ACTING PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Colin Newell was our very interesting guest speaker on Wednesday night and spoke about his time serving in the Country Fire Authority, which started 52 years ago.

Farmers and gardeners will be enjoying the rain and its certainly great to see a green tinge around the countryside.

This coming week is the usual board meeting, so could board members and any others with reports please send Sec Sue your report.

For all members there is a working bee at the shop beforehand so that we can get it into order for the International Night on Wed 29th May. Kebabs have been ordered and thank you to John Liersch for organising the drinks. Wear old clothes and stay as long as you like.

Cheers

Wendy

COMING DATES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wed 15th May</td>
<td>Working bee &amp; kebab tea at the Shop before the Board meeting. Non-board members encouraged to come.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun 19th May</td>
<td>Yarri Links BBQ lunch. Along Blue Ribbon Road</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun 26th May</td>
<td>D9780 Changeover. Swan Hill. RSVP.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 29th May</td>
<td>Rotary Shop. Int Night. Club photo by Glen Miller at 6:30pm.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Bowelscan: May is Bowelscan month and kits are available from Warracknababal Pharmacy at a cost of $15.00. It's easy to use and could save your life. All Rotarians are encouraged to do the test and spread the word to all about the importance of taking the test.

Facts - Australia has one of the highest rates of Bowel Cancer in the world. 15,604 Australians are told they have bowel cancer each year including 2,281 people under the age of 55. 80 Australians die from bowel cancer every week - if detected early, you have a 90% chance of survival.

Thank you to Woodbine for distributing the pamphlets around town.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DUTIES</th>
<th>Wednesday 15th May</th>
<th>Wednesday 22nd May</th>
<th>Wednesday 29th May</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Venue</td>
<td>Creekside Hotel</td>
<td>Rotary Shop</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time</td>
<td>6:00 for 6:30pm</td>
<td>6:00 for 6:30pm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reception/Visitors</td>
<td>John Tonkin</td>
<td>Tony Gregson</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chairman</td>
<td>John Aitken</td>
<td>Helen Peters</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Invocation</td>
<td>Peter Martin</td>
<td>Int toast– Helen</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heads &amp; Tails</td>
<td>Mandy Morcom</td>
<td>Jack Daniel</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two Minute Talk</td>
<td>7:30pm</td>
<td>Board Meeting at the Rotary Shop</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Something funny/interesting happened at work”</td>
<td>Megan Watts</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program</td>
<td>RYPEN presentation</td>
<td>International Night</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vote of Thanks</td>
<td>Christine Gunn</td>
<td>Chris Hewitt</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

INDUCTION:
BIRTHDAY: Helen Peters 14 May

**KEEP THE DATE FREE—**

**Monday 20th May**: Shire Offices. Opening night of Woodbine Art Show

**Saturday 19th October**: Woodbine Cabaret. “ELVIS “

**COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN**

REMEMBER to RSVP if you are attending the community meeting to discuss the Warracknabeal Community Action Plan, to help determine the needs and projects people want to see. Finger food is provided so an RSVP is needed. (See attached flyer) Several Rotarians are attending which is great.

**When**: TUESDAY 14th MAY 7pm

**Where**: SHIRE OFFICES
Meeting 1st May

Partners/visitors: Karen O’Connor, Joan Bentley, Colin Newell.

Apologies: Chris Hewitt, Ian Penny, Jack Daniel.

REPORTS

President Elect (Tony)

- President Elect needed by AGM in November 2019. Please consider.
- Our club visit to Kyneton will be Oct 4-6 and their members are keen to home host. Please put the date in your diary.
- Tony is going to the DG Changeover in Swan Hill on Sun 27th May and will possibly go to the Membership & Public Image seminar on Sat 26th May.

Vocational Service (Bernie)

- Mock interviews with WSC students will occur in the next two weeks.

Community Service (Peter)

- Sat 8th June– BBQ at Football. 10:30-3:30. Peter to confirm with Maddi Peters or Zane Jess. We provide RCU, cooks and gazebo. Wear Rotary shirts.

Youth (John Aitken)

- Inbound Youth Exchange—Four families & counsellor finalised. Now confirming first family.
- RYPEN– Sarah McPherson, Jayden Smith and Brooke Morrow will present to the club on May 22. Please consider inviting others to come and listen.

Sheep Report: (Peter)

- A successful sale of 17 sheep.
- 7x $236, 7 x $172, 3 x $246.

International Service (Helen)

- Wed. 29 May—ROTARY SHOP.
- International Night. Rotarians and Rotaractors are to bring food/casseroles from different cultures (not Australian). If you’re stuck for ideas, Helen has some ideas and recipes. Aussie sweets will be provided. No cost as you’re bringing food. A raffle will cover cost of sweets. Drinks organised by the Fellowship Committee. This will be a great night to invite visitors AND there will be a club photo at 6:30pm.
Colin Newell, CFA

One day, when Colin Newell was a teenager, he was peering over a fence, watching intently as a fire engulfed his uncle’s house in Warracknabeal. Local CFA stalwart, ‘Digger’ Winsall noticed Colin’s interest, and later came over and asked him if he was interested in joining the local brigade. He was. Living on the family farm, Colin joined the Wilkur South Brigade, and this was the start of Colin’s long involvement with the Country Fire Authority, which started 52 years ago.

Colin recalled the early days of fire fighting when they were equipped only with knapsacks and beaters. When the brigade acquired a 1000 gallon tank on a trailer pulled by a tractor, fire fighting was much more effective for crop and hay stack fires. In 1981 Colin joined the Warracknabeal Brigade, which brought more experience especially with structural fires, and also progression for him through the ranks of the organisation. In 1993 Colin became the Group Officer. He travelled around Victoria and into NSW with the brigade and became interested in the different operational systems he saw. While change always meet resistance, Colin was involved in initiating vital changes locally. Available volunteer fire fighter numbers were beginning to dwindle significantly so the viability and efficiency of smaller units was under threat. After much consultation, Warracknabeal’s group of 13 brigades has now effectively consolidated their administration. Also smaller brigades work together and keep communication channels open when there are high risk conditions, especially during the stressful harvest period. Using a formula for temperature, wind and humidity, a group captain informs farmers, and farmers agree to stop harvesting when the index is 30+. This successful, practical method is favoured over any legislation that would make decisions. This model of operation, started in Wbeal, is now used across the state.

Hay stack fires in our region last summer were estimated to have cost around $5 million. A range of conditions combined to increase the chance of spontaneous combustion—Hay was cut early (with high sugar and moisture content), many bales are highly compressed and internal temperature builds up dangerously over months. Colin brought samples of ‘rock clinkers’, as held here by Christine and Helen. At extremely high fire temperatures, the straw and sugar solidifies into these volcanic type rocks.

The future? Increased fire threats in our environment are expected due to fewer fire breaks (from fewer fallow paddocks) and a forecasted increase in extremes of weather as a result of climate change. Use of drones to detect and monitor situations, and even dropping water are in the pipeline. The transition from physical hands on fire fighting to more high tech, automated operations continues, but there is still a place for CFA volunteers. Colin ended by thanking the community for nominating him for the prestigious Australian Fire Service Award, which he received at Government House earlier this year.

Ben Bentley thanked Colin, and congratulated him on his contributions to our community and his actions to be proactive when he sees that things need improving.
Can you come?

COMMUNITY MEETING
Establishing the NEW Community Action Plan

May 14th
Shire Office
7pm

Warracknabeal Action Group are hosting a Community Planning Forum to assist with review of the Warracknabeal Community Action Plan.
An open opportunity to submit any ideas or suggestions you may have for the development of local infrastructure, services & events.

For further information please contact: Sharlene McGinniss 0408518629, Kathryn Wilken Jackson 53981070 or Yarriambiack Shire representative Gavin Blinman 53980100

Have your say, in shaping the future of W’beal

light refreshments
COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS
THANK YOU LUNCH

Are you a volunteer for the Warracknabeal Neighbourhood House or another organisation in the community? We want to say THANK YOU. Volunteers are a vital part of our community and we would like to thank you for all you do.

You are invited to a FREE BBQ Thank You lunch

Date: Thursday May 16th, 2019
Time: 11.30am-1pm

Location Warracknabeal Neighbourhood House, 2 Cox St.
RSVPs not required but encouraged for catering.
Please contact Warracknabeal Neighbourhood House on 5396 1360 or info@wnhlc.com.au