

September 2007
Volume 4, Issue 8



September Meeting

Our speaker for the September meeting was Joe Parsons from Aussie Dog Products which manufactures products for the interaction, enrichment and training of carnivores, pachydirms, primates, ungulates, marine mammals and uroidae. The Aussie Dog Products motto is "If it's got four legs or lays eggs... talk to us".



He told us of all the wonderful products his company makes and showed us a DVD of dogs, seals, lions, tigers, elephants, monkeys and polar bears, amongst others, having great fun with them.

Currently most zoos in the world use products supplied by this company because they are specifically designed for each species and involve as many of their senses as possible to retain their interest and encourage activity.

The company also makes elephants' boots to protect their feet in environments where the penetration of the foot by dangerous objects is a distinct possibility. Cost is approximately \$2400 but each elephant's feet must be measured and catered for individually.

October and November Meetings

Our next meeting is at 2 p.m. **Monday 1 October, 2007**, when we will hear about the work of the Royal Flying Doctor Service.

Our November meeting is on Monday, **5 November, 2007** at 2 p.m. and our speaker will be Natalie Thomas, a Maroondah Councillor.

Dates to Remember

Events	See Page
27 September Coffee at Myer, Eastland	
1 October Monthly Meeting, R.S.L.	1
4 October Walk, Warrandyte	3
11 October Lunch at What's a Name	3
18 October Walk, Mullum Creek	3
25 October Coffee, Myer, Eastland	2
5 November Monthly Meeting, R.S.L.	1
9 November Theatre Night	2
15 November COBA Lunch	1

Thought for today:

If at first you don't
succeed, avoid
skydiving.

COBA

Those who have booked to go to the COBA lunch will need to pay the balance of \$20 at our October meeting.

Medical Bloopers...

Patient has chest pain if she lies on her left side for over a year.

Healthy appearing decrepit 69 year old male, mentally alert but forgetful.

The patient refused autopsy.

The patient had no previous history of suicides.

Patient's medical history has been remarkably insignificant with only a 40 lb weight gain in the past three days.

Patient had waffles for breakfast and anorexia for lunch.

Rectal examination revealed a normal size thyroid.

She stated that she had been constipated for most of her life, until she got a divorce.

Patient has two teenage children but no other abnormalities.

She has no rigors or shaking chills, but her husband states she was very hot in bed last night.

While in hospital she was examined, x-rated and sent home.

Our Committee 2007-08

At our Annual General Meeting on Monday 3 September the following committee was elected for the 2007-08 year:

President:	Peter Feeney
Vice-President:	Gino Barba
Secretary:	Stephanie Mitchinson
Treasurer:	Eileen McGregor
Policy Officer:	Eileen McGregor
Committee Members:	Marion Cairnduff, Rae Feeney, Helen Fox Judith Griffith, Tricia Kristenson, Thelma Licheri, Gary Tatnell and Rita Thomas

Committee members have organized the following responsibilities:

- Walks are being co-ordinated by Helen Fox and Judith Griffith;
- Lunches are being organized by Rae Feeney;
- Dinners are being organized by Rita Thomas;
- Theatre nights are being organized by Tricia Kristenson;
- Speakers are being organized by a committee of: Tricia, Helen, Marion, Rita and Gary Tatnell

Contact details are listed on page three.

Coffee Club

The coffee Club meets on the fourth Thursday of each month and the next meeting is **25 October** at the coffee shop in Myer Eastland at 2 pm and there's no need to book - just come along.

Theatre Night

Members who have booked for the theatre night on **9 November, 2007** will need to pay \$13.00 for their tickets at the October meeting.

Christmas Lunch

Our 2007 Christmas lunch will be held on **Monday, 3 December, 2007** at Tokar Estate Winery in Coldstream. The cost of the lunch will be \$30 per person and includes a two-course meal with a glass of wine plus tea and coffee. Car pooling will be arranged, if required. More details to come.

Victoria Police Show Band

The Victoria Police Show Band will be performing on Thursday **1 November** at 7.30 p.m. at Karralyka Theatre, Mines Road, Ringwood East. Tickets will be \$22 per person and Peter Feeney will need the names of those wishing to attend at the next meeting.

Proceeds from the concert are to go to Eastern Volunteer Resource Centre's community programs in the Cities of Maroondah, Whitehorse and the Shire of Yarra Ranges.

MAROONDAH-RINGWOOD BRANCH

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Photos and/or jokes for the Newsletter can be sent by email to Helen Classon at hmac4@optusnet.com.au

Walking Group

The walking group walks on the first and third Thursday of each month. All walks start at 9.30 a.m.

On **Thursday 4 October**, we will be walking along the track beside the Yarra River at Warrandyte, starting from the Stiggant Road car park. Refreshments are taken at Warrandyte shopping village before our return.

On **Thursday 18 October**, we will meet in Sofia's car park, Maroondah Highway, Croydon for our walk along Mullum trail. Refreshments will be at Mullum Walk Cafe.

Dinner Group

The dinner group met at Melteni's Restaurant, in Doncaster East this month and going by reports, everyone enjoyed the evening out.



The Greek cuisine served was both tasty and filling with plenty of variety offered on the menu.



The restaurant is licensed with a BYO option but with corkage at \$4.50, most people decided to order their wine from the restaurant's bar.



Lunch Group

The lunch group and the dinner group events alternate each month. They also alternate between the second Wednesday and second Thursday of each month.

Our next lunch will be:

- Venue: What's A Name's Cafe
- Address: 502 Canterbury Road, Vermont
- Date: Thursday 11 October, 2007
- Time: 12.30 p.m.
- Bookings: See Marion at the October meeting or ring her on 9879 7235.

Thought for this month...

The most wasted day of all is one in which we have not laughed.

COBA Trip to Mildura/Wentworth

Fourteen of Maroondah's members participated in this trip to the Mildura/Wentworth region.

Our accommodation at Wentworth (photo left) was right on the banks of



Our guides at Wentworth and Mildura were particularly good: well-informed and passionate about the interests and welfare of their communities.



the Darling River, but away from the river and irrigation channels, the land was dry and grey.

The photo (right) shows "God's Tree" - a river redgum whose roots and



some of its branches lie in sand. Despite this, the tree is thriving.

Attractions also included Big Lizzie (left) which was used to clear land in the area, and the Chaffey home (below), Rio Vista, in



Q. What's that she's reading?
A. *The Grey Nomad!*



Mildura. The Chaffey brothers designed and established the irrigation system for the area and their contribution is recognized throughout the town.



Some food, some wine, a band and *Bingo*, everyone's on their feet!



We also visited orange and asparagus farms, a prison, two wineries, a gem factory/shop, dried fruit outlet and cruised down the Murray and Darling Rivers on a boat.



There's something for everyone.

Our guided tours of Mildura and Wentworth were excellent and encouraged us to explore further aspects of these areas in future trips.

