

ROTARY CLUB**OF WODEN INC.****Board Directors**

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 Secretary & Public Officer: Keith Avent
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 Club Operations: Des Pain
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 Rotary Foundation: Jeff Ibbotson
 Youth: Gary Scott

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Vocational: Carlo Binutti
 Bulletin: Robin Cromer, John Gray,
 Alec Philip & Bruce Wyatt
 Attendance Chief: Norma Donaldson
 Program: Phil Ibbotson
 Sergeant Chief: Bruce Wyatt
 PR & Media: David Fox
 Archives: Keith Avent
 Member data: Ken Goard
 Webmaster: Robin Cromer

Contact Information

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Secretary: keith.avent@bigpond.com**Previous Issues of the Raven:**<http://www.rotarnet.com.au/woden>**Organiser of the Rotary Spring Cycle - Held annually in September****The back page (one for the ladies)**

11 PEOPLE ON A ROPE: Eleven people were hanging on a rope, under a helicopter: 10 men and 1 woman. The rope was not strong enough to carry them all, so they decided that one had to leave because otherwise they were all going to die. They weren't able to choose that person, until the woman gave a very touching speech. She said that she would voluntarily let go of the rope, because, as a woman, she was used to giving up everything for her husband and kids or for men in general, and was used to always making sacrifices with little in return. As soon as she finished her speech, all the men started clapping

Last week's attendance

Club Guests: Speaker—Arto Avakian
Visiting Rotarians: Nil
Visitors: Nil
Members present: 21 **Make-ups:** 6
Countable: 17 **Percentage:** 79.31 %

APOLOGIES**BY 3 PM TUESDAY**

Norma Donaldson
 6231 6680 normad@apex.net.au

DINNER ROSTER

Program	This week - 10 March Jessica McConnell	Next week - 17 March Michael Linke
	Exchange Student to Switzerland	RSPCA ACT Matching people to dogs
Introduction	Christine Bell	Des Henderson-Kelly
Appreciation	Carlo Binutti	David Fox
Fellowship	Des Henderson-Kelly	Phil Ibbotson
	Robin Cromer	Annemarie Driver
Raven Recorder	Jeff Ibbotson	Bob Harvie
Birthdays	Ian Excell 9/3	
Anniversaries		

Parking at Thoroughbred Park

Friday 19 March: Gary Scott (Leader), Ros Osbourne, Phil Ibbotson, Des Pain, Norma Donaldson



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THE RAVEN

THE WEEKLY BULLETIN OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF WODEN

Meetings 6.00 for 6.15 pm each Wednesday, Federal Golf Club, Gowrie Drive, Red Hill

Your fellow member - John Gray

Born in 1930, I spent much of my free time during early life in extensive natural bushland near where I lived in Sydney. I opted for an outdoors profession and in 1953 I graduated in forestry at Sydney University. Early experience was on the south coast and southern tablelands. At this time I achieved my pilot's license and over the next 15 years saw a lot of Australia from the air. Then the money ran out and I built a boat and went sailing on the lake.



John Gray

I bless the day in 1959 when Pixie and I married and two children (Michael & Melissa) were to follow and later grandchildren and great grandchildren.

In 1968-70, I expanded my perspectives, studying for a Master of Landscape Architecture at the Univer-

sity of California, Berkeley. I have since pursued my profession in various capacities, including as a full and part-time lecturer at the University of Canberra, as head of landscape architecture at the NCDC and in private practice. I have been privileged to have had an influence on Canberra through creation of public landscape, open space and parks. Along the way I was Federal President, Royal Australian Institute of Parks & Recreation and Federal Council Member, Australian Institute of Landscape Architects.

My current interests lie in Canberra landscape history in which I took out a doctoral degree at University of Canberra in 1999. And of course there is Rotary (President 1986/87).

Dates for your diary

Parking: See Roster at foot of page 4
17 March: Michael Linke, RSPCA ACT - Matching People to Dogs
24 March: Lachlan Backhall. Effective Computer Management of your home
8 April: Great Moscow Circus event
12 May: WDHP Promotional Dinner

Tonight

**Jessica McConnell
Exchange Student**

March is Polio Eradication/Literacy Month

Guest speaker: Arto Avakian on Ramadan

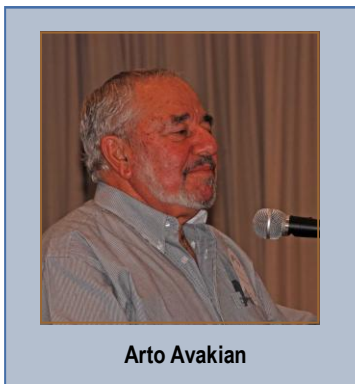
Phil Ibbotson introduced the guest speaker, Arto Avakian, who spoke about Ramadan. Arto was born in Cairo, Egypt to Armenian parents and raised in a polyglot environment. Although not a Muslim, as a young man Arto observed Ramadan out of solidarity with his Muslim cousins.

A true polymath, Arto studied economics at Cairo State University, arts at the American University of Beirut, theology and philosophy at the State University of Utrecht, Netherlands and information sciences in The Hague, before completing a doctoral program in philosophy, with minors in Hebrew/Old Testament studies and Islam/phenomenology of religion, and undertaking post-graduate work in Aramaic and Talmud.

Arto worked with the World Council of Churches and the World Student Christian Federation for the Middle East and served on the Academic Council of the Netherlands before making his way to Australia where he was employed in the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet (under two Prime Ministers, Fraser and Hawke), the Public Service Board and the Australian Taxation Office. He is currently Team Leader of Chaplaincy at the ANU.

Arto explained that there are 5 pillars (corner-stones) of Islam five duties incumbent on every Muslim:

- Testimony – bearing witness;
- Prayer – performing the 5 mandatory daily prayers (at dawn, noon, late afternoon, sunset, evening);
- Alms – giving money to charity;
- Fasting – observing the fast of Ramadan; and
- Pilgrimage – performing a pilgrimage to Mecca once in one's lifetime.



Arto Avakian

Ramadan is the ninth month of the Muslim calendar, which is a lunar calendar. This year Ramadan will be from 9 or 10 August to first week in September.

Historically, Ramadan was a holy month in which no feuds and bloodshed were allowed. It starts with the first human sighting of the new moon. From dawn until sunset, participating Muslims observe a fast – abstinence from food, drink and smoking; it is not even permitted to chew gum as this activates saliva. During Ramadan Muslims also abstain from sex. Some people are excused from the requirement to fast, including the elderly, the frail, children, those travelling, menstruating women and breast-feeding women

Ramadan ends with the sighting of the next new moon, with three days of feasting – the Eid ul-Fitr, which has evolved into a feast of generosity.

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Club news

Show Parking, 26-28 Feb: President Ros and David Fox congratulated everyone for their wonderful efforts with parking at the Canberra Show. They reported that 14,787 cars were parked, with takings totalling almost \$74,000, of which Woden Rotary Club will receive a portion. Some 28 members and 6 other helpers worked over the weekend, with many others helping out with arrangements in the previous week. Members expressed particular appreciation to Show Parking Chief, Bernadette Cappello, who was having a well-earned night off.

Past President Dal Lister: President Ros advised members that Past President Dal Lister died on Monday 22 February 2010. Dal was a popular member of the Club and President in 1977-78. Following his retirement he and wife Edith moved to Queensland. Keith Avent has sent a condolence card to Edith on behalf of the Club.

Inner Wheel: President Ros reported that the Inner Wheel Club of Canberra-Woden has voted to dissolve

as at 30 June 2010, mainly as a result of difficulties in attracting younger members.

Search for a New 'Speaker Seeker': President Ros thanked Phil Ibbotson for his superb effort in undertaking the challenging role of 'speaker seeker' for the Club over the past couple of years. Sadly, Phil is now hanging up his 'speaker seeker' boots and the search is on for some one to fill those boots. Could all those members interested in taking on this role please contact President Ros.

Great Moscow Circus: President Ros reminded members that the Club has been offered approx. 400-500 tickets for the evening performance of the Great Moscow Circus on 8 April 2010. The Club's allocation will be sold by Club members at \$20 per ticket, with proceeds to benefit Snowy Hydro Southcare Helicopter Service and some other charities.

Raven Reporter: Christine Bell
Photos: Robin Cromer

From P2: Through the act of fasting, Muslims experience want, hunger pangs and the meaning of thirst, and become more communally aware, particularly of those less fortunate than themselves. It is customary for the better off to provide a banquet after sunset for those less well off. At end of month people donate alms (2.5% of their nett worth) for specifically ear-marked projects such as to alleviate poverty.

Arto's fascinating talk sparked a lively discussion ranging from the linkages between the three Abrahamic religions (Islam, Christianity and Judaism), to the Shia/Sunni split, through the concept of Jihad to the Haj.

John Robson thanked Arto for his very informative talk.