

## Board members 2006-07

President Ray Newcombe  
Secretary: John Gray  
Immed. Past President: John Widdup  
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Treasurer: Noel Hart  
Club service: Tom Davies  
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International Service: David Fox  
Vocational Service: Shukry Sahhar  
Youth Service: Ajit Banerjee

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We are camped at Waterloo and are in the Waterloo formal camping ground in the Wilderness Park to the north of town. From the gate to the camping spot is about 2-3km. When we arrived and before we put our tent up, a chap came across and offered us dinner which was very welcome. We had a good chat with the family and got all the local information including a street map. Yesterday we went to the laundromat and did all our clothes and sheets. Then we shopped and got supplies for the next couple of days. In the afternoon we rode to St Jacobs to the north (5km) to a Mennonite community that still use horse and carts. We went to the Visitors Centre where there was a display of their history. Very informative. Today Monday it is raining - Poured heavily overnight. After a hearty breakfast cooked in the tent we rode into town to the cycle shop where they are fixing a broken spoke in the back wheel and trying to get the part to fix Julia's hubgear. We are in the local library sending this to you all. We expect to meet Annemarie and Rod either tonight or tomorrow morning when they cycle in from Toronto. We are here for a few days with the US Wheelman Rally and the International Veteran Cycling Club meeting here. Then it is off to the shores of Lake Huron with some twenty other cyclists for a few days at someone's weekender. Love Julia and John.

## Roster:

	THIS WEEK	NEXT WEEK
Program	David Fox	Dr Rodney Evans Vietnam
Sergeant	Peter Evans	Ian Excell
Introduction	Ian Excell	John Gray
Appreciation	Robin Cromer	Bob Harvie
Fellowship	Val Bland	Bruce Wyatt
Raven Recorder	Des Henderson Kelly	David Fox
Birthdays	Keith Avent Dorothy Macklin 22nd July.	Bernadette Capello John Widdup 26th July Maureen Booth 31st July
Anniversaries	nil	nil
Trash & Treasure	23rd July Des Henderson Kelly-Bob Harvie 6th Aug Gary Scott-Ken Goard	30th July Shukry Sahhar-Ian Excell 13th Aug Robin Cromer-Bruce Hall(?)

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



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*Tonight:*

**David Fox**

on

## **New Gismos Galore**

An introduction to new 'add-ons' to personal computers, printers and other devices we all hold dear.....

*Last Week:*

Acting President Shukry Sahhar was introduced by Acting Sergeant Neale Emanuel. Shukry opened the acting Meeting. In honour of the victory of his birth homeland in the World Cup, Carlo Binutti generously donated a bottle of red wine (Aussie not Italiano) to each table for enjoyment during the meal.

Noel Hart, as Treasurer (the real one - not acting!), told the meeting about a mix-up involved with the annual registration of the Club's trailer used for hauling trash after each Sunday's clean-up following Belconnen Trash & Treasure. Apparently, whoever was on towbar duty for the Trash & Treasure held on Sunday 17 July 2005 had their photograph taken on the corner of Antill Street and Northbourne Ave in Dickson. A year later, a traffic infringement notice turns up after not having been delivered by the Road Traffic Authority who kept sending it to the wrong Post Office address. The Club is attempting to rectify the situation with Ian Excell and Noel Hart playing key roles.

Neale Emanuel introduced the **Guest Speaker, Keith Jones**, whose topic tonight was on Australia's Bush Poets. Keith came into the field of Aussie Bush Poetry late in his career. He is a retired accountant. Keith introduced



himself as not wearing the correct attire for the meeting – that is, he wasn't wearing R M Williams' shirts, hat and boots (what we might have thought was regulation "get-up" for such a poet). The reason why is that he doesn't own any! To give us the flavour of the evening, he recited a couple of A B (Banjo) Patterson's verses. Banjo is considered the quintessential Australian Bush Poet. All subsequent Bush Poets aspire to better him.

The definition of Australian Bush Poetry – must be about Australian themes; must have lines that rhyme. To his way of thinking – if it doesn't rhyme, it ain't poetry. There are 12 websites devoted to Australian Bush Poetry. There are many clubs where such poetry is read and written. At Tamworth each January, the Australian Bush Poet of the year is named in conjunction with the Golden Guitar contest.

How did Keith start this task? He hated poetry at school but got hooked on Banjo Patterson's works later in life. He bought a book on Banjo's works and read them. He only thought of writing such poetry when he was asked at work to come up with some limericks. He found he had some skill in this regard. From here, he graduated on to writing Australian Bush Poetry.

In 1994, the Canberra Raiders won the NRL Grand Final. Keith, fortified by plenty of red wine, celebrated the win by writing a ballad (following the style of "The Geebung Polo Club"). This was quickly taken up by various Canberra media and recited over the air. Keith was a celebrity! He heard about the Bush Poets and began to write his own poetry. He joined the Queanbeyan Bush Poets who have a core of 15 regulars – both readers and writers. He has written over 80 bush poems and has published an anthology of his verses. [*without rhyme or reason*] \$12 available from the author, email: [joneskw10@netspeed.com.au](mailto:joneskw10@netspeed.com.au).

Throughout his talk, Keith illustrated his talk by reciting many of his own poems (such as those about Mrs Smith and the dog food, the man and the barmaid, the pig with three legs and the chicken with four legs). This made for a very entertaining evening. Some of the poems were a little risqué in keeping with the genre. Shukry Sahhar noted that some of Keith's verses have been put to music and sung by the Rugby Choir.

Bernadette thanked Keith on behalf of all the members present.

**Attendance:** Guest: Keith Jones; Make-ups 2; Number of members present 18; Percentage 71.43%. *With thanks to Recorder Tom Davies.*

## **Towards Niagara and Beyond.**

Hello Everyone, We have managed to get to Waterloo arriving on Saturday after two long riding days. We found camping places with facilities in the wrong places or with no showers.

We have been along the Erie canal on the tow path and the adjacent marked road route. The canal towpath is surfaced with small gravel which is quite trafficable but slows us down by about one gear and another one when there is a headwind (which were strong for 30% of the time) or wet conditions. Around Rochester, where three canals meet and there was a large industrial port area, we had some 15 km of asphalt cyclepath. The towpath is not continuous and we spent some time on the New York cycleway no.5. This follows the main roads which have wide sealed shoulders and hills.

Just before Rochester we stopped on the banks of the canal having lunch when a local couple stopped, chatted and offered a shower, washing facilities and lunch. We jumped at the offer and rode some 3km to their house where we stopped for approx 4 hours with them and their family. By the time we left there the temperature was better and we are able to ride until sunset- 8.30p.m. when we stopped by the canal. Some 95km for the day on the slow towpath surface. Niagara was a tourist day and we stopped on the American side to see the sights and have lunch. It was a bit run down and the ferry 'The Maid of the Mist' from this side was poorly patronised.

We went across the Rainbow Bridge in the car lanes into Canada and the immigration people were most surprised that we would want to go back into the US. We camped to the west of Niagara Canada some 5 km from the Falls in a formal camping ground - the first time this has occurred. A nice change said Julia as the toilets and showers were close by. Had a chat with some French Canadians from Quebec.

On the Saturday we were tourists on the Canadian side on the Falls. Got an all day bus ticket and looked at the Falls and the gorge and did a lot of walking. Tried to find an internet cafe and got one in the business centre in the Sheraton but they wanted 5 dollars for 15 minutes and they were closing in ten minutes! Questions to others sent us in circles and did not get us to an internet cafe. Consequently we gave up. We got proper food in Canada, not the snack foods available at the small convenience stores along the canal in the US. However we did manage to eat properly in the US especially chocolate milk and bananas.

From Niagara we rode to Waterloo over two days with a stop in a park by the Grand River at Caledonia. The park had a chemical portaloo and running water in the river but we did not swim. It was also the local fishing spot and lover's lane so there was a lot of evening traffic. John did not hear a thing! We did 2 days of about 90+ km and in the more humid conditions it was hard work.