



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
 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.rotarnet.com.au/woden>

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

The back page

A family member lay gravely ill when the doctor came in to speak to them. 'I'm afraid I bear bad news,' he said. 'The only hope left for your loved one is a brain transplant. It's an experimental procedure, and very risky, but it is the only hope. Insurance will cover the procedure, but you will have to pay for the brain.' After they had absorbed the news, someone asked, 'How much will a brain cost?'

The doctor responded, '\$5,000 for a male brain; \$200 for a female brain.' Some of the men actually had to 'try' to not smile, avoiding eye contact with the women. One man, unable to control his curiosity, finally blurted out the question that everyone wanted to ask: 'Why does a male brain cost so much more than a female brain?' The doctor smiled at the childish innocence and explained to the entire group: 'It's just standard pricing procedure.... We have to price the female brains a lot lower because they've been used.'

Last week's attendance

Guest Speaker: Louis van Rensburg

Club guests: Nil

Visiting Rotarians: Des Woods

Members: 23 **Makeups:** 3

Countable: 21 **Percent:** 83.87%

APOLOGIES

BY 3 PM TUESDAY

Norma Donaldson

6231 6680

normad@apex.net.au

DINNER ROSTER

This week - 22 April

Next week - 29 April

Program Pat Vergas & Suzanne Vassoulis
 Amnesty International

Toscandinn - Funeral Directors
 Arranging a funeral - the options

Introduction Alec Philip
Appreciation Ray Newcombe
Fellowship Christine Bell
 Judy Skelton
Raven Recorder Piers Booth

Annemarie Driver
 Ajit Banerjee
 Des Pain
 Lyn Svanosio
 Norma Donaldson

Birthdays
Anniversaries



THE RAVEN

THE WEEKLY BULLETIN OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF WODEN

**Woden Rotary Club meets at the Federal Golf Club,
 Gowrie Drive, Red Hill - 6.00 for 6.15 pm each Wednesday.**

Partners night

Partners and Friends are invited to Woden Rotary this Wednesday. Please invite your partner and friends along to join us. To ensure everyone is fed, please let Norma know who is coming with you

by the usual time of 3 pm. on Tuesday. (6231 6680 or email: normad@apex.net.au)

Our Guest Speaker will be Pat Vargas, who will tell us about the work of Amnesty International.

Message Stick

The following is an item from "Message Stick", the new Newsletter from Australian Rotary Health (Volume 1, Number 1 April 2009).

"2008 has been a hectic one with both university and home life. At the same time it has given me the opportunity to expand my knowledge and skills and given me an idea of which area I would like to work in within the nursing field.

I was awarded an encouragement award from the Ngunnawal centre at

the end of my first year of study in 2007. I have always given 110% during my studies, but the award is encouraging me to complete what I set out to accomplish when I started my nursing degree.

Thanks to the help and support from the Rotary Scholarship I am able to buy my textbooks, pay some of my HELP fees and help support myself and my family throughout the completion of my degree".

Marion Bateup—Bachelor of Nursing Australian National University

Sponsored by RC of Woden

Dates for your diary

Sat 9 May: Greenhills Working bee
Sat. 30 May: Club 40th Anniversary Event
Sunday 14 June: District Changeover
Saturday 19 Sept.: Greenhills Working bee
Sunday 27 Sept: Rotary Scenic Cycle Tour

Tonight

**Pat Vergas &
 Suzanne Vassoulis
 Amnesty International**

April is Magazine Month

Guest speaker: Louis van Rensburg

Ray Newcombe introduced our guest speaker Louis van Rensburg. Louis recounted his experiences in South Africa and blended them in with his insights into the recent history of the country as well as brief outline of European settlement there.



Ray Newcombe introducing the Guest speaker

The Dutch established a Cape settlement as a staging post to their colonies in the East Indies. In the 1650's they began bringing in slaves from the East Indies. The area attracted religious refugees, Protestant Huguenots, who fled France in large numbers after Louis XIV curtailed their religious freedom in 1685. German settlers joined the growing colony.

During the Napoleonic wars Britain took the Cape in 1806. The grim conditions of the 1830's forced many of the Dutch farmers, the Voortrekkers, to trek north in search of new pastures. Relations between the British and the original Boer settlers were tense. The discovery of gold and diamonds exacerbated the situation. Peace did not settle until the conclusion

of the 2nd Boer War in 1902.

After World War II South Africa left the Commonwealth and the apartheid policy was introduced and enforced. Around this time Louis began his career as town engineer, moving around the country as he gained experience. He then moved into community development where worked on housing projects for the poor.

On his retirement Louis joined his children who had emigrated to Australia, but stays in contact with South Africa. He mentioned how in more recent times the country faces increasing challenges as more professionals such as engineers like himself leave the country.

Guest speaker Louis van Rensburg



Des Paine thanked Louis for his very interesting talk on South African history and difficulties its people have faced over the centuries.

Note change in Club web address

<http://www.rotarnet.com.au/woden>

Club news

President Shukry reported on progress with the Kintore project, informing us that the air conditioning quote had been accepted. He and some other members are going to Newcastle next week to present a certificate of appreciation to Suters, the Architectural firm that provided valuable assistance with the project.

On behalf of us all he has passed on to Judy Skelton our well wishes for a speedy recovery.



Lyn and Norma sorting out a few figures

Victorian Bush Fire appeal

Bob Aitken, Managing Editor of Rotary Down Under reported on the Victorian Bush Fire appeal in the April edition.

"Anyone who needs convincing of Rotary's ability to make a difference in our community need look no further than the massive amount of aid being organised by Rotarians and Rotary clubs around Australia.

The areas of Victoria covered by Rotary International Districts 9790 and 9820 have suffered worst of all from this most recent Australian natural disaster and magnificent offers of support have poured in to Governors Peter Gilbert (9790) and Ken McDonald (9820) from all parts of Australia

and New Zealand – and many other parts of the world.

Importantly, people and communities hard hit by the impact of floods in Queensland have not been forgotten and many appeals have allowed for sharing of funds with such people and communities where required.

The Governors of the three other Victorian-based Districts (9780, 9800, 9810) and Tasmania (9830) have joined with Peter Gilbert and Ken McDonald to form a special Bushfire Disaster Committee to ensure an efficient line of communication between Rotary and Government – and many other local, regional and national organisations."



Bob and Ajit share a joke last week

Raven Reporter: Jeff Ibbotson
Photographs: Robin Cromer