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Rotary District 9455

Rotary

Club of West Perth



Bulletin

Breakfast Meeting 17 April 2025

This Week's Guest Speaker

The Guest Speaker this week is to be a Secret. He/She/It will deliver a presentation to memorialise ANZAC – the subject is unknown.

Duty Roster

Duty Role	17 th April	One Week Look Ahead
Host	Tim Dawe	Pat Emery
Welcome	Pat Emery	Bernie Foley
Toast	Bernie Foley	Dennis Hartley
Thanks	Dennis Hartley	Geoff Hick
Bulletin	Geoff Hick	Ian Hutton (if available)
2 Minute Noodles	Ian Hutton (if available)	Kym MacCormack

Please find a substitute if you cannot fulfil your duty

Breakfast Meeting 10 April 2025

Last Week's Guest Speaker

Our Guest Speaker last week was Dr Brian Collings who was one of the two doctors on the infamous cruise ship "Achille Lauro".

Dr Brian gave a very interesting introduction on his appointment as a "Ship's Doctor" – second fiddle accommodation-wise to an Italian doctor. The Italian doctor managed to secure a great cabin however Brian was relegated to a no porthole internal berth.

Dr Brian joined the ship on 19Nov94 at Genoa with some misgivings and an early case of homesickness. After some on shore trips in Israel and wondering what he was going to do for most of the cruise Dr Brian's concerns were very quickly resolved when the ship caught fire.

Dr Brian is a committed Christian who was brought up and educated in a Catholic Boarding school. Somehow the ship's purser found out that Dr Brian was prepared to minister to the crew and passengers and this set of a remarkable chain of events with Dr Brian assisting in the evacuation of the ship, ministering to passengers and even conducting a partial foot amputation for a lady with diabetic gangrene. The operation proceeded with little local anaesthetic and some alcohol.

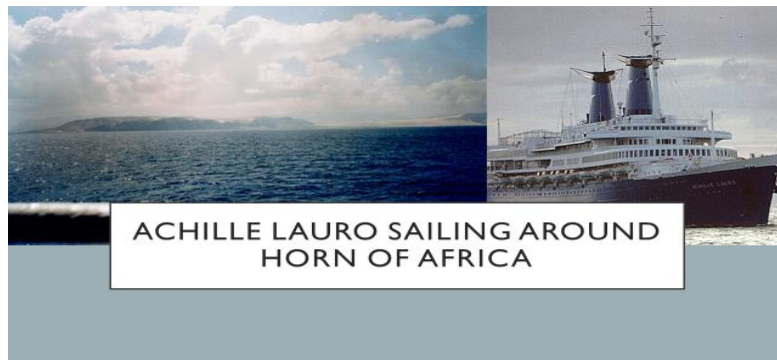
His Christian beliefs were put to the test during the fire and eventual sinking of the Achille Lauro off Somalia.

After an unexplainable delay the ship's captain sent out a distress signal which alerted a number of ships of the sinking of the Achille Lauro and the deployment of lifeboats.

Dr Brian and a crowd of passengers were picked up by the "Chevron Perth" and transported to Mombasa.

Dr Brian's ministrations to the passengers and crew throughout the cruise, the sinking and rescue were greatly appreciated. Brian is justly proud of his significant achievements in assisting crew and passengers.

Nowadays Dr Brian conducts pilot flight medicals just to keep engaged. He is also studying theology which has clearly been a lifelong passion.



WIKIPEDIA ACCOUNT OF THE SINKING OF THE ACHILLE LAURO

".... In the evening of 30 November 1994 she caught fire off the coast of Somalia while en-route to South Africa, with 979 passengers and crew aboard. At that time, Italian officials said the fire had been caused by a discarded cigarette. Later analysis suggests that the fire started in the engine room after one of the crankcases exploded which allowed cooling oil to get into the exhaust. Because of a lack of supervision, the fire burned out of control before its discovery.[7] The crew battled the fire unsuccessfully for several hours, first with hoses and then by passing buckets from the swimming pool.

Entertainer Moss Hills, who led rescue efforts during the sinking of MTS Oceanos in 1991, recalled that pouring water on an oil fire was ineffective, while making the conflagration worse.[8] The vessel was abandoned in the morning after developing a list. A small number of crew and passengers were unable to board the main lifeboats due to flames coming up from the hull, so they climbed down a rope ladder from the stern to reach inflatable boats. Two died and eight were injured during the evacuation and transfer to rescue ships.

Among the ships that responded to the call were USS Gettysburg and USS Halyburton.[9] Achille Lauro sank on 2 December 1994, which was witnessed by a fire tugboat that had arrived to assess salvageability. The wreck has not been located since.[10]

2-Minute Noodles

Our 2 Minute Noodles chef was our esteemed member Gary Leighton. Gary is arguably the foremost designer of Perth's movie theatres. He is the scion of the great Leighton family of architects; famous for designing and overseeing the construction of most of the "Art Deco" theatres in Perth and elsewhere in Australia.

Gary was invited to an anniversary of the construction of the Auckland NZ "Civic Theatre" a world renowned classic of Art Deco theatres.



The Auckland NZ Civic Theatre – A Monument to Australian Art Deco design

The Civic was designed by Gary's father who in his early 20's completed the design and documentation of the theatre in a ridiculously short time and went on to deliver a very complex, detailed, artistic design project in record time (under a year?) and to a very high quality standard – neither of which would be possible in Perth today!!!!!!



Just look at the extremely complex castings and mouldings of the theatre fitout! All design done to conceal services such as the fire sprinklers.

Announcements

President Tick

Members' project submissions are to be reviewed by the Board on Tuesday evening 15APR25. Late submissions are to be accepted.

Past District Governor Angus Buchanan will contact members individually to conduct a confidential appraisal of opinions on club membership and where the club needs to position itself for it to appeal to potential "young" members.

President Elect Kym MacCormac

Kym reported that the wine that he had secured in the previous week's ad hoc wine auction was "Superb".

Tony Pepper The Ethnic Dinner at the Royal India restaurant in Hay Street was attended by 22 members and wives/partners. Despite a minor victualing hiccup and noise resonance the dinner was a success. International Dinners are a good way to attract new members to the club.

Tony is planning an overnight wild-flower bus trip up North similar to one conducted some 20 years ago to Coorow where we stayed at the Cruise-inn.

Arthur Le Blaquiere A bottle of superb red wine to be donated by him is to be auctioned monthly while stocks last.

General Announcements:

Bulletin Vacancy: The Deadline for nomination of a new bulleting editor is 30th June 2025. President John and the Board would like a volunteer else someone may be given “The King’s Shilling”

Speaker Hunting Vacancy: Similar to the above, the deadline for a replacement for Path Emery is 30th June 2025. So if you value the club “Step up to the Plate!”

New Member It was with great pleasure that we were able to welcome past member Neil Hancock first to the International dinner and second to the club meeting. Neil has resigned on as a member!!! Clearly a good decision maker!

(If you have read this far be the first and only one to claim a prize from President John!)

Attendance

Members:	13
Guests:	2
Guest Speaker:	1
Total:	16
Apologies:	3

President’s Parting Thought

“.... Apparently, you can’t use “**beef stew**” as a password – it’s not **Stroganoff..**”

Summary of Upcoming Meetings

Thu 17 th Apr:	Secret Guest
Thu 24 th Apr:	Doctor Peter Gall, Retired University of Notre Dame; Passion for Creative Writing
Thu 1 st May:	Mr Alex Jenkins of Curtin University who will present on Artificial Intelligence (AI) its uses and possible pitfalls.