

Know your Fellow Member: Robin Cromer



I was born in Sydney in 1940. My father served in the RAAF during WW2. I attended Gladesville Primary, Fort Street Boys High and Canberra High (after we moved to Canberra in 1953). Two years of science at the Uni of New England (Armidale) was followed by two years at the Forestry School in Canberra (1960-61). In organic chemistry lab classes at UNE, I worked next to a very attractive blond called Jill.

After completing my BSc and Forestry Diploma, I began work in 1962 with CSIRO Plant Industry, doing alpine ecology in the Kosciusko National Park and living at Waste Point. Jill and I were married at the end of that year and, moved to Traralgon, Victoria in 1964, where I worked for Australian Paper Manufacturers (later Amcor) in the forestry research section. Our children Lisa (1964) and Brett (1965) were both born in Traralgon. I completed a Masters Degree externally from Melbourne Uni on my research with *Pinus radiata*. I also took 12 months "sabbatical" at the University of Washington, Seattle and obtained a Masters degree in Forest Resources. After 12 years with the company I joined CSIRO Forestry, which had a joint research facility with APM. The joint research station closed in 1982, when we moved to Canberra.

My research in Canberra focussed on the physiology and growth of eucalypts in plantations. In 1992, we moved to Hobart where I managed research on eucalypt plantations with staff in Perth, Hobart and Canberra. I first joined Rotary with the Kingston Club, south of Hobart. We returned to Canberra in 1997 and I decided to retire in 1999 as much of my time was spent in trying to obtain funds for doing research, rather than actually doing it.

I now enjoy a fulfilling retirement with Jill. We take one or two interesting trips each year and I keep busy with a range of activities including walking, bushwalking, bike riding, swimming, Rotary and woodwork. Lisa works in London as a graphic designer and Brett does biochemical research at St Vincents' in Melbourne. Brett and his wife Lesley have provided us with a delightful grandson called Benjamin, aged 16 months.

Rosters:

	This week 24th Aug	Next week 31st Aug
Chairman	Val Bland	Ray Newcombe
Program	Robin Cromer "Round the Top"	Max McBride "What makes a Conductor?"
Introduction	Phil Ibbotson	Gary Scott
Appreciation	Ray Newcombe	Frank Sheldon
Sergeant	Neale Emanuel	Val Bland
Fellowship	Ros Osbourne	Eric Taylor
	Des Pain	Bruce Hall
Raven Recorder	Ken Goard	Rex Hunt
Birthdays	Marion Hanna 31st Aug	Joanne Binutti 9th Sept
Anniversaries		Frank and Dorothy Macklin 8th Sept
Trash & Treasure	05 Sept Shukry Sahhar-John Gray 12 Sept Noel Hart-Ken Goard	19 Sept Des H-Kelly-Peter Evans 26th Sept Des Pain-Bruce Hall

The Raven

The Weekly Bulletin of the Rotary Club of Canberra-Woden Inc.

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Tonight:

Robin Cromer

on

Round the Top (of Australia)

Jill and Robin joined the "Oceanic Princess" for a cruise from Cairns to Darwin in May 2005. The ship is a 63 m expedition cruiser with accommodation for 76 passengers. A flat-bottom landing craft was able to drop passengers at beaches and other landing places. We visited a number of islands and mainland sites of great historical interest.

From Darwin, we flew to a site in Arnhem Land called Mt Borradaile, on the flood plain of Cooper Creek, a tributary of the East Alligator River. The area contains a multitude of significant and well-preserved rock art sites, often combined with long-term aboriginal occupation sites. The area is also rich in wildlife, birds, fish and bush tucker.

Last Week:

In the absence of our President who will be away till the end of September, PP Peter Evans led the meeting. John Gray brought to us the news that planning permission has been granted for the demolition of our meeting venue, the Embassy Motel. Hold your breath though as further approvals etc are required and in due course the Board will look for a new home. Bouquets were handed out to Bruce Wyatt for his organizational skills ensuring that the Rotary Adventure in Citizenship went along smoothly. Further, Ros Osbourne was congratulated for her "motherly skills" brought to bear ensuring that the more reticent attendees were absorbed into the camaraderie of the occasion through the host families.

A Thought for the Week:

The gem cannot be polished without friction, nor man perfected without trials. - Chinese proverb



SERVICE Above Self

Des Pain has gathered together from Editor Noel Hart, three sets of Ravens from the past year, had them bound and presented the first to I.P.P. Peter Evans. The other copies go to the ACT Heritage Library and the National Library. Need encouragement to do a make-up? Our peripatetic member and locum dentist, Jim Grainger reported on the warm welcome he has received from Clubs visited from Wollongong to the Queensland coast over past months. Clubs have their own personalities and one learns about their communities.

“Ramblings and Meanderings in Indo-China” – introduced by Bruce Hall – led us along a seniors’ back-packing tour of the Near East by Neal Emanuel and Margaret. They reached Taiwan in a technically advanced jet and saw the contrasted sides of this island, with extensive fishing on the east separated by a mountain spine from the commercial western shore facing China. Prosperity is evident. Beside the many Temples there is the world record apartment building of 101 floors Taipei. The lower 4 floors comprise an extensive shopping plaza and at the top (clearly shown in the picture – and there were many other excellent illustrations) is the vibration stabilizer, 160 tonnes of suspended steel to dampen down the swaying of the tower in storms and quakes

A flight south brought our back-packers to Ho Chi Minh City and the magnificent Mekong River crossed by the Friendship Bridge resourced from Australia.. On the river-side were the numerous vegetable marketing boats with over 100 ferries with goods and people.

Then it was to Cambodia along the Mekong in high speed boats passing submergedcaged fish farms to Phnom Penh then Angkor Wat that ancient (500 and more years) mysterious religious site, revealed after being overtaken by tropical forest for centuries. Only the temples of stone have survived, wooden housing since vanished. Stone was for the sacred, wood for the secular. Restored temples, roadways, lines of guard statues and ornamental lakes have been captured by the camera, and Neal showed one of these lakes, the mirrored reflections of dawn in another picture.

There were reminders of war and civil strife in the Killing Fields memorabilia and the expansive Viet Cong tunnel systems containing armories, schools, hospitals and living quarters for the population in the strife-torn countryside. Hamburger Hill, an observation post stands as a reminder of the past, the presence of the US Army.

The ramble concluded with a train trip north along the coast to Hué, to the karst country, Hanoi and home. Throughout these travels accommodation was cheap, also the food, people welcoming but there is a constant reminder of the poverty of these people struggling with industrialization, cheap imports from China and unpredictable power supplies. In Taiwan, the shadow of China hangs over the future.

With thanks to *Raven Reporter: Ken Goard*

DG Noel Trevaskis asks that you

Register for the District Conference

on or before September 15 and you’ll be automatically entered in to the prize draw for a great selection of wines*

This is what you can win

Red Wines: 4 x Jacobs Creek Shiraz 2002 (Gold Medal & Blue Gold Sydney International WineShow) 2 x Jamiesons Run Merlot 2003 White wines: 2 x Rothbury Estate Cowra Chardonnay 2004. 2 x Wyndham Estate Bin 777 Semillon Sauvignon Blanc 2004 (Silver medal) 2 x Lindemans Reserve Verdelho 2004 (Silver medal)

The Conference is to be held at Trinity College, Goulburn 21 - 23 October, 2005

Check this line-up of great speakers

Mike Munro <<http://www.d9710.rotary.org.au/Conference/speakers/munro.htm>>

Nick Feteris <<http://www.d9710.rotary.org.au/Conference/speakers/feteris.htm>>

Lt Col. Donald Woodland <<http://www.d9710.rotary.org.au/Conference/speakers/woodland.htm>>

Fay Jackson <<http://www.d9710.rotary.org.au/Conference/speakers/jackson.htm>>

“Whether it be lamb, beef, game or cheese, rarely is there an occasion when a bold full-bodied Shiraz isn’t called for. Ours is a truly outstanding example of the variety, regarded by many as the Shiraz drinker’s Shiraz.” -Winery

Children of the Golden Triangle Training Centre - Bunkbed Project

On 30 June this year a team of six travelled to the Training Centre in Mae Suai, Northern Thailand. Our task was to provide training to the senior Akha boys in metal fabrication. With these new skills the boys could then undertake the job of constructing 200 Bunkbeds for use at the Centre.

The Training Centre is quite a different place now with 400 Children and all the mod cons such as Electricity, Internet and Water Filtration System. Due to the remoteness of the Children’s villages many do not speak the Thai language. Since our return, the Rotary Club of Hall has approved funding for an Akha/Thai teacher to help teach the children to speak Thai, Other exciting news is the new school starting in May next year at the Training Centre. Seven Thai teachers will be employed to teach at the school.

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