

Pixie Gray OAM...



Our Club is delighted to offer its congratulations to Pixie on the Award presented to her on Australia Day.

The *Canberra Times* of 25th January had this to say: "Eileen "Pixie" Gray is as bright and enthusiastic about music and life these days as she's ever been. Soon to turn 70 and proud of it, she was so busy this week that she almost didn't have time to think about her Medal of the Order of Australia for service to music and especially to the University of the Third Age's Warrani Chorale, which she founded in 1998. "It's more than just a choir— we call it the sisterhood," she said. She's

just entered the chorale in the ABC Classic FM Choir of the Year competition, and done battle with the ABC over the need for a senior section, which they won't introduce for another four years. For choir members are aged between 60 and 80, that's a long time to wait. Mrs Gray said it was important to keep up the interest of choristers. Many had come out of classical choirs, but in the Warrani Chorale they found themselves singing everything from madrigals to jazz, a recent addition being the pop classic *Cry Me a River*.

"Well known throughout Canberra's music community, Mrs Gray was a teacher at Girls' Grammar School and Forrest Primary, and vice-president of Canberra Philharmonic Society, for which she directed or performed in more than 40 productions. She was a founding member of the a cappella group *Sophisticated Swing*, stage director for *Canberra Opera Singers*, *Canberra Opera for Schools*, the *Woden Valley Youth Choir* and *Canberra School*. In addition, as a volunteer she has recorded 27 books for the "Hear a Book" service. She's now busy working out plans for the chorale for the next seven years of music-making in Canberra."

Roster:

	This week	Next Week
Program	Barry Howe and Harold Small John Loutitt Memorial Hall	Adrian Johnson Search and Rescue
Introduction	Carlo Binutti	Ray Newcombe
Appreciation	Neale Emanuel	Rex Hunt
Sergeant	David Fox	David Fox
Fellowship	Shukry Sahhar Des Henderson Kelly	Eric Taylor Des Pain
Raven Recorder	Ken Goard	Robin Cromer
Birthdays	nil	nil
Anniversaries	Murray and Edna Crowe 2nd Feb Keith and Yvonne Avent 10th Feb	Murray and Edna Crowe 2nd feb Keith and yvonne Avent 4th Feb
Trash & Treasure	5th Feb Des H-Kelly-Pamela Best 19th Feb Gary Scott-Eric Taylor	12th Feb Robin Cromer-Ajit Banerjee 26th Feb Bruce Wyatt-Val Bland

The Raven

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Tonight: Barry Howe and Harold Small

on

John Loutitt Memorial Rotary Hall

at Greenhills Conference Centre

Last Week:

Akha Hill Tribe Centre

Piers Booth reported that 5 Club members would depart on Saturday 28 January for Chiang Mai. They will be back on Sunday 12 February. They will be part of a total party of 36 Rotarians from 7 Rotary Clubs. We wish them well and extend our thanks to Piers for his initiative.

Canberra Show Parking

Gary Scott reported on progress with his organisation of our parking commitments at Canberra Show on 24, 25 & 26 February. He distributed a roster for the 3 days and asked everyone to recruit assistants where possible. This roster has since been distributed by e-mail to all members. Please note that Gary is a member of the Chiang Mai project and thus will not be contactable for two weeks. Gary has asked that, in his absence, everyone get themselves well prepared for this important fund-raising event as there will be very little time left after his return.



SERVICE Above Self

Canberra Hospital Residences

Some years ago the wife of a US Rotarian was seriously injured in a motor vehicle accident in Canberra and spent several months in Canberra Hospital. Her husband became a resident of the Hospital and attended our meetings. He had nothing but praise for his time in the residences.



It was great therefore last week to hear from Diane Seckold who has run the residences, previously nurses quarters, from 1997 to the present. They are located in the north-west sector of the Canberra Hospital Campus. Staff have a very close relationship with hospital staff and they work together to solve difficult problems.

Diane pointed out that Canberra Hospital has a huge catchment area which stretches as far afield as Bathurst and Wollongong in the north and the Victorian border in the south. The residences are thus of great importance to relatives of patients from NSW and overseas. Discharged patients who are unable to return to their homes can also be accommodated there - ACT patients require a Doctor's certificate. Since 1999 some 120,000 people have stayed in the residences.

The residences operate every day of the year 24 hours a day. Office hours are 8am to 6pm. Three rooms are held for arrivals outside these hours. Some people can stay for many months, including mothers of premature babies.

Apart from basic room and bathroom facilities the residences also have: lounge with TV; kitchen; laundry; a Rotary Garden (RC of Weston Creek); and a children's playroom. The latter is in need of some refurbishment.

Diane's presentation was well received and it is clear that the Canberra Hospital residences are in good hands. *With thanks to Raven Recorder John Gray.*

Attendance Matters: Club Guest: Diane Seckold; Other Guest: Jan Barker (Val Bland), Make-ups: 6 at Trash and treasure (credited to last week), Jim Grainger-Hervey Bay. When I sat down quietly at home and divided by 29 instead of 30, the following

percentages came up.

11 January 20 members 10 guests 68.96%

18 January 6 members 1 guest 5 makeups 37.93%

25 January 22 members 72.41%

Month of January 59.64%

At least now I can get some decimal points Ros

World Understanding Month

February is a special month in the Rotary calendar as it has not only been designated World Understanding Month but also includes the anniversary of the first meeting of Rotary held on 23rd February 1905, now designated World Understanding and Peace Day.

In designating World Understanding Month, the Rotary International board asks all Rotary Clubs to plan programmes for their weekly meetings, and undertake special activities, to emphasise understanding and goodwill as essential for world peace.

Visit to D9710 of RI President Carl-Wilhelm Stenhammar

Everyone should know by now that RI President Cari-Wilhelm Stenhammar will be visiting D9710 in March 2006.

On Thursday 23rd March, Carl-Wilhelm will be visiting Bega - and on Friday 24th March he will visit Goulburn Argyle.

This is a unique opportunity to hear the RI President speak and you are encouraged to try to attend one of these meetings. If you want to hear Cari-Wilhelm speak, it would be good idea to contact either Bega Club or Goulburn Argyle to let them know that you will be attending, and (if needed) book your accommodation.

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