PRESIDENT’S REPORT

I have just returned from attending the District 9780 conference in Maryborough which was an inspiring weekend. My only regret is that this was my first conference and that I had not found time to attend before. I am sure that I would have made a better president if I had made the effort to attend when I first joined Rotary.

The weekend was filled with many Keynote speakers on all ranges of topics. But I guess the one I found the most interesting was our very own Johanna Parker (DeVries). Her presentation was delivered with such confidence and poise. She is a great Ambassador for our club and Warracknabeal.

The conference was attended by six members of the club and one Rotaractor which was probably a good number considering the size of our club. Next year’s conference will be in Swan Hill so please think about attending, especially if you haven’t been to one recently.

I hope everyone had a safe trip home.

I’ll see you on Wednesday which will be a planning night for the P2P, so we are hoping for a good attendance by members, if possible.

Have a great week

Chris

COMING DATES

Fri 22nd—Sun 24 Mar D9780 Conference

Sat. 6th April Paddock to Plate

Wed 3rd July RCW Changeover

APOLOGIES / GUESTS

Jean Wise
By lunchtime Tuesday
0487 159 242
or email to
wbealbulletin@gmail.com
www.clubrunner.ca/warracknabeal

NEXT WPS BREAKFAST
Tuesday 26th March
John Tonkin (pick up)
Tony Gregson
Lainee Heeps

Thanks again to Lainee for helping out.
DUTIES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Venue</th>
<th>Creekside Hotel</th>
<th>Working Bee at Ben’s Shearing Shed for Paddock to Plate dinner</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Time</td>
<td>6 for 6:30pm</td>
<td>Fellowship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reception/Visitors</td>
<td>Ian Penny</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Chairman</td>
<td>Wendy Hewitt</td>
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<tr>
<td>Invocation</td>
<td>Jean Wise</td>
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<tr>
<td>Heads &amp; Tails</td>
<td>John Tonkin</td>
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<tr>
<td>Two Minute Talk</td>
<td>&quot;Something funny/interesting happened at work&quot;</td>
<td>Helen Peters</td>
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<tr>
<td>Program</td>
<td>Planning for Paddock to Plate dinner</td>
<td>NA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vote of Thanks</td>
<td>NA</td>
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</tbody>
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INDUCTIONS: - Helen Peters 26 March 2008

ANNIVERSARIES: Nil

BIRTHDAYS: Glenda Hewitt 27th March

Board Meeting summary and Director’s Report

- Paddock to Plate bookings coming in steadily. Preparations going well with the venue and catering aspects. We are now sourcing local produce for the menu. Could all members please secure their booking for the night, with guests, ASAP.

- Risk Management forms completed by Tony so far: P2P, Aust Day, Meetings at both hotels, & other venues, Rotary shop, WPS breakfast, driving to another club.

- New Member: Proposal underway

- Support for Mandy Bryce’s project- Pay freight for sending needed clothing to Fiji. (bras)

- There is a district Rotary Friendship Exchange to Canada 15-29 Aug. They are looking for a Rotarian keen to lead the group. See Sue for more info.

- Invitation to club members to the RYLA dinner at Kangaroobie. 17th April RSVP 11 April. See Sue if interested. Some board members are keen: most likely staying overnight somewhere. NB. Our club is the host this year, with Rob & Pam deVries volunteering to be the house parents, so it would be good to have a few at this dinner if possible.

- Dental Grant 2019-2020. Board moved that we support this program again. RC Nhill runs it. We contribute $2000 upfront, and through the district grant scheme we will be, in time, reimbursed with $1000.

- Paul Harris and Sapphire nominations from members still open. Please see Sue for more information.

- District Conference this weekend in Maryborough. Chris H, Tony, Sue, Helen and Wendy are going.

- ROTARY PARK COMMITTEE (Ian, Ben, Chris G, Calvin) are meeting this weekend. Contact Ian for more information

- RCW have been offered and will purchase 4 x second-hand marquees @ $50 ea.
REPORTS

President Elect - Tony
- Tony and Sue attended Multi District PETS in Ballarat.
- President Elect needed by AGM in November 2019.

Community Service - Peter
- Highway Clean Up.
- Yarrilinks BBQ lunch request for school children planting trees at Cannum. May.
- DMA is running a fundraiser day of golf and bowls at the Golf Club to support the club’s irrigation system appeal. Sun 14th April. Rotary have been asked to staff the BBQ lunch. Bernie to follow up. Contact Bernie if you can help.

Youth (John A)
- Inbound Youth Exchange
  + Two families keen. We need two more, and a Rotarian as a counsellor.
  + Article in the Herald and promoted at WSC through Nicole Stewart.
  + Wendy followed up two families, John A another. Meeting soon.
- RYLA- Application received from Callum Zanker
- RYPEN- Application received from Jayden Smith. Two more confirmed. 12-14 April

Rotary Foundation – Sue W
RCW has attended the qualifying day for Foundation Grants but must always then go to D9780 website and download MOU to be signed by current President and PE and forwarded to Foundation Chair. This is then current for 12 months.

Sheep Flock - Peter

Treasurer’s Report- Available from Treasurer Chris G on request.

Paddock to Plate Update

Bookings
Numbers look great… over 120 people. Many Rotarians from other clubs are coming so please contact treasurer Chris with your personal numbers and payment ASAP to secure your places.

Venue:
We will be setting up the shed at our meeting Wed 3rd April. Ben is organising a clean out of the shed, will supply all tables and chairs, and has organised big Paddock to Plate banners.

Program
We will be having two or more shearers doing a shearing demo.
Chris H & Wendy have confirmed with Chef the menu and local produce needed. Peter M has ordered the meat.

Raffle (Chris Gunn)
Please consider donating local produce items for the raffle, and give them to Chris this Wednesday.
Two members of the RC Maryborough took on the great personal challenge to ‘Cycle to the D9780 Conference’. Peter and Bronwyn Heywood took a week to cycle over 1800km from Maryborough, via Geelong, Mt Gambier, Warracknabeal, Swan Hill and back to Maryborough. They arrived in the host city just in time for the Conference on Friday night at 6:30pm—a mammoth effort. All clubs were encouraged to cycle part of the way with the pair, but our club was the only one in the district to take up the challenge. Well done us. So on Wednesday 20th March, riders John Tonkin, Wendy Hewitt, Marie Aitken, Mark Peters, Bernie O’Connor and Carly Martin met at Woodbine with Peter and Bronwyn, to start the leg from W’beal to Birchip. It was a tough start, especially for Carly, who thought Bernie was going to tip her off the Woodbine tandem bike at any moment... and that was just at the Jamoneau St bridge! They made it to the Werrigar Service Station, and feeling under prepared for the journey, turned back and returned to the safe haven of a work desk. Kaptin Kaos was impressive however, and looked the picture of athleticism in his red lycra. The remaining riders, donning the Warrack Wheelies tops, enjoyed the next three hours on the 65 km journey to Birchip. Thanks to John Aitken (who dearly wanted to be back on the bike) for following us in the support car.... encouraging us with the horn when we needed to speed up, or watch out for traffic. While we enjoyed the ‘carrot at the end of the stick’, a famous Birchip vanilla slice, at the end of our ride, Peter and Bronwyn had a quick lunch then continued on their way to Swan Hill— a further 125 km! Mark Peters was just as inspirational, when he turned around and cycled back to Warrack! A great day was had by all.

**INTER-CLUB EXERCISE CHALLENGE  (Wendy)**

As a lead up to the District 9780 Conference, members of all clubs were challenged to get active, and to tally their activity levels from March 14-22. Totals were divided by the number of members, for an average score.

We had a great result and I thank all those who forwarded their totals by Saturday. RC Beaufort won the challenge with an impressive 11 hours per person, but we weren't far behind. We had 12 responses, totalling 8501 minutes of activity, so an average for our club of 7.8 hours pp. Rotaract did a mighty job too, with an average of 13 hours pp and when added to our scores, brought our group average to 9.6 hours pp.

It was impressive to learn that so many of our members do regular, planned activity— swimming, aqua aerobics, cycling and walking. There’s also a lot of gardening, housework and farm work done too. It was very timely for Chris and Frosty to be doing some furniture moving, and for John & Marie to have a flood in their bedroom, necessitating carpet lifting and bed moving! I’m sure John & Chris were grinning with excitement that this was helping their activity tallies! Rotaractors should be very proud of their Relay For Life walking, which boosted their tally to great heights! Well done. Cycling to Birchip for John T and Wendy helped—and the same could possibly be said for Bernie — for his 1.56 km ride. Tony Gregson remarked that the Challenge was quite an insight into his activity levels— The great disparity between days when he was at meetings compared to being around the farm. Chipping thistles turned out to be the perfect activity. Who would have thought!?

After the Challenge some members commented that they are keen to do more activity in their daily lives and John T and Wendy plan get back into riding, and hope to do the Pyrenees Magic bike ride (organised by the RC Maryborough) later in the year.

So the Challenge was a success for us.... Inspiring ourselves to be active and being an inspiration to those around us. Thanks and CONGRATULATIONS!
The District 9780 Conference was enjoyed by six RCW members (President Chris, Sue, Tony, Helen, Wendy and Rob, and Pam) and one Rotaractor (Megan).

With the theme ‘Be Inspired by the Golden Heart’ the conference challenged us to not only come to the Golden Heart of Victoria, but to explore the ‘golden heart’ of rotary— that precious essence of Rotary that inspires us to do good in the world.

Guest Keynote speaker Sarah Brown is CEO of the Purple House organisation— an NGO that provides, and advises governments on culturally appropriate health services for Aboriginal communities in remote NT and WA. The Purple Bus (which was partly funded by Rotary grants) provides a mobile service for dialysis treatment, enabling patients with renal failure to remain close to country and community.

Our very own Johanna Parker (deVries) enthralled the audience with her authentic and inspirational presentation. She highlighted her lifelong relationship with Rotary, from the age of 3 when her parents took her to Rotary meetings. She was inspired by hosting exchange students, being an exchange student, going to RYLA, being a RYLA organiser and speaking at RI conferences…. And now, in her own ‘Heart Sparks’ personal empowerment business, trains leaders and inspires and helps others to be the best they can. Rob and Pam are so very proud of their daughter and rightly so.

Other speakers covered a diverse range of interesting topics— Rotary Health and the Lift the Lid Campaign, the power of laughter to improve health and relationships, Inspiring change in communities, How RC Maryborough established the Say NO2Family Violence. The final guest speaker, Dimity Hawkins a co-founder of ICAN Australia, spoke of their International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons. ICAN was awarded the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize for its work to draw attention to the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of the use of nuclear weapons.

There was also plenty of time to socialise, have some laughs, be entertained, make friends from other clubs and enjoy the Conference Dinner. Next year the conference is in Swan Hill; think about coming.

One take home message that I liked, for existing and prospective members …. Rotary – Come as you are. Do what you can.