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 Program: Phil Ibbotson  
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 Archives: Keith Avent  
 Member Data: Ken Goard  
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**Previous Issues of the Raven**

Web: <<http://www.rotanet.com.au/woden>>

**Contact Information**

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 Secretary: [keith.avent@bigpond.com](mailto:keith.avent@bigpond.com)

**Organiser of the Rotary Spring Cycle Ride of Canberra.  
 Held annually in September.**



# THE RAVEN

THE WEEKLY BULLETIN OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF WODEN

**Meetings: 6.00 for 6.15 pm Wednesdays, Federal Golf Club, Gowrie Drive, Red Hill**

## YOUR FELLOW MEMBER – Phil Ibbotson

I was born in North Perth in Western Australia in 1929, the last of 6 sons. I gained a Scholarship to Perth Modern School and spent five years in the company among others of Bob Hawke, John Stone, Max Newton and Rolf Harris. While at School I published a book of poetry.

After Matriculation I went to Teachers College and WA University graduating BA with majors in English, French and German. I subsequently completed a B.Ed at Uni WA and concurrently a Dip Ed Admin at Uni New England. At the same time I met Louise at Patch Theatre and we married – too young!

I started teaching in 1949. Firstly primary schools then country high schools. At Bunbury High as well as teaching languages I produced some of the Gilbert And Sullivan Operettas and wrote one for 17 year olds

called *Romance in Ruritania*. I then went back to Perth to train Technical teachers.

In 1977 I was appointed Foundation Principal of Bruce Tafe and subsequently Associate Director of Canberra Institute of Technology. After retirement I ran an English College for Overseas Students in Melbourne then came back to Canberra to work for the ANU in ANUTECH.



Concurrently with the above I joined the Army Reserve in 1948 and progressed to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. This included a stint in Vietnam in 1969

At the same time as all of the above I was a member of APEX and subsequently of Rotary.

Also, Louise and I raised three sons and a daughter. So much for being too young.

In the words of AB Facey, the West Australian author - “a fortunate life”.

## The back page

### BE CAREFUL WHAT YOU SAY TO LITTLE BOYS

A little boy watched fascinated, as his mother covered her face in cold cream. “Why do you do that?” he asked. “To make myself beautiful”, she replied.

When she began to rub it off the boy asked, “Why are you doing that? Did you give up?”

A little boy asked his grandmother how old she was. “39 and holding”, she replied. “Well then, how old would you be if you let go?”

## Attendance last week

**Club Guest & Speaker:** Dr Jim Peacock  
**Visiting Rotarian:** Mike Rodd  
**Other Guests:** Rilka MacAinsch  
**Members present:** 21  
**Makeups:** 0  
**Percentage:** 70.00 %

## APOLOGIES

**BY 3 PM TUESDAY**  
**Norma Donaldson**  
**6231 6680**  
**normad@apex.net.au**

## DINNER ROSTER

Program	THIS WEEK - 5 August	NEXT WEEK – 12 August
	Ms Jacqui Burke	Eli Hopkins and Tom Sloan
	Canberra Community Care	Development in Vietnam
<b>Introduction</b>	Neale Emanuel	Ajit Banerjee
<b>Appreciation</b>	AnneMarie Driver	Carlo Binutti
<b>Fellowship</b>	Alec Philip	Lukas Strohmayer
	John Gray	Bish Mukerjee
<b>Raven Recorder</b>	Bob Harvie	Ken Goard
<b>Birthdays</b>	Nil	Julia Widdup 13 August
<b>Anniversaries</b>	Nil	Peter & Shirley Evans 14 August

## Dates for your diary

**Parking – Check Gary’s roster when complete for the dates you are rostered**

**20 Aug. – Next working party to Kintore**

**5-12 Sept. – Adventure in Citizenship (RAIC)**

**Sun 27 Sept. – Rotary Spring Cycle Ride**

**16-19 Oct. – Club hosts Shanghai GSE team**

**23-25 Oct. – District Conference in Cooma**

**26-28 Feb. – Canberra Show (parking)**

**August is Membership Extension Month**

## TONIGHT

**We welcome Jacqui Burke who will talk on Canberra Community Care**

## Dr Jim Peacock– Food, more food & good food

Our guest speaker last week, Dr Peacock, started his talk with the statement that the world's population was predicted to reach 19 billion by 2030 -2050 and therefore the world's food supply had to increase by 50 – 100%. Key aspects were water supply, sunlight and a high quality scientific community to research and apply new ways to produce food more effectively and efficiently.



At present wheat yields vary from 8 to 12 tonnes per ha (UK) to 16+ tonnes per ha in the South Island of New Zealand. (Compare this to Australia's average yield of 2 tonnes per ha). The scientific community is working to significantly increase these levels and genetic modification (GM), as applied to plant breeding, is an evolving new technique to achieve major improvements in yields.

At present scientists have added three new genes to plants such as cotton. These extra genes significantly increase the crop's resistance to attack by pests (such as wasps), plus create plants that are resistant to the herbicide "round-up". This improvement significantly decreases the amount of insecticide used (to kill off pest species) and allows farmers to use the herbicide "round-up" to kill off weeds without affecting the cotton plants. Some 90+% of cotton is now genetically modified. This gives dramatic cost savings for the farmers. Similar work has been achieved with wheat, rice and canola. It is predicted that soon Australian farmers will plant 90+% GM canola. Dr Peacock stated that "some billions of hectares of GM crops have been used around the world in recent time without any definable impacts on human health".

But how do GM crops help us – the users of these food products? Next month food stores will stock "Barley Max" a new GM breakfast cereal that has very low GI & double the fibre level of traditional breakfast cereals. It is predicted that this, and other GM products, will significantly improve human health, in terms of reducing problems such as diabetes and colonic diseases.

Work at CSIRO (Black Mountain) is also focused on increasing the nutritional value of GM foods such as rice. However such "new foods" take up to six years to develop and test before they enter our food shops – it is important that people eat GM foods with a high degree of confidence that they are 100% safe. Additional work at CSIRO is focused on producing plants that are as high in "fish oils (ie Omega 3 fatty acids) as tuna etc. as these fatty acids are vital components in a healthy diet.

The long term aim of CSIRO is to produce a range of plants that can withstand lower/higher temperatures, less water, etc. than we now experience. To achieve these aims we also need associated policies and procedures to help to apply the latest research findings and to gain consumer acceptance.

## Club News

**RAIC:** President Ros Osbourne called for support to transport & home-host delegates for the upcoming RAIC week during Saturday 5 Sept. to Saturday 12 Sept. 2009.

**GSE Team:** She also called for volunteers to host, transport & entertain members of the GSE team from Shanghai during the period Friday 16 Oct. to Monday 19 Oct. Members for the outgoing teams to Shanghai and Arizona are still being sought.

**Rotary Western Desert Project:** Past President Shukry reported on his trip to Wagga Wagga to discuss with members of three local Rotary Clubs their involvement in future working parties to Kintore. Some five members have noted their interest in joining the August trip run by John Widdup. The Wagga members have a range of trade backgrounds & they are seeking extra support from the local TAFE Institute. Past President David Fox reported that Canberra City Rotary Club had donated \$5,000 towards the project. The Club is also interested in supporting future work parties.

**Eric Taylor:** Secretary Keith Avent noted that Eric Taylor is still in hospital and is only able to accept a few visitors. Members were asked to contact Rosemary Taylor before visiting him. Our thoughts are with you Eric and we look forward to your speedy return to good health.

**Vocational Classification System:** Secretary Keith Avent reported on the Club's vocational classification system for new members John Robson (Occupational Hygienist) and Lyn Svanosio (Business Manager).

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## Dinner Roster Reminder

It is appreciated that you cannot predict all of your commitments many weeks ahead and inevitably you will find yourself rostered on a night you cannot attend Rotary. In these circumstances all you need to do is arrange a swap with someone else.

**BUT PLEASE REMEMBER TO ADVISE THE RAVEN EDITORS OF THE SWAP.**

## Subscriptions Reminder

A reminder that the subscription for Rotary year 2009-10 of \$240 is now due and payable to Treasurer Lyn Svanosio. And don't forget that it can be paid by direct debit to the club's CBA account (still RC of Canberra Woden) at: BSB 062 905 Account 1007 3240

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## What does MDFRC stand for?

The Murray Darling Freshwater Research Centre. This is where the Rotary Murray Darling School of Freshwater Research is run at Wodonga at around Easter each year. The school has attracted some 480 students since 1996. Our Club has supported the attendance of several year 11 young people at this school.

RAVEN REPORTER

Gary Scott

PHOTOGRAPHERS

John Gray