



Cambridge Courier – 2020/21

Our next Rotary Meeting: Wednesday, 9 June

Speaker: Prof. Shirley Bowen

Topic: Transformation Is Coming!

On Duty 9/06/21:

Speaker intro & thanks: Frank Nathan

Set up/Pack up: Mike Graham

NEWS FROM OUR LAST MEETING

Our very own Peter McSkimming was in the Guest Speaker’s chair, talking about farm management consulting in the days of yore here in WA. In the early 1960s virtually all of the consultants (FMCs) were New Zealanders, and Peter’s philosophy was *go to the people, live with them, learn from them, love them, start with what they know, build on what they have, and eventually they will say: “we have done this ourselves”*. Peter was involved at Pinjarra and Meckering, and farm productivity improved amazingly in the mid-60s. However, not all of the farmers were convinced that they needed help to bridge the gap between scientists and themselves, and talk around town often became distorted depending on which end of the bar you occupied! A lot of peer pressure existed, not only between farmers but also in marriages and families, and this was exacerbated by the earthquake in 1968 which destroyed half of the homesteads around Meckering. Over time the number of farmers has diminished, and the need for high quality planning and budgeting has become even more important. When strained personal relationships emerged the FMCs were the meat in the sandwich! However the best compliment Peter received was from a farmer who said ‘I don’t know what he did but it worked’. For Peter those years were very satisfying and in spite of the many challenges the discussions and friendships resulted in significant farm improvements. The short term was taken care of, but did the FMCs contribute to what was needed in the long term? We suspect that they did!

Coming up soon – Wednesday 16 June

Speaker: Vanessa Maitland

Topic: Implications of Increased Funding for Aged Care

Speaker intro & thanks: Peter Pearse

Set up/pack up: Don Holywell

GENERAL NEWS ITEMS

- Our meeting on 16 June (see details above) is a Community Talk, commencing at the usual time of 7.30 am. We should advise Jeanette of numbers (for this meeting only). Please see the email of 24th May
- *The formal opening of the Community Shed is scheduled for 19th June. You will receive an invitation in the near future; it will be simply a ribbon-cutting event by the sound of it*
- Another date for the diary: Changeover Night on Wednesday 14th July; more details will be available in the near future
- *The Bunnings Homebase Sausage Sizzle is on Saturday 24th July. If you haven’t yet volunteered, please see Roger’s email dated 25th May.*



Few things are harder to put up with than the annoyance of a good example

Birthdays: none this time

Wedding anniversaries: none this time

Rotary anniversaries: none this time

We meet at the Cambridge Bowling Club, Howtree Place, Floreat (near the Forum), 7.10 am for 7.30 am. **IF A MEMBER CAN’T ATTEND OR WANTS TO BRING A VISITOR, PLEASE ADVISE LIBBY LARSEN BY MONDAY MORNING via telephone (0438 462 917 or 9446 2917) or email (libbylarsen@westnet.com.au).**

Bulletin Editor: Roger Veary.