

Invocation and Toast

Chair, Sergeant Tom Davenport gave the invocation and toast to Australia while Chairperson, Bernie Morgan waited for Guest Speaker

Welcome

President Bob welcomed members, guests and the speaker Claire O'Connor.

**President Bob's Announcements**

- Welcome back to Robbi Huey-Williams
- The Board has approved an increase in the cost of dinners – to be \$20.
- The first of our Forums made a profit of \$384.
- Honorary Rotarian Graham Roberts has applied for full membership.
- Iain Evans has accepted a renewal of his Honorary membership
- Dr Andrew Southcott has accepted an invitation to become an Honorary Rotarian and has also forwarded a donation to the Club.
- The Board has received another nomination for membership – further details will be forthcoming.
- Reminder that Greg Mackie will be speaking on October 3 in the second of our forums and for members to ensure that they confirm their final numbers with Cherilyn Fleming.
- Bob reminded members of the Calperum Station visit during the weekend of October 28/29 and the Fox Creek Winery visit on October 15th.
- Calperum Station will be working with TAFE to deliver Units in a Land Management Course.
- Volunteering at the Lions Shed has begun for September – please let Bob Richter know of your availability – if a good number volunteer – it will be an effortless fundraising exercise.
- The wine bottling has been organised for November 5. See Graham Lough for further details.
- We have been asked by Meals on Wheels to move the archives to the book shed.



Raffle: Attendance: 42 members present 80%
Apologies to Eric Cotton for next 2 weeks

Makeups: Geoff Kamm
ADG Bernie Morgan has been attending a number of meetings in his role as ADG. The Rotary Club of Edwardstown (35 members) has identified approximately 30 prospective members from a recently held forum. They have also implemented several noteworthy programs. They are providing meals for disadvantaged Primary School children on a regular basis and are in the process of revamping a garden near the overpass on South Road that will display a Rotary sign that will be viewed by vehicles travelling along South Road.
President Bob Arnold represented the Club at the 19th Birthday Morning Tea of the Ladies Probus Club.

Announcements for the Good of Rotary

- Pride of Workmanship night is October 17. There has only been one nomination so far – please consider this award. See Neil White for further information.
- Committee meetings tonight.
- ALL members - Please promote Greg Mackie forum as widely as possible.
- Volunteers required to assist at the Lions Shed on Saturdays in September.
- The Rotary Core Group will meet next week.

Sergeant Tom's Fines

- Ralph Green carried the box
- Neville Newton and Trevor Abbott for being too tight to attend the footie finals
- Bill Perry fixed the lock on the Meals on Wheels door after installing it upside down.
- Neil White for stating that the water in Blinman is unfit to drink.
- John Jackson looked everywhere for the President Board only to find he had delivered it to the Trophy House for updating and had forgotten to collect it.
- etc



Speaker – Claire O'Connor – Sentencing in Court

Bernie Morgan introduced the speaker Claire O'Connor.

Claire is a Barrister working in private practice. A lawyer since 1980, Claire has primarily worked until last year in legal aid; both here and in New Zealand. Her main focus has been criminal law and human rights and she has been involved in refugee work during the last 5 years.



Claire described some effects that emerge during and after a sentencing in court - there can be misinformation regarding the circumstances surrounding decisions made by the courts and some sentences. This is often fuelled by the media and door-stop interviews that don't necessarily present either a balanced view or all of the facts that have been presented in the court. Courts are public forums and Claire encouraged people to attend the courts to gain an experience of how the courts work. And, maybe when the media presents a certain view, people will have a better understanding that this may not represent the whole picture.

Mental health issues affect approximately 50% of people who attend court. Those with severe mental health issues are dealt with separately. Claire then raised the issue of whether gaol is the right place for many of these people. Should we gaol these people? Do gaols help or punish them? Gaols punish and for every \$1 spent on assistance per prisoner in South Australia there is \$50 spent per prisoner in Victoria. In Victoria prisoners between the ages of 18 and 21 must undertake an education program. Education is not a soft option as it often involves prisoners doing something that has been extremely difficult in the past. Illiteracy rates in prisons are very high. There is a measurable outcome with these education programs are they are proving to be very successful. The State with the lowest crime rate is Victoria.

Claire then outlined the fact that some 97% of female prisoners in South Australia have been seriously sexually or physically assaulted under the age of 16 years. They too have been the victims of very serious crimes. The people who have abused these women may not have been punished for what they

have done. Claire stated that it is important that these factors are taken into consideration when sentencing.

If a sentence appears to be light other factors that have not appeared in the media may have been taken into consideration. There needs to be a balance.

Claire then described other diversionary programs that come under the Magistrate Court.

- Mental Health Program – 1 year working with the assistance of a social worker or psychologist.
- Domestic Violence Program – assists victims and offenders.
- Aboriginal Program – involves Elders from the community sitting with the Magistrate. This can often result in harsher penalties for the offenders and has a high success rate.

The recidivist rate in South Australia has been reduced – but it is still too high.

Bernie Morgan thanked Claire O'Connor for her interesting talk.

Bob's closing remarks

- President Bob thanked the speaker and visitors for joining us
- Reminder that 3 people are needed to assist at the Lions Sheds
- Please think of invitations for friends and acquaintances to the Greg Mackie night on October 3.
- Accommodation for the District Conference is filling up fast – please see John Jackson or Bob Arnold for dates etc.

Bulletin Editor – Cheryl Fleming



Meeting No.	1849	1850	1851	1852
Date	12 Sept 2006	19 Sept 2006	26 Sept 2006	3 Oct 2006
Fellowship	K Prime	R Tannebring	R Wheaton	N White
Reg. Assistant	B Richter	R Huey-Williams	T Tierney	I Wicks
Furniture	J Pearce B Perry	D Rusk R Smith	R Venus J Walters	M Burns T Abbott
Chairman	B Arnold	K Roscrow	Helen Henbest	B Arnold
Speaker	Various	Elizabeth Caldicott	Terry Crabbe	Greg Mackie
Topic	Club Assembly	ROMAC	Newell Foundation (Old Ghan Railway)	Something Interesting About the Arts
Bulletin editor	Cherilyn Fleming	Cherilyn Fleming	Cherilyn Fleming	Cherilyn Fleming

Coming events	Birthdays	Anniversaries
Oct 3 rd Greg Mackie Speaks	Sept 13 Lorna Darwin	Sept 22 Iain and Fiona Evans
Nov 18 th Christmas Fair	Oct 3 Arthur Finch	Sept 24 Bernie Morgan and Colleen Penny
	Rhys Roberts	Sept 27 Eric and Pauline Cotton
	Oct 16 Barbara Long	Oct 5 Tom and Marlene Davenport
	Oct 26 Shirley Symons	Oct 6 Helen Henbest and Rhys Roberts

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>

