

Board members 2006-07

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

Office holders

Bulletin Editor Des Pain
Sergeant: Rex Hunt
Program Manager Shukry Sahhar
Historian/ Archivist Keith Avent
Webmaster: Robin Cromer

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South African Rotary clubs, businesses, and Rotarians for Fighting AIDS, a Rotarian Action Group, are the main sponsors of the hike. The action group is implementing community-led responses for AIDS orphans and vulnerable children in Botswana, Côte d'Ivoire, Kenya, Mozambique, Nigeria, South Africa, and Zambia.

The hikers will describe their experiences during the journey on a blog at <http://rotaryaidshike2006.blogspot.com>.

Roster:

| | THIS WEEK 6th Dec | NEXT WEEK 13th Dec |
|------------------|---|--|
| Program | Christmas Party Rugby Union Choir | Alan Evans NRMA |
| Introduction | Rex Hunt | Eric Taylor |
| Appreciation | Shukry Sahhar | John Widdup |
| Fellowship | Ajit Banerjee Des Pain | Ian Excell Bob Harvie |
| Raven Recorder | Bob Harvie | Ken Goard |
| Birthdays | Babs grainger 12th | nil |
| Anniversaries | Tom and Pat Davies 9th Dec | Jim And Babs Grainger 17th Dec Robin And Jill Cromer 17th Dec |
| Trash & Treasure | 10 Dec Shukry Sahhar-Ian Excell 24 Dec Tom Davies-Bob Harvie | 17 Dec Ray Newcombe-Ros Osbourne 31 Dec (?)-(?) |

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



No 24 Vol 39 Wednesday 6th Decemerr 2006

Tonight:

Our one and only 2006

Christmas Party

and we'll be entertained

by the Rugby Union Choir.

Come one - come all....

6.00pm for 6.30pm



Last Week:

The meeting was opened by Sergeant Rex, as President Ray's arrival was delayed. President Ray on his arrival said that in future he would not be arriving until 6.45pm, due to work commitments. Further that with people now working longer hours, other members could also expect to arrive late, and were not to be fined.

(This raises the question, should the club change its meeting time? The Rotary Club of Bungendore starts its meetings at 7.30pm. Should this club do the same?)

The fine session was held early in the meeting, finishing with a series of cartoons projected onto a screen. Two-up was won by Des Henderson-Kelly.

The Annual General Meeting was conducted by President Ray. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved. Peter Evans and Rex Hunt.

The Annual Report was received. John Widdup and Tom Davies. The Annual Financial Report was received. Des Pain and Keith Avent. Tom Davies was confirmed as the incoming President for 2007-08. Eric Taylor was elected secretary. Tom Davies and Peter Evans. The remainder of the board will be elected at a later meeting.

The Guest Speaker: Glenn Keys was introduced by Ken Goard.

Glenn is one of two founding directors of AspenMedical, which they started three years ago. The company based in Canberra, is involved in providing innovative health care solutions to all parts of the world, Australia, the Pacific region, SE Asia and Europe. This may be the provision of single personnel in all the areas of medicine, but in addition they have set up fully staffed mobile hospitals at short notice, in East Timor and the Solomon Islands. In addition they have provided staff to existing hospitals, reopening a casualty department in Queensland at short notice. In addition on several occasions they have contracted to reduce waiting lists of both eye surgery and orthopaedics. Most of the employed staff is on short term contracts and is drawn from two age groups, those who have recently finished training, and those towards the end of their working life.

[Two days later, the *Canberra Times* reported that AspenMedical “had picked up a national business award. Founders Glenn Keys and Andrew Walker topped the services category at last night’s Ernst and Young Entrepreneur of the Year awards. In just three years the Braddon company has successfully exploited a niche market in providing mobile medical facilities and taking over hospital departments to remedy serious problems.”]

After answering several questions, Glenn was thanked by Peter Evans. The meeting was closed by Ray Newcombe.

Attendance: Guest: Glenn Keys. Hon Member: Frank Macklin. Make-ups: Jim Grainger-Gold Coast. Number of Members present: 24. Percentage: 78.57%

Hiking scholars to raise funds, AIDS awareness in South Africa

A team of five Rotary club-sponsored international students are participating in a 2,010-kilometer (1,249-mile) hike from Johannesburg to Cape Town, South Africa, to highlight the plight of AIDS orphans. The 20-day event will start on 2 December. The time and distance of the hike are intended to underscore the prediction that without concerted efforts, Africa will be home to 20 million AIDS orphans by 2010. (Currently, AIDS orphans there number 12 million.) Also, 2010 is the year that South Africa hosts the World Cup.

Along the way, the hikers, who are students at Johannesburg’s University of the Witwatersrand, will raise funds for Rotary club-sponsored projects for AIDS orphans in Africa. Four of the hikers are Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial Scholars. Ryan McDonnell, a development studies master’s student from Boston, notes that it’s easy to give up in the face of the mind-boggling HIV/AIDS statistics, but that’s not something he intends to do. “I want to challenge the notion that ordinary individuals can’t make a tangible difference in the lives of others,” he says. “Too often, we make excuses that we don’t have the ability, the time, the energy, or that the problem is simply too big.”

His colleagues have equally powerful reasons for joining the effort, which is cosponsored by South African Rotary clubs, along with Rotary clubs around the world.

“Today, less than 5 percent of orphans and vulnerable children in Africa receive assistance of any kind,” explains graduate student Kelly Lewis, from Wheeler, N.Y., USA, who is studying English. “We cannot stand by as these children needlessly suffer without adequate nutrition, shelter, education, or support. I hope that our efforts will provide inspiration for others to take action and end the apathy and disregard that has unnecessarily allowed the suffering and death of tens of millions.”

University of Johannesburg optometry student Ruan Koorts, who is from Pretoria, South Africa, has been so impressed with Rotary’s humanitarian work and the dedication of the hiking team that he has volunteered full time to drive the students’ support car. “I want to be a part of their efforts to show how we, as members of the community, as leaders of business, and as individuals, can find solutions to the devastating problem of AIDS,” he says.