

THIS WEEK'S MEETING

SNR. SGT. MARILYNN ROSS APM, VICTORIA POLICE

Snr Sgt Marilynn Ross APM, has been a member of Victoria Police for 30 years. Spending her first 5 years in the job at St. Kilda Police Station, Marilynn developed a wealth of experience in operational policing including street prostitution and drug related crime.



She then spent 8 years working as a Detective with both the Child Exploitation Squad and as a Divisional Detective.

Marilynn then worked on a number of Victoria Police projects including the Mobile Data Network Project which involved the installation of computers into police cars.

She has spent the last 5 years as the Officer in Charge of the Sex Industry Co-ordination Unit. The primary function of the Sex Industry Co-ordination Unit is to identify illegal activity in the sex industry, both the licensed and illegal sectors, to protect vulnerable persons from exploitation and co-ordinate intelligence sharing between key stakeholders. They also identify, report and educate on human trafficking.

In 2014, Marilynn developed a Human Trafficking Information and Awareness Package and as a result was asked to accompany the AFP to the International Law Enforcement Academy in Bangkok (Thailand), to present on a package. This package is now being used nationally and around the world.

Marilynn is committed to raising awareness around Human Trafficking in Australia and is an advocate for Human Rights.

What is Human Rights Week?

International Human Rights Day is observed on 10 December every year. It commemorates the day on which, in 1948, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The Commission has celebrated Human Rights Day with an Oration since 2001. As an annual event held on or around 10 December, the Human Rights Oration aims to highlight human rights issues as they apply to the everyday lives of Victorians. This year we are expanding the celebrations to hold Victoria's first Human Rights Week from Monday, 4 to Sunday, 10 December 2017.

The theme for Human Rights Week 2017 is 'Human rights start with you'. It's a simple but important message – each of us has a part to play in ensuring the principles of freedom, respect, equality and dignity are alive in our workplaces, schools, communities, even among our friends and families. It's about recognising the fact that we all have rights, but we also have a responsibility to stand up for and respect the rights of others.

UPCOMING SPEAKERS

13 Dec: Christmas, Festive meeting (final meeting of 2017)

17 Jan: Dr Kathleen McGuire (first meeting of 2018)

24 Jan: TBC

31 Jan: Prof. Paul R. Levy, Inst. of Global Health Innovation, Imperial College London

LAST WEEK'S MEETING

JIM MARKOVSKI : SIR JOHN REID COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

Jim Markovski (Jim) has a background in recreation and a Bachelor of Arts majoring in youth affairs along with 35 years' experience working in the western suburbs of Melbourne. He is currently the General Manager of Youth Services for the Les Twentyman Foundation. The organization works with "at risk", marginalized and disengaged young people in the community. Jim has operational management and a client caseload as part of his employment and is on call 24 hours a day for 45 weeks of the year. As such, he spends his formal working life assisting 'at risk' youth, a task which is in itself quite daunting and demanding.

However, what makes Jim stand apart is that he is not satisfied with simply 'doing his job'. For many years he has spent a very significant amount of his personal time and energy in working outside of his formal role to assist people in need. This activity has primarily been directed to young people, though he is not one to shirk rolling his sleeves up to help anyone in need.

Jim spends most of his personal time with the Redskins Basketball Club. This club has evolved since 1996 with Jim's encouragement and strong support from a small group of approximately twenty young males (14 - 16 years) who regularly played basketball. The young people formed a couple of teams and entered them in the Sunshine Basketball Association's competition with the club name "Ricochet" Basketball club.

The cultural backgrounds of the young people at the time were very diverse, Asian, Eastern European, African, South American and Anglo-Saxon. Many were from low socio-economic backgrounds, experimenting with drugs and alcohol and testing society's rules. At the same time many were also experiencing financial hardship. They were using their normal living expenses to pay fees at the Centre, to train and play basketball and buy uniforms. This didn't leave a lot for essentials such as food, clothing and education material.

Basketball offered these young people a release from society's pressures and gave them a sense of purpose, self-respect and acceptance. However, there was a feeling of powerlessness, lack of direction and one of not being welcomed by the Sports Centre and other already established Basketball Clubs. Many problems including team violence, aggression, lack of self-discipline and self-control were experienced with the Ricochet Basketball Club at the time.

Enter Jim Markovski. Jim was approached to oversee the newly named Redskins Basketball Club for a mere five weeks. During this time he was to review the current situation, establish some policies and recommend the Club's future direction. Well the five weeks has turned into twenty-three years and is still going. Jim now oversees the Club's administration and operation and it now has some 400+ members.

The initial review period was designed in consultation with current players, Youth Service providers, Victoria Police, Sunshine Basketball Association Committee Members, YCW Sports Staff and other established basketball clubs participating in the Centre.

The Redskins players did not have enough money to meet their recreational need and had started to incur large debts at the sports centre. Assistance was sought from various sponsors and an article in the Herald Sun newspaper provided the club with an enormous response. Jim worked with the different groups and also sponsors at the time to establish a club ethos. This ethos would not only see the young people, learn to have fun and enjoy the game of basketball in its correct context of fair-play, but would provide an environment where other counselling and services could work with them in a non-threatening manner.

Jim uses sport as a tool to firstly motivate individuals to participate in activities and

secondly to get them to be part of a team. To learn to accept there are rules governing conduct and behaviour. This helps form a basis that can be applied to life outside the sporting environment and aid in becoming a worthwhile member of society. Having got these young people into sport and focused Jim has, for many years now, spent many hours voluntarily working individually and collectively with these 'at risk' young people to develop skills, change attitudes and become productive members of their communities.

Jim developed activities such as the "Breaking the Barriers and Mutual Respect" - a High Challenge Camp which is attended by some players and a number of new police recruits. He has organized social outings to the movies, Luna Park, been invited with his players to the Melbourne Grand Prix in one of the corporate suites. Such activities and the theatre and various other sporting events have also enabled club members to learn about behaviour outside the sporting arena.

Jim's example has prompted many of the Redskins Basketball Club players to volunteer at the annual Les Twentyman Foundation Christmas party for over 1,000 primary aged children in the western suburbs. Jim has organized and coordinated this event since its inception in 1986. Jim is also actively involved in the Legends AFL Game between Victoria and the All Stars, which raises money for prostate cancer. With Jim's help and encouragement, past players are now involved with the club through coaching and administration. In the past few parents attended. Now many of them, along with their children, are taking active roles within the Club.

Jim tirelessly continues to campaign for on-going sponsorship to support the club and its associated activities. Due to its success in assisting young people, the Club received the Queens Trust achiever Award in 1997 for Outstanding Community Service.

Since, Jim has been involved with the Redskins Basketball Club over 3,000 young people have been associated with playing basketball at some level for the club (1,200 girls and 1,800 boys). At this present time (2017) there are currently 385 players registered and 40 teams made up from various culturally diverse backgrounds. There are 233 males and 152 females participating.

The Redskins basketball club continues to support marginalised and "at risk" young people through unconditional support whenever and wherever. This support enables players to realize their true potential, and take control of their own lives, ensuring a more purposeful and acceptable future. It is an entity that ensures these "at risk" young people do not fall into the juvenile justice system.

The players are now the envy of many other teams in the competition and at the same time they manage to keep their self- respect in check as they go about their daily lives with a more positive and worthwhile attitude. From their culturally diverse backgrounds their involvement with the club has instilled in them a tolerance and acceptance level needed with the issues confronting us all on a day-to-day basis.

Six Redskins Basketball Club players have successfully secured University Scholarships in the United States providing them with the opportunity of fulfilling their life long dreams of playing basketball in the NBA. Another player is playing top-level team in the Philippines. There is little doubt that the Redskins would not have been able to reach its present level of achievements without the outstanding leadership advice and counselling of its quiet and determined Club Manager, Jim Markovski. Jim, has dedicated many, many, many hours introducing young people to the game of basketball and more importantly to the bigger game of life.

Jim has also used the Redskins success as a launching pad for other activities, most notably the EMBRACE personal development youth leadership program which, was established to build the confidence of current players to assist Jim, run the club. The Club has expanded from 20 to 385 players and coaching many teams by one person over many years was exhausting to say the least, even for someone with Jim's energy and commitment.

EMBRACE has a vision and aim to provide future leaders for the community. EMBRACE

is Jim's brainchild, which he runs outside his normal work hours. Each fortnight, 36 participants meet for four hours and participate in various themed workshops with appropriate guest speakers. Additionally, they take part in a wilderness adventure five-day camp and a weekend camp run by the participants for eighty Redskins players. A graduation ceremony is held at the end of the year showcasing the participants' yearlong journey of self-discovery.

EMBRACE is now in its tenth year and past graduates are currently running the EMBRACE program within Caroline Chisholm Catholic College and West Melton Primary schools. You would think Redskins and EMBRACE would be enough wouldn't you. But no. Each year, Jim, with the help of others, selects three family homes and conducts a 'backyard blitz' to clear their front and back yards. This process ensures the Ministry of Housing doesn't evict the families. Redskins' players and various private school students assist Jim with this venture.

Other volunteer tasks which take Jim's time include:

- Assist young people to get into secure accommodation.
- Partnering with Central Equity to fully furnish family homes with white goods, bed suites, tables, chairs, wall units and lounge suites.
- Supplying white goods, material aid, gym equipment, food and clothing to individuals and families.
- Participating in the annual Big Bay swim with Rotary Club of Point Gellibrand to raise funds for community projects.
- Through personal networks supporting young people into employment, such as apprenticeships in electricity, plumbing, hair dressing and warehousing to name but a few.

In summary, Jim Markovski has an impressive list of volunteer activities over many years. He has never been shy to 'put his hand' to help as the following list clearly demonstrates.

Volunteer activities:

- 2005 - Melbourne Deaflympic Games
- 2000 - Sydney 2000 Olympic Games
- 2000 - Sydney 2000 Paralympic Games
- 1996 - current Club Manager Redskins Basketball teams
- 1994 - Leader AFL Sensation
- 1986 - current Coordinator Children's Annual Christmas Fun Day
- 1990 - 1996 - School Council Representative - Sunshine Secondary College
- 1994 - Member Western Region Sports Games Committee
- 1986 - 1996 Chairperson Youth Centre Advisory Committees
- 1994 - 1997 National Soccer League Referee
- 1994 - 1997 Chairman of Referee's training committee
- 1978 - 1994 Junior Soccer Coach Board activities
- 1998 - current Maribymong Basketball Association - Vice President
- 1996 - present Club Manager Redskins Basketball Club
- 2000 - 2016 Macedonian Community Welfare Agency (MCWA)
- 1994 - 1998 Chairperson Duke Street Community House in Sunshine
- 1992 - 1994 Executive Member Duke Street Community House in Sunshine

CLUB NEWS & REMINDERS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OFFICE BEARERS 2018-19

AGM Election of Office Bearers for 2018/19:

We have pleasure in confirming the following elected Office Bearers of the Club for 2018-19.

President	Robert Fisher
President-Elect	Kevin Sheehan
Vice President	Trevor Nink
Vice President	Barbara Yerondais
Hon. Treasurer	David Carruthers
Hon. Secretary	Keith Callinan

As a result of the July 2017 Rule changes, the Nominating Committee nominated Marion Macleod as a candidate for President Elect 2019/2020 (President 2020/2021).

In relation to the vacancies for the 5 retiring Directors:

Pam Brown
Tony Greenwood
Maureen Mangion
Jan Moffatt
Norman Taralrud-Bay

The following Members are elected:

New Directors: Peter Addison
Peter Davis
Dorothy Gilmour
Bernie McIntosh
Amanda Wendt

Continuing Directors: Joseph Ebbage
Chris Stillwell

2018 BREAKFAST UPDATE

Each year, our Rotary International Women's Day Breakfast has had to "dig deep" to receive Raffle Prizes worth \$500 - \$2,500. Last year, we raised \$11,000 from the Raffle. Are you or someone you know, able to offer a Raffle Prize? Remember, not only does the Raffle raise money for our Charities, it also provides excellent PR exposure for the Donor organisation.

Sponsors? We need more \$10,000 and \$5,000 Company sponsorships. Again, excellent exposure for the Sponsors.

Contact Kerry Kornhauser at
: kerry.kornhauser@gmail.com



DONATIONS IN KIND NEED YOU!

Contact DIK to volunteer: Bob - 0418 102 702 or Laurie - 0428 550 574 Email: dik.vic.rotary@gmail.com

IAN RISELEY REMINDER: TORONTO 2018

Ian Riseley personally invites you to attend the 2018 Rotary International Convention, 23-27 June 2018 in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. This Convention is sure to be the most inspiring Convention yet with an impressive turnout from Australia and New Zealand.



The deadline for early registration savings

is **15 December**. Rotary International Director, Noel Travaskis and Toronto Promotion Committee Executive Team member, Evan Burrell have been working hard to promote the registration campaign.

Visit the Rotary DownUnder Facebook page and the Rotary International website where you will find helpful information. Ian looks forward to seeing you in Toronto where we are sure to receive a warm welcome from our wonderful Canadian Rotarians! Thank you for your support!

DISTRICT CONFERENCE: WARRNAMBOOL 16-18 MARCH

Click here: [2018_Conference_Promo_1.pdf](#) for full details and access to the registration page at:
<http://www.rotaryconference.org.au>

**THE POWER TO MAKE
A DIFFERENCE**
2018 DISTRICT 9800 CONFERENCE
16-18 March / Warrnambool / Victoria



CLUB EVENING MEETING

Event Details

Date: Wednesday 6th Dec 2017
Time: 6.00 for 6:30pm – 8:00pm (note doors close at 6.35)
Venue: Leadership Victoria, Old Treasury Building, Cnr Spring & Collins Street, Melbourne
Cost: \$20 per person includes a drink and canapés
RSVP: Thursday 30th Nov 2017
Bookings via the Trybooking link :<https://www.trybooking.com/TCQN>



The attached Flyer can be downloaded for full details: [Rotary_December_flyer_\(1\).pdf](#)



Evening Meeting Team

(Chris Stillwell & Stephanie Woollard)

DO YOU KNOW A POTENTIAL ROTARY GLOBAL GRANT SCHOLAR?

The fields that support the Foundation's Six Areas of Focus are:

- Peace and conflict prevention/resolution;
- Disease prevention and treatment;
- Water and sanitation;
- Maternal and child health;
- Basic education and literacy;
- Economic and community development.

Find out more at www.district9800foundation.org/global-scholars. Applications close 19 March 2018 and all details may be provided by contacting either:

- Bob Fels, 5989 2455
robertmfels@gmail.com
- Keith Ryall 0418 589 144 keithfryall@gmail.com



MEMBER NEWS

PP PETER ROGERS NOMINATED

GROUP 'END OF YEAR' CELEBRATIONS

CHRISTMAS FUN FOR MALVERN GROUP

MORNINGTON PENINSULA GROUP EVENT

Maggie Matters reported the Mornington Peninsula Group enjoyed a



"marvellous afternoon at the home of Phil and Jane Endersbee" for their End of Year Event. Fifteen members of the MPG attended including Group Captain Leader, Kevin Sheehan and Lisa Sheehan. The other attendees were Phil and Jane Endersbee, Maggie and Peter Matters, Warren and Gillian Johnson, Mev and Brenda Connell, Clive and Helen Weeks, David and Heather Beanland, Barry Rawlings. Unfortunately no one thought to take a group photo." (Ed. Note: Possibly they didn't take a photo, as they were having "tooooo good a time"! Maggie has promised a photo next time).



TOORAK 2 CELEBRATE TRADITIONALLY

GUESTS & GREETINGS

Happy Birthday this week: Pam Brown & Ted Exell (TODAY), Chris Rodd, Reg Smith.



GUESTS AT LAST MEETING

Guests of the Club: Jim Markovski and Alec Athium, Les Twentyman Foundation; Daughters of PP Sir John Reid: Jean Hedges & Margaret Ross and Granddaughter and Chairman of the John T Reid Charitable Trusts, Belinda Lawson and husband David. Past Awardees, Margaret Carter and John Wakefield.

Visiting International Rotarians: Chris Hall (Scotland).

Guests of Members: Robyn Cartwright (Ian Evans), Robert Purcell (Sianna Panagiotopoulos).

On Duty this week: JM, JO, DD, TS, SD, Cynthia Edgell (Wine), Cheryl Lacey (Photos)

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