

 <p>Rotary Club of Hamilton District 9780</p>	<p>District Governor: Stephen Lamont Assistant Governor: Lorraine Wilson President: Noel Howard. Tel: 0355724623. Mob. 0439311053 Email: noelrosehoward@gmail.com Secretary: Bob Penny. Tel: 0355711823 Email: rotaryhamilton9780@gmail.com</p>	 <p>ROTARY SERVING HUMANITY</p>
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WEEKLY BULLETIN 25, January 16th 2017

MEETING 3858	MEETING 3838
MONDAY 23rd January 2016	MONDAY 30th January 2017
Chair: Murray Menzel	Chair: Lorraine Wilson
Program: Set up of "Trello" for apologies.	Program: TBA
Cashier: Ian Black	Cashier: Willis Duncan
Bulletin: Tony Wark	Bulletin: Kevin Safe
Bar: Willis Duncan	Bar: Rose Howard
Fines: Richard Beks	Fines: Damien Meagher
Set up: Bob Penny	Set up: Peter Walsgott
Coming Dates:	

REPORT OF MEETING NO. 3857 JANUARY 16TH, 2017

Chairman, VP Kevin Safe opened meeting 3857.

Murray Menzel proposed the International toast to the Rotary club Chicago No1. He was reminded of this by the end of the Barak Obama era and also of course by the history of the Rotary organization with its origin based in Chicago. Chicago no 1 club was founded on 23rd Feb 1905.

President Noel welcomed our guests, 3 pilots with the CFA on duty at the airport; Don Armstrong, David Bergus and Michael Adams, and also Liz Cummins.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- April 22nd will be Earth day. Our club is collating ideas for this. Maybe plant a tree somewhere.
- Alan Richardson was asking if anyone was interested an Interplast trip.
- President Noel has had discussions with Lions and Hamilton North on a combined services meeting possibly in March.
- On Friday Noel, Rose and Lorraine had attended the memorial service in Horsham for Sue Williams. It was a very large attendance of around 500 people.
- Please get your apologies in on time. We will be setting up a new program for apology registrations at our next meeting.

Treasurer Glen noted that financial statements had been sent out to members last week.

Foundation director Rose has negotiated with Hamilton North to run a combined film night on Wed 22nd Feb. It will be "Hidden Figures" a movie about 3 women in NASA, and getting John Glen into space.

International director Murray has had more discussions with Heather Napier about Tom Sutherland's charities in India. He is proposing to get more details about Tom and also about Paul Quigley and will bring details back to the club.

Vice president Kevin has had more discussions about transporting students from Coleraine to the SKILLS Centre and will take these to the board.

GUEST SPEAKERS

Kevin then introduced our guest speakers. They were Don Armstrong from Goondiwindi and David Bergus from Noosa, who are fire-bombing pilots based out at the airport. Don started by telling us about his trips to China. Field Air from Ballarat has sold the Air Tractors (the type they are using here) to China for fire-fighting and Don and David have gone

up there to start operating and make sure the Chinese will be able to use them properly. In early April they went to North West Inner Mongolia. They arrived in the snow but the seasons change quickly, however there is only a short period of strong fire risk. There were 6 Air tractors up there. There were replacing much older technology. Don was most impressed by the 3 very big Russian helicopters which were there in the fire-fighting role as well. These are massive aircraft which weigh 27 tonnes empty and can carry a load of 27 tonnes. These heavy loads can take a large team of firefighters and equipment to location or of course heavy loads of water. They are flown by a Chinese captain and a Russian co-pilot. They can be used for other emergency roles as well. These are 3 times bigger than the "Elvis" air cranes that have been out here. The Chinese are very keen on putting on a show!

After some time there, Don shifted to the North East side of China from June to August where they were more involved in spraying rice from the Air tractors. The impression there, was rice everywhere - flat ground and plenty of water. The rice had to be started as seedlings in hot houses due to the short growing season. There seemed to be less restrictions on where they could fly and spread their chemicals compared to Australia, however the planes themselves had locators in them so that the owners could know where they were all the time. One of the major impressions was about the air quality i.e. frequent smog when you can't see the clouds and approaching storms.

David then talked a bit about the local operation. The CFA has 34 aircraft (including 12 Air Tractors) contracted for this fire season. These AIT tractors are purpose built in Texas. They are powered by a 1700 HP gas turbine engine and have can carry approximately 3000 litres of water or fire retardant. At Hamilton they can be airborne within 15 minutes and fly to the fire at 300 km/h. The CFA depot at Hamilton is very efficient. The fire-fighting aircraft are controlled by an air attack aircraft, which flies above the fire and co-ordinates between the fire trucks on the ground and the aircraft. In our off-fire season, David went to Italy for their fire season. It was a very interesting presentation and these pilots are willing to move around the world for different jobs. Thank you.



PRESIDENT NOEL, AND THE TWO CFA PILOTS, DON ARMSTRONG (L) AND DAVID BERGUS (R)

FOOTNOTE: PLEASE RETURN YOUR RAFFLE TICKET BUTTS AND UNUSED TICKETS TO KEVIN BY THE END OF THE MONTH. THANK YOU.