

Cambridge Courier

Information about our next Rotary Meeting:

Wednesday 2nd November 2022

Speaker: Christine Tonkin – MLA Churchlands

Topic: Retirement Village Laws

On Duty: Speaker Host, Introduction & thanks: **Jeremy Wood**

Set up/Pack up: **Peter Burns**

Coming up soon

Wednesday 9th November 2022

Speaker: Brenton Siggs

Topic: WWII Pilots and their Planes

Speaker Host, Intro & thanks: **Rod Lane**

Set up/pack up: **Brian Downing**

GENERAL NEWS ITEMS

- Ken Mullin (Heirisson Club) told us about the Give a Feed 2022 project. **Please see the attached email re donations.**
- Jim Berry brought poppies for the schools & also spoke about our Floreat Forum duty on 3rd November.
- The Community Shed Open Day raised \$450 for our Club.
- Go on-line to volunteer for the Friday Junior Cricket Sausage Sizzles – help is needed urgently please.
- The Bridgetown weekend is on 4th to 6th November.

NEWS FROM LAST WEEK

Our Guest Speaker this time was Dr Simone Pedrini, a Research Fellow and Lecturer at Curtin University, and he came to tell us all about using native seeds to restore the degraded ecosystem in the South West corner of WA. The project originally addressed the degradation on mine sites, but the focus has now turned to the Wheatbelt area where 95% of the land has been cleared, resulting in increased salinity and windswept plains. Restoration can be achieved either by planting, say, 4 million trees at a cost of \$1.25 each, or else by planting 100 million native seeds at a cost of just under one cent each.

Dr Pedrini described the native seed supply chain which involves the collection, processing and quality testing of the seeds, and the result is that the average cost of 1000 live seeds amounts to \$6.34. Seed pods are collected from the wild, and the seeds are then extracted and sorted. About 90% of the rubbish is removed during this stage. Correct storage of seeds is most important, and cool conditions alone are not enough; the level of humidity must be regulated as well.

Quality testing plays a vital role in providing viable seeds in sufficient quantities for successful planting, and the tests focus on purity (i.e. separating the seeds from the trash) as well as confirming that they are alive. X ray software has been developed which enables the complex testing to be done in a few minutes. Natural dormancy rates prior to germination must also be taken into account, and it is vital to use an appropriate planting method – broadcasting can be very hit and miss, so precision seeding is necessary. Interestingly some seeds can be changed in size and shape to improve success rates. A most fascinating presentation!



Patient: I think I'm a goat; Doctor: How long has this been going on? Patient: Since I was a kid!

Birthdays: Yvonne Graham (3 Nov)

Wedding anniversaries: none this time

Rotary anniversaries: none this time