



Coolamon Rotary News

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Regular club meeting – 14 May

In attendance: Marg Perkin, Garth Perkin, Henk Hulsman, John Burns, Christine Atkinson, Ian Durham, Grahame Miles, Ian Jennings, Dick Jennings, Neil Munro, Leslie Weston, Paul Weston.

The meeting was primarily social in nature. After a satisfying meal prepared by Gilbert, the members were treated to a travelogue by Garth, who described a recent trip he took with Marg to Broken Hill and points west. Garth recounted the history of the town, which was built by the fortunes of early prospectors who mined mainly silver from the area. Garth and Marg's trip featured a visit to the Royal Flying Doctor Service, a vital health resource to Australians living in the bush. The service provides health care to Aussies living far from medical and dental care facilities, and is quite literally a lifeline to those living in remote areas. Garth showed a video provided by the RFDS, and all who witnessed this soon realised how important even routine dental visits are to those living in rural and regional communities (a visit from the flying doctors might mean a few less do-it-yourself remedies that some folks in the outback have resorted to).

Of course, services such as the RFDS rely on donations from individuals and service organisations such as Rotary. Garth made a similar presentation to the Temora Rotary Club recently in an effort to persuade that club to take the lead in Rotary-based fundraising efforts, given the importance of aviation to Temora. Watch this space.

The meeting concluded with an impromptu raffle of a bottle of port, with the winning ticket ironically held by non-drinker John Burns. John graciously shared his prize with those in attendance. The meeting concluded at 8:35 pm.

Week of 21 May

There was no meeting this week because of the visit of Rotary International President Kalyan Banerjee to Wagga. Over 300 Rotarians and guests attended to reception held at the Wagga Wagga Country Club. In addition to hearing an inspirational talk from Dr Banerjee (he can be called doctor now, having received an honorary doctorate from a university in Italy earlier this year), new members in District 9700 who joined Rotary in the past year were invited to be pinned by the president. John Burns, escorted by President Marg, was thusly pinned. Other Coolamon Rotarians in attendance were Garth Perkin, Ian Durham, and Paul Weston. Photos from the event are scattered about this issue of the bulletin and on the club website.

President of Rotary International
Governor of District 9700
Coolamon Club President
Coolamon Club President-Elect
Coolamon Club Secretary
Coolamon Club Treasurer



Kalyan Banerjee
Ian Simpson
Marg Perkin
Paul Weston
John Glassford
Henk Hulsman

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President's Report



14 May - It was great to have Garth give a presentation of his (our!) visit to Broken Hill and the visit to The Royal Flying Doctor Service. He also showed a DVD of the service which we got from our visit to the Centre. Garth also did this presentation two weeks ago to the Temora Rotary Club, with the view that they might like to support the service as they have the Temora Aviation Museum as a major tourist attraction. No decisions were made on this but I'm sure he sowed a seed with the Club.

On 22 May (last Tuesday), Garth, Paul, John B., Ian D. and I went to the Wagga Country Club to meet Rotary International President Kalyan and his wife Binota. There were over 300 Rotarians and guests attending the function. District Governor Ian chaired the evening and gave the opening address. Assistant Governor Gary Roberts ensured that individual Rotarians were introduced to him. I was honoured with that privilege. Then John and I went up so that John could receive his pin from the president (photo at right). That was also a thrill.



Dr Alok Sharma (left, at centre) was awarded the Humanitarian award for Service beyond self for the work he has done and continues to do for The Darkness to Light Project. You may remember that a few years ago Dr Sharma, who is an optician in Wagga, was our special guest for the International Night we had at the Up To Date Store. He was thrilled and humbled to receive the award.

DG Ian announced that the district made a donation to the Global Eradication of polio to the tune of \$30,000. An additional amount of \$20,000 was made from the District Designation Fund, which was matched to the tune of \$10,000 by the Rotary Fund. I'm sure Kalyan would have been delighted with this as the project is very close to his heart.

A reminder to try and sell as many tickets as you can for the Monster raffle to be drawn on the night of the Changeover. Please keep this date (2 July) in mind. It would be good to have as many as possible there to support Paul and myself. Another reminder: we are invited to Grahame and Sharon's on Monday for a curry night and to give Grahame the opportunity to show us some photos of his Mediterranean Cruise last year. In anticipation, I want to thank Sharon for offering to cook the curries. It is very much appreciated. I know she is a great cook so we are in for a treat. Thanks again, Sharon.

Yours in Rotary,
Marg

A blind man was describing his favorite sport, parachuting. When asked how this was accomplished, he said that things were all done for him: "I am placed in the door with my seeing eye dog and told when to jump. My hand is placed on my release ring for me and out I go with the dog."

"But how do you know when you are going to land?" he was asked. "I have a very keen sense of smell, and I can smell the trees and grass when I am 300 feet from the ground" he answered.

"But how do you know when to lift your legs for the final arrival on the ground?" he was again asked. He quickly answered: "Oh, the dog's leash goes slack."

DIARY

(NOTE: All Coolamon RC meetings are 6:30 for 7:00 unless otherwise listed)

- 28 May Informal meeting at Grahame Miles' residence featuring travelogue of Grahame and Sharon's recent travels to Europe.
- 4 June Coolamon RC regular meeting (Coolamon Sport & Rec Club). Guest speaker: TBA. Board meeting immediately following.
- 11 June No meeting (Queen's Birthday long weekend).
- 18 June Coolamon RC regular meeting (Coolamon Sport & Rec Club).
- 22 June Coolamon Lions Club - Change over dinner. Contact Dave McAnn by 12 June if interested (\$30 per person).
- 23 June Murrumbidgee RC – Change over night.
- 25 June Temora RC – Change over night.
- 2 July Coolamon RC Change over dinner and drawing for Monster Shopping Spree raffle.
- 7 July Street raffle

Websites of Interest

Coolamon Rotary Club: <http://coolamonrotary.com>

Rotary Down Under on line: <http://flipflashpages.uniflip.com/2/26587/49598/pub>

Rotarians For Fighting AIDS: <http://www.rffa.org>

Our Rotary Centennial Twin Club Hout Bay, Cape Town, South Africa:

<http://www.rotaryhoutbay.org>

Don't forget to regularly check our club web site for current information such as bingo rosters and various newsletters from the District Governor, the School of St. Jude's, the monthly membership on the move newsletter as well as several other club bulletins.



Paul, John B, Ian D, Garth and Marg in their finest for the reception honouring RI President Banerjee on his recent visit.