

**Rotary e-Clubs:** Two years after Europe's first Rotary e-club was chartered, the members of the Rotary E-Club of Verkkorotary (which means Rotary on the Web) in Finland say they're so tightly knit that one member recently participated in the online meeting while on a flight from Teheran, Iran, to Frankfurt, Germany.

The charter president of the club, Matti Keijola, says the fellowship among Verkkorotary's 30 members is strong because no member has to miss a meeting, even if he or she is thousands of miles away from the club's headquarters in Finland. "Our only boundaries are technical connections and time," says Matti Kivinen, a past district governor. As a septuagenarian, Kivinen says he's the opposite of a computer geek, but he finds the technology easy and fun to use.

On three out of four Tuesdays every month, the Finnish e-club members from District 1420 meet online at 9 p.m. (Finnish time) in a virtual conference room, logging on from anywhere with an Internet connection.

Equipped with microphones and Web cameras, the participants can see and talk to one another, while simultaneously chatting online. They can click on a smiley face symbol to express laughter and on a clapping hands symbol for applause. The meetings are very lively, says Kivinen. "Seeing and hearing one another makes all the difference. Otherwise, it would just be an online chat."

To avoid online chaos, the electronic-meeting chairman decides who gets the microphone at any given time and whose Web camera image to post for all to see. A maximum of four faces can be displayed at once. "It's not like you can leave and make yourself a sandwich. You better be prepared to have the camera switched on to you," occasional chairman Hannu Aronsson jokes. Meetings are recorded and can be re-experienced at any time.

Thanks to the available technology, those who can't attend the terra (in-person) meetings can participate online, which results in an original mix of live and online meetings.

## Roster:

	<b>This week</b>	<b>Next Week</b>
Program	Dr Sinclair Dinnen	Eric Kenning
Introduction	Solomon Islands-Relevance to Australia	Film and TV in Canberra
Appreciation	Des Pain	David Fox
Sergeant	Gary Scott	Peter Evans
Fellowship	Neale Emanuel	Neale Emanuel
	Bruce Wyatt	Ken Goard
	Ray Newcombe	Des Henderson Kelly
Raven Recorder	Des Henderson Kelly	John Gray
Birthdays	nil	Phil Ibbotson 9th June
		Jenny Fox 12th June
Anniversaries	nil	John and Pixie Gray 13th June
Trash & Treasure	4th June Des H-Kelly-John Gray	11th June Shukry Sahhar-Ian Excell
	18th June Ray Newcombe-Ros Osbourne	25th June Tom Davies-Bob Harvie

# The Raven

*The Weekly Bulletin of the Rotary Club of Canberra-Woden Inc.*

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## This Week:

**Dr Sinclair Dinnen**

on

## **The Solomon Islands and their relevance to Australia**



## Last Week:

**Attendance:** 75.86% welcoming our peripatetic member Jim Grainger.

**President John** opened the meeting and tabled an e-mail from a former Ambassadorial scholar, Maeka Otsu who is now happily teaching and asks about our country's use of fluoridation of water supplies.

John Gray showed us some bits from the mail-box - a complete catalogue from the Perth Mint, and letters covering the Rotary Wine Project from the Barossa Valley.

Ian excel circulated a draft T & T Roster seeking members' responses

The Treasurer, Noel, distributed cheques for donations to charities for individual members to take where they have connection with the said organizations.

John Gray reported on progress with a meeting with Winnunga Nimmityjha to present a Rotary Centennial Project Achievement Award to one of their members at the end of August, to plan a gardening project to renovate an enclosed courtyard, and to consider another Award for a new scheme where young aborigines are trained in a workshop at Fyshwick in car panel repairs and spray-painting.

The secretary reminded incoming Board members of a Planning Meeting after next week's meeting.

**This week's speaker** was introduced by Eric Taylor with a brief resumé which



**SERVICE Above Self**

was expanded as Ian Excell told of his fascinating and varied life path through a journey of discovery.

Life began in Adelaide with time at the Teachers College and University getting a Degree in science & maths. At short notice he made the trip to Cowell, a fishing and agricultural region, half-way down the Eyre Peninsula 100 Ks south of Whyalla. to be the first qualified science teacher at the high school for several years being encouraged by an outstanding school principal. No time to be idle as he drove the school bus at the ends of each day. In partnership with a herpetologist Ian planted out a nature park nearby.



Now a turning-point and off to Canada to the state of Alberta beyond the Rockies onto the Prairies for 5 years in a community influenced by Hutterites a closed Christian sect who unlike the Amish embraced technology to make their farming practices highly efficient. Basically Christian they make great emphasis on shared property, community ownership of land, isolation from the rest of the community and speak German. This provided a background of a conservative way of life but where his enthusiasm for teaching and science was able to thrive.



He taught science (biology, physics and maths) in Lethbridge High School, finding there a progressive educational system with some freedom to move into the edges of study and undertake a couple of extra degrees with study at night in psychology among other subjects. Class sizes were small by our standards and Summer Schools and student trips were undertaken to widen the view of both teacher and pupil.

The weather was oppressive and after 5 years came yearnings to check out Australia again. After the enthusiasms of the school environment in Canada he met a road block in Adelaide. Neither of his extra degrees nor years of service were recognised by the Adelaide school system. With great wisdom in retrospect he switched over to the Commonwealth Teaching Service (in which service his Canadian degrees were recognised) in the field of student counselling, met a fellow-counsellor, Val whom he later wedded.

Over some years he counselled in many of the Canberra high schools, Canberra High at first, then there was a couple of years in Christmas Island (not such a good idea for health reasons), and back to Canberra. Then came a smooth transition into computer sales. The Commodore computer came into the world followed by IBM

and Toyota clones. He joined a mate in selling these providing installation and after sales service finding the life of a salesman most satisfying with long hours but contented clients.

Microsoft took him on and a novel marketing ploy was adopted. The client buys a computer, the vendor goes out with the necessary discs, loads the computer, sets it up and the buyer pays. The discs are held by Ian's group and used over and over. This may have been termed "volume licensing" in the early days of computer marketing.

Visits to Microsoft in America have given Ian a considerable insight into the integrity of the organization, and respect for Bill Gates the principal in the provision of his brand of computer technology.

In retrospect, his training in psychology had enriched his engagement with clients turning selling into a fun activity. He assures us that he knows nothing of what goes on inside computers! He is now privately employed in the IT industry.

Des Pain expressed our appreciation to Ian. *With thanks to Raven Recorder Ken Goard*

**One Hundred Percenters:** So far this year we congratulate the two members who have made 100% - Val Bland, and Bruce Wyatt. Des Henderson Kelly who has previously been in this distinguished band many times, has missed out this year as he was sick one week and was unable to make up.

**Our Changeover Dinner** will be on Wednesday 21 June at 6.00 for 6.15pm at the Embassy Motel, \$30 per person. Ros will be away from 30 May until 13 June and Bruce Wyatt will be coping with the attendance in her absence. Please email Bruce <bwyatt@netspeed.com.au> in the next two weeks if you are unable to attend the meeting. Numbers and payments are needed by 14 June at the latest.

**70th Birthday:** Jim Grainger celebrated his 70th Birthday on 26th May. Jim has been 35 years a member of the Club so has been a member for half his life!!

**Board members 2005-06**

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 Treasurer: Noel Hart  
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