



Board Directors

Other officers

President: Shukry Sahhar
 Secretary & Public Officer: Keith Avent
 Immediate Past President: David Fox
 President Elect: Ros Osbourne
 Treasurer: Noel Hart
 Club & Membership: John Widdup
 Community & Public Relations: Bernadette Cappello
 Vocation & Internal Leadership: Norma Donaldson
 International & Foundation: Neale Emanuel
 Youth Development: Gary Scott

Bulletin: Robin Cromer/John Gray
 Attendance Chief: Ros Osbourne
 Attendance Desk: Bernadette Cappello
 Program: Neale Emanuel (Acting)
 Sergeant: Neale Emanuel/David Fox & Gary Scott
 Archives: Keith Avent
 Member Data: Ken Goard
 Webmaster: Robin Cromer

Contact Information

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Previous Issues of the Raven

Web: <<http://www.rotanet.com.au/canberrawoden>>

**Organiser of the Rotary Scenic Cycle Tour of Canberra.
 Held annually in September.**



THE RAVEN

THE WEEKLY BULLETIN OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF WODEN

NEW AWARDS

The Club has presented three awards to mark the closure of the about-to-be demolished Embassy Motel and to recognise a job well done by three of its staff. At our last meeting Mary Damassis (left) and Irene Thompson were awarded the George Paulus Vocational Service Award and Honorary Membership of the Club respectively.



Subsequently Chef Ricky Salaysay was also recognised with a George Paulus Vocational Service Award. All three have provided outstanding service over many years at numerous meetings held there by various organisations, including Rotary. President Shukry thanked them and wished them all well in the future.

Irene, our new Honorary Member, has been of service to Club members for most of the time we have met at the Embassy Motel.

Honorary Members are those elected by our Club as persons who have exemplified the ideals of Rotary in their lives.

They have included: Sir William Hudson; Sir Mark Oliphant; former member Dick Peisley; Clarrie Hermes; Sir John Overall; former members Dick van Arkel and Bob Scott; and Jon Stanhope.

In addition to Irene Thompson, our current Honorary Members are former members Rex Hunt and Frank Macklin and founder of the Woden Valley Youth Choir, Don Whitbread.

The back page

MORE HUMOUR FOR LEXOPHILES (Lovers of Words)

- * Thieves who steal corn from a garden could be charged with stalking.
- * A backward poet writes inverse.
- * In a democracy it's your vote that counts; in feudalism, it's your Count that votes.
- * When a clock is hungry it goes back four seconds.
- * The bloke who fell onto an upholstery machine is fully recovered.
- * You are stuck with your debt if you can't budge it.

Attendance on 17 December

Club guests: Rex Hunt (Guest Speaker) and Dimitris Tshuridis (High Commissioner for Cyprus)

Members present: 24

Makeups: 1 (Jim Grainger)

Percentage: 74.2

APOLOGIES

BY 3 PM TUESDAY

Ros Osbourne
 62863097

rososbourne@ozemail.com.au

After this week someone will take over from Ros. See next week's Raven for the new arrangements.

DINNER ROSTER

	THIS WEEK - 14 January	NEXT WEEK – 21 January
Program	John Widdup – Ros Osbourne Kintore, the future – Indigenous art	Shukry Sahhar President's barbecue
Introduction	Neale Emanuel	
Appreciation	Gary Scott	
Fellowship		
Raven Recorder	Jeff Ibbotson	Ros Osbourne
Birthdays	Bish Mukerjee 5 Jan; Yvonne Avent 10 Jan.	Val Excell 22 Jan; Louise Ibbotson 24 Jan; R. Hunt 20 Jan; Dylis Hunt 24 Jan
Anniversaries	D. & B. Whitbread 9 Jan; N. & R. Hart 16 Jan	Rex and Dylis Hunt 20 Jan.

Dates for your diary

Wed 21 Jan – President's barbecue at Shukry's home (20 McKail Crescent, Stirling) at usual time. For those interested a pre-meeting inspection of his new home under construction at The Works [also known as The Diggings] will be on site at 16 Dolly McGrath St, Duffy.

Wed 28 Jan – First meeting at Federal Golf Club

Wed 28 Jan – Board Meeting

27/28 Feb & 1 March – Canberra Show parking

Sat 30 May – Our Club's 40th Anniversary Event

TONIGHT (14 Jan.)

6 for 6.15 – We meet at Ros Osbourne's house at 12/130 Shackleton Crt Mawson

One course meal, wine & water provided. Other drinks - bring your own.

Usual \$20 per head

Last Meeting – 18 December 2008 Christmas Message

Rex Hunt, our Guest Speaker and Honorary Member, was introduced by PP. Ray Newcombe to give the Christmas Message. Rex became a Rotarian in 1972 and is NOW an Honorary Member of our Club. He will be retiring in six months from being



early attempts to 'Australianise' Christmas celebrations in our country.

In recent times, cards, carols and songs, tend to evoke the snowy scenes of our European heritage [for many], often with romanticised, 19th century imagery.

Father Christmas-Saint Nickolaus-Pierre Noel etc. can be traced back to Viking times, but the image we promote today of the robust, white bearded, red-cheeked jolly man in red wool suit with white fur trim, largely comes from the CocaCola advertisements of the 1930's.

Rex posed the question - "Is there a role for popular culture in religion today?"

His answer is "Yes - there always has been. In the pre-Christian era, there were folk festivals and popular culture celebrations that were essentially life-affirming."

Rex finished his talk with the following:

"To be religious in the 21st century will be to dispense with the natural/supernatural dichotomy and reassert a life-affirming belief and life-style:

- * maximising the future of all living creatures, whose destiny is in our hands;

- * valuing, more than ever, the importance of the human relationships which bind us together into social groups [Geering 1998:46]; and

- * working towards a fully humane world within the ecological restraints here on planet earth, while standing in awe before the profound mysteries of existence. [Kaufman 1993].

the Minister for the Uniting Church of St James, Canberra.

After paying his respects to the Ngambri-Ngunnawal People, Rex told us that the Christmas celebrations that are familiar to us, are only 130 years old. He described the ways Christmas was celebrated in early colonial days.

He summarised Christmas popular culture in our times:

- the Christmas card
- the world's most popular Christmas song - 'White Christmas'
- the artistic development of Santa Claus

Rex then developed each of these themes with most interesting outlines of their histories. He showed that there were

Club News

Racecourse parking: Volunteers were obtained for a number of parking jobs during December and January.

Shifting of Rotary paraphernalia: President Shukry and Helen and Norma Donaldson and Des Henderson-Kelly have now completed the shift to Federal Golf Club.

Rotary Western Desert Project: The presentation of the three certificates referred to in the previous Raven is to be arranged through the District Governor in the New castle area in the presence of those of our Club's members able to travel to there.

Membership subscriptions: Treasurer Noel Hart reminded those members who pay every six months that their payment for the second half of the year is now due.

Members' activities: Gary Scott and Peter Evans reported on their recent activities. Gary's activities included his daughter's marriage, his retirement and trips to Tasmania and New Zealand. Peter reported on the Get-Together of RMC Army 'Mates of the Class of 58 - the 50 years celebration'.

ShelterBox News

Tom Henderson, founder and CEO of ShelterBox, has been awarded, in London, the prestigious Beacon Prize for New Initiatives by the Beacon Fellowship Charitable Trust. He joins the ranks of past winners such as Sir Bob Geldof and Jamie Oliver for his notable work in the charitable sector.

Since ShelterBox, now the largest Rotary Club project in the world, was founded in 2000, it has responded to more than 75 natural and other disasters in 50 countries and provided vital shelter, comfort and dignity to more than 600,000 people.

Board Bytes - Secretary Keith Avent

At the Board meeting on 19 December, some of the items discussed were:

Rotary Western Desert Project: Under David Fox's overall direction, Shukry Sahhar and John Widdup will be the project management team. Some modification of the already-drafted plans will be needed to meet the difficult local conditions. Shukry hopes to have another field visit to Kintore in April.

President-Elect Report: Ros Osbourne reported that she has been having discussions with a number of members in preparation for allocation of responsibilities in 2009-10

Finance: The donations of \$1000 from Zaiga Thomann (NYSF student) and \$1500 from the management of the Embassy Motel are to go to our Project Account.

School Awards: The Stuart Garnsey Award was presented to Emily Rushton and the Arthur Holder Award to Sam Maxted at the Canberra College graduation on 17 December. We hope to meet these students later.

Scenic Bicycle Tour: Publicity for this annual event must be strengthened. John Widdup is still seeking one or more of our Club members to deal with this crucial step in making the tour an even greater and more widely known event in Canberra. Help will be sought from other local Rotary Clubs.

RAVEN REPORTER
Norma Donaldson
PHOTOGRAPHER
Robin Cromer