

ATTADALE View

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President's Meeting Report for 04 December 2023



President Bev Moffat

With Charles attending as my guest, 18 of us were delighted to welcome Guest Speaker Mariana Winton of the Round House to our meeting on Monday night. We had a slight hitch with the music for the National Anthem, however I thought that we all managed to sing that rather well despite no musical accompaniment.

Selwyn Castles introduced Mariana, who has a history in sales, marketing and event management in large and small companies, as well as volunteer organisations and various committees. Mariana is currently on the Rottnest Island committee managing the social portfolio. Mariana moved from NSW to WA about 23 years ago. The Eastern States history curriculum at school did not include much about WA, so has loved learning about this over her time here and now being able to share that with visitors to the Round House. Mariana gave us a brief overview of the geological history of WA prior to the Swan River Settlement, as well as the settlement of WA initially in Albany and subsequently in Fremantle.

What is one of the first thing you build for a new settlement? A prison, of course. Construction commenced in 1830 and was completed in 1831, both on time and under budget. It is a panopticon, which means it was built in the round. This meant that a central guard could look everywhere around him and at the prisoners in the 8 cells, at the same time. It also meant that prisoners managed themselves more effectively to avoid being punished and having their rations cut. The other advantage was that it required less guards to man the prison and therefore improved the budgetary constraints. Similar building were built around the world and there are several still in existence. One of these in particular is located in Cuba and is still wonderfully preserved. When you see futuristic films with prisons in them, this is the concept that is used for the very reason of control of prisoners.

The Round House has stood the test of time, a testament to how well it was built. There have been a couple of renovations over time, but only because it was left to disintegrate over some years. The different uses over time include a prison and hospital. In one cell one can still observe the remnants of the wall attachments for frames and timber panelling, that were used to line the cell used as a lunatic asylum. This was to protect any inmate from harm should they throw themselves against the limestone wall. It subsequently became a general store, and later became the police lockup which also housed the policeman, his wife and 10 children. It was a washing yard and underneath there was a bakery.

Up until 1850 the people who came into the Round House were free settlers who had committed crimes in WA; both European and Aboriginal men, women and juveniles from the age of 8. There were no



separate prisons for men and women, although they were located in separate cells. There were about 3500 registrations for inmates over the time it operated as a prison, but it is thought that were probably only about 2500 actual people, as many of them reoffended. Many of those who migrated to WA were indentured servants, and the women who came were mostly young. Mariana told the story of her favourite prisoner: Annie O'Brien, who was registered 26 times. It is believed that she was a prostitute who had a love of rum.

Most prisoners opted for hard labour so that they were able to have extra rations. Normal daily rations consisted of a 600g loaf of bread, 1 litre of water, and vinegar to prevent scurvy. If you did hard labour, you also got about 200g of salted meat each day. If the prisoners had family living in the colony who grew food, they were able to supplement the rations. Hard labour for the men consisted of grinding wheat, quarrying the stone for the buildings, asphaltting the roads and building the jetty. For women it was working in the bakery and for children it was keeping the courtyard clean and tidy. Work was for 10 hours a day, with Sundays off. If they had behaved for the week, they got an extra ration of meat.

Crimes committed included some similar to today such as murder and theft. However, theft was quite different, generally boats and livestock. As all food was such a precious commodity and so difficult to come by due to the harsh conditions, and all livestock had to be shipped from Britain, the theft or killing of breeding stock was catastrophic and considered a heinous crime.

Their clothing generally consisted of a uniform of trousers, a shirt, jacket, and a hat. They bathed once a week and were issued with a small piece of soap and a towel and a bucket of water in which they had to wash themselves, their clothes and bedding. The longest sentence in the Round House was two years. Anyone sentenced to a longer period was sent to Van Diemen's Land in Tasmania. It is believed that Henry Vincent, the first jailer and a harsh man, married the first female prisoner, who eventually divorced him.

Due to huge sandalwood boom in the 1840's, most of the workforce moved from the settlement. As a result, an additional 75 prisoners were sent to WA, and not able to be accommodated in the Round House. The additional prisoners were settled in a warehouse where the Esplanade Hotel is now located. This resulted in the Convict Jail (now Fremantle Prison) being built. In the mid 1880's the Round House was no longer used as a prison.

Prior to the North and South moles being built, the lighthouse was located at the Round House. The initial stairs in front of the entrance were removed in the 1960's to make way for the railway line. The Courthouse and Pilots quarters have also changed. Of the original buildings only the Round House and flagpole remain. Demolition was suggested three times over the years however these suggestions were all overturned. In the 1970's a huge renovation took place, and the Round House was opened to the public as a tourist venue in the 1980's.

Selwyn thank Mariana for her interesting and informative talk and presented her with a token of thanks from Attadale Rotary.

The meeting was suspended for the AGM chaired by Colin McCulloch. The Minutes of the last AGM and Treasurer's Report for 2022/2023 had been distributed to all members prior to the meeting. These were both accepted as true and accurate records. Nominations for all Board positions for 2024/2025 year were presented and all nominees accepted into their roles. Colin thanked Bev for her role in the club and as President for the past 18 months. The AGM was closed, and the meeting resumed.

Selwyn thanked all those that had attended the social dinner held at Aroy Thai in South Fremantle on the 27th November, a great night was enjoyed by all.

Jeff Spickett updated members on the change of banking arrangements for the RCANHFI, the accounts are now held at Bank of Queensland.

John Sharp advised that our previous District 9465 had been in good financial standing at the time of being dissolved, prior to forming the new District of Rotary WA. All funds being held by the District are to be returned to the various clubs, and submissions for the clubs' use of the funds were invited. Two applications were submitted for Attadale Rotary: a \$5000 grant submission to support the Peter Kenyon programme and the second submission is for a \$3500 grant for a Community Resilience survey. Whilst we have not yet had a response from the committee, excellent feedback has been received from PDG Rick McDonald and it is hoped that he is on the selection committee, to support the Club's submissions. The final Maker's Market for the year has 5 volunteers to assist, with Jeff Spickett offering to be a backup.

As this was my final meeting, I thanked all those who have supported me over my time in Rotary, it has been appreciated.

Jim Calcei advised that he and Jenny will be hosting the annual Crabbing Day on the 4th February, so save the date in your diaries! Further details down the track.

Joyce Smith asked Mariana to draw the door prize, which was won by Kerry Scott, who opted for a bottle of white wine. Ian Pittaway then gave us a few laughs with Happy Dollars and a selection of "Dad Jokes". Kerry Parsons also gave us an update on Christmas gifts that the Parsons Foundation will be providing for the foster children at the two Yorganop Association foster homes, about 23 in total. Wonderful news indeed.

Winston Marsh asked Mariana to draw a ticket for the Joker, Jeff Spickett had his ticket drawn, received a bottle of red, but the Joker remained elusive.

It was a pleasure to thank Mariana for being our guest speaker and for her informative talk, Charles for attending as my guest and to Shelly Konig for the provision of sweet treats to enjoy with tea and coffee. A reminder that the final meeting of the year is the Christmas Dinner to be held on 11th December at the Parsons' home.

It remains for me to thank everyone for their friendship and camaraderie over my 7 years in Rotary. I wish the club and its members all the best for the future.

Wishing you all a safe and Merry Christmas and good wishes for a happy and healthy 2024.

Bev



Guest speaker Marianna Winton
with Bev and Selwyn ▼



Rotary Voices: Stories from around the world

Canadian club provides support through meals

By Peter Roaf, Rotary Club of Ladner, Delta, British Columbia, Canada

My first son was autistic. He was on the more severe end of the spectrum. His mother and I had to take ourselves from joy over our firstborn through denial and grief. We had to accept the harsh reality of raising a child with special needs.

John was a jolly little guy with a sense of humour, but he couldn't talk, learn, or care for himself. As he was growing up, I wondered what he would be like – what we would be like – when he became an adult. How would we lead our lives when the time for his care as an adult arrived?

This was the same reality for other parents of young children with autism and other conditions in the Vancouver, Canada, suburb of Delta, British Columbia. To support themselves through this responsibility – one not understood by many other parents – they formed the Weekend Family and Peer Support Group more than 25 years ago.

As children in the group matured and the parents grew older, it became more difficult for the parents to organize the social events that are so important in overcoming the unavoidable isolation and loneliness. Cooking for the group of up to 50 young adults and parents became a real challenge for those already challenged.

Eighteen years ago, my Rotary Club of Ladner, in Delta, agreed to support the local Canadian Mental Health Association branch by cooking and serving Christmas dinner for the group.

Today I am one of the Rotary Club of Ladner members who, helped by family and friends, volunteer to produce the annual Christmas event. Some start by rounding up equipment, dishes, and cutlery and buying the turkeys, vegetables, desserts, and beverages.

On the day of the event, I join a team of volunteers in the kitchen of the Ladner Community Centre to peel, chop, and boil the carrots; boil and mash the potatoes; and cook the Brussels sprouts. Amid the hustle and bustle in the kitchen with fellow peelers and choppers, I



Members of the Rotary Club of Ladner serve out Christmas dinner to members of a support group for families of children with autism and other conditions

look around and think about how I'm making Christmas a little happier for others less fortunate.

That sense of fulfillment continues into the Christmas dinner evening. Faces light up and social chatter grows while we serve dinner. Entertainment with live, seasonal music keeps the evening upbeat. Santa Claus brings good cheer and gifts donated by local businesses. We all benefit from this lift to our mental health as everyone leaves with a good feeling inside (as they should at Christmas time).


On the strength of the Christmas dinner, our club launched an annual summer picnic for the support group. I join as many as 15 Rotarians, family, and friends to serve the 40 or so group members who show up for a barbecue and games. Group members always express their sincere appreciation to the club for these social events, which make a difference in their lives.

Rotarian and retired dentist Dr. Arthur Birk and his wife, Geraldine, have been leaders of the group. They arrange bingo nights, Chinese food nights, salmon barbecue dinners, and other social events with dinner and games every two months. They also collect and distribute free personal care and household cleaning items. Rotarian and businessperson Mike Storey and his wife, Kathy, have also been leaders for the larger events.

Christmas is approaching. Mental health is a significant part of the meaning of Rotary International President R. Gordon R. McNally's Rotary theme this year: *Create Hope in the World*. This year, our Christmas dinner will have extra meaning.

My son John did not make it past age 15. But I now have a sense, in some small way, of what his adult life might have been like and what we, his parents, might have lived with. This service above self for those in need is a valuable part of my Rotary experience. This kind of experience will be found in communities throughout our Rotary world. ❖



 Temple of Poseidon by @Jeff Spickett



When Did Rotary Really Start?

By PRID Cliff Dochterman

Here is a humorous presentation on Rotary's origin in Europe, from a friend and one of Rotary's top orators, PRID Cliff Dochterman. Near the end, he shares the fun and satisfaction of our humanitarian service business of Rotary, helping others in our troubled world.

Watch / listen [here](#)

Courtesy: PDG Doug Vincent, Woodstock, Ontario

from Ian & Jacquie Pittaway, Attadale Family of Rotary

Both Anne Lewkowski and Trish Sharp are in good health and recovering well since their successful operations which is great news, and you will all be able to catch up with them at the Christmas Meeting next Monday.

Best wishes also to Helen Carwardine who has recently come down with Covid.

Wishing you all
speedy recovery

life ●●●● events

December

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| 09 | Della Smith-Rawlins ~ Birthday |
| 11 | Selwyn & Wendy Castles ~ Wedding |
| 12 | Neil McKay & Bev Moffat ~ Induction (2016) |
| 22 | Evadne Spickett ~ Birthday |
| 24 | Jeff Spickett ~ Birthday |
| 29 | Kerry Parsons ~ Birthday |

SUMMER RECESS AND 2024 MEETING DETAILS

Final meeting for 2023	Monday, December 11
Welcome Back Barbecue	Monday, January 15
Australia Day Sundowner	Friday, January 26

The Rotary Club of Attadale meeting will resume on Monday, 12 February 2024 and every first 3 Mondays of the month thereafter.
6:00 for a 6:30PM start, at the Royal Fremantle Golf Club.
Meeting and meal: \$32 Meeting without meal: \$10

If you would like to:

- visit our meeting, please contact our [Attendance Officer](#) no later than 9AM on the morning of the meeting
- speak to our Club, please contact our [Programme Chair](#)
- join the Rotary Club of Attadale, please fill in the [Contact Form](#). You will be invited to one of our meetings to meet our members and see how our club operates. You will be made very welcome.

Contact Us:

- [Email](#)
- [Website](#)
- [Facebook](#)

PORTCARE

If anyone has recycled clothing at home to go to PortCare, I can arrange to come and pick up clothing and take it. I have taken two boot loads so far this year in addition to other clothing dropped by Rotarians.

Send me a message on mellview@bigpond.com with your contact details and I will arrange a collection.

~ Llew Withers

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Please nominate yourself for between 8:30 & 12:30 on Sunday, 17 December	17/12/23
	Heathcote Lowlands 08:30—12:30
Mal Bennett	
Betty Bright	YES
Jim Calcei	
Helen Carwardine	
Selwyn Castles	
Mick Donnes	
Martin Houchin	YES
Shelley Konig	
George Lewkowski	
Pete Locher-Davis	
Sheri Locher-Davis	
Winston Marsh	
Carole Maxwell	
Colin McCulloch	YES
Gail McCulloch	YES
Neil McKay	
Bev Moffat	
Charles Moffat	
Abby Parsons	
Kerry Parsons	
Ian Pittaway	
Rod Rate	
Kerry Scott	
John Sharp	
Joyce Smith	YES
Della Smith-Rawlins	
Jeff Spickett	
Llew Withers	
Volunteers available	5
Volunteers needed	4



Merry Christmas

& a Happy new Year!

May the
Christmas Season
bring only happiness
&
joy to you
and your family.

