

**A Reforestation Project.** Last year, Rotary clubs in Nairobi, Kenya, hosted the colorful launch of a reforestation project on the city's outskirts to celebrate Rotary's centennial. They hoped the effort would become a longstanding tradition for area Rotarians.

Harry Mugo, a member of the Rotary Club of Nairobi North who helped coordinate the event, said at the time, "[We] intend to adopt tree planting at Karura Forest as an annual event for the next 100 years in an effort to restore the forest's lost glory."

A year later, in what some Nairobi Rotarians are calling "a friendly takeover," the clubs' initiative has been embraced by the public and the local business community in a way that no one could have predicted.

"We didn't have to return to Karura this year," explains Bimal Kantaria, of the Rotary Club of Westlands-Nairobi, who has been closely involved with the effort. "The project has really picked up, and everybody is planting trees on all sorts of occasions. The whole area has been taken over by different organizations."

Barclays Bank and Kenya's leading media companies, Nation Media Group and East African Standard, are among the firms that have sponsored major tree-planting activities at Karura Forest since the Nairobi Rotary clubs launched the project.

At the 2005 inaugural event, Rotarians, Rotaractors, and Interactors helped plant 2,300 indigenous tree seedlings in a bid to reverse the environmental degradation caused by human encroachment. As a result of the partnership with businesses and area residents, much of the targeted acreage of depleted forest land has already been reclaimed.

"Our biggest worry was that the long drought in the country would kill off our project," says Kantaria. "Luckily, we've had good rains in the past month, and the trees are doing very well."

### *Roster:*

	<b><i>This week</i></b>	<b><i>Next Week</i></b>
Program	Ian Excell From Chalkie to Computer Whiz	Dr Sinclair Dinnen Solomon Islands-Relevance to Australia
Introduction	Des Pain	Eric Taylor
Appreciation	Ian Excell	Gary Scott
Sergeant	Neale Emanuel	Neale Emanuel
Fellowship	Phil Ibbotson Ajit Banerjee	Bruce Wyatt Ray Newcombe
Raven Recorder	Ken Goard	Des Henderson Kelly
Birthdays	Jim Grainger 26th May, Gary Scott 29th. May.	nil
Anniversaries	nil	nil
Trash & Treasure	28th May Bruce Wyatt-Ros Osbourne 11th June Shukry Sahhar-Ian Excell	4th June Des H-Kelly-John Gray 18th June Ray Newcombe-Ros Osbourne

# The Raven

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

*No 46 Vol 38 Wednesday 24th May 2006*

## *This Week:*

**Ian Excell**

on

## **From Chalkie to Computer Whiz**

## *Last Week:*

Semi Sergeant Neale Emanuel opened the meeting, calling on our resident Italian baritone Carlo to start the Anthem.

President John Widdup then welcomed the members to **Club Assembly**, there being no guests, before asking Val Bland to talk. She called for volunteers for the working bee on Saturday 18th November to continue our association with the restoration of the outdoor facilities of the Greenhills Centre after the bushfire disaster. Volunteers are required to bring their tools and food, to work from 9 am till noon followed by a barbecue lunch. Val also announced that the changeover dinner would be on the June 21 and that the recipients of various cheques from our funds would be present.

Bruce Wyatt asked for support teams for the Adventure in Citizenship Program commencing Monday 14th August. Gary Scott will be the Director on day 1 which will be a tour of Parliament House followed by lunch with the Canberra Club at the Hyatt and the volunteers were Ros, Bernadette and Robin. Day 2 will be led by Hugh Dakin in role playing in Parliament, a reception by the Governor General followed by dinner at the Embassy. Day 3 is hosted by Neale Emanuel in visiting the CSIRO Discovery Centre, lunch at the Botanic Gardens and Bowling at Belconnen. Days 4 & 5 will be hosted by the Canberra Rotary Club members.

Bernadette is in charge of hosting the students and is giving out surprises for those who volunteer amongst whom was Piers who didn't scratch a win. Next to rise was a Latin scholar,



**SERVICE Above Self**

Phil, declaiming “Mea maxima culpa” for his failure to remind the potential speaker for the last meeting, Ian Sayers. The scholar promised that Ian would now be appearing on the 14th of June 2006.

President John reported on the Board meeting from last week. The Board was happy to leave a healthy balance in order to give the incoming committee a good start in its charitable endeavours. Balances of \$10,000 and \$15,000 were left in the operating and project accounts, while the following charities received,

Woden Community service	\$500
Rotary Foundation	3000
Australian Rotary Health Research Fund	3000
RAIC	900
St. John ACT	1000
ROMAC	1500
TADACT	500
Southcare Helicopter	500
Open Family	1000
NYSF (Special Olympiads)	3000
Pegasus	500
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$15400</b>

Keith Avent reported on the Wishing Well at the hospital which has enabled the purchase of a few good artworks but now it is appropriate to change the direction of the proceeds in order to help patients. This year a volunteer dived in the pool for \$1700, so garden furniture was donated and a request was made for SPANCO folding beds and mattresses for emergency accommodation.

Peter Evans spoke on behalf of the St John Council who is trying to become independent of fund raising by establishing a fund of \$1,000,000. They run courses for CPR and First Aid and are finding it difficult to attract volunteers in spite of the numbers going through its courses, even though Peter admitted that he is not hot at CPR.

Our Secretary, John Gray, then tried to sell tickets to a concert sponsored by ActewAGL and the Canberra City Corporation at a small fee of \$250 ea. He then encouraged members to attend the District Assembly when Dick Ewing, the incoming DG, will be telling his idea of the Rotary Family which includes the community of schools and shops and putting out a newsletter to them which may include advertising by joint Rotary club action promoting a youth protection policy.

President elect Ray Newcombe spoke on the incorporation of District Committees because Past DG Bob Greaney pointed to the lack of insurance for those members and the \$50,000 excess needing to be covered by these policies. These members are associates of the district and district projects are joint affairs with other clubs and not covered.

President John spoke of the problem of harassment and that there must be pro-

cesses to forestall problems, in which case we should have a student protection officer and a Club Councilor. Rex Hunt reported on progress with the Winnunga Nimmityjha Community for the long haul but has only just been able to get the first meeting the following day.

The Driver Reviver Program is getting organized with supplies and the odd local electricity bill. Shukry sees October 2 as being the last day of operation, if there is not too much snow. Payment to the tip for Trash and Treasure has been organized by Robin Cramer. It is to be charged to the Rotary Club WODEN Inc.

Ken Goard got on the bandstand by telling how he defeated banjo damage by making little wooden boxes for TADACT. The President Elect briefed us on his outline for the future year as being to build with new members, especially younger workers and form a relationship with another district club.

In general discussion David Fox advocated the idea of putting the major part of our hard earned funds into a significant project to get a bigger benefit than spreading it around small areas which are not noticed. Larger sums, like \$7000, would help improve the Thai project particularly if the Belconnen Club could be persuaded to be involved. Neale would like to concentrate on local needs, while Gary thought we should join different organizations to further our influence and spread any expertise but Phil observed that donees don't usually later join the club.

Des Pain, as Bulletin Editor this year, said that the incoming Board needs a Bulletin Editor or even some Egofers, or Corporals. Four volunteers put their hand up.

Finally the sergeant team closed the evening with some possibly true jokes. *With thanks to Who Else but Recorder Bob Harvie.*

**Attendance matters:** Make-ups: Jim Grainger-Roseville and Young, Gary Scott-T&T, Piers Booth-Parking. Members present: 27 Percentage 89.65% Ros Osbourne advised that Bruce Hall had moved up to Boambee East (south of Coff's Harbour) and that Joy was up to her second last treatment and slowly clearing all the boxes....*Best wishes from all of us, Joy.*

**Board members 2005-06**

President John Widdup  
 Secretary: John Gray  
 Immed. Past President: Peter Evans  
 President Elect : Ray Newcombe  
 Treasurer: Noel Hart  
 Club service: Ray Newcombe  
 Community Service: Bruce Hall  
 International Service: Piers Booth  
 Vocational Service: Shukry Sahhar  
 Youth Service: Gary Scott

**Office holders**

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