

April 2007
Volume 4, Issue 3



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April Speaker

Wendy Wood from the Guide Dogs Association, Victoria and her guide dog, Benson, were welcomed to our April meeting. Wendy spoke about the Guide Dogs' breeding and selection program, the qualities required in both individuals and dogs to enter the program, and the training both must undergo to succeed.



Wendy also spoke of her own sight impairment and the independence her guide dogs had provided for her over the years. She also recounted some very amusing events generated by the dogs themselves and invited members to attend the Guide Dog Association's training venue to see exactly what is achieved there.



May and June Meetings

Our next meeting is on **Monday 7 May, 2007** at 2 pm when our guest speaker will be Linda Hancock from Victoria Police Crime Prevention, Knox.

The following month's meeting will be on **Monday, 4 June, 2007**, again at 2 pm, and Jonathan Chambers from Anglicare will speak about who goes to goal and why.



Statistical Analysis

(Courtesy ABS)

31 Australians have died since 1996 by watering their Christmas tree while the fairy lights were plugged in.

In 1998, 18 Australians had serious burns when trying on a new jumper while they had a lit cigarette in their mouth.

3 Australians die each year testing if a 9V battery works on their tongue.

8 Australians have cracked their skulls since 1997 after falling asleep (passing out) while being ill into the toilet.

Vintage Chuckles

I went to buy some camouflage trousers the other day but I couldn't find any.

Two Eskimos sitting in a kayak were chilly, so they lit a fire in the craft. Unsurprisingly it sank, proving once again that you can't have your kayak and heat it too.

There was a person who sent twenty different puns to his friends, with the hope that at least ten of the puns would make them laugh. No pun in ten did.

Trip to Williamstown

On 18 April, 2007 forty-three members set off on a bus trip to the Docklands where we boarded a ferry and enjoyed a leisurely trip to Williamstown.

Fortunately the weather was fine and sunny, and ferry staff provided an interesting commentary about the surrounding areas.

Lunch at the RSL and a brief scenic tour around Williamstown followed the ferry trip and members still had time to take a short stroll up and down the strand to visit the numerous ice-cream and coffee shops before heading home.

Our thanks to Gary for organizing the trip.



Lunch Group

The lunch group met at Warren Glen Nursery and Cafe on 11 April, 2007 at 12.30 p.m. and benefitted from the early arrival time with quick service before the main rush of customers. Shortly after 1 p.m. the cafe was very busy indeed and noise levels were rising.

Fortunately the inside tables had been booked for us as there were quite a few wasps visiting the clientele's plates outside. The service and quality of the meals was enjoyed by all and members had ample time to visit the nursery afterwards.

MAROONDAH-RINGWOOD BRANCH

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Thoughts for this month...

“What lies behind us and what lies before us are small matters compared to what lies within us.”
 Emerson

“Be the change you wish to see in the world...”
 Gandhi

Walking Group

The walking group walks on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month. All walks start at 9.30 a.m.

On **Thursday 3 May**, we will meet at Sofia’s car park, Maroondah Highway, Croydon for our walk along the Mullum trail. Refreshments are taken at Mullum Walk Cafe before returning. This walk is about 5 to 6 kilometres long all up, and the track is flat and pretty.

On **Thursday 17 May**, we will meet at the car park off Mt Dandenong Road - the entrance is just before the Ampol Service Station - to walk at Ringwood Lake. This is a short walk over flat ground and an easy introduction for those wishing to join the walking group.

On **Thursday 31 May**, we will meet outside the Pre-School on Eastfield Road, near the corner of Bayswater Road, to walk along part of the Tarralla Creek Trail into Croydon. This walk is along a flat track which is surrounded by trees.

Dinner Group

The dinner group alternates with the lunch group and meets every second month, also alternating between the 2nd Wednesday and 2nd Thursday of the month.

Our next dinner is at:

Venue: Korona Restaurant which has hungarian food with some continental dishes. Note: The restaurant is fully licenced and BYO is wine only.
 Address: 760 Boronia Road, Wantirna
 Date: **Thursday, 10 May, 2007**
 Time: 7 p.m.
 Bookings: With Tricia at our May meeting or by ringing Tricia on 9723 9389.

Please note that cash payment for meals is preferred.

Coffee Club

The Coffee Club meets on the fourth Thursday of each month. We will meet on Thursday 24 May, 2007 at the coffee shop in Myer Eastland at 2 pm. No need to book, just come along for a cuppa and a chat.

Christmas in July

Gary has a very good deal for **25 July, 2007** for Christmas in July this year. The event will be held at Templestowe Hotel and we will be picked up at 11 a.m. and returned at 2.30 p.m.

Come to the May meeting and get all the details.

Perspective

If we could shrink the earth's population to a village of precisely 100 people, with all the human ratios remaining the same, it would look something like this:

There would be:
 + 57 Asians, 21 Europeans, 14 from the Western Hemisphere both north and south, and 8 Africans.
 + 52 would be female;
 + 48 would be male;
 + 70 would be non-white;
 + 30 would be white;
 + 70 would be non-Christian;
 + 30 would be Christian;
 + 89 would be heterosexual;
 + 6 people would possess 59% of the entire world's wealth and all 6 would be from the USA
 + 80 would live in standard housing
 + 70 would be unable to read
 + 50 would suffer from malnutrition
 + 1 would be near death
 + 1 would be near birth
 + 1 would have a college education
 + 1 would own a computer
 + If you woke up this morning with more health than illness...you are more blessed than the million who will not survive this week.
 + If you have never experienced the danger of battle, the loneliness of imprisonment, the agony of torture or the pangs of starvation...you are ahead of 500 million people in the world
 + If you have food in the refrigerator, clothes on your back, a roof overhead and a place to sleep...you are richer than 75% of this world.
 + If you have money in the bank, in your wallet, and spare change in a dish someplace...you are among the top 8% of the world's wealthy.

Theatre Night

A reminder for those wishing to attend the play "Pull the Other One" staged by the Mooroolbark Theatre Group. The club has booked 25 tickets for **Friday 22 June**, at 7.30 p.m. for a 8.00 p.m. start. Table seating is provided and sherry or soft drink is available on arrival, and tea, coffee and cake at interval. Other drink options and nibbles are BYO.

Booking is recommended and cost is \$13 per head. Payment is required in full by the May meeting.

Best of Mildura/Wentworth

"Edge of Outback" Trip

Members who have booked for this September trip through Peter Feeney are reminded to pay their deposit of \$50 per person to Peter or Eileen by **29 April, 2007**.

The balance of \$409 (\$529 if paying the single supplement) is payable by **1 August, 2007** - the price is based on minimum 40 passengers per coach.

Thawing Out...

A Minneapolis couple decided to go to Florida to thaw out during a particularly icy winter. They planned to stay at the same hotel where they spent their honeymoon 20 years earlier.

Because of hectic schedules, the husband left Minnesota and flew to Florida on Thursday, with his wife flying down the following day. The husband checked into the hotel. There was a computer in his room, so he decided to send an e-mail to his wife.

However, he accidentally left out one letter in her e-mail address, and, without realising his error, sent the e-mail.

Meanwhile, somewhere in Houston, a widow had just returned home from her husband's funeral. He was a minister who had a heart attack and died. The widow decided to check her e-mail, expecting messages from relatives and friends.

After reading the first message, she screamed and fainted. The widow's son rushed into the room and saw the computer screen which read:

To: My Loving Wife
 Subject: I've Arrived
 Date: October 16, 2006

I know you're surprised to hear from me. They have computers here now and you are allowed to send e-mails to your loved ones. I've just arrived and have been checked in. I see that everything has been prepared for your arrival tomorrow. Looking forward to seeing you then! Hope your journey is as uneventful as mine was.

P.S. Sure is freaking hot down here.