

**Volume 62 Issue 38**

**Bulletin 3133**

**24 April 2024**

### Meetings

**Attendees at meetings are encouraged to be fully Covid Vaccinated**

Please advise apologies to Club Secretary:  
by Tuesday night

Meetings commence at 6:45pm,  
place meal orders before 6:20pm

**RSVP**

**Click on the button or Ctrl+Click on the link below to notify your attendance at Club Meetings, and if you are eating.**

<https://www.mitchamrotarysa.org.au/program-and-events>

**1 May 2024**

**at The Ed**

Topic: Committees  
Speakers: Directors  
Welcome & Raffle: Peter Brooke-Smith

**8 May 2024**

**at The Ed**

Topic: Who's looking after your eyes?  
Speaker: Paige Lynch  
Welcome & Raffle: Tom Whitworth

**15 May 2024**

**at The Ed**

Topic: Fellowship Night  
Welcome & Raffle: Marilyn Worley

**15 May 2024**

**at The Ed**

Board Meeting

**29 May 2024**

Mitcham Rotary SA  
INTERNATIONAL  
NIGHT

**29 May, 2024**  
**6:00 PM – 9:30 PM**

**Parwana Afghan Kitchen,**



124B Henley Beach Rd,  
Torrensville SA 5031,

\$55 per head

BYO Drinks - Corkage Donated to Charities

*Click on the RSVP button below and tell us if you are coming.*

**RSVP**

**5 June 2024**

**at The Ed**

Topic: Committees  
Speakers: Directors  
Welcome & Raffle: Sandy Burns

### Notices



**4 May 2024**

**Bunnings BBQ**

**4-5 May 2024**

**PEP24/District Assembly**

**14 May 2024**

**Club visit to the Adelaide Desalination Plant in Lonsdale**

**3 July 2024**

**Change Over Night Kent Town Hotel**

Mitcham SA  
**Rotary Bookshop**



598 Goodwood Rd,  
Daw Park  
Bus Stop 14,  
on west side

Monday to Friday:

10am – 4.30pm

Saturday:

10am – 4pm

Sunday:

1pm – 4pm

M: 0458 918 507 A/H: 0437112907

Fb: [Mitcham Rotary Bookshop](#)

### President Alex's Report



Thanks to Peter Dry for organising tonight's guest speaker, Dr Cassandra Collins who gave us a very informative talk about breeding new almond varieties, supported by lots of samples of the new breeds that she and her team have been developing. Cass succeeded Peter as

Associate Professor in the School of Agriculture, Food and Wine at Adelaide University Waite Campus, and has now branched out into almond variety research. I came away with a much deeper appreciation of the almond industry, and also filled up on the samples.

I attended the ANZAC Day dawn service at the Mitcham Soldiers' Memorial Gardens next to the library, and at the invitation of the Mitcham RSL sub branch, placed a wreath on behalf of our club. There was a very big crowd (ABC Radio suggested 1,500 plus) and it was a short but moving service. We were the only service club laying a wreath, however most local schools were represented, as well as local, state



and federal government, and related returned servicemen's and servicewomen's organisations.

Sandy still requires an additional helper between 12.00pm and 2.00pm at the Bunnings BBQ on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> May. Sandy is scheduled to be on all day and her husband Graham is also putting in a long shift. This is in addition to all the preparatory work than Sandy is doing. I will be away that weekend in the Flinders Ranges and am unable to assist, and I know several other regulars are also away or are involved in the President Elect Preparation workshop.

It is unfortunate that we have such a busy weekend with the catering for the District Assembly on the next day which also involves a big team of Mitcham members, however without a fifth person, the lunchtime shift will be hard to manage. If there is anyone who could help out for this shift (even if they are not a current Mitcham Rotary member), could you please let Sandy know as a matter of urgency.

Alex Smithson, President

## Director's Reports



### Community Service Working bee at Brownhill Creek.

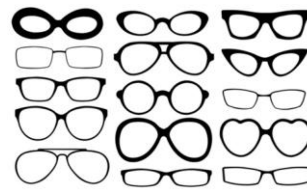
Members are welcome to help with the working bee on **Sunday May 12 at 10 AM** to remove the slats on the picnic table and bench seat installed by Brownhill Creek Rotary and load them into a trailer.

To find them go pass the caravan park, cross the bridge and then park in the bay immediately on the left. A path will take you over the creek, up the hill and off the path to the left is where they are located.

On Monday they will be delivered to the Mitcham Men's Shed and sanded and once finished taken to David Gooleys house to be covered with a decking oil. Once dried they will be reinstalled at BHC, hopefully the following week.

If you are keen to help let me know at the next meeting. Yours in Rotary, David Elliott

## International & Rotary Foundation Committee Eye Health Clinics in Nepal



The RC of Mitcham is supporting Eye Health Clinics in Nepal.

Friends of Nepal Adelaide are currently

funding three eye health clinics. The second was held in March at the Tulashadevi Harihar Foundation in Lalitpur, Kathmandu. 70 patients were checked, 20 children were provided with glasses, 15 of whom were orphans. Medications were provided to many others. Cataract surgery will be organised for one patient.

Child and adult prescription glasses are being collected in Adelaide to send to Nepal.

**We encourage all RC of Mitcham members and friends to donate glasses for this very worthwhile cause.**

Collection boxes will be available at the RC of Mitcham meetings and the Rotary Bookshop.

## GUEST SPEAKER : Dr Cassandra Collins

"After 25 years of grapevine research why not try almond breeding?"



Dr Collins spoke about the Australian almond variety evaluation program whose objective is to breed improved cultivars with superior kernel quality, self-fertility, disease resistance and high

productivity. The project is based in Loxton at the Almond Centre of Excellence where 10,000 almond trees consisting of 84 parent cultivars have been planted for evaluation.

Progress to date includes 315 different crosses achieved, 44,000 progeny produced in 16 years, 37 cultivars imported since 1997, more than 60 superior selections to date and secondary and tertiary evaluations blocks established.

The desirable traits that are being sought are sweet kernel, large kernel, thin skin, light colour, self-fertile, soft - semihard shell, tight shell seal, high productivity, high flower density, slightly erect tree habit and drought tolerance.



The primary evaluation will focus on kernel taste – sweet, Kernel size >1.4 g, percentage double kernels <5%, Kernel colour – light, shell hardness – paper, soft, semihard, hard, well sealed shell and kernel appearance.

Secondary evaluation will focus on productivity and disease tolerance. Tertiary evaluation will look at long-term yield.



The evaluation program has so far resulted in the release in 2016 and 2017 of six new cultivars Maxima, Mira, Carina, Rhea, Vela and Capella.



Carina - is highly spur bearing with a compact to medium canopy that may suit higher orchard densities. The hull flares away from the shell in a 'banana' fashion and the semi-hard shell reduces kernel quality downgrades and late season bird damage. Self-fertile, early NP pollinator.

Capella - is slightly open tree that is suited traditional orchard densities. The hull flares away from the shell in a 'banana' fashion and hard shell reduces kernel quality downgrades and late season bird damage. Self-fertile, late NP pollinator.

Maxima - is a highly spur bearing tree that is suited to planting in traditional or higher density orchards. The hull flares away from the shell in a 'banana' fashion,

semihard shell and has a very large kernel that may be suited to markets where large size attracts premium pricing. Late pollinator for NP. Australian varieties

Mira - is an upright spur bearing tree that is suited to planting in traditional orchard densities. The hull flares away from the shell in a 'banana' fashion and the semi-hard shell reduces kernel quality downgrades and late season bird damage. Self-fertile, late NP pollinator.

Rhea - is an upright bearing tree that is suited to planting in traditional orchard densities. It is a paper shell and the kernel itself has a hint of marzipan similar to Carmel and may be suitable for inclusion in the Carmel market. Early pollinator for Nonpareil.

Vela – is an upright to spreading tree, spur bearing with high cropping capacity. It is self fertile, papershell and the kernel has a similar appearance and taste profile to Nonpareil. Early pollinator for Nonpareil

The next steps in the program will be to continue to develop new varieties with the potential to address industry requirements, generate comparative performance data for selections, communicate the performance of new selections to growers.

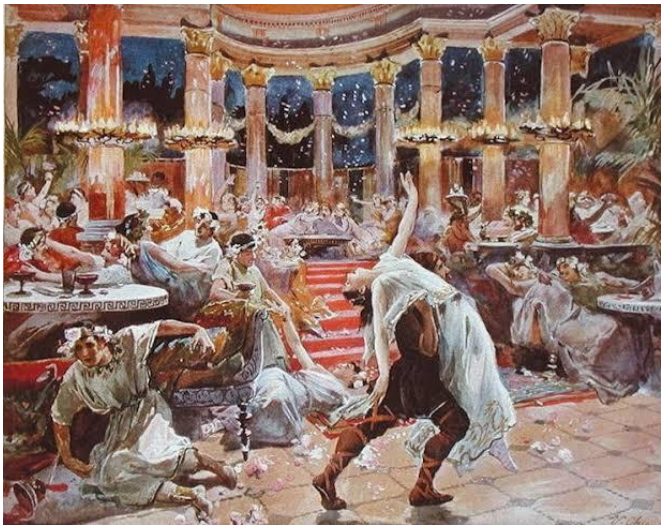
Further information about this innovative project is available at

[National Almond Breeding Program \(almondboard.org.au\)](http://almondboard.org.au)





### The Mitcham Rotary Change Over Night

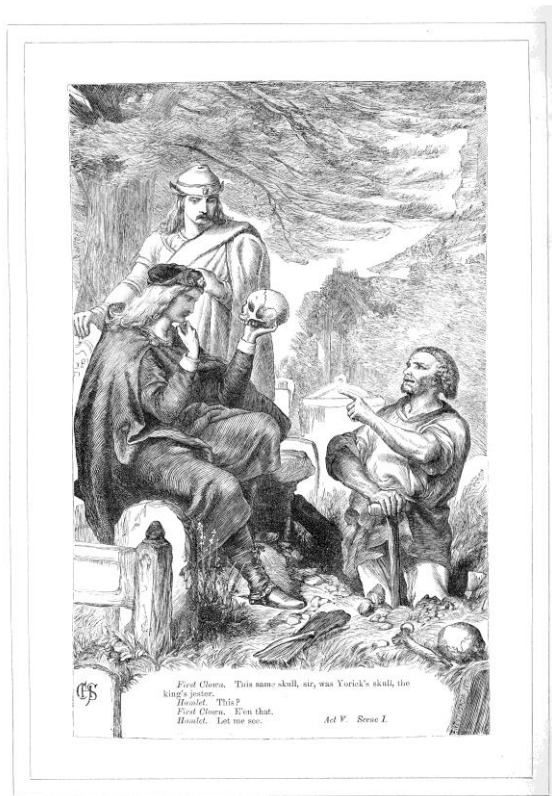


Save the date: Wednesday July 3

Where you ask?

The Kent Town Hotel 76 Rundle Street, Kent Town

### June Theatre Night



**SAVE THE DATE**

**14 June 2024**

**Moonlight and Magnolias**

**Details in next week's Bulletin**

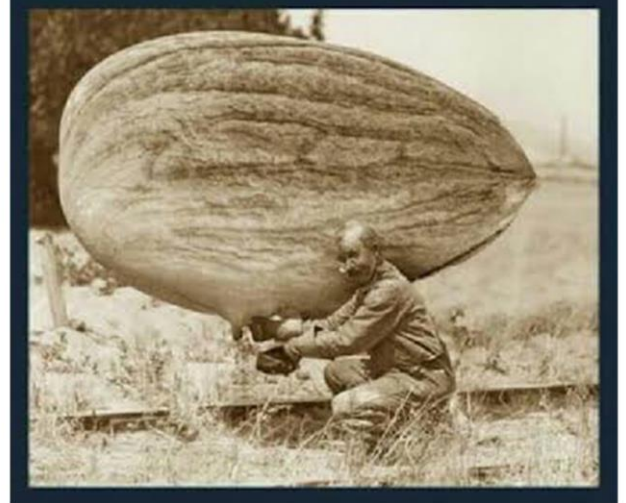


**WHAT IS ALMOND MILK?**



**REALLY? AND WHO HAS EVER MILKED AN ALMOND?**

Rare footage of the first wild almond to ever be milked (circa 1885)



**Thought for the Week:**

**Fortune favours the prepared mind.**

Louis Pasteur - French chemist, pharmacist, and microbiologist.