Rotary Connection

Armistice Day, Two Slabs of Beer, and a Net Profit of Forty Thousand+

Club Meeting Highlights • Wednesday 11 November 2026

President Bob Hall was in the chair at the Geraldton Golf Club at 7.00 am. Ian Taylor gave the invocation and the toast to country, to Remembrance Day, and to the Acting Sergeant Jim Dillon had the box. Dominic Brine was the guest speaker. Harlem Rose-Ruebert from Champion Bay High School and Paul Blackwell were also guests. Bob Urquhart was an apology, on his way back from Bali. Leni Tenwinkel had a cold and was not at the meeting.

Meeting at a Glance

- Bob Hall in the chair; Acting Sergeant Jim Dillon; invocation and toast by Ian Taylor.
- Guest speaker: Dominic Brine. Guests: Harlem Rose-Ruebert, Paul Blackwell.
- Apology: Bob Urquhart. Leni Tenwinkel absent with a cold.
- Radio Auction net profit estimated at $40,000+.
- Next meeting at CWA rooms, Bluff Point — continental breakfast.
- Heads and tails to Di Gilleland. Christmas function 12 December.

Opening the Morning



President Elect Clare McElhinney with Harlem Rose-Ruebert.

Barry Dring had organised the poppies for the tables. It was Armistice Day. President Bob reminded the club of the 11.00 am service at the RSL and asked members to wear the poppies. The room rearranged itself for seating.

There was no raffle prize in the cupboard at first. Jim found a bottle of Shiraz. Harlem, who had worked well in the back room at the auction on Sunday, was welcomed by President Bob and by Clare McElhinney.

Announcements

Christmas Function — Grant Woodhams

The Christmas function is on 12 December. A sign-up sheet is going around. Names and numbers to Grant, by email or at a meeting. Grant will be Santa.

Next Meeting — Grant Woodhams

Next Wednesday's meeting is at the CWA rooms at Bluff Point. It will be a continental breakfast. There is parking at the back. Drive in the front and around to the right. Do not panic about the street.

Thought for the Day — Barry Dring



Dominic Brine with Barry Dring.

Barry noted that Armistice Day was not the end of the First World War. The Treaty of Versailles came in 1919. The shooting was supposed to stop at 11.00 am. Some did not.

One year earlier, on 11 November 1917, the Third Battle of Ypres had begun. The Australians called it Wipers. More than 250,000 were killed or wounded on the first day. On 11 November 1938 Atatürk died. In 1989 the Berlin Wall came down. New Amsterdam became New York in 1674. Sesame Street first screened in 1969. The dismissal of 1975 was also on 11 November.

> *"When you speak, you are repeating what you already know. When you listen, you may learn something new."*

Guest Speaker — Dominic Brine

The Leeuwin Concert, 1985

Grant Woodhams introduced Dominic Brine. They had met in the 1990s when Dominic was working for the ABC in Sydney and Grant was with the ABC in Geraldton. Dominic later worked for the ABC in Geraldton, then Nowra, then Ballarat, where he was station manager until he retired. He lives in Ballarat with his wife Jai and daughter Isabel. Before the ABC he had been a sound recordist with a TV station Perth.

Dominic talked about his experiences working in TV & illustrated how workplaces have changed & why.

He spoke about how staff would get drunk because no food was provided on an outside broadcast, but beer was plentiful.

Silly things would happen that if they occurred today, they would be all over social media resulting in news stories.



Dominic Brine telling his story.

Questions came from Ian Taylor, Peter Sukiennik and Paul Blackwell. Ian remembered interviews they had done together years ago, including at Geraldton Hospital.



President Bob Hall thanking Dominic Brine with an End Polio Now certificate.

President Bob Hall thanked Dominic with a virtual certificate for 200 polio immunisations in his name.

The Radio Auction

The conversation after the formal session turned to the auction on Sunday. Treasurer Rob Mosel reported the gross total for the auction side at $38,000, with block sponsors and donations bringing the overall figure to $42,287. After the usual small fall-away, the net is expected to be around $41,000. Pledge recovery was over 50 per cent.

Feedback was strong. Dana Hamilton of the ABC was ecstatic. She has offered to help next year. Todd Gray of the radio station said the auction works, it is unique, and it should not be changed.

Clare McElhinney reported 20,000 online views by lunchtime and 40,000 over seven days. Di Gilleland thanked Clare for the Facebook work, Harlem for her help, and the volunteers.

There was a dinner at Mia Restaurant afterwards. A few leftover items remain, including a gold prospecting package. Di asked members to keep an eye out for buyers.

Coming Up

Wednesday 18 November — Club meeting

CWA rooms, Bluff Point, 6.45 for 7.00 am. Continental breakfast. Parking at the back. Guest speaker Bob Hall, Scotland.

Monday 23 November — Club board

Midwest Financial Services. Agenda items and reports to Grant before the meeting.

Wednesday 25 November — Club meeting

CWA Hall, 6.45 for 7.00 am.

30 November — RYLA applications close

Ages 18–28. Camp in mid-January. Grant, or ryla@rotarywa.au.

Wednesday 2 December — Club AGM

Geraldton Golf Club, 6.45 for 7.00 am.

Wednesday 9 December — Club meeting

Geraldton Golf Club, 6.45 for 7.00 am. Guest speaker Bishop Michael Morrissey, a Christmas message.

Saturday 12 December — Christmas function

Tarts & Co., 5.30 to 8.30 pm. Names to Grant.

Register: Christmas Celebration

Wednesday 20 January 2027 — Club meeting

Breakfast at Levy Street Life. Guest speaker Rohan Prowse, Levy Street Life and the Friday Circulars.

Fellowship and Fines

Heads and tails, with a bottle of Shiraz, went to Di Gilleland. There had been some doubt about a raffle prize. Jim found one.

Acting Sergeant Jim Dillon's wrath descended on Bob Hall, Ian Taylor, Clare McElhinney, Grant Woodhams, Di Gilleland and Russell McKinnon. Bob Symington was mentioned in dispatches.

Bob Hall, for the seniors meeting. He bought ticket 13, signifying his birthday, and won a $50 voucher. He also told the room there was no wine left. Jim found a bottle straight away.

Ian Taylor, for the finger. He cut it helping with the auction. His wife, teaching at St John of God, suggested he come in so her eight students could practise, one finger each.

Clare McElhinney, for the Range Rover. Brakes failed. It went on the tow truck. The service vehicle circled and could not find her.

Bob and Grant, for the ABC connection. Dominic paid on their behalf. Dana Hamilton of the ABC was mentioned again. Ian's ears were still ringing from the auction bell.

Russell McKinnon, for his brother's 75th birthday. He gave up his licence. Russell told him to be careful not to get breathalysed on his morning walk.

Those who own a Range Rover rather than a Toyota. Always off-road.

A Word of Thanks

Thank you to Bob for the chair and the Remembrance reminder, to Ian for the invocation, to Jim for the box, to Barry for the poppies and the thought, to Grant for the introduction, to Di for the auction and the numbers, to Clare and Harlem for the online work and the back room, to the volunteers, and to Dominic Brine — for the Leeuwin Concert, the two slabs, the board member, and the reminder that some stories are better left to the people who were there.

— Rotary Club of Greater Geraldton —

Prepared with assistance from Grok (xAI). All content reviewed and verified by the author.