
	<p>District Governor: Ray Herbert Assistant Governor: Lorraine Wilson President: Leo Cummins Tel: 035741223. Email: leocummins46@gmail.com Secretary: Bob Penny. Tel: 0355711823 Email: rotaryhamilton9780@gmail.com</p>	 <p>ROTARY: MAKING A DIFFERENCE</p>
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WEEKLY BULLETIN 26 MONDAY FEBRUARY 5TH 2018

MEETING 3906	MEETING 3907
MONDAY February 12th 2018	MONDAY February 19th 2018
Chair: Leo Cummins	Chair: Murray Menzel
Program: DISCUSSION, THEN VOTING, ON THE AMALGAMATION OF THE TWO CLUBS	Program: TBA
Cashier: Glenn Howell	Cashier: Noel Howard
Bulletin: Lorraine Wilson	Bulletin: Rose Howard
Bar: Rose Howard	Bar: Kevin Safe
Fines: Richard Beks	Fines: Peter Walscott
Set up: Willis Duncan	Set up: Bob Penny.
Coming Dates	
PLEASE REMEMBER THE IMPORTANCE OF VOTING TONIGHT. COULD WE HAVE AS MANY MEMBERS AS POSSIBLE PLEASE, TO ATTEND THIS MEETING?WEEK	

REPORT OF MEETING NO. 3905

Welcome to meeting 3905

President Leo welcomed Rotarians, and our guests (Katherine & Katrina Bank of Melbourne)

Joint meeting at the CFA firebase and Aero Club

Anniversaries 30th Jan - 5th Feb; Tony Wark had a birthday on the 2nd.

Kevin spoke about the rosters concerning transport to the Skills Centre.

Strathdownie meeting on 5th March

We have already proposed several joint meetings. The next one will be on Wed 21st February.

The merger subcommittee had a meeting later and expect to modify and finalise motions that will go to the clubs at their meetings on the 12th or 14th. Details will be circulated by email to allow everyone to consider them.

It was a social meeting, so everyone enjoyed themselves.

We arrived at the airport in time to see the aircraft fighting a fire which had broken out over near Dunkeld. It was most impressive to see the fire bombers load and take-off so quickly. It seems there were probably 6 planes in the air when we arrived; 4 fire bombers, an air observer and an Air attack supervisor. We could not see them, but the fire bombers were supported by several fire truck crews on the ground. Luckily, during the meeting, the aircraft completed their role in the fire and the pilots could come and join us.

Kevin opened the meeting with a general description of the CFA air base. There are 40 volunteers at the base, rostered on a 6-day rotation. When it is a total fire ban there will be 2 crews of 6-8 people.

Simon then talked about the role of an air observer. They fly round the whole district keeping a check on things. They are looking for new fires and making sure old fires have been controlled successfully. They are also looking for people who might be breaking the rules, such as lighting fires on total fire ban days and trying to determine the source of fires. The camera in a mobile phone is an important tool. Simon Wilson, a spotter, reports into the CFA by radio.

Don (from Goondiwindi) and Dave (from Dubbo) are the 2 bomber pilots stationed at Hamilton. Don talked about the aircraft. They are Air Tractors, which are built in Texas. They are powered by a 1700 horsepower gas turbine engine and can take about 3000 litres in a load. They have computerised doors which can allow the pilot to control the way the water, or foam, or retardant is released from the plane. The aircraft burn about 325 litres of jet fuel an hour and have a 4- hour flying endurance. There are lots of radios in the cockpit. The plane is a modified aerial agriculture plane and there are about 80 of them in Australia with 50 of these on the fires. Don acknowledged that the power of the aircraft and the skill of the ground crew made them very suitable for fire-fighting in this area.

A very enjoyable night was had by all.



One of the planes coming in to fill up with water.



Filling the plane.



Pilot Don, telling us about his job.



Fixing a flat tyre on the beautiful MGTC