

June 2007
Volume 4, Issue 5



Dates to Remember

June/July 2007

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The beginning of being released from suffering is to investigate one of the primary causes: resistance to change.

Howard C. Cutler, MD

June Speaker

At the June meeting Reverend Jonathon Chambers, the senior Chaplain, Anglicare Criminal Justice Ministry, spoke to us about who goes to gaol and why. He, along with a number of other religious clergy, provide pastoral care and act as spiritual companions for prison inmates.



The profile of the prison population reveals that the majority of inmates is male and mainly around 30 years of age. About 80 per cent of the inmates are in prison for drug related crimes and there is a high proportion of inmates who suffer from mental illness - a result of the closures of mental health facilities two decades ago. About 62 per cent of inmates have been in prison before.



Rev. Chambers questioned the wisdom of the current penal system for its heavy emphasis on punishment (rather than rehabilitation) and exclusion from society of all people convicted of crime and its failure to adequately prepare and support inmates who are about to return to society.

He went on to compare some aspects of the Australian and American penal systems, including the numbers of inmates and the size of the prisons.

Fortunately Victoria has one of the more progressive penal systems in Australia.

Stop Press...

Ireland's worst air disaster occurred early this morning: a small Cessna plane crashed into a cemetery. Irish search and rescue workers have recovered 1826 bodies so far and expect that number to climb as digging continues into the night.

Computer Skills???

Tech Support: What kind of computer do you have?

Female customer: A white one...

Tech Support: Click on the 'my computer' icon on the left of the screen.

Customer: Your left or my left?

Customer: I have problems printing in red.

Tech Support: Do you have a colour printer?

Customer: Aaaah..... thank you.

Tech Support: What's on your monitor now, ma'am?

Customer: A teddy bear my boyfriend bought for me at the 7-11.

Tech Support: Your password is the small letter "a" as in apple, a capital letter V as in Victor, the number 7.

Customer: Is that 7 in capital letters?

July and August Meetings



Our next meeting is at 2 p.m. on **Monday 2 July** when our speaker will be June Tyrell who comes to us representing the Royal Botanical Gardens.

On **Monday 6 August**, Ringwood Jewellers, Pam and Peter Beaver will be doing a presentation on "Diamonds". Please note

that Marion will be heading the queue for samples.

Walking Group

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

On **Thursday 5 July**, we will meet in the car park at the end of Stiggant Street, Warrandyte and walk along the track beside the Yarra River into Warrandyte village for refreshments. This is a pleasant walk on a flat track.

On **Thursday 19 July**, we will meet in the car park of the sports complex at the corner of Reynolds and Springvale Roads (enter from Reynolds Road), Donvale. We will walk through to Beasleys for coffee etc. to sustain us for the return walk.

On **Thursday 2 August**, we meet in the car park at Sofia's Restaurant on Maroondah Highway, Croydon for our walk alongside Mullum Creek before turning off to take refreshments at Mullum Cafe on Maroondah Highway.

Our President, Peter Feeney, is desperate for male company on these walks as he believes "secret women's business" is being discussed by some female walkers during those walks and he feels excluded.

Dinner Group

The dinner group meets every second month (alternating with the lunch group) and alternates between the second Wednesday and second Thursday.

Our next dinner is as follows:

Restaurant:	Kublai
Address:	434 Maroondah Highway, Burntbridge.
Date:	Wednesday 11 July
Time:	7 p.m.
Bookings:	Ring Tricia on 9723 9389 or book at July meeting.

MAROONDAH-RINGWOOD BRANCH

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Thought for this month...

We cannot overcome anger and hatred simply by suppressing them. We need to actively cultivate the antidotes to hatred: patience and tolerance...someone who gains victory over hatred and anger through such an arduous process is a true hero.

His Holiness the Dalai Lama

Coffee Club

The Coffee Club meets on the fourth Thursday of each month.

The Coffee Club will meet on Thursday, 26 July at 2 pm at the coffee shop in Myer Eastland. There's no need to book; just come along for a cuppa and a chat.

Christmas in July

On 25 July, 2007, we will be picked up at Sofia's, Maroondah Highway, Croydon at 10.30 a.m. for lunch at the Templestowe Hotel and return at 2.30 p.m.

"Edge of Outback" Mildura Trip

Those booked on this trip will need to send final payment to Bob Goodyear, Greensborough National Seniors by 2 August, 2007. Eileen will have the forms at our July Meeting.

Bill Gates' advice to young people

Following is advice that students at Mt Whitney High School in Visalia, California received from Microsoft boss, Bill Gates:

- Rule 1:** Life is not fair - get used to it.
- Rule 2:** The world will not care about your self-esteem. The world will expect you to accomplish something BEFORE you feel good about yourself.
- Rule 3:** You will NOT make \$40,000 a year right out of high school. You will not be a Vice-President with a car phone until you earn both.
- Rule 4:** If you think your teacher is tough, wait until you get a boss.
- Rule 5:** Flipping burgers is not beneath your dignity. Your grandparents had a different word for it - they called it "opportunity".
- Rule 6:** If you mess it up, it is not your parents' fault, so do not whine about your mistakes, learn from them.
- Rule 7:** Before you were born, your parents were not as boring as they are now. They got that way from paying your bills, cleaning your clothes and listening to you talk about how cool you are. So before you save the rainforest from the parasites of your parents' generation, try delousing the closet in your own room.
- Rule 8:** Your school may have done away with winners and losers but life has not. In some schools they have abolished failing grades and they will give you as many times as you want to get the right answer. This does not bear the slightest resemblance to ANYTHING in real life.
- Rule 9:** Life is not divided into semesters. You do not get summers off and very few employers are interested in helping you find yourself. Do that on your own time.
- Rule 10:** Television is NOT real life. In real life, people actually have to leave the coffee shop and go to jobs.