

ROTARY MEETING No. 1778

The Invocation and Toast was given by Chairman for the evening, John Jackson. Pres Bernie opened the meeting, welcoming guest Wanda Taylor, former Exchange Student Jenne DeBoois from the Netherlands, and Canadian Exchange Student Shauna O'Rourke who spoke about her trip to Port Lincoln for the District Conference. She enjoyed the experience, and by selling raffle tickets for the Scottish GSE Team she helped raise \$3,600 for the Eyre Pen. Bushfire Appeal. At Pres Bernie's request Ray Smith spoke on his experiences at the District Conference. It was his first District Conference, he spoke of the large number of projects presented there, all worthwhile, of the Keynote speakers – Joe Puglisi, fishermen extraordinaire, Kirsty Sword Gusmao, first Lady of Timor Leste and others. Ray especially mentioned the fish, & what meals they made !!! Pres Bernie continued, Blackwood won several awards at the Conference, including for membership growth and a Centennial Community Project, and as well won two trophies, one for the best International Project (submitted by Ken Roscrow on the assistance we gave to Nita from Indonesia) and another The Rotary Foundation Trophy (biggest per capita donation). Pres Bernie indicated that Blackwood was in line to nominate a member to go to Tonga in Sept-Oct in relation to the Interplast Project.

MAKE-UP: Many.

RAFFLE: Neil White

ATTENDANCE: Sue Wymond made it 85%.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Jeff Hunter announced that one of the three students we sponsored to the Lake Cullulera Health Of the River Forum won a special award at that forum – Bridget Houldsworth; Gerald Morris presented Pres Bernie with a banner from the Scottish GSE Team (given to him last week at Thaxted Park); Eric Cotton is off to Canada soon, he indicated that Sue Wymond will stand in for him as Registrations Officer until he gets back on 19 July. **All Apologies to Sue on 8383 6876.** Helen Henbest read a goodwill message to the club from our exchange student in Denmark, Sarah Cumpston. Truly an international person now – she says she crossed over to Sweden for lunch the other day !! Nick Capon distributed flyers for the "Climate, Water and Population" Forum, asking members to put them about - the Forum takes place on Sun 29 May at the Performing Arts Centre; John Jackson referred to a card received from Honorary member Doug Symons – he and Shirley send greetings to the club from the Isle of Rhodes, he has been re-elected to the position of Grand Marshall in the Order of St John of Jerusalem; Cheryl Fleming indicated that Bill Perry and Bob Richter will run the raffle that goes with the Arts Show.

SERGEANT Alan Eldridge: Alan cut a swathe through members with his fines and wit. Bill Perry carried the fines box, and it got quite heavy by the time Alan was finished – included were fines on Conference, Convention attendees, Port Power supporters, Gerald Taylor for his steadfast marching in the ANZAC parade on the 25 April, Gerald Morris who interpreted in perfect Scottish the Scots GSE team members last week, Bill Flynn who complained that school had gone back and he had work to do, and many, many others.

GUEST SPEAKER – Neil White

Chairman John Jackson introduced Neil, referring to his membership in the South Mildura Rotary Club 8 years ago. Neil began by telling us that he was born in Goulburn in 1954, his father managed a textile factory there. After moving to Sydney he attended the St Ives High School, explaining that while he was there they abolished the prefect system and students operated under a "workers collective". Neil's story was punctuated with a ready wit and sense of humour, he asked his audience to indicate with a "thumbs up" if they wanted him to continue, "thumbs down" for a finish, but so interesting was his story that it was always "thumbs up" until he wanted to finish !! Neil attended the University of NSW in 1972, graduating with a B.Com. in 1975, and promptly headed to Adelaide with another student in that year. After a while in the Brownhill Creek Caravan Park, they headed for the beachfront to live, his first job was with Hamilton Wines, then Unilever. He married Kathleen in 1978, living at Prospect. Neil then joined Safcol, as wholesale marketing manager, moving to Hong Kong with that company, trading in such things as abalone, shrimp, etc. Neil indicated that at this stage he was travelling 222 days per year, rarely home. He attended the Canton Trade Fair where you could trade anything from an oil tanker to a tooth pick, Vietnam in 1983, he found North Korea "spooky" with its listening devices planted in rooms, interpreters (spies ?) and utter poverty. At this stage Kathleen was also travelling. In 1986 they had twins, and after another few years overseas in Thailand where he re-established Safcol as Kingfisher Holdings, in 1991 he returned to Adelaide. He moved to Mildura (Irymple) to manage a dried fruits company – an industry in decline. While he was there for 9 or so years the output of dried fruits in Australia declined from 90,000 tons to 25,000 tons, and yet his company still made a profit !! Neil recounted a story of the time he went to London to close the their European office, and used the fact that his company had a Royal Warrant from Prince Charles to escape eviction from his accommodation. Neil and Kathleen moved to Adelaide in 1999, and Neil was headhunted for his job with SAWater, as General Manager Retail – he it is who is responsible for those water bills! He and Kathleen live in Belair, both work, and above all for Neil there is no more travel. Kath works with the Guardianship Board, son Shaun is undertaking library studies at TAFE and his daughter disability studies at Flinders University. Neil is pleased to take up Rotary again at Blackwood, he received a standing ovation for his most interesting talk.. **CLOSE:** Pres Bernie closed the meeting at 8:20 pm *John Jackson - Bulletin Editor.*

DUTY ROSTERS

MEETNG NO:	1779	1780	1781	1782
DATE:	10.5.05	17.5.05	24.5.05	31.5.05
FELLOWSHIP:	RVenus	GMorris	TAbbott	NCapon
REG. ASST:	JJackson	JPearce	RSmith	DCollier
FURNITURE:	JWalters	BFlynn	BArnold	MCongram
	JWalton	MBurns	ECaldicott	REccleston
CHAIRMAN:	Russell Eccleston	Pres Shane Claridge	Gerald Morris	John Walters
		Combined meeting with Flagstaff at Belair		
SPEAKER:	Rob McClory	Margie Baltye	Claudine Butterworth	Richard Hayward
TOPIC:	"You and the Consul"	"Reflections on Caring for Kids"	"Alzheimers – living with dementia"	TBA

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

COMING EVENTS	BIRTHDAYS	ANNIVERSARIES
May 15 District Assembly June 7 Club Changeover	May 9 John Walters May 13 Richard Dix	May 9 John & Dianne Walters May 12 George & Rosslyn Sargent