

Board members 2006-07

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The girls who received the bicycles have dreams of having careers as teachers, policewomen, or working in the medical field. "I was surprised by their ambitions," Shetty says. "Not one said they wanted to be a housewife."

Shetty believes women should have a choice of whether they want to stay home and raise a family or pursue a professional life. And education is the key that can open many doors. "Illiteracy is a problem," she explains. "Girls are the first to drop out of school in families."

Rotary Education on Wheels is a long-term effort with 2,000 bikes planned for distribution in the coming year. Shetty hopes to expand the project to include more countries.

Roster:

	THIS WEEK	NEXT WEEK
Program	Keith Jones Bush Poets	
Sergeant	Neale Emanuel	Peter Evans
Introduction	Neale Emanuel	Ian Excell
Appreciation	Peter Evans	David Fox
Fellowship	Shukry Sahhar Des Pain	Phil Ibbotson Des Henderson Kelly
Raven Recorder	Tom Davies	Phil Ibbotson
Birthdays	Peter Evans 14th July, Margaret Ellis 15th July	Dorothy Macklin 22nd July.
Anniversaries	Eric and Rosemary Taylor 18th July nil	
Trash & Treasure	15th July Bruce Wyatt-Noel Hart 30th July Shukry Sahhar-Ian Excell	23rd July Gary Scott-Ken Goard 6th Aug Des Henderson Kelly-Bob Harvie

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Tonight:

Keith Jones on Bush Poets

"I don't run to photos, I am an alien and don't show up in photographs, fortunately. I don't have a very long CV. I retired six years ago after a career in accountancy which probably explains the keen sense of humour common to all practitioners of that profession. A late starter as a poet initially writing poems for and about work colleagues. After retirement looking to fill the void between rounds of golf linked up with Queanbeyan Bush Poets. Recently published my own book of verse mostly in the bush poetry vein. Perform regularly at regional folk festivals and other venues where bush poets and their small but enthusiastic band of followers gather."

Last Week:

Sergeant Rex Hunt introduced Acting President David Fox. Piers Booth has facilitated the donation of two dental chairs that could fill an urgent need in East Timor and it was agreed that the Club would pay the transport to Sydney, so the chairs can be shipped as soon as possible. Bernadette reported that host families were still needed for 12-14 students for RAIC in August.

Carlo Binutti introduced the **Guest Speaker, Dr Prabir De**, the Director of Operations at the Royal Australian Mint. His first degree was in Mechanical Engineering at the University of Calcutta and he later



completed a PhD at the University of Manchester.

The history of metal coin making started before 600 BC, possibly first in Asia Minor and subsequently in Greece and Rome. The ten classic rules of coin making were described as: round; flat; light and small; one piece; one metal; limited range of metals (say gold, silver and copper coins); electromagnetic properties; serrations for the visually impaired; different designs on obverse and reverse; metal value less than the face value. The first nickel coins are thought to have come from Bactria in southern Russia. The metal ratio used was 77% copper and 20% nickel, whereas current coins use a ratio of 75:25.

The automated manufacturing of coins began in France in 1833, with the creation of the first powered ball screw press. Coins these days are of two main 'types': the first being the everyday or "circulating" coins; the second being "proof" coins that are primarily collectors items, made in a manual press in much smaller numbers. The process of making a coin involves a number of steps, starting with a hand-drawn sketch then an engraving in plaster-of-paris. Historically, a rubber mould was then made from the plaster engraving, an epoxy cast from the rubber and thence to a reduction punch machine. With modern technology, a computer engraving is made directly from the plaster engraving, from which a die is produced. Current machines stamp out 600 coins per minute, but new machines are capable of producing 850 coins per minute.



Dr Prabir De showed us examples of new coins being developed that include novel ideas such as different metals, holograms, or areas that change colour under ultraviolet light, all technologies that will make it harder for coins to be counterfeited.

Piers Booth thanked Dr Prabir De for his talk.

Thanks to Recorder Robin Cromer

Attendance: Guest: John Joslin; Make-up: Tom Davies; Number of members present 21; Percentage: 75%

Rotary Education on Wheels

For girls in south Asia, having a bicycle can mean the difference between going to school or not. Without an education, girls face illiteracy and the inability to support themselves. The 26 December 2004 tsunami in south Asia destroyed major structures, such as schools, and washed away bicycles. Many students — but especially girls — then faced the possibility of a bleak

future without an education.

After the tsunami, students had to travel long distances to the area's remaining schools. Without bicycles, the long commute by foot meant that the children walked home at night, says Dr. Rekha Shetty, past district governor of District 3230. For girls, the walk was not an option. "Families would not allow girls to go to school if they had to walk through remote areas after dark," Shetty says.

In January 2005, Shetty and Dr. Peter Patel, of the Rotary Club of Birmingham, United Kingdom, took a trip to assess damage along the coast of Tamilnadu, south India. While at the Cuddalore District collector's office, the Rotarians saw three girls petitioning for bicycles to replace those they lost in the tsunami. The assistant collector asked the Rotarians to purchase bicycles for the girls "so they could continue their studies and not face a life of misery and drudgery," according to Shetty.

She realized then what a difference a bicycle can make. "A bicycle changes a girl's whole life pattern and determines her future," Shetty says. With bicycles, the girls would be able to commute to and from school much faster.

Patel agreed to buy bikes for the girls at the office, but he and Shetty were informed that there were almost 800 more girls in need of bicycles. The Rotarians agreed to raise the necessary money and began the Rotary Education on Wheels project. "We really didn't know if we had bitten off more than we could chew," Shetty says.

But in typical Rotarian fashion, districts worldwide contributed. The Rotary Club of Jerusalem, Israel, funded 100 bicycles, and Rotarians from the Rotary Club of Katmandu Mid-Town, Nepal, a country being torn apart by civil war and poverty, rallied to raise money for 95 more.

In India, members of the Rotary Club of Pune Central raised money for 100 bikes. The Rotary clubs of Madras Temple City, Ambattur, and Cuddalore Midtown pitched in by coordinating and distributing the bicycles. "The bicycles are moving promotions for Rotary," Shetty explains. Each of the bikes has the Rotary wheel on the fender and the name of the club that donated it.

