PRESIDENT’S REPORT
Thank you to all members of the club for your help in hosting our DG Anthony Ohlsen this week. It’s a very early visit but in some ways it helps set the scene for the Rotary year.

The message Anthony delivered was consistent with the President Elect training I received which emphasized the importance of Rotaract. It was great to have the Rotaractors hear first hand how valued they are by the DG and international president Barry Rassin.

The presentation from the two Johns and Tony was most entertaining and it showed how much they enjoyed themselves at the Longerenong Science day. If the students had as much fun as the teachers it must have been a great day!

This week our guest speaker is Kevin Long. In preparation for his talk with us, he has asked if interested members could do some homework prior to the meeting. He would like us to read the supporting documents section of his web site www.thelongview.com.au which will assist members in their understanding of the presentation details.

Finally, we have had a request from past President Martin Monk for an inter-club visit with his current club. This sounds like a good opportunity to strengthen relationships with another Rotary club, so I look forward to discussing the possibility at the next meeting.

Chris

Visitor to Warracknabeal this week is former resident Kerre Willsher, a former resident who is a member of the Rotary Club of Whyalla in SA. With membership in SA having now dropped below 1000 members, the two districts in SA will be merging within the next couple of years, a problem spoken about by DG Anthony Ohlsen.
**Inductions:** Wendy Hewitt—27th July 2011 - **Birthdays:** Joan Bentley 21st July

**Longerenong Science Day:** By all accounts this was not only a great day for the 140 students attending, but was fun for our three Rotarians, Tony Gregson, John Aitken and John Tonkin who have all indicated that they will be there with bells on next year. With a number of activities for the students, Tony was in charge of the building a bridge project, John T building a bionic hand and John A a catapult. Warracknabeal and Murtoa joined forces, taking out a 1st, 2nd on the bridge, plus 3rd over all. Well done!

**A NEW INITIATIVE AT WOODBINE,** arises directly from the Garden group and driven by Des in conjunction with staff and participants. PalletWorks is on display at Warracknabeal Home Hardware and is drawing a lot of attention.

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Also a reminder to Rotarians if they want to book in for the Neil Diamond Cabaret scheduled for the 11th August, get in touch with Julie at Woodbine, or you may miss out.
DG Anthony Olshen Club Visit
Anthony was born and raised in Maryborough, schooled at Maryborough Technical College before attending the Bendigo Institute of Technology graduating in 1974 with a Diploma of Civil Engineering. Anthony worked for the City of Maryborough, the Maryborough Water Trust and Maryborough Sewage Authority. Anthony remained with the City until 1994, when he transferred to Central Highlands Regional Water Authority (CHW) based in Maryborough as Manager of the northern area, 18 months into that role Anthony moved to head office in Ballarat and remained with CHW until 2012. Anthony was involved in water and wastewater treatment and water quality. Anthony was heavily involved in CHW WaterAid including 4 years as President.

Outside of family and Rotary, Anthony’s interests include motor sport, V8’s, race cars of any sort as long as they’re Holden, early Holden’s, with an FJ panel van (to restore someday), a 48-215 sitting in the shed and would love to have his 1972 GTS Monaro back. Helicopters are also an interest, having first flown in an Esso Huey in 1968 at Lakes Entrance and more recently at the controls of a R22 over Melbourne. Anthony also has interest in football and was a member of the local CFA for 17 years and was on school council.

Anthony joined Rotary with some knowledge of Rotary programs as his late father-in-law was a Rotarian. Anthony soon came to realise that whilst being a member Rotary gave the opportunity for fellowship with likeminded persons, even more, was the opportunity of being a member of an International organisation that gave the opportunity to improve the lifestyle of those less fortunate, both Internationally and locally. Travelling to India on Rotary Friendship Exchange and seeing how the End Polio program has been embraced, how Global Grants are changing the lifestyles of the less fortunate, by providing improved sanitation/toilets at schools allows 10 to 13 year old female students to continue their education. Rotarians in these countries know that the future of their country is in the children. Rotary worldwide is helping them to achieve that.

Anthony spoke on his journey towards becoming a DG joining another 530 DG Elects for training in the US. He relayed Rotary International President, Barry Rassin aims to strengthen our public image and our use of digital tools to maximize Rotary’s reach. His choice of the theme for 2018/2019 is about keeping Rotary moving and not going stale.

“Those who know what good Rotary clubs do will want to be a part of it, and we must find new models for membership that allow all interested in our mission to participate,” he says. “With Rotary more in the public eye, we will attract more individuals who want to be part of and support a membership organization that accomplishes so much good around the world.”

Anthony concluded by speaking on the need to continue to work on new membership, improving our public image which is weak by holding Rotary Days in our Community. He praised Warracknabeal for punching about our weight in a small community, our support of Rotaract and our work in the community.

Anthony’s wife’s Rotary Project for 2018/2019 is raising awareness of Motor Neurone Disease, a subject close to their hearts.

Nerve cells (neurones) control the muscles that enable us to move, speak, breathe and swallow. Motor neurone disease (MND) is the name given to a group of diseases in which these neurones fail to work normally. Muscles then gradually weaken and waste, as neurones degenerate and die.

Motor function is controlled by the upper motor neurones in the brain that descend to the spinal cord; these neurones activate lower motor neurones. The lower motor neurones exit the spinal cord and directly activate muscles.