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Rotary District 9455

Rotary

Club of West Perth



Bulletin

Breakfast Meeting 1 May 2025

This Week's Guest Speaker



The Speaker this week is none other than Ms Suzanne John who is well known to us. Suzanne is a Paul Harris Fellow who recently received a major Australia-wide award for her work in assisting Asbestosis and Mesothelioma victims.

Suzanne is going to educate us on Asian based child slavery and kidnapping and how it may affect us in an indirect manner.

Duty Roster

Duty Role	1 May25	One Week Look Ahead
Host	Bernie Foley	Dennis Hartley
Welcome	Dennis Hartley	Geoff Hick
Toast	Geoff Hick	---
Thanks	—	Kym MacCormack
Bulletin	Kym MacCormack	Tony Pepper
2 Minute Noodles	Tony Pepper	Mally Rall

Please find a substitute if you cannot fulfil your duty

Breakfast Meeting 1 May 2025

Last Week's Guest Speaker

Our Guest Speaker last week was the eminently qualified Dr Peter Gall, retired, of University of Notre Dame.

Dr Peter provided a very interesting and educational talk on “Edith Cowan” her life and phenomenal achievements for both women and Western Australia.

Despite Edith’s incredible achievements she was not well recognised or rewarded in any significant manner for instance – by a statue as were some of her male peers.

The Bid for a Statue in Recognition of Edith Cowan

Bullet points from Dr Peter’s talk follow:

- This is a project that has been 4 years in the making.
- We visited the sculptors Charlie and Joan Smith in Gidgegannup 4 years ago. Over lunch the subject of the lack of female sculptures in Perth came up.
- There are more sculptures of horses than women, only 3% represent females
- Deputy Mayor City Perth Sandy Angus began agitating at city council for more statues of females with a view to having the city pay for one.
- She proposed a motion at a full council meeting at which I represented the Karrakatta Club supporting a statue of Edith Cowan because president and VP were interstate. **The motion was defeated when 3 of the female councillors voted against it;** with lord mayor Basil indicating that she was on the \$50 note; had a commemorative clock-tower in West Perth and had a university named after her.
- At that presentation I read out only portion of Edith’s achievements which are many and varied.
- She had a tough start in life when she witnessed her father kill her mother which earned him a trip to the gallows- something that might have traumatised anyone else.

Edith was a driven person.

- She was responsible for the creation of the children’s’ court and the women’s’ hospital.
- She began the soldiers welcome institute during ww1 which became the RSLWA.
- She was on the Anglican Synod and was a foundation trustee of the Karrakatta Club in 1894.
- She was elected to State Parliament at 53 for one term and was heckled during her maiden speech with cries of get back to the kitchen and where are your kids. Her kids were mostly working by then.
- She was on the League of Nations Committee and the 1929 Centenary Committee.

- We visited the smiths again some time later and they showed us an idea that they had had which they called a moment in time. Unbeknownst to us, they had been commissioned by governor Beasley to provide a statue of the aboriginal activist Fanny Balbuk who was a contemporary of Edith's. They thought that the two sculptures could be made to interact across the terrace with Edith acknowledging Fanny.
- Armed with the booklet they had prepared and the presentation prepared by a planning firm we again fronted council in support of a statue of Edith Cowan to be paid for by deputy mayor Sandy Angie and her family.
- In the meantime it had become clear that mayor basil was looking further afield to state politics and Suz impressed upon him the need to support the second motion with 55% of the voters in mind.
- This time we were successful and council will be gifted a statue to sit outside Anzac House and the Karrakatta Club with an acknowledgement to fanny over the road.
- the sculptors are a husband and wife team of Irish descent (aren't we all?) with very few helpers and have been in high demand in the intervening 4 years with demands from the Crete memorial in Kings Park and HMAS Perth in Fremantle amongst others so they have been flat out like a lizard drinking.
- Once upon a time they cast their own work in their own studio but Swan Shire put an end to that citing bush fire concerns some time ago.
- Until late last year they were getting work cast in Midvale but it closed recently and so they then had to rely on a guy in Albany where most of the sculpture was cast.
- They have also had a series of health problems as have their helpers and so here we are 4 years later; the Karrakatta Club has taken the running on the project and I have been project managing it between the sculptors, the donor, the council and the installers Colgans.
- So even though the opening has been delayed the finish line is now in sight with a tentative date of 12 June 2025 set for the dedication.

Questions were asked, as the club members were clearly astonished by Edith's achievements and lack of recognition.

Arthur Blaquiére. A bottle of superb red wine donated by him is to be auctioned monthly for as long as stock last.

General Announcements:

President's at Home Saturday 24 May 25. President's at home is to be held at the home of John and Carmel Tick; 14 Hope Road, Ardross, 6153 commencing at 3.00pm and concluding at 6.00pm. It's a "bring a plate" affair with John and Carmel providing drinks: tea and coffee, wine/beer, soft drinks and juice.

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!"

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

The Blaquiere ANZAC Day Weekend in Lancelin



Ric Blaquiere at Lancelin Community Resource Centre with Manager Sharon with the latest batch of gifts for the community. The items are mainly from RCWP Op Shop in Broadway Fair. These are DVDs Jigsaw puzzles, books, craft items. These are sourced from our community OP shop, Ric's craft network. These contributions go into the Lancelin Community as well as the "Gray Nomad" travelling community. Items are "sold" for a few dollars with returns recycled.

Great Effort Ric and Arthur

Attendance

Members:	15
Guests:	
Guest Speaker:	1
<u>Total:</u>	<u>16</u>
Apologies:	3

President's Parting Thought

"... Do not wait for extraordinary circumstances to do good; try to use ordinary circumstances..".

Sir John John Monash

Summary of Upcoming Meetings

Thu 1 st May:	Mr Alex Jenkins of Curtin University who will present on Artificial Intelligence (AI) its uses and possible pitfalls.
Thu 8 th May.	Ms Catherine Henwood CEO Perth Symphony Orchestra on the story of her remarkable worldwide musical journey