

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



The Raven

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Tonight:

Dr. Prabir De

on

Minting Yesterday Today and Tomorrow

Director Operations at the Royal Australian Mint, Dr Prabir De is responsible for:

- Production planning
- Engineering design and development
- Engineering support, including tooling design and production
- Product manufacturing and packaging
- Building, equipment and services maintenance
- Quality programs, procedures and audits
- Security

Last Week:

Rex Hunt wore two hats, one being his new role as Sergeant, and opened the meeting, and the other as acting President for Ray Newcombe, and acknowledged the handover dinner last Wednesday. He also drew everyone's attention to Des Pain's new look Raven with the new logo and motto: "Lead the Way" for the incoming Rotary year. He welcomed Piers Booth back from his Canadian trip with Maureen.

Shukry called for and obtained volunteers for Driver Reviver as the Canberra Club could not do it this weekend.

Peter Evans noted that there was a lot of rubbish left from Trash and

Treasure last Sunday. Tom Davies also noted that the trailer registration had expired and asked if anyone knew where the new label was.

Keith Avent passed around the Fred Hollows book: "Seeing" for members to see.

Piers Booth gave a report on his and Maureen's trip to Canada studying the Rocky Mountains and wild animals, especially the grizzly bears. Their scenic tours were on coaches and trains, and they travelled from Banff to Vancouver. They visited the Rotary changeover night at the Kamloops West Rotary Club, one of five Rotary Clubs in Kamloops, and saw friends they met at the Children of the Golden Triangle Training Centre in Thailand. On the Holland American cruise boat, Piers felt like he was in a tin can full of sardines on the cruise boat. However, a highlight of the trip was a plane trip up the west coast from Vancouver to the grizzly bear lodge and 24 hours in an aluminium boat watching a grizzly bear graze which was absolutely fascinating. They came back in a four seater float plane, with just enough room for the two of them, the pilot and luggage. On their way over, they stayed a night in Tokyo, and on the return journey, they visited Kyoto and Nara in Japan.

Rex presented Piers with a certificate of: "Outstanding Service Achievement Award for 2005/2006". Piers coordinated the group of 36 to Thailand in February 2006.

Noel Hart won the Sergeant's session.

Jim Grainger informed the meeting that he has met past Rotary members from Canberra at other Clubs that he has attended for make-ups. For example, Bob Sherwin North Coast, NSW; Derek Trigwell from Alstonville; and Alan Anderson, in-coming president of Laurieton, and a past member of the Belconnen Club.

Guest Speaker. Jim Grainger introduced the guest speaker, Karl Kent, OAM. Karl's CV is in the Raven. Everyone has been emotionally moved, families and whole towns have been affected by the enormity of three momentous occasions in the last few years, eg the Bali bombings, the Tsunami (and the loss of the Socceroos game in the World Cup)! Karl was at the cold face, working hands-on. We owe a great deal of thanks to people like Karl for

the work they have done. Karl will give us an appreciation of the task he had to face, and we are honoured and privileged to have him here. He has likened the trauma of the tsunami to the trauma of war.

Karl proceeded to say it was a collaborative effort after the tsunami involving nine nations. On 26 December 2004 at 8am, there was a large earthquake (9.2 on the Richter scale) 200 miles off Sumatra. The geo-rotational kinetic energy of the earth caused a series of massive tidal surges in excess of 600 k/hour across the surface of the ocean. There were huge walls of water pushing through, causing chaos. There was a loss of over 250,000 lives from Thailand, Sri Lanka, India, Indonesia and surrounding areas. The effect in Myanmar was unknown.

The AFP was invited into Thailand on 27 December to assist. Australia was the second largest source (after the US) for financial aid. On 28 December the Disaster Victim Identification (DVI) unit was deployed to Thailand, and Karl was selected to perform the role of Joint Chief of Staff for the Thai Tsunami Victim Identification (TTVI) operations. Chaos was supreme and his role was to bring order to the situation, establish an Interpol compliant process and protocols, procedures and structures. Three provinces were badly affected in Thailand: Phuket, Phang Nga, and the Phi Phi Islands. Victims from the islands were taken to Krabi. 5395 deceased bodies were taken to temporary mortuary locations such as Wats/temples by Buddhists who were bringing them to a holy place. There was no refrigeration, very little power and full sun. There was very little ice and bodies were decomposing very rapidly, which created a challenge for identification eg for obtaining fingerprints.

On 30 December a DVI coordination Centre was established under the command of the Royal Thai Police Head Quarters in Phuket. There were now 400 DVI specialists representing 30 nations, excluding the Thais. The Prime Minister of Thailand, Mr Thaksin, took a personal interest, along with the Minister of the Interior.

There are five phases in DVI:

1. The scene - where land operations were chaotic and uncoordinated;
2. Post mortem – where dental, DNA and fingerprint records were

recorded. An Australian automated fingerprinting system was used;

3. Ante mortem – where family records were obtained eg obtaining physical descriptions, photographs, descriptions of rings etc.
4. Reconciliation – or a match of the post and ante mortem processes. This was a complex task to integrate all the data from the 'Thai' and the 'non-Thai' sets of data. A full examination would average an hour;
5. Debriefs.

Language was a barrier, and moving the deceased was difficult, from the scene to temporary mortuary storage, to examination rooms (shipping containers), and back to temporary storage again. A site at Mai Khao cemetery, Phuket became a major facility, comprising a 90 foot long air conditioned container with good power and lighting for X-rays, and six teams. There was a large number of Thais where the process had not been completed due to delays in obtaining data. The largest number of identifications were completed via dental records, followed by fingerprinting, then DNA. By December 2005, 2841 deceased were identified, with 3019 at the end of operations, with all the bodies buried by June this year. There are still around 400 not able to be identified. A final report was issued in February 2006 with a handover to the Thai authorities.

Areas for improvement were learned from the process, such as the need for standardized descriptive nomenclatures; enhanced mobile mortuary and post-mortem facilities; implementation of a database system incorporating missing persons; barcoding technology for samples; and geographic data etc.

Ajit thanked Karl for giving us an insight to this mind-boggling experience, and hopes that it doesn't happen again.

Attendance: 62.06% with no make-ups this week.

With thanks to Recorder Val Bland

Heading North from John and Julia Widdup.

Here we are in upstate New York travelling slowly as the area has had the heaviest summer rain for ages. The rivers here are running bankers and the local roads are shut including 100 mile of the east-west interstate freeway.

So yesterday, after camping in pouring rain all night on the edge of the

cycle trail (on a ridge so it was dry under the tent) we were happily riding in heavy rain with the gutters and streams running full. We went through some shallow water running over the road a few times and went past some road closed signs but the roads were not impassable. But then after some 45km the local sheriff was stopping everyone as the water crossing the road was some 0.75 m deep and flowing very fast. We could not have walked across. I thought we could get a lift in a truck through the water and then proceed on.

The Sheriff, after he worked out that we were nuts, advised us that all roads were cut in many places and that we should go back some 5 miles and then a few miles down another road to Little Falls where the Red Cross was setting up a shelter. So we went there and had lunch with the Red Cross and a few people whose houses were under water and some off boats on the river.

Then we were taken (in the Red Cross van) to a high school in the next town (some 10 miles away) where we and others spent the night in the gym. Dinner and breakfast provided.

Evidently there has been some 6 inches (150 mm) of rain in the last two days and it has been raining for over a week so no wonder it is a bit wet. Like with most floods, the high water comes after the rain is gone and today it is cloudy, sunny with light showers. But heavy rain is forecast for tonight.

This morning (Thursday) we decided to cycle off to a town some 20 miles away where we had checked that the camping ground was open and had intended to stay there the night. Yesterday, in the shelter, we were interviewed by the local paper and they printed a couple of paragraphs on us in today's paper on the local flooding report. Well when riding along a local road (miles off our originally intended route) along the canal, a local cyclist going the other way stopped and asked if we were the Australians he read about in the paper. After some chatting, he offered to put us up for the night so here we are on a farm in his office sending this email.

He was a dairy farmer, but business went bad and he setup a BBQ pig business and now has that and a restaurant in the next city (Utica) where he is taking us to dinner this evening.

Tomorrow we should be able to get back onto the route we were fol-

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lowing that goes to Niagra and then into Canada. The reports are that the flooding is subsiding.

So all in all the floods have shown us a different part of this country.

We were hoping to catch up with Annmarie and Rod who got away from Albany two days ahead of us (due to our late luggage and damaged bikes). We were doing OK until we met the floods and the hospitable people so may not catch up until the Bike Rally in Waterloo Canada in a week or so.

We are going OK and have managed to dry out our things overnight. We went into one deep lot of water and the trailer and shoes filled with water.

Bye for now.

Regards, John & Julia

Roster:

Program	THIS WEEK	NEXT WEEK
	Dr Prabir De Minting Yesterday Today and Tomorrow	Keith Jones Bush Poets
Introduction	Carlo Binutti	Neale Emanuel
Appreciation	Piers Booth	Peter Evans
Fellowship	Rex Hunt Ray Newcombe	Shukry Sahhar Des Pain
Raven Recorder	Tom Davies	Robin Cromer
Birthdays	nil	Peter Evans 14th July, Margaret Ellis 15th July
Anniversaries	nil	Eric and Rosemary Taylor 18th July
Trash & Treasure	8th July Neale Emanuel-Peter Evans 24th July Gary Scott-Ken Goard	15th July Bruce Wyatt-Noel Hart 31st July Shukry Sahhar-Ian Excell