

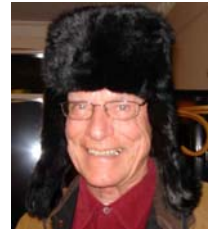
## ROTARY MEETING No. 1883

Sgt Helen Henbest called all to order and Chair Ken Roscrow opened the meeting with the invocation and a toast to Australia (with no body lamenting the absence of the Queen). The bulletin editor noted a lack of port on tables despite 100% attendance last week!!! A special meeting of the protocol committee will be held to censure President Bob for his oversight (= frugality).

### President's Welcome and announcements

President Bob gave a warm welcome to guests (of Ken) Ralph Tortorella, visitor Chris Hall (RCof Darwin) Tania Leonard (Principal of Hawthorndene Primary School) with partner Ralph, and Riannon Harmer and mother Rae. There was then a lengthy delay as President Bob aided by Sgt Helen went on a treasure hunt for notes. President Bob then announced;

- Change next week from committee meetings to a "joke and poetry" night where every member will be expected to provide a joke or poem. Committee meetings will be held if necessary after the fun.
- On the June long weekend, Calperum station will be holding their volunteers "thank you" weekend where all Blackwood Rotarians are invited (talk to President Bob if you would like to attend).
- Director's reports are required to President Bob by next week.
- June 3 Swinging Sunday still required further commitment by members. The Ladies Auxillary is providing tea and coffee prior to the event. Further 50 tickets need to be sold.
- Reminder to register for the District Conference on 12 – 14 October and that sessions from the last District Conference were available on DVD for \$10 each or \$40 the lot.



Make ups – Despite the presence of Geoff Kamm, none were reported.



Raffle was won by David Rusk.

### Announcements

- Jeff Hunter introduced Tania Leonard (Principal of Hawthorndene Primary School and Riannon Harmer who won our Essay Competition. Riannon gave an outstanding speech thanking our Club for the competition and thanking people who had assisted her.
- Cherilyn
  - Told us that Art Show entry forms were available,
  - Gave us an Art Show raffle update (18 prizes worth more than \$6,500).
  - Gave an update of the Centurion program and asked for further commitments.
  - Reminded all of the changeover night and asked for commitment (and money) from members.
- Bernie said that he would be representing the Club at Colebrook Reserve on Saturday at the Reconciliation Week celebration there and asked for other members to attend.



- Ken announced that the Rotary Club of Bogor had received 2 x \$1,000 donations for this Club and that the reconstruction of more than 50 homes after the fires was almost complete.
- Bill Flynn gave an update regarding the Art Show and sought support for it through a dodger that would be circulated.
- John Lewis reported that he and Sue Wymond had represented the Club at the Aboriginal Scholarships presentation by the SA Government where Rotarian Geoff Bailey was recognised. (No rumour updates unfortunately!!)
- Ray Smith spoke of the Swedish GSE team's exposure to frog cakes at Balfours.
- Russell Eccleston promoted the Blackwood Recreation Centre's health program.

Attendance;

Sue Wymond reported 2 make-ups with 37 present and made it 85%.

Sergeant Helen was in fine form (note the pun) and opened with a religious joke, but followed up by making many dip into their pockets. Sam Pearson carried the can. Samples included

- About 95% were fined for their lack of tennis knowledge.
- Graham Roberts and Alan Eldridge were sited for their patriotism (to England).
- Margaret Congram and John Walters were found to be in "True Love".
- Carl Lloyd was with the ladies rather than exercising.
- Bob Lehmann and Robyn Venus engaged in banter about "Sexy Singles".
- Allan Eldridge has never sold a winning raffle ticket from his shop.
- Ray Smith for sleeping in prior to the District Assembly.
- Our guests Ralph and Chris were not spared.
- Graham Lough for retiring (from work as opposed to his nature).
- Etc



Guest speaker Bernie was introduced by Chairman Ken.

Bernie explained that his talk would not consist of a slide show of the places that he and Colleen visited in their 10 weeks overseas travel (29/12/06 to 9/3/07) but would tell of Rotary's role in that journey. When Bernie joined the Blackwood Club (1994) it was constantly involved in the long term Rotary youth exchange program. (He explained this program for the benefit of newer members.) In 1994/5 Blackwood hosted Sofia Olafsgard from Laholm in Sweden. The following year we hosted Maija Sierla from Joensuu in Finland. In 1996, Bernie and Colleen travelled to Finland and Sweden and visited Sofia and Maija and their families. Maija's family have also visited Blackwood and are life long friends to Bernie and Colleen. In 1998, Blackwood hosted YES Caio Rebello from Sao Paulo in Brazil. Caio's brother Arnold came to Australia in about October that year to study English. Arnold stayed in Adelaide for almost 4 years and their mother came to visit in December 1999. In May 2000, Bernie led a Group Study Exchange team to District 2320 in northern Sweden. (He explained this program for the benefit of newer members). In 2001, Blackwood hosted a GSE team from Florida led by Bill Vinson, who stayed with Bernie and Colleen. In 2001, Blackwood hosted a YES (Karin Bringevall) from Halmstad in Sweden.



Bernie and Colleen's overseas trip this year began because Arnold got married in Sao Paulo on 13 January and invited Bernie to be in his wedding party. To attend the wedding, Bernie and Colleen decided to buy an around the world ticket and return home via Finland and Sweden to experience their winter. As a result they flew to Los

Angeles to visit friends there for a week. Then on to Tarpon Springs in Florida where they were hosted for a few days with Bill Vinson at his home on the bayou. They then flew to Sao Paulo where they stayed with Caio and Arnold's family for 3 weeks. In addition to the wedding and staying at Rebello's home and holiday home, they stayed in 3 other holiday homes of family and friends. While visiting one friend in Ubatuba, they spoke with a very poor disabled woman in a Rotary wheelchair foundation chair and visited the Sao Paulo Penna Rotary Club (that sponsored Caio) where they learned that this club manages 150 foundation wheelchairs in that area of Sao Paulo.

From Brazil they flew to Barcelona where they spent a day with Karin Bringevall who is studying there.

Onto Finland where they landed in minus 20 degrees C, and travelled to Joensuu where they spent about 10 days with the Sierla family. Then on by train to Lulea where they were treated like royalty by many people whom Bernie got to know during his GSE visit there in 2000. A Rotarian there organised for B & C to be met in Kiruna (about 200 kilometres above the Arctic Circle) by another Rotarian who took them on a guided tour of the famous Ice Hotel and Sami church in Jugisjarvi. Other adventures in Lulea included driving across the ice in the frozen Baltic Sea to an island and visiting a "summer house".

They travelled by train to Umea where they were hosted by a Rotarian that hosted one of Bernie's GSE team members. He and his wife have also visited B & C. They then went to visit Sofia (and her partner and their one year old) in Sigtuna. They then went on to Halmstad where Karin's family hosted them for a few days, and then on to Uppsala where another Rotarian who hosted Bernie's GSE team for a social night in 2000 in Umea, hosted B & C for a few days. B & C travelled by ferry to Helsinki where they stayed with non-Rotarian friends for two days before flying home.

Bernie provided many photos of the places (from + to minus 30 degrees C) that they visited and the friends that he has made through his involvement in Rotary. The pleasure that he and Colleen had got from their Rotary relationships led them to become members of the Rotary's International Travel & Hosting Fellowship. He concluded by saying that he had got far more out of Rotary than he put into it and he hoped that other members would be inspired by his experiences to join Rotary's many international efforts.

Chairman Ken thanked Bernie and presented him with the usual crystal goblet.

President Bob closed the meeting with the duties for next week and thanked all for their attendance.



Meeting No.	1884	1885	1886	1887
Date	5 June 2007	12 June 2007	19 June 2007	26 June 2007
Fellowship	C Fleming	J Hunter	B Lehmann	P Pargeter
Reg. Assistant	R Hanson	H Henbest	C Lloyd	L Meszaros
Furniture	B Flynn P Geer	B Hughes G Kamm	J Lewis G Lough	S Pearson B Morgan
Chairman	B Arnold	A Finch	B Morgan	Bob Arnold
Speaker	Various	Peter Geer	Jenna Mayne	Various
Topic	Poetry and Joke Night	Life with RAWCS	Hearing and Hearing Loss	Changeover
Bulletin editor	Bernie Morgan	Bernie Morgan	Terry Tierney	Terry Tierney

Coming events	Birthdays	Anniversaries
Sun 3 <sup>rd</sup> June – Swinging Sunday	31 <sup>st</sup> May – Reg Tannebring 31 <sup>st</sup> May – Mary Roberts	1 <sup>st</sup> June – Robyn and Don Venus
Tues 26 <sup>th</sup> June Changeover Night	1 <sup>st</sup> June – Ken Roscrow	
July 12 <sup>th</sup> Art Show	2 <sup>nd</sup> June – Margaret Lloyd	

Club Web Site:

<http://www.rotarnet.com.au/blackwood>

District 9520 Web Site:

<http://www.rotarnet.com.au/9520>

Rotary International Web Site:

<http://www.rotary.org>

