

Board members 2006-07

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“Soybeans are good for much more than just milk,” says Tawfiq. “They are much like peanuts in their versatility. They can be used to synthesize over 70 different products. We hope Afghan businessmen will see the profit potential and help fund the enterprise.” Once the soybean project is in full gear, the club will consider extending its benefits to provide alternative sources of revenue to farmers in the poppy-growing regions of Afghanistan.

Tawfiq trained as an educator, and not surprisingly, during his term as charter president, the Herat Rotary club started off with sponsoring a project that provides vocational training to 200 young men and women. Behind the effort lies a bigger vision: establishing an institute where students will learn about the best of Afghan civilization and Western technology.

“My biggest dream is coming true,” he notes. “When I thought of returning to Afghanistan, I decided that the best thing to take back to my country is the gift of Rotary. It is the perfect gift that keeps on giving.”

Roster:

	THIS WEEK	NEXT WEEK
Program	Brenton Holmes Australian Press Council	
Sergeant	Bruce Wyatt	Val Bland
Introduction	Des Henderson Kelly	Bernadette Capello
Appreciation	Ros Osbourne	Gary Scott
Fellowship	Ian Excell Peter Evans	Neale Emanuel Tom Davies
Raven Recorder	Shukry Sahhar	Des Henderson Kelly
Birthdays	nil	Julia Widdup 13th Aug
Anniversaries	nil	Peter and Shirley Evans 14th Aug
Trash &	6th Aug Gary Scott-Ken Goard	13th Aug Robin Cromer- (?)
Treasure	20th Aug Carlo Binutti-Eric Taylor	27th Aug Bruce Wyatt-Val Bland

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



No 6 Vol 39 Wednesday 2nd August 2006

Tonight:

Brenton Holmes

on

The structure and role of the Australian Press Council

Brenton Holmes has spent most of his career in the public and parliamentary services, He was a former head of the Parliamentary Education Office, and Senior Clerk of Committees in the Australian Senate. He is currently manager of Media and Parliamentary Affairs at Medicare Australia. Brenton is a Public Member of the Australian Press Council - and it is in that capacity that he will speak to the Club tonight.

Last Week:

Acting Acting Sergeant David Fox opened the meeting with ‘Good Morning’ despite the fact that it was evening, and introduced President Ray. President Ray welcomed guests Rodney and Michelle Evans.

Members were reminded of the passing of Honorary Member Murray Crowe on Friday 21 July and were asked to stand and mark a moment’s silence in memory of Murray. Flowers and a card were sent to Murray’s wife Edna on behalf of the Club. A Requiem Mass will be held on Thursday 27th July at St Monica’s Catholic Church in Evatt at 12.30pm.

Ray informed the club of a decision of the Board to support the Australian Rotary Health Research Fund Indigenous Health Scholarship, and that ours would be the first Canberra club to do so. Our commitment involves

supporting 2 delegates in their pursuit of health related qualifications – one at ANU (likely a Medicine or Medical Research student) and one at the University of Canberra (likely an ancillary health professional) to the tune of \$2500pa each.

The Board also decided that annual club subscriptions would increase to \$230, and could still be paid half yearly. Members were also reminded that the District Governor's visit on August 30 was a 'Partners night'.

The Mystery Of The Speeding Trailer.... Members were asked to cast their minds back to 17 July last year and try to remember if they were on Trash and Treasure duty. The club trailer was caught by a speed camera on the corner of Antill St and Northbourne Ave and has attracted a fine. If an individual owns up the fine is significantly cheaper than if it ends up being paid by the club. The photo can be inspected at the Traffic Camera Office.....*to be continued.....*

Piers Booth informed members of medical equipment donated by retiring Dr Chirigakis to 'Donations in Kind', which will be taken to Sydney before being delivered to East Timor.

Former club member Bruce Hall has joined the Rotary Club of Sawtell near Coffs Harbour. He plans to visit Canberra in September for a 'farewell'.

Guest Speaker: Shukry introduced our guest speaker, Dr Rodney Evans, a GP working in Curtin. Rodney, and his wife Michelle, had recently visited and toured Vietnam, and Rodney spoke about their travels and presented some magnificent photos.

They began in the north-west of Vietnam in Sapa – an old French hill station near the Chinese boarder. Sapa, often shrouded in mist, is home to many hill tribe people, distinct in their traditional dress. Rodney and Michelle embarked on a 4 day trek through the hills, terraced rice paddies, and farming villages. On to Hanoi, the capital city and home to 4 million. A bustling city with crazy scooter traffic, beautiful lakes, local markets and the resting place of Ho Chi Minh.

Moving northeast of Hanoi to Halong Bay in the Gulf on Tonkin, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, where over 3000 islands rise from the gulf. They spent their time cruising the bay, and exploring caves and islands.

Then to Hue, another UNESCO World Heritage Site, and a major cultural, political and religious centre. It sustained heavy damage during the Vietnam/American war, but has since been saved by tourism.

Further south to Nha Trang, a idyllic beach resort/fishing village, for

some lazy beach time before arriving in Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon). A busy city, where old meets new, and home to a fascinating War Museum where the war is presented from a Vietnamese point of view.

Their tour also took Rodney and Michelle to visit what is left of some of the Viet Kong tunnel networks in the 'Iron Triangle', and to see some of the 'booby traps' for which the Viet Kong were renowned. Then it was on to the fertile Mekong Delta and a look at life on the river.

The photos were superb, and the talk has no doubt whetted appetites to visit Vietnam. Bob Harvie offered appreciation on behalf of members.

With thanks to Recorder Bernadette

Attendance: 17 members present. Make ups from Ros Osbourne (Trash & Treasure) and Ken Goard (at Macquarie on Hastings – "a boutique club literally on the Hastings River") Percentage: 64.3%

Soybeans changing Herat: The one-year-old Rotary Club of Herat in south-western Afghanistan hit the ground running with an agricultural project that has the immediate potential of benefiting tens of thousands and eventually transforming the local economy.

Sadiq Tawfiq, the club's immediate past president, is the driving force behind the effort aimed at reducing malnutrition among women and children and helping the country's farmers become more competitive in the international market. Donating his own money and time to start the initiative, Tawfiq has enlisted the support of the agriculture ministry and U.S.-based nonprofit organization Nutrition and Education International (NEI) in a bid to introduce soybeans as a new food and cash crop.

In April, nutrition scientists and soybean experts from NEI and the University of Illinois and Southern Illinois University provided training to 80 farmers and government agronomists at a Rotary-club co-sponsored workshop. The club provided a cash allowance, awarded certificates of attendance, and distributed soybean seeds from a 15-ton consignment procured from neighboring Pakistan to the farmers who attended the training.

"The training is essential since soybeans are a new crop in Afghanistan and this is the first time many farmers are seeing soybeans," says Tawfiq.

The club also has a plan, now in an advanced stage, to establish soybean processing plants in Herat. In addition to creating a market for the farmers participating in the club's project, the factories will produce soy flour and soy milk that will help reduce malnutrition.