



CAMBRIDGE COURIER

Information about our next Rotary Meeting (usually held at Cambridge Bowling Club, 7.10 for 7.30 am):

Wednesday 18th February 2026

Activity: Matilda Gosling – National Youth Science Forum

On Duty: Club Host: Jeremy Wood

Set up/Pack up: Cate Barlow

Coming up soon
Wednesday 25th February 2026

Activity: John Wright – Engineering Miracles
 Club Host: Jim Berry
 Set up/pack up: John Gartlan

GENERAL NEWS ITEMS

- *Christine Tonkin has joined our Club's Board – well done Christine*
- *The Western Endeavour Club are keen to interact with us on a regular basis*
- *WSJCC BBQ raised nearly \$400 last Friday*
- *Jeremy will continue to run Speaking Comps for Juniors*
- *Sunday 22 March 5.00 pm Picnic. Details soon*

NEWS ABOUT OUR CLUB MEETINGS, ROTARY GENERALLY, & OUR WORLD

John Travlos was our first Guest Speaker of the new calendar year, and his topic was Zimbabwe's Position in Africa. The former Southern Rhodesia gained independence in 1980, and Robert Mugabe became the first Prime Minister and head of government. Land re-distribution became a central issue because the minority white population held most of the fertile agricultural land, and in 2000 Mugabe implemented the Fast Track Land Reform program which resulted in the farms being confiscated and handed over to the black population. This led to a collapse of the economy, and years of turmoil followed. However, Zimbabwe is now a first world country which aspires to be the 'Switzerland of Africa', and the objective is to have the entire population living in the upper middle class by 2035. The population is estimated to be around 16 million people in recent times, but white Zimbabweans make up only about 1% of that total. However, since Emmerson Mnangagwa replaced Mugabe as President there has been a steady flow of white Zimbabweans returning to the country. The blacks have an insatiable thirst for knowledge, and there are numerous universities and schools there now. John gave examples of achievements by prominent Zimbabweans, and the parliamentary capital of the country is now Mount Hampden. Zimbabwe is the 3rd largest producer of platinum these days.



Do Lipton employees take coffee breaks?

Birthdays: Rod Lane (14 Feb); Jim Berry (18 Feb)

Wedding anniversaries: none this time

Rotary anniversaries: Max Puddey ('04)

IF A MEMBER CAN'T ATTEND, OR WANTS TO BRING A VISITOR, PLEASE ADVISE LIBBY LARSEN BY EARLY MONDAY MORNING
Either by telephone (0438 462 917) or email (libbylarsen@westnet.com.au).

Bulletin Editor: Roger Veary