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Rotary District 9455

Rotary

Club of West Perth



The Bulletin

Breakfast Meeting 12 June 2025

Guest Speaker

The Guest Speaker this week will be Professor Ralph Martins AO, Paul Harris Fellow 2011, Western Australian Citizen of the Year 2011, Western Australian of the Year 2010 and much, much more, who will let us know about the detection of Alzheimer's at an early age. Something not to miss.

Duty Roster

Duty Role	5 th May	One Week Look Ahead
Host	Mally Rall	Geoff Simpson
Welcome	Geoff Simpson	Ant Ulijn
Toast	Ant Ulijn	John Van Vliet
Thanks	John Van Vliet	Arthur Blaquiere
Bulletin	Arthur Blaquiere	Peter Blockley
2 Minute Noodles	Peter Blockley	Corrin Caine

Please find a substitute if you cannot fulfill your duty

Breakfast Meeting 5 June 2025

(With thanks to John VV's dog Woof who ate the minutes)

Guest Speaker

Our Guest Speaker last week was Professor Kingsley Dixon OAM, spoke about conservation biology. He is the WA 2016 Scientist of the Year, and thanks to Woof (not!), what was actually said is still digesting in Woof's fat tummy, but thanks to My Google, the blank pages have been partially filled with some very interesting facts. The following is completely and unashamedly plagiarised for charity:

Kingsley Wayne Dixon (Google, not me) was the founding Director of Science at Kings Park and Botanic Gardens and helped to establish the laboratories there as among the world's leading. Growing up in the Perth suburb of Morley, he spent his time exploring the bushland that existed in the suburb during his childhood, and this encouraged his interest in botany.

One of Kingsley's most notable achievements was the discovery in 1992, of smoke as a cause for the germination of Australian plants after bushfires. The study, published in 1995, was applied knowledge which had previously been researched in South Africa to the native plants of his home state, Western Australia. He later helped to show that plant species in other parts of the world also have germination caused by smoke, showing that this is not exclusive to plants in fire-prone regions. After this, he started a study with scientists from UWA and Murdoch University to discover the specific chemicals in smoke that cause this effect, testing over 4,000 chemicals and eventually discovering a new molecule, named karrikinolide, after "karrik", the Noongar word for "smoke". The discovery was published in *Science* in 2004.

The discovery of the role of fire in regeneration of native species includes two patents. His later career has led the mining industry in proactive mine site restoration science and also engaged with traditional owners to create two-way learnings. He has also been very active with the international ecological restoration, seed restoration and threatened species researcher community. He takes his love of biology to everyone via public and social media.

Kingsley featured on David Attenborough's documentary *The Private Life of Plants* in 2001.

Kingsley blue wins gold

By JEN REWELL

A blue great sun orchid from WA was the star of the show at this year's Chelsea Flower Show in west London, thanks to City Beach botanist Kingsley Dixon.

"There aren't any blue orchids in nature anywhere else in the world," Professor Dixon said.

"People were fascinated by them."

The display was awarded a gold medal by the Royal Horticultural Society.

Queen Camilla is known to be a keen orchid grower and spent a lot of time at the orchid exhibit.

Prof. Dixon said it took three days to set up the intricately arranged diorama.

Orchid stems poked up out of sandy gravel dotted with large rocks, moss, banksia cones, and a photo of Bluff Knoll.

The banksias were taken from Prof. Dixon's Waroona property, which was ravaged by fire last year.

"Part of what we were telling about in the exhibit is that the Australian bush is resilient," he said.

"From that terrible bushfire,



had been exhibited at the Chelsea Flower Show, which has been an annual event since 1913 but dates back to 1833.

Because it is held in the English spring, it is out of season for Australian orchids, but Prof. Dixon was able to source some great sun orchids from a botanist colleague in Germany at the last minute.

"We have lots of blue flowers here in WA but we just don't appreciate them," he said.

Nearly all Australian orchids are not found anywhere else in the world, and are all notoriously difficult to propagate.

The Orchids in the Wild display was organised by Orchid Conservation Chelsea, and supported by a list of organisations including the University of WA.

Although Prof. Dixon did not meet the Queen, because security was very tight, he was able to have some jarrah honey delivered to her.

This week, Queen Camilla's equestrian contacted him to thank him for the honey and get his details so the Queen could write to him.

While at Chelsea, Prof. Dixon spoke to Kazuyuki Ishihara, designer of the winning show garden, Cha No Niwa Japanese tea garden.



The ultimate diplomat ... The great sun orchids star at the Chelsea Flower Show. **Photo: ABC**

Mr Ishihara was intrigued from his show garden to Prof. Dixon to be used in the tea house when it is rebuilt, and wants to visit.

"Plants are the ultimate diplomats," Prof. Dixon said.

Photo: Australian Orchid Foundation

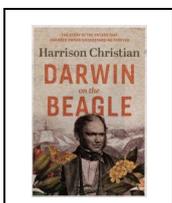
Orchid conservation: a global perspective 2003: Orchids are one of the most diverse and most widespread families of flowering plants and are one of the few plant families that have a profile that can benefit plant conservation on a broad scale. Orchid conservation, however, is at a crossroads. Understanding more about the distribution, rarity, threats and extinction of orchids than ever before, and having the scientific tools to address many of the problems, is not stopping many species face daily threats including habitat loss and unsustainable exploitation. Many international plant conservation groups, including the Orchid Specialist Group of the IUCN Species Survival Commission, are using orchids as flagship species in the conservation debate. These organisations have a vital role to play in countering the trend of biodiversity loss by promoting effective orchid conservation, improving networking and

technology transfer, interacting with decision-makers, and in educating the orchid community.

Prescribed burning has a long-term impact in mediterranean-climate biodiversity hotspots, with a focus on south-western Australia needs Government understanding. Wildfires are expected to increase worldwide both in frequency and intensity owing to global warming but are likely to vary geographically. This is of particular concern in the five mediterranean regions of the world that are all biodiversity hotspots with extraordinary plant and animal diversity that may be impacted by deliberately imposed fire. Wildland managers attempt to reduce the impact and mitigate the outcomes of wildfires on human assets and biodiversity by the use of prescribed burning. The response that we must *'fight fire with fire'* is understandable, perceived as reducing the flammability of wildlands in fire-prone regions and lessening the impact of wildfires. The long-term impact on biodiversity is, however, less clear. The practice of prescribed burning has been in place and monitored in south-western Australia for 50 years, longer and more intensively than in most other mediterranean ecosystems. The present target is for 200 000 ha burned each year in this biodiversity hotspot. Published studies on the impact of this burning on infrastructure protection and on biodiversity are used to understand the protective capacity of the practice and to foreshadow its possible long-term ecological impact across all mediterranean ecosystems.



Fig. 3. The unintended consequences of prescribed burning on biodiversity result in species losses. (a) Prescribed burning in the south-western Australian biodiversity hotspot peat swamps results in the loss of peat beds accumulated over a period of ~5000 years. (b) The exposed lignotuber and roots of a dead *Homalospermum firmum* (Myrtaceae), owing to 60 cm of peat burnt away through high-intensity fire, contrasted with a surviving Albany pitcher plant (*Cephalotus follicularis*, Cephalotaceae) (insert, photo June 2018, S. D. Hopper). (c) Prescribed burning of banksia woodland in south-western Western Australia. (d) Prescribed burning of a nature reserve south of Perth resulted in the death of this translocated critically endangered western ringtail possum (*Pseudocheirus occidentalis*) (photo A. Dixon).



Professor Kingsley Dixon OAM is not a fan of Darwin who, instead of turning up his nose at Australia's diverse fauna and flora, should have got down and dirty and embraced this great land's diversity. Loser!

Never the looser, our President Elect Kym MacCc thanked the Professor for educating us about the diversity of species of the fauna and flora not only in Western Australia, but the rest of the world. Kym MacCc presented Kingsley with a Certificate for 20 Polio vaccination. A small prize for saving our many and varied species. Thank you



2-Minute Noodles



W A N T E D

Chefs who can commit. If you are a namby-pamby, wishy-washy, don't-give-a-toss type of cook, don't bother.



The Breakfast Club wants chefs who can throw open the doors, turn the burners up to high, and start tossing stuff around. Is that you?

And so, in the absence of Noodles Chef Arfa Blackear, the Club slipped next door for breakfast with some real entertainment from *Fat Boy Slim's Weapon of Choice*. Hit the link and enjoy the ride:

https://www.google.com/search?q=fatboy+slim+video&rlz=1C1GCEA_enAU1126AU1126&og=fatboy+slim+video&gs_lcrp=EgZjaHJvbWUqCggAEAAAY4wIYgAQyCggAEAAAY4wIYgAQyBwgBEC4YgAQyBwgCEAAAYgAQyBwgDEAAAYgAQyBwgEEAAAYgAQyBwgFEAAAYgAQyDQgGEAAAYhgMYgAQYigUyDQgHEAAAYhgMYgAQYigUyDQgIEAAAYhgMYgAQYigUyDQgJEAAYhgMYgAQYigXS AQkyMTE5M2owajeoAgCwAgA&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8&safe=active&ssui=on#fpstate=ive&vld=cid:47759a7a,vid:wCDIYvFmgW8,st:0



Announcements

Woof ate the notes, but President Tick's handwritten military notes gave a few clues...

Changeover Night: Anzac House, 26th June, \$75 a head for a two-course meal and cash bar. Parking at Council house for \$5 after 6:00pm. PP TD's going to be MC. See back of Bulletin.

Voiceworks has a show coming up 4th to 6th July, and Colin and Tina will be part of the chorus line. More info at the back of the Bulletin

Mystery Guest John Kevan (PDG Mandurah Districts Club) presented our President with a Citation of Appreciation. NO details on why and what.

Attadale Rotary Club are wanting more blankets, sheets, wraps/throws, pillow cases for the homeless.



Professor Kingsley Dixon OAM sent an email thanking Pat for the delightful encounter with the Club. *"Always admire the great work done by Rotary that is also executed with great purpose and humour. My best wishes, Kingsley"*

Duty Role	05 June	12 June	19 June	26 June	
Host	Tony Pepper	Mally Rall	Geoff Simpson		
Welcome	Mally Rall	Geoff Simpson	Ant Ulijn		
Toast	Geoff Simpson	Ant Ulijn	John Van Vliet		
Thanks	Ant Ulijn	John Van Vliet	Arthur Blaquiere		
Bulletin	John Van Vliet	Arthur Blaquiere	Peter Blockley		
2 Minutes	Arthur Blaquiere	Peter Blockley	Corrin Caine		

UNDER THE SPOTLIGHT FOR JUNE 2025



Birthdays

Mally Rall 12th

John Tick 17th

Anniversaries

Geoff Hick 5th

Yerzhan Suleyev 24th

Rotary Membership

Angus Buchanan 18th

Guy Mattioli 22nd

Gary Leighton 28th

Dennis Hartley 30th

Attendance

Members:	16
Honorary Member:	0
Visiting Rotarians:	0
Guests:	1
Guest Speaker:	1
Total:	18
Apologies:	11

President's Parting Lecture

"Fellowship is the bond of hearts united in a shared purpose."

...Anonymous...

In fellowship, we find strength, support, and the courage to face challenges."

...Anonymous...

Fellowship is not about being the same; it's about being united in purpose

...Anonymous...

Summary of Upcoming Meetings

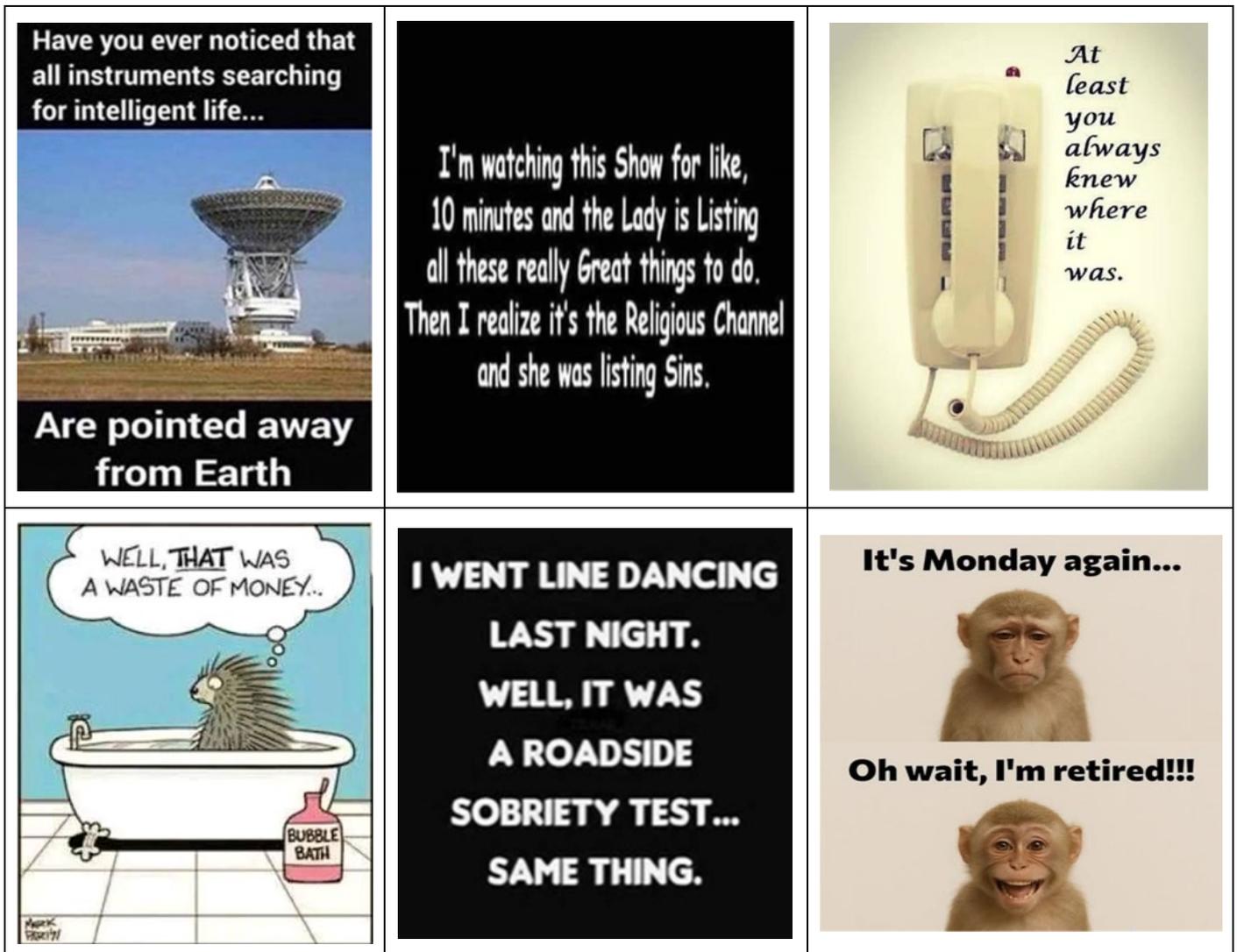
Thu 19th Jun:

Professor Angus Buchanan: WPRC Survey Feedback

Thu 26th Jun:

Changeover Dinner.

Tit Bits



PADDY'S LAMENT

An old farmer named Paddy had an accident. He and his cow were hit by a truck owned by the Eversweet Company. He sued for damages and grievous injuries. In court, the Eversweet Company's hot-shot lawyer was questioning Paddy:

'Didn't you say to the police at the scene of the accident, 'I'm fine?' asked the company's lawyer.

Paddy responded: 'Well, I'll tell you what happened. I'd just loaded my fav'rit cow, Bessie, into da... '

'I didn't ask for any details', the lawyer interrupted. 'Just answer the question. Did you not say, at the scene of the accident, 'I'm fine?'

Paddy said, 'Well, I'd just got Bessie into da trailer, and I was drivin' down da road.... '

The solicitor interrupted again and said, 'Your Honor, I am trying to establish the fact that, at the scene of the accident, this man told the police on the scene that he was fine. Now several weeks after the accident, he is in court suing my client. I believe he is a fraud. Please tell him to simply answer the question. '

By this time, the Judge was fairly interested in Paddy's answer and said to the lawyer: 'I'd like to hear what he has to say about his favorite cow, Bessie. He may answer.'

Paddy thanked the Judge and proceeded. 'Well as I was saying, I had just loaded Bessie, my fav'rit cow, into de trailer and was drivin' her down de road when this huge Eversweet truck and trailer came tundering tru a stop sign and hit me trailer right in da side. It was a terrible crash! I was trown into one ditch and Bessie was trown into da udder ditch. By Gosh, I was hurt, very bad like, and didn't want to move at all. I could hear poor old Bessie moaning' and groaning'. I knew she was in terrible pain just by her groans. Shortly after da accident, a policeman on a motorcycle turned up. He could hear Bessie moaning' and groaning' too, so he went over to her. After he looked at her, and saw her condition, he took out his gun and shot her between the eyes. Kilt her dead! Den da policeman came across de road, gun still in hand, looked at me, and said, 'How are you feeling?'

'Now what would you say?'

ON BEHALF OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF WEST PERTH OUR PRESIDENT JOHN TICK INVITES YOU TO

a changeover night

**ANZAC HOUSE LEVEL 6
28 ST GEORGES TERRACE PERTH**

THURS JUN 26 2025
6:00 PM FOR 6:30 PM START

\$75 PER PERSON 2 COURSE MEAL CASH BAR AVAILABLE
RSVP BEFORE FRIDAY 20 JUNE TO TONY PEPPER tpepper@iinet.net.au
BANK DETAILS FOR DIRECT DEBIT BSB: 036-011 ACC: 427207



VOCAL ENSEMBLE VOICEWORKS PRESENTS

Side by Side



Hi Fundraisers!

Wow do we have some prizes up for grabs, read on.....

CURRENT PROMOTION

GOOD FOOD & WINE SHOW – July 20-22



Ok I have a few double passes to the Good Food & Wine Show in July (**valued at \$100**)

All you need to do is send me a **copy of a promotion** you have done to go into the draw, it's that easy.

DID SOMEONE SAY HAWAII!!!! Aloha and yes they did!



Our new partners at [Hawaiian Airlines](#) have come on board to **not only** give your members a deal on their flights via the Entertainment App, but they're here to give YOU the chance to win a **holiday for TWO to Hawaii, including accommodation at the Hilton Hawaiian Village Resort!**

The **Raise to Win competition** runs until **Monday 30 June** and all you need to do is:

- Promote Entertainment to your audience (and send me proof 🤗)
- Sell 5 memberships which will give you 1 entry to WIN!
- *There is no limit to how many entries you can have! (T&Cs apply)*

Good luck everyone and thanks for being awesome!