ACTING PRESIDENT’S REPORT
Thank you to last week’s guest speaker, Walter Sholl, for sharing his stories about his interesting and varied life experiences.
At the meeting we gauged interest in changing the visiting date to Wyndham, with many agreeing a September date would be preferable. Tony will be following this up.
The Rotary Park committee has had a productive meeting, with plans underway for fencing the dog park being the first task.
Simon has now moved on to stay with the Byron family, his final long-term stay for his exchange. We thank the Golders for hosting Simon in recent months.
Tony will be away again next week, so we wish him safe travels as he goes interstate and to NZ.

Yours in Rotary, Chris

Did you Know?
It’s 50 years since Peter Martin left the farm in Brim for 12 months in South Africa as a Rotary Youth Exchange student. That was in January 1970.

Lost!
Helen has lost her Rotary polo top or may has loaned it to someone.

Do you know where it is???

COMING DATES
Rotary/Woodbine Garage Sale Sat 14 March
District Conference Swan Hill 20 - 22 March
RCW visit to RC Wyndham ??? 4-6 April TBC
Clem Quick’s 50 yrs in Rotary- Brim CC 8 April
Aussie Meeting- Ben’s Shed 20 May
### Simon’s Adventures......

Simon is now with his last host family, Craig and Mel Byron and their children. The final two weeks of Simon’s exchange will be spent with Chris & Glenda Hewitt, and the Australian Safari will also be coming up soon.

Last week, Chris and Glenda drove Simon to Melbourne to meet his mother, who happened to be in Australia for a work conference. (Simon’s family run an international welding company. Suzanne has been President of the International Welding association, as well as President of their local Chamber of Commerce)

The Hewitts were then able to take Simon and his mum, Suzanne, for a tour of the Great Ocean Road, finishing at Lorne. The photo shows Simon and his mum at Teddy’s Lookout, looking towards Bass Strait.

Next week, Simon is hoping to go to the Grand Prix in Melbourne.
Wed 4th March - Walter Sholl

Walter, although a new resident of Warracknabeal, is not new to the area. As the son of a minister, the family moved around to many regional places like Birchip and Jeparit, then in later years Walter worked in Beulah. His uncle Herb lived in W’beal many years ago and resides in our cemetery…. so Walter really could be considered a local.

Walter’s early profession as a photographer saw him living mainly in Sale, working with the Gippsland Times. This was broken by a short stint in the Royal Australian Army Education corps, in public relations. Working for a newspaper provided a range of experiences, always interesting and never quite knowing what the day would bring…. from covering events such as the explosion of the Marlin gas platform in Bass Strait, doing aerial photography for ESSO, and the sadder events like accidents.

Walter was also involved in community service, being an active Apexian, spending a term as Shire President, and dedicating much time to establishing a charitable trust to provide a permanent income for a local disability service. Forty years later, the fund is still operating successfully.

The advent of digital photography brought major changes to Walter’s profession; he wasn't as interested in the new technology so decided to make a life change. Walter travelled to Darwin, got work with a Uniting Church agency and started seven years of study for the ministry. This began the next phase of Walter’s life, which brought Walter, and Eileen, to the Wimmera. He’s enjoying life here, and has only recently revived his love of photography. His recent publication, “The Passing Parade- Warracknabeal 2019” is testament to his love of the visual image, and capturing every day life.

Watch out for a collection of Walter’s photographic work at this year’s Y Fest Arts Council’s Art Exhibition.

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Wed 4th March - REPORTS

**International Service (Helen)**

The next International Service event is a night of Aussie fun and flavours at Ben’s shearing shed on 20th May.

**Vocational Service (John A)**

Mock interviews with WSC students will be held later in the year.

We are waiting for feedback from WSC re a mental Health project for students. The Rotary Club of Wyndham has generously donated funds for this.

**Calvin Muller** has put out a challenge to all. He’s looking for 12 volunteers to join him at Blaze Aid in Kangaroo Island later in March. Anyone who goes will get a half price ferry fare to the island.

**Jean Wise** recently represented RCW at two AGMs - Minyip Combined Probus Club, and the Warracknabeal Ladies Probus Club. Thank you Jean.

Rotarian, **Chris Gunn**, was asked by Cameron Whelan to draw the raffle for the Wimmera to Walwa Fire Relief effort. The significant donation from Rotary was so gratefully accepted. The money from Rotary was used to restore essential plumbing in the houses of the elderly where insurance was insufficient. Approximately $46,000 was raised overall.

**Bernie** informed the club that flyers have been posted around town to promote the combined Rotary/Woodbine Garage sale at the Rotary Shop on Sat 14th March, from 9am. The quality of the goods is impressive…. invite your friends to come along. This should also clear out all the goods in the shop that have been there for some time.
Thank you from Laura

Last week’s bulletin had a summary of Laura’s presentation to the club about her 12 months exchange in Germany. This week we include a personal thank you from Laura to Rotary.

“I’ve been back for just over a month now. It was the most incredible experience I could have had, and what I’ve taken out of it has and will change my life in so many amazing ways. The opportunities and doors that have opened for me are endless and for that I’d love to thank the Rotary Club of Warracknabeal for sponsoring me and giving me this life changing experience.

In Germany I learnt and opened my eyes to so much of the world. I’ve become fluent in a second language, something before last year I wouldn’t have dreamed possible. That skill alone will give me endless more opportunities and chances than ever before.

I’ve also definitely caught the travel bug! Before I left I’d never even left the country and coming back have seen and experienced around 13 different countries with their various unique cultures and languages. Now, I have an even bigger list of places I want to visit, with South America and Eastern Europe at the very top.

I’ve also learnt so much about friendship within exchange students and their different cultures and points of view. I learnt to ski and have truly fallen in love with it, and also discovered an appreciation for soccer and handball which I didn’t plan for but am now honestly obsessed with.

Never before had I seen so much love and acceptance between people that are all so different. I may not see these people again but the mark that they have left on me and the memories that I’ve made with them will stay with me forever. Although, I have many plans to see as many of them as I can in the future.

Once again, the experience that I’ve gained, and the countless skills and knowledge that I would never have had, had I not gone on exchange is priceless, and I honestly couldn’t imagine the person I would be right now had I not taken the plunge. Thank you all for giving me this incredible opportunity to find and become the truest and best version of myself.”

-Laura Daniel
WOODBINE AND ROTARY
“GARAGE” SALE

WHEN: SATURDAY 14 MARCH 2020
9:00 am—1:00 pm

WHERE: ROTARY SHOP
156 SCOTT STREET
WARRACKNABEAL

ITEMS: A RANGE OF FURNITURE, BOOKS,
AND HOUSEHOLD ITEMS

BBQ: ROTARY BBQ AVAILABLE
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, 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.

FRIDAY

- Optional social golf in the afternoon at Murray Downs golf course.
- Dinner. Own arrangements?
- 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.