



Board Directors

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

Other officers

Bulletin Editors: John Gray/ Robin Cromer
 Attendance Chief: Norma Donaldson
 Attendance Desk: Bernadette Cappello
 Program: Phil Ibbotson (from Feb 09)
 Sergeant: Neale Emanuel / David Fox & Gary Scott
 Archives: Keith Avent
 Member data: Ken Goard
 Webmaster: Robin Cromer

Contact Information

PO Box 637 Woden ACT 2606

Secretary: keith.avent@bigpond.com

Previous Issues of the Raven:

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

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

The back page

New Venue

Honorary members, past members and those from other Rotary Clubs who may wish to visit the Rotary Club of Woden, should be aware that we no longer meet at the Embassy Motel. Our new venue is the Federal Golf Club, which is reached by driving up the road to Red Hill and turning off to the right where indicated. The clubhouse provides a delightful outlook with native trees and kangaroos grazing on the grassed fairways. Do join us but please call Norma first.

Last week's attendance

Guest speaker: Dr. Duncan Steel

Other guests: Christine Bell, Lyn Chapman, Annemarie Driver

Rotary visitors: Mike Rodd, John Merrick

Members: 26 **Countable:** 23

Percent: 82.14%

APOLOGIES

BY 3 PM TUESDAY

Norma Donaldson

6231 6680

normad@apex.net.au

DINNER ROSTER

Program	This week - 11 February Jeff Ibbotson	Next week - 18 February Dr Frank Bowden
	Therapeutic Goods Administration	Control of infection in hospitals
Introduction	Carlo Binutti	Lyn Svanosio
Appreciation	Lukas Strohmayer	Peter Evans
Fellowship	Peter Evans	Des Henderson-Kelly
	Eric Taylor	Eric Taylor
Raven Recorder	Gary Scott	Norma Donaldson
Birthdays		Frank Macklin 17/2
Anniversaries	Des & Helen Henderson-Kelly 10/2	



THE RAVEN

THE WEEKLY BULLETIN OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF WODEN

The tragedy of trachoma

Piers Booth drew our attention to an article by Lesley Russell that appeared in the Canberra Times on 30th January entitled: "Trachoma, a tragedy that cries out for intervention".

The article reports that "...children living in remote indigenous communities continue to suffer from trachoma, an infectious disease now found only in the poorest countries and that, untreated, leads to blindness.

Trachoma is as common in these children as it was 30 years ago when Fred Hollows and his colleagues began a campaign to eradicate the disease; and eliminating trachoma is a relatively inexpensive and straightforward exercise which would cost about \$25 million over the next five years.

Trachoma was eliminated from the non-indigenous population in northern Australia during the 1930s. It continues to be a threat to the in-

igenous communities in the remote desert areas of northern Australia because of their poor living conditions, poverty and lack of access to water.

Even under these conditions the treatment strategy for the infection known as the SAFE strategy (Surgery when needed for trichiasis; Antibiotic treatment; Facial cleanliness; and Environmental improvement) can be delivered at minimal cost".

Piers noted that the disease leads from eye infection in childhood to scarring and blindness in later life. Control requires simple measures with some energy in application. Piers sought the views of members on the Club taking an initiative on this issue, with a focus initially on the Kintore region where we are already active with the *Rotary Western Desert Project*. Piers will seek further information and put a proposal to the Board.

Dates for your diary

Wed 11 Feb: Jeff Ibbotson, Therapeutic Goods Administration.

Wed 18 Feb: Dr Frank Bowden, Control of infection in Hospitals

27/28 Feb & 1 March: Canberra Show Parking

13-15 March: Social weekend at Thredbo

Tonight

Jeff Ibbotson

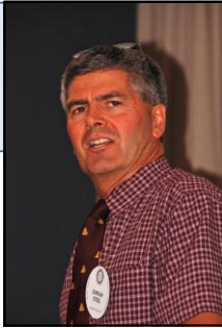
Therapeutic Goods Administration

February is World Understanding Month

Guest speaker

The guest speaker, Dr Duncan Steel, was introduced by Ajit Bannerjee. He is a physicist by training with interests mainly in the space and astronomy fields. He has worked for both NASA and ESA and in many countries including the UK, USA, New Zealand and Sweden. In Australia, he spent time at the Siding Spring Observatory and currently works for QinetiQ in Canberra on space-related projects.

Guest Speaker
Dr Duncan Steel



Duncan has written a number of popular books on astronomical subjects including "Rogue Asteroids and Doomsday Comets" and "Target Earth". His latest book "Space Calendar" was the topic of his talk.

Duncan took us on a whirlwind tour of the history of calendars. Strange for an astronomer? No. They are all based on the sun, the moon and the earth.

The history of the modern day calendar is fascinating, an evolution paralleling the growth in understanding of the movements particularly of the earth and moon. The earth is slowing and the moon moving further away! But the number of days in the year is not an integer, hence we have leap years, but that again leaves us with other necessary make-ups. At-

tempts to correct this has led to the use of intercalary days or seconds etc. And further, how long is a second? Try an atomic clock which is very accurate but there are decimal points to contend with.

Calendars in past-times, the Roman, Julian, and Gregorian have had their deficiencies, Jewish and Islamic we adjust to. At times the uses of one or other overlapped so that written histories have quoted discordant dates. Astronomers have their own system to record days, nothing complex, just 1, 2, 3, and on into the thousands to-day.

Christmas Day for us is in December. For the Orthodox Church January is the month. There is a bother over when the financial year ends, June for us, earlier in the year for the U.K., a relic of an older calendar. Hang onto your calendars, and after 28 years you may recycle them as the days and dates will then correspond. Even the pictures could be worth a fresh look

Carlo responded appropriately to his Latin heritage for a most interesting and informative talk.

Acting President John Widdup
with guest Christine Bell



Club news

Show Parking

Chief Parking Officer Gary gave us an update on parking for the Canberra Show (27/28 Feb & 1 March). A Pollution Control Pond is being constructed in the Randwick Road allotment which will reduce the available spaces for cars but the area is now being gravelled and space-marked. To compensate, the Wells Station Road area has been expanded with modifications to access, in particular for traffic coming from the Gunghalin Drive.



Gary Scott with
guest Lyn
Chapman

Thredbo Weekend

Norma Donaldson encouraged members to book in for the social weekend from 13 to 15th March. Accommodation will be at the Brindabella Ski Lodge and cost is \$110 per person for two nights. Contact Norma on 6231 6680 or Club meeting on Wednesday 11 February at the latest.

New membership badges

Our new "Woden" Club badges will be distributed soon and Ros passed round a list for members to confirm, name, classification and method of attachment for their own and partner's badges.

The Big Canberra bike ride

John Widdup distributed flyers for the 11th Pedal Power ride on Canberra Day, Monday 9 March. Contact John if you are able to assist.

Rotary Foundation

Neale Emanuel reminded us that a Meeting of the Foundation will be held on Thursday 12th at 7.15 am. If you wish to go, phone Neale for confirmation of time and place

Bruce Wyatt
and guest
Annmarie
Driver



Raven Reporter: Ken Goard
Photographs: Robin Cromer

Dinner arrangements at the Golf Club

It has come to our attention that there is no food service available at the Golf Club on Wednesday evenings, apart from the dinners that are ordered on Tuesday afternoon, at 3 p.m.

This means that it is very important for you to formally advise if

you will be absent, or of extra meals required for visitors and guests, before the cut off time of 3.00 p.m. on the Tuesday before our meetings.

The Chef provides only the number of meals ordered and there is no arrangement for additional meals to be provided on the night.