

October 3, 2006

**Blackwood Rotary Club Bulletin Volume 36  
Issue 14**

**Rotary Meeting No.1852**

**Sgt Alan** opened the meeting with the Invocation and Loyal Toast then introduced President Bob Arnold who welcomed members and guests, numbering 89 in all. Special guest speaker Greg Mackie and Krishna Kadawata, our exchange teacher from Nepal were especially mentioned.

**Pres. Bob** explained that following an unsuccessful attempt last year to instigate a series of Community forums along the lines of a Festival Of Ideas he was pleased to host the second of a proposed series of 4 forums this Rotary Year.

Pres. Bob gave a brief reminder of upcoming Club events then invited several members to speak for the good of Rotary.

**Trevor Abbott** reminded those present of the forthcoming Christmas Fair on November 18<sup>th</sup>. Although this does not raise a great deal of money for the Club it facilitates numerous local community groups to set up stalls to use the venue as a fundraiser event.

**Ken Roscrow** spoke about several major International humanitarian projects we are supporting such as Polio Plus, and the Wheelchair Foundation.

**PP Bernie Morgan** gave some statistics about the Shelterbox project which the Club will continue to support again this year. As one of the beneficiaries of Musicfest 2007 it is part of Club policy to spend money where it can positively affect most lives.

**PP David Rusk** was delighted to introduce Krishna, our third exchange teacher from the Surodaya School in Katmandu. Krishna will spend 3 months, based at Aberfoyle Park School, experiencing teaching methods and educational technology in Australia. Krishna spoke briefly to thank the Club for sponsoring him and passed on his best wishes to us all.

**Bob Lehmann** advised members that Nur had arrived today from Indonesia for cranio-facial surgery at the Women and Children's Hospital. Nur is jointly sponsored by the RC Clubs of Bogor and Blackwood.



Pres. Bob then introduced guest speaker **Greg Mackie** who is the Executive Director of Arts SA.

Greg is a well known Adelaide personality through his 20 years association with the IN PRINT Bookshop, the Festival of Ideas, Adelaide Writers' Week and as a former member of the Adelaide City Council. Greg has been awarded the OAM for his contribution to the Arts.



The role of the artist is to be part of a conversation, which crosses international boundaries, time and generations. The Arts are a very important part of SA's identity, with the Adelaide Festival of Arts now 50 years old.

There is an abundance of artistic talent and creativity which must be funded by a finite resource (currently the State budget for the Arts is \$105 million) and to this is added personal contributions, corporate sponsorship and volunteers' time.

Greg's role requires blending politics, diplomacy, tact and charm, as well as often being the bearer of bad news to unsuccessful applicants. His portfolio involves management of 72 buildings (30 of these are State Heritage listed). Buildings include the Adelaide Festival Centre, Carclew, Carrick Hill, 4 Regional theatres (Renmark, Mt Gambier, Port Pirie and Whyalla), along with the Art gallery, the Museum, the State Library and 134 public libraries across the State. Also the History

Trust Museums come under his jurisdiction, the Maritime Museum, Birdwood Mill and the Migration Museum.

Arts SA supports an Art Conservation service with consultants for maintaining and preserving public and private works of art.

SA has a passion for festivals such as the Adelaide Festival of Arts, the Fringe, Festival of Ideas, WOMAD, Regional festivals, Youth art festivals. Adelaide has been chosen to host the 2008 World Congress of Youth Theatre.

The Adelaide Fringe is planned to become an annual event rather than biennial, as WOMAD has likewise evolved.

In reply to an often-cited criticism of the Arts as being elitist, Greg compared it with sport, where we highly value and celebrate our talented and elite athletics and sporting figures.

The Arts in SA offer a rich and diverse table of options. There needs to be a choice for those who enjoy and appreciate the Arts. Not everyone has the same taste. Personal interest and passions need to be catered for, from opera to cabaret. We are good audiences. We need to experiment, and we need to offer affordable art experiences for all sections of the community. Greg quoted Wagner's Ring Cycle as a world first, which brought not only a wide international audience but added significantly to the State's tourism coffers.

#### Greg's personal Vision for the Arts

- That more South Australians will value and engage in the Arts.
- That we can celebrate humanity through culture, in the broader sense.
- That we must develop a more sustainable aspect of the Arts
- Individual support is important, as audiences, and visitors to galleries and museums
- We need to show emerging creative talents that they are valued and give young people a reason to stay in Adelaide, and Australia.
- The Australian Dance Theatre has become world-renowned. Why not other local groups?
- The Adelaide Symphony Orchestra's 2007 Programme has some exciting innovations, combining their traditional excellence in classical performance with the introduction of modern and popular music.
- As over 16,000 people are employed in the applied arts and creative industry it is an important economic sector.

Questions included seeking the role of the government in supporting more fully the Arts to keep young talent at home. Greg replied that we are always going to grow more artists than we can support locally, a matter of supply and demand with our relatively small population. Also the Government has limitations on its budgets, with health and education vying for larger shares.

In response to a question about the role of the Arts as therapy Greg acknowledged the important role of Arts in health and well-being and suggested that the support of the Arts through local government needs to be strengthened.

President Bob thanked Greg for his talk. Next week's duty roster was given out as a reminder. Cheryl Fleming was thanked for her role as convenor of the evening.



Meeting No.	1853	1854	1855	1856
<b>Date</b>	<b>10 Oct 2006</b>	<b>17 Oct 2006</b>	<b>24 Oct 2006</b>	<b>31 Oct 2006</b>
<b>Fellowship</b>	K Oliver	M Congram	S Sedivy	P Geer
<b>Reg. Assistant</b>	J Brown	E Caldicott	I Docherty	B Flynn
<b>Furniture</b>	D Collier E Cotton	A Eldridge A Finch	R Green R Hanson	R Green R Hanson
<b>Chairman</b>	K Roscrow	TBA	E Caldicott	J Hunter
<b>Speaker</b>	Elizabeth Caldicott	Geoff Fisher	Julie Bennett	Ben Calcraft
<b>Topic</b>	Sri Lanka and Dubai	Pride of Workmanship	Sex and the Aging	Aboriginal History of Adelaide Plains & Hills
<b>Bulletin editor</b>				

Coming events	Birthdays	Anniversaries
Nov 18 <sup>th</sup> Christmas Fair	Oct 3 Arthur Finch	Oct 5 Tom and Marlene Davenport
	Rhys Roberts	Oct 6 Helen Henbest and Rhys Roberts
	Oct 16 Barbara Long	Oct 7 Ian and Eleanor Docherty
	Oct 26 Shirley Symons	Oct 9 Ken and Mary Prime
	Oct 30 Jayne Meszaros	Nov 3 John and Margaret Kings

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>

