PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Last Sunday 23rd of February was the 115th anniversary of the founding of Rotary when Paul Harris conducted the first Rotary meeting in Chicago with three friends. Likewise next year we will celebrate R100, 100 years of Rotary in Australia with the first Rotary Club of Melbourne meeting on 21 April 1921. These are just two of the interesting things I learnt at the Multi District PETS last weekend!

It is always a pleasure to hear a returned exchange student report back to their Club after a year away. Laura Daniel didn’t let us down; an excellent talk on her time in Germany, her many European travels and her wonderful host parents. Well done Laura.

Last Tuesday John T and I helped facilitate the University of Newcastle Science and Engineering Challenge at Horsham Secondary College. Years 9 & 10 students from eight surrounding schools were challenged with many different programs that focuses on inspiring students to consider a future career in science and engineering. Again it was a triumph for students, teachers, and facilitators!

Next week we look forward to Walter Sholl talking about his photographic production of “Warracknabeal 2019, The Passing Parade”.

Yours in Rotary,
Tony

COMING DATES

Probus AGMs, Minyip, W’beal. See Sue if you can help 
Mar 4, 6
Rotary Park Committee meeting @R Park 
Sat 7th March
Rotary/woodbine Garage Sale 
Sat 14 March
District Conference Swan Hill 
20 - 22 March
RCW visit to RC Wyndham 
4-6 April
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<th>DUTIES</th>
<th>Wednesday 4th March 2020</th>
<th>Wednesday 11th March 2020</th>
<th>Wednesday 18th March 2020</th>
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<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>Ian Penny</td>
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<td>Chairman</td>
<td>Christine Gunn</td>
<td>David Drage</td>
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<td>Invocation</td>
<td>John Aitken</td>
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<td>Heads &amp; Tails</td>
<td>Jean Wise</td>
<td>Bernie O’Connor</td>
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<td>2 min talk ‘My First Job’</td>
<td>Wendy Hewitt</td>
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<td>Program</td>
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<td>Vote of Thanks</td>
<td>Kelsea Wall</td>
<td>Tim Hewitt</td>
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**Inductions : -**

**Birthdays : Ray Duffield 6th March, Peter Martin 10th March**

**Anniversaries : -**

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**Wed 26th Feb- MEETING SUMMARY**

- Rotary Park Committee Meeting SATURDAY 7 MARCH 9am at the park. (Ian, Ben, Helen, Megan, Tony, Kelsea, Leo)
- Probus AGM meetings - 4 March (Minyip), 6 March (W’beal). Let Sue know if you can go.
- Visit to RC Wyndham 3-5 April - six going.
- Clem’s 50 years in Rotary dinner. Brim. Two course meal $30. Final numbers needed week before.
- RYPEN- No students to date.
- FELLOWSHIP (Bernie). Social bowls night 25 March.
- CLUB SERVICE (Tony) From PETS in Creswick, discussion re Rotary’s future directions. Important for clubs to review how their club operates- discuss What to keep, What to stop, What to start. Incoming Strategic Planning for Rotary, the focus is in PURPOSE.
Wimmera Science and Engineering Challenge 2020

Held at Horsham Secondary College last Tuesday February 25th, 26 year
9 students from Warracknabeal Secondary College competed in the
Wimmera Science and Engineering Challenge to complete eight different activities against other year 9 and 10 students from Nhill, Kaniva, St Arnaud, Rainbow, Hopetoun and Horsham. This is our second year of involvement and President Tony, P.E. John Aitken and John Tonkin conducted activities in the 2018 inaugural challenge.

This year, President Tony conducted the signature Bridge building activity (see photo) and John Tonkin the Robotic Hand activity. Rotary Clubs throughout the area provide members to run the activities. In all, 160 students participated and there was a buzz of creativity and involvement throughout the day. The Science and Engineering Challenge day is created and organized by The University of Newcastle and seeks to develop student’s interest in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) as they start to consider senior subjects and career paths.

JOHN TONKIN

CALVIN HELPS BLAZE AID on Kangaroo Island

Calvin left home after harvest in Dec 2019 to spend some time on Kangaroo Island. Little did he know then of the catastrophe that was about to unfold.

Lightening started the worst fires ever to be experienced on the island. The losses were enormous. Tens of thousands of native animals, sheep and cattle were killed, 95% of blue gum and pine plantations were destroyed and 72 farms burnt, including farm houses ...some losing everything they had.

A Blaze Aid base camp was set up in Parndana, near Kingscote. Around 300 personnel and lots of heavy equipment soon arrived to help. Combat trailers were set up with tools for tree and fence removal and fence construction. Calvin was a coordinator at the workshop and did the equipment servicing. Volunteer workers came from everywhere- backpackers, grey nomads, cooks, locals. It was an extraordinary effort, and continues to be, as the other 40 Blaze Aid camps are finding around the country. This is Calvin’s 7th Blaze Aid camp in 7 years. “It’s a rewarding experience to work with like minded volunteers who are willing to assist those in need”. Calvin intends to return in mid March and has put out a challenge to the people of Warracknabeal and district. He wants 12 volunteers to join him- no matter what age, sex or fitness level, there will be a job for you. (fencing, cleaning, cooking, admin tasks etc). Just bring your own tent/swag/caravan and you will be looked after. Contact Calvin if you can help.
Laura’s Big Year of Rotary Exchange

• Laura gave an interesting address to the club and visitors about her year in Germany. Here is a summary of the highlights.


• Lived in a tiny village in a wine region.

• Karneval, one of Germany’s biggest street parades, was great.

• An all out party in all German cities.

• Experienced snow and snow skiing, and loved it.

• April. Europe tour with other Rotary Exchange students.

• France had so many amazing places. We were fortunate to visit the famous Notre Dame Cathedral before it was destroyed.

• Again fortunate to enjoy Venice, just a week before it was flooded and many sights closed to visitors.

• I had a favourite café in Budapest... it was My Little Melbourne, and reminded me of home.

• A highlight was attending the RI World-wide Conference in Hamburg, where I was privileged to be a flag bearer. I also attended the local District conference.

• I was lucky enough to have the summer holidays in Sweden, with my host family.

• I attended language camp seven months into the exchange. By then I was quite familiar with the German language, so I could learn a lot.

• Christmas celebrations are a little different, with the big celebration, Holy evening, on Dec 24. It’s family time on Dec 25.

• Thanks to Rotary for enabling me to have a trip of a lifetime.
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.

• Dinner. Own arrangements? At golf club? Pub?

• Conference opening.


SATURDAY

• Conference program

• Conference Dinner. Boogie at the Flying Catalina Boat Museum on Lake Boga. A 40s war theme. **Dress ups are under way**

SUNDAY

• AM. Closing program & walk along the Murray River.