAKER- Leisa Harper
Gippsland Grammar school principal.



President Philip Davis thanks Leisa Harper for her address

President Philip welcomed members and two guests- his wife Elizabeth and our speaker Mrs Leisa Harper. After the formalities, chairperson Neil Ross introduced this evening's guest speaker Mrs Leisa Harper, the principal of Gippsland Grammar. Neil, as a retired arts and technology teacher, had plenty of experience working with and admiring school principals, but his experience of spending a term as acting Deputy Principal at Sale College convinced him that classroom teaching was where his talents lay.

Since the first day of her arrival last year Leisa had to deal with the global

pandemic triggering an urgent transition to remote learning, but her 27 years of experience has ensured that the school thrived in this demanding time.

Currently, she is overseeing the construction of a new multi-million dollar Visual Arts and Technology centre which will open at the beginning of 2022. This makes her in Neil's eyes a visionary.



Leisa addresses the meeting.

Leisa came to Gippsland Grammar from Rockhampton Grammar, and prior to that was Principal at Fraser Coast Anglican College, and held executive roles at St Paul's School and Brisbane Grammar. She has also worked extensively with the Harvard School of Education and serves as a director on the Independent Schools Queensland Board and Queensland Independent Schools network. She holds a Masters of Business Administration and a Masters of Educational Studies in Adolescent Psychology.

Leisa is married to Graham and they have three children – Georgia, 19, studying at Uni of Queensland, and twins Phoebe and Rhys, 16, who are in year 11.

Leisa said that March 2020 was a challenging time to arrive in Sale and at Gippsland Grammar, but she has loved her new community. Fourteen years ago, Leisa came to Victoria for cognitive training and since then, she had the ambition to come down to Victoria.

Leisa's childhood was in Inverall, N.S.W. until her father brought a hotel on the

Victoria NSW border. The majority of her life has been in Brisbane, but she wanted a regional upbringing for her children.



From left- Alan Lewis (cut off), Elisabeth Hutchinson, Mike Smith, Don Ripper, Don MacRaid, Nicole O'Connor, Jeanette Henwood, Jenni Thomas (obsc), Kerry McMillan
Leisa spent 14 years on the staff of the all boys Brisbane Grammar, where there were only 8 women on staff and where she was the first one to take paid maternity leave. She received great mentoring there, before moving to the innovative St Paul's School. She started working for Harvard School of Education in 2008 where she undertook on-line coaching (when it was still all email!) of up to 10 teams of 8 people in educational leadership.

She then became principal of her own school – Fraser Coast Anglican College, which was in a lower socio-economic area. Whilst there she created an International program that brought more than 4,000 students there on study tours.



Lisa Burgess (obsc), Leisa Harper, Sandra Houghton, Keith Miller, Elizabeth Davis, Philip Davis and Neil Ross.

She also began a community arts program where cookery, arts, etc were taught at night. Whilst undertaking a fulltime MBA, she undertook a consultancy with Rockhampton College whilst her daughter Georgia was in year 12.

Leisa was head hunted to Gippsland Grammar which was the only Victorian School to get federal funding for a new building in 2020. This new Visual Arts and Technology Centre, which also received funding from the John Leslie Foundation, will contain eight new classrooms. Local builders and contractors are being used for this project that Leisa hopes will build connections with local community. Leisa lives at Longford and is a keen gardener.

Leisa then answered member's questions before being thanked and presented with a pen.

Notices: An invitation was received to Traralgon's changeover on the 12th July, it was suggested that the club attend.

Music Festival funds have now been transferred to the new entity.

\$1,000 donation has been sent to Polio Plus; and we have also given \$1,000 to Centenary House (as has Orbost) with both club's donations matched by international funding.

Elisabeth Hutchinson won the raffle.

Kerry McMillan is making a hamper to be raffled at the changeover- contributions for the hamper will be welcomed.

Details for the Changeover Dinner will be confirmed in the next few days. It is likely that it will need to be moved from the Criterion to Graze due to uncertainty re arrangements due to changing COVID restrictions.



Birthday for June – Happy Birthday to Carmel Webb on 23rd June

FUTURE MEETINGS and EVENTS:

Tuesday 22nd 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. Please book your place early and let Secretary Adrian know how many guests you will be bringing.

25th to 27th February 2022 District Conference Traralgon

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 by 25th June

***Next Rotary meeting-
Tuesday 22nd June 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