

# Bulletin

Rotary Club of Prahran



Meets Monday  
 Mt Erica Hotel  
 Corner High Street and Williams Road  
 Prahran  
 12.45 For 1PM Luncheon 6.30 for 7.00 Second Monday of Month  
 Website: [www.rotaryprahran.org](http://www.rotaryprahran.org)  
 Email: [prahran@districtrotary9800.org.au](mailto:prahran@districtrotary9800.org.au)  
 Prahran Chartered 27<sup>th</sup> December 1955

President	Graeme Newton
Vice President	Peter Angwin
Secretary	Helen Robbins
Treasurer	John Harris
Bulletin Editor	Pike Peters

Previous Meeting:

<b>Guest Speaker:</b>	<b>Jenny Dethridge</b> – <i>The member behind the badge.</i>
<b>Guests</b>	Glenn Gidman (guest of John Mahon)
<b>Apologies</b>	
<b>Visiting Rotarians</b>	Gordon Cheyne – RC Toorak
<b>Make Ups</b>	Pike Peters – District Leadership Team

Mt.  
Erica



Sauvignon Blanc

750ml

13.5% Alc/Vol 8.3 standard drinks  
 Preservative 220 added  
 Mt Erica Hotel  
 Cnr High St & Williams Rd  
 Prahran Victoria 3181

**No. 2369 – Monday 27<sup>th</sup> July 2009  
 Club Committees**

**12.45 PM for a 1.00 PM Start**

Reception: T McCarthy  
 Cashier: J Mahon



20<sup>th</sup> July 2009

Speaker

**Jenny Dethridge**

Chairman

**Chris Southall**

## **A Woman of her Times.**



*Member's talks are always the best – Jenny's was no exception – it is great for all of us to get to know each other better.*

Jenny states that as a secondary school teacher her career was a bit of a fraud as “ I never worked full time almost never”.

Jenny was one of the first baby boomers, and she is truly a woman of her generation.

As an example, there wasn't equal pay in teaching when Jenny started, didn't shock her. She is quite right in stating that today's employees would be shocked to find this as the reality, much less the ingrained policy!



Jenny went to Melbourne University and never changed career or job.

Jenny was immediately enrolled in the Education Superannuation fund. According to the rules as she married Brian she was promptly taken out of super scheme and had her contributions refunded.

Jenny didn't worry too much, but later married women in the scheme were offered to have their units reinstated and to have the growth that she had missed out on over the years. She signed the paper and says it is one of the best things she has done – now receiving 7/8 of her regular pay as a senior teacher.

Jenny was ahead of her times when she began teaching at a school away from home. She went to buy a little car. She had savings and went to borrow money to buy the car. She qualified at ANZ, but they asked for her husband's signature. Jenny refused as she would be paying off the car herself. Her application was sent to head office and was approved. Jenny was one of the first women in Victoria to obtain a loan without her husband's signature.

Jenny feels strongly about HECS. People are so lucky to get HECS these days as it give you choices. Jenny thought she would like to do law, and got in to Melbourne University Las, but Dad said 'No'. He advised that she would enjoy teaching much better 'because you are a girl', but Jenny still would have much rather have done law. Now with HECS you could say 'go jump in a lake' and do what you want, but Jenny was a dutiful daughter and listened to her parents.

Despite the regret at not doing Law, teaching has been good to Jenny. She has made great friends who still meet every year in January in Portsea. She thinks she made a difference to students (if they listened to her). Though not as lucrative as Law, her philosophy is that it is not how much money you've got but what you do with it.

Jenny's last 'proper school' was Brighton Secondary College where she had done an 8 year stint. After that Jenny did placement work that took her on some exciting journeys.

One local placement at Ardoch High School, which was originally housed at South Yarra Primary School in an Annex. Jenny shifted with the College to Ardoch Close, a 'magical setting where you have a village green'. Like fairy land wouldn't even know you were in the city. Jenny Got on well with students and the students got on well with her. The Ardoch kids were Hippies, street kids, ordinary kids and kids with behavioural problems most of whom thrived in what was an experimental school. Teachers looked after kids like they were parents. The teachers did most of the work as the parents didn't help as many didn't have parents; lots of hippies came down from QLD who didn't have birth certificates. So one of their jobs to get certificates. The teachers did most of



the work as the parents didn't help as many didn't have parents; lots of hippies came down from QLD who didn't have birth certificates. So one of their jobs to get certificates. Jenny recalls that the kids could have pet rats and she remembers them peeping out as they sat on their owners' shoulders. Although Jenny considers herself to be a conservative person, she took Ardoch so easily in her stride. The kids had a contract with teachers which helped them to get through. Kids got to school late. One of Jenny's jobs was to call kids early in the morning. She couldn't command; she just asked in a relaxed manner 'Would you like to come to school today?' The students received vouchers for Buddah's Belly in Chapel street and often didn't come back after lunch. Jenny says that she new the 'lotus land that was Ardoch couldn't last. When it was revealed that it cost more to send a kid to Ardoch than Scotch College, the writing was on the wall. In some ways the cost was worth it as Ardoch was the only home these kids had.

Jenny then went to CBC – not a lot of Irish Catholics left. Amongst the traditional students were many Lebanese, Chinese, Muslims. The boys were very street-wise and didn't take it seriously enough and make the most of the opportunities. Jenny felt boys were very distracted.

Jenny then went to the English Language School at Noble Park. She found the commute down the freeway from Malvern 'hair-raising'. The school is for refugees. The kids come for 6 months to learn English. The children range from 3 years old; often you don't know how old the children are as their parents burn papers on way over. The teachers have to test them to find their levels. The Afghans really good at maths and were really helpful to Jenny. The Sudanese kids struggled. A lot of kids had suffered, with evidence like machete marks on skulls.

The school was one of contrasts, with lots of girls totally covered and tried to do sport; whereas some of the kids from Balkans look like their 'clothes were painted on'. Jenny used to lie down at end of day, but it was the DRIVE that she went through. At the English Language school, Jenny was offered really good job – so felt she could retire. Now she looks after grandchildren, plays tennis, golf and cards and has joined the Rotary Club.

Jenny was also a civil celebrant in Higgins, but has given that up with her farm demanding her time on the weekend.



For the 2009/2010 Rotary Year  
Night Meetings will be held on the following dates  
So please update your diaries, iphones & Blackberries

**2090**

10th August

21st September with the DG attending

12th October

9th November

14th December Doug's 50th year in Rotary

**2010**

8th February (2010)

12th April

10th May

2010 ROTARY SUBSCRIPTION IS DUE!

\$310 TO JOHN HARRIS PLEASE!



**Incoming Speakers**

13<sup>th</sup> July - Jason Sprague – Collecting Natural History

**Forthcoming Events**

- Tree Planting on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> August in Glenaroura. 7 already participating - please contact Stephen Smith to book your spot for this fantastic event.
- District Marketing & Membership Seminar - Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> August - Cato Hall, Wesley College. A host of GREAT speakers and practical tips for all Rotarians. See Pike for bookings.

For District News, please go to: [www.rotarydistrict9800.org.au](http://www.rotarydistrict9800.org.au)

**Bridge Club Roster:**

<u>July</u>	<u>August</u>
	4 Hal Levy
	11 Helen Robbins
	18 Andrea Walton
28 Geoff Heeps	25 Jim Smith

	<u>27.07.09</u>	<u>03.08.09</u>	<u>10.08.09 Night</u>
House	T McCarthy	J Mahon	P Angwin
Committee	J Mahon	P Angwin	A Walton
Duty	P Schneider	J Plowright	J Morey
Bulletin:	P Peters	P Peters	P Peters

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