

ROTARY MEETING No. 1770

INVOCATION AND TOAST: to Australia – Ken Roscrow.

INTRODUCTION: Pres Bernie Morgan opened the meeting, welcoming visiting Rotarians Malcolm Macabre (Adelaide Club), Rodger and Glenda Hedley (Norwood) and visitors John and Jenny Lewis, Mark Burns and Jan and David Gregg. Pres Bernie asked everyone to stand for a toast to Rotary International – 100 years last week. He then asked Shauna, Exchange Student, to outline her activities over the past week – she attended a special weekend for exchange students at Tailem Bend, including BBQs, a visit to the Monarto Zoo and water skiing on the Murray. Pres Bernie further reported that a profit from sale of Thorpe Bros Wine from St Marys amounted to \$500, which he put to the Rotary Foundation. He asked for volunteers to man a sausage sizzle outside Foodlands Blackwood (manager Mark Meszaros) on 13 March, 11-2pm – Ian Wicks, Arthur Finch and Reg Tannebring enthusiastically volunteered. Pres Bernie announced the Fleurieu Easter Festival 26-28 March, put on by the RC of Encounter Bay, and called for nominations for Police Officer of the Year (RC of Unley).

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Bob Arnold announced that seats were still available (\$12 each) for the film afternoon Sat 5 March, 2:30pm put on by the Inner Wheel Club (see Jan or Bob); Bob reported on a very successful Prostate Cancer forum courtesy of the City of Mitcham. Bob Lehmann handed round sealed instructions for “Guess-Who-Is-Coming-To-Dinner” on 19 March. Trevor Abbot and Laz Meszaros urged members to sell more tickets for the Musicfest. Gerald Morris asked members to consider attending the presentation by the GSE team from D1020 Scottish Borders at the Thaxted Golf Club, Woodcroft, hosted by the Rotary Club of Noarlunga East on Tues 26 April, 6:15 for 6:45. Gerald has the right accent to go with it. Cherilyn Fleming invited members to buy Gold Rose variety from Ross Roses \$6 each in aid of Rotary Centennial. John Jackson announced that our District Governor for 2005/6 arrived back in Adelaide last Sunday 27 Feb after training at Anaheim.

SERGEANT’S SESSION: Postponed until next week, Serg Graham Roberts has some good fines saved up.

GUEST SPEAKER – David Rusk – “Nepal Project”

Chairman Ken Roscrow introduced PP David Rusk principal of Aberfoyle Hub Primary School, to tell the meeting about his recent visit to Kathmandu, Nepal. David, assisted by Vivien at the computer with PowerPoint, gave an absorbing description of Nepal, its people and in particular school life in Kathmandu, Nepal. His connection with Nepal came from contact with Lachhe Bahadur through the Hedleys, leading to sponsorship by our Club of a teacher from Nepal to develop new skills in our school system – In 2003 Bhawani Kunwar spent 12 weeks with David at Aberfoyle Hub School, and then another teacher Sunita Chand in 2003. Further RC of Blackwood is now sponsoring Ejan Rai, a seven-year old boy whose father was killed by Maoists, Ejan is on a full scholarship. Davis’s aim on the trip was to experience Nepal and speak at conferences and give sessions on training and development at the Surodayo Secondary School in Kathmandu and nearby schools, in addition to making contact with the RC of Dillibazar through its PP Lachhe Bahadur.

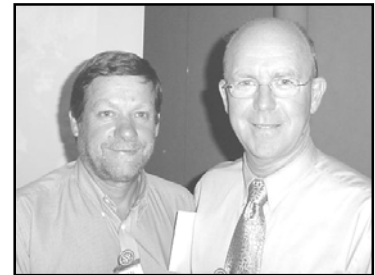
David took us through the breathtaking scenery by way of PowerPoint slides, showed us the people and their colourful costumes and life in Kathmandu. He explained that Nepal had a population of 25 million, its government now in turmoil with conflict between armed services, the King, politicians and the Maoists. There is a caste system, the people are predominantly Hindu with Buddhists and a few Muslims and Christians, within 35 different indigenous groups. David stayed at the schoolhouse for three weeks, and experienced at first hand life in Ghattekulo, the suburb of Kathmandu where the school is situated. He described the pollution in the air, the garbage lying in the streets, the chaos of the city traffic, dogs and cows everywhere foraging in the garbage, beggars, the spitting, constant searches of people by the army/police and the general poverty and lack of real privacy.

The Surodayo school is a private boarding school for children 3 to 16, and has 550 pupils. It has only very basic facilities (eg 40 pupils in a room 8m x 2m), tuition fees approx A\$10 (500 rupees) to A\$22 for senior years. Teachers earn 6,000 rupees per month. David described the students there as hardworking, compliant, coming from families where only 1 in 100 had a car and 5 in 100 a computer. The schoolhouse where David stayed had one bathroom for 15 people, sink drains onto floor, water everywhere. There was no heating or cooling, rubbish was placed in a pile and burnt overnight (no garbage collection). David visited Sunita – her house was full of salt damp, no running water, squat toilet, no tables or chairs. Her husband Dharendra is in the army.

He concluded by saying that he had attended the meetings of the Rotary Club of Dillibazar, they were formal affairs, no meal (just hot, milky, spicy tea and biscuits). David indicated that he would like to maintain a contact with this Rotary Club, and mentioned that he and Vivien are sponsoring Sanjeev Dahal (age 19) to attend university. Chairman Ken thanked David and led the acclamation by all present.

President Bernie thanked all visitors for their attendance and closed the meeting at 8:40pm.

John Jackson – Bulletin Editor



*Chairman Ken with
guest speaker Rotarian David*

DUTY ROSTERS

MEETING NO:	1771	1772	1773	1774
DATE:	8.3.05	15.3.05	22.3.05	29.3.05
FELLOWSHIP:	M Congram	R Green	J Jackson	G Kamm
REG. ASST:	R Dix	S Wymond	S Wymond	C Lloyd
FURNITURE:	R Eccleston	H Henbest		B Matthews
	C Fleming	J Hunter		M McClaren
CHAIRMAN:	Pres Bernie	Tom Davenport	Bob Arnold	Cherilyn Fleming
SPEAKER:		Terina Edwards	Various	Courtney Williams
TOPIC:	CLUB ASSEMBLY	“Out ‘n About”	Aboriginal Reconciliation	“My Year in Sweden”

Club Website: www.rotarnet.com.au/blackwood - Webmaster: Ken Roscrow

COMING EVENTS

March 19:	Guess Who’s Coming To Dinner
April 2:	Musicfest 2005
April 21-24:	Pt Lincoln District Conference
May 2:	Film Night

BIRTHDAYS

March 9:	Alan Eldridge
March 10:	Michael McClaren
March 10:	Patricia Lough
March 12:	Nancy Kamm

ANNIVERSARIES

March 8:	Sue & Reg Wymond
March 10:	Laz & Jane Meszaros