PRESIDENT’S REPORT
Our last meeting was text book Rotary: a full house, an excellent and topical presentation from our local CFA Captain, Cam Whelan, a well run meeting, an induction (Rob McCrae, congratulations Rob), an exchange student (Simon), visitors (including Ian McCrae, possibly our oldest ever who at 97 is in fine form and, in his words, still full of cheek), and of course plenty of noisy fellowship.

The District Conference is now only 5 weeks away and already a sizeable number from Warracknabeal is looking forward to attending: Sue, Helen, Chris and Glenda, Ian and Lorraine, Wendy and Robin, Tony, Megan, Kelsea, and Jack from the Rotary Club, Sam Schultz from the Rotaract Club, and exchange students Simon and Laura – already a great contingent.

And our three RLI attendees have now graduated; congratulations Mandy, Megan and Sam.

Next week is Fellowship at the Royal Mail followed by a Board meeting.

Yours in Rotary,
Tony

COMING DATES
Wimmera Schools Science & Engineering Challenge Tues 25 Feb
Laura speaking at club meeting 26 Feb
District Conference Swan Hill 20 - 22 March
RCW visit to RC Wyndham 4-6 April
Clem Quick’s 50 yrs in Rotary- Brim CC 8 April

APOLOGIES / GUESTS
Jean Wise
By lunchtime Tuesday 0487 159 242 or email to

WPS Breakfast 2020
Tues 18th February
John T (collect goods)
Sue Watts
Tony Gregson
<table>
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<tr>
<th>DUTIES</th>
<th>Wednesday 19th February 2020</th>
<th>Wednesday 26th February 2020</th>
<th>Wednesday 4th March 2020</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Venue</td>
<td>The Creekside Hotel</td>
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<td>Time</td>
<td>6:00-6:30</td>
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<td>Reception/Visitors</td>
<td>John Liersch</td>
<td>Ian Penny</td>
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<td>Chairman</td>
<td>Julie O’Brien</td>
<td>Christine Gunn</td>
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<td>Invocation</td>
<td>Helen Peters</td>
<td>John Aitken</td>
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<td>Heads &amp; Tails</td>
<td>Ben Bentley</td>
<td>Jean Wise</td>
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<td>2 min talk ‘My First Job’</td>
<td>Megan Watts</td>
<td>Wendy Hewitt</td>
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<td>Program</td>
<td>Laura Daniel</td>
<td>Walter Sholl</td>
<td>Warracknabeal 2019</td>
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<td>exchange year in Germany</td>
<td>The Passing Parade</td>
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<td>Vote of Thanks</td>
<td>Chris Hewitt</td>
<td>Kelsea Wall</td>
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**Inductions:**
- Calvin helps Kangaroo Island

Well known for his tremendous support for Blaze Aid over the years, Calvin is helping the recovery process on Kangaroo Island after the devastating fires.

Calvin has been at the Blaze Aid camp for five weeks. Initially there were five volunteers, now the numbers have grown to over 120, with lots of young people coming from many countries. Some stay a few days, others have plans to stay up to six months.

Calvin says… “We work 7 days/week, but can take 1 or 2 days off to recuperate. I am starting at 6 am at the tool shed to have the guys and girls out on the job by 7:30 am. My job is servicing the dozens of engines and other mechanical gadgets etc. All meals are supplied by community groups or our many cooks here who are also volunteers.”
**TWO MINUTE TALK- My First Job. Christine Gunn**

When I was 14, I put my name down for a job at Coles, and was soon employed. Back in the day, there were large displays of lollies under glass, and it was my job to weigh the lollies and package them into 250g bags. While it might seem like a great job, it was very serious work. Exact measurement was required... to the point that, for example, if a bag of snakes was over weight, then a snake had to be cut in half! For a teenager it was good money. The down side was lots of standing, so it was hard on the legs and feet. Some days required being on my feet from 9am to 9pm. The best advice I got was from a ‘counter lady’. She gave me explicit instructions about how to manage the money. “When you get a note, put it straight under the clip, so its visible to all. Then when giving change, count upwards and aloud.” I’ve always remembered, and always done this ever since.

**REPORT**

Youth (John T)

WPS breakfast starts again this coming Tuesday.
The Wimmera secondary schools’ Science & Engineering Challenge is on Tues Feb 23rd. More details coming.

**INDUCTION : Rob McRae**

Chris Hewitt introduced Rob McRae as the unofficial mayor of Wallup, a farming district SW of Warracknabeal. The McRae family have a very long history in the area. Rob’s father, Ian (who accompanied Rob) at the age of 97 was of course, the official Mayor of Wallup!

Rob has been heavily involved in community activities for many years, including 20 years on the Grains Council and being a regular on the tennis courts at Wallup. Rob and his family, own, maintain and manage the historical homestead, Glenwillan, keeping alive the legacy of early pioneering families in our region for all the see and experience.

**SPONSOR & COUNSELLOR: Chris Hewitt**

**CLASSIFICATION: Mixed farming**

**COMMITTEE: Community Service**

Welcome Rob, and Janet, into the family of Rotary.
Cameron Whelan. Warracknabeal CFA Captain

Cameron Whelan has dedicated over 25 years of service to the community through his involvement in CFA and is currently Captain of the Warracknabeal CFA. This is what he spoke about......

The 2019 summer started quietly, but everyone knew the potential was there for catastrophic events. Science and an increasing fuel load indicated to all fire fighters.... Be Ready!

And what a summer of devastation it was. Up until 14 January, the fires throughout Australia were estimated to have burned 18.6 million hectares, destroyed over 5,900 buildings, killed millions animals and taken the lives of least 34 people.

Due to a relatively quiet scene in the Wimmera, local CFA members were first dispatched to fires in the Bateman’s Bay area. “We were met with something so vast, never on this scale before. Our main task was to assist with asset protection, warning people, getting them prepared, and helping with back burning.”

In early January we were then dispatched to the upper Murray area. Strike teams were spread all the way from NSW to the Victorian coast as two major fire fronts merged. We arrived in Walwa, a small community of about 180 residents, near Corryong. It had been pretty much surrounded by fire. For over a week Walwa had been cut off, with no power or phones. The strain on the locals was so evident. It was important that we were there to listen, to get to know the locals and support where we could. Several of the conversations I had will have a life long impact on me. As they say... CFA is not just about fighting fires.

My thoughts turned to home... how could we help Walwa? Thanks to Wimmera farmers & truckies, hay has been sent. Money was also needed, especially for the elderly and vulnerable. The Wimmera Strike Team 1701, supported by an amazing small local committee, has now raised just under $20,000 from events, bake stalls, donations etc. Thank you to Rotary too for the generous donation of over $5000. This money is going directly to where the need is greatest, determined locally. We are so grateful to the people of all region, helping another small community when they desperately need it.

Our future?

On our home front, we are excited about the construction soon of a new fire station, opposite the new police station. We also have a vibrant fire brigade, with many active young members. We are so grateful for the support from our local community.
District 9780 CONFERENCE
March 20-22, Swan Hill

Come along:
If you’ve never been to a District conference, or haven't been for many years, consider coming along this year. Some new faces would be great. These weekends are always entertaining, informative, inspirational and fun!

Who’s going so far.... THERE ARE MORE :)
Tony, Sue, Helen, Wendy & Robin, Chris & Glenda, Ian & Lorraine, Laura Daniel, Jack & family, Simon, Megan Watts, Kelsea Wall, Samantha Schulz

Accommodation: The Comfort Inn Lady Augusta Motel, 375 Campbell St, Swan Hill. 5032 9677
Laura & Simon will be staying with other exchange students.

For those going....

DIY registration for the program, conference dinner, golf, laser light show ASAP.

Check out the details of the weekend. Be inspired. The promotional video is very funny.

Visit the website: www.rotary9780conference.com.au

FRIDAY
- Optional social golf in the afternoon at Murray Downs golf course. Anyone want to join Wendy?
- Dinner. Own arrangements? At golf club? Pub?
- Conference opening.

SATURDAY
- Conference program

SUNDAY
- AM. Closing program & walk along the Murray River.