

## ROTARY CLUB



## OF WODEN INC.

### Board Directors

President:	Ros Osbourne
Secretary & Public Officer:	Keith Avent
Immediate Past President:	Shukry Sahhar
President Elect:	Gary Scott
Treasurer:	Lyn Svanosio
Club Operations:	Des Pain
Membership:	John Widdup
Community & Fun:	Bernadette Cappello
Rotary Foundation:	Jeff Ibbotson
Youth:	Gary Scott

### Other officers

Vocational:	Carlo Binutti
Bulletin:	Robin Cromer, John Gray, Alec Philip & Bruce Wyatt
Attendance Chief:	Norma Donaldson
Program:	Phil Ibbotson
Sergeant Chief:	Bruce Wyatt
PR & Media:	David Fox
Archives:	Keith Avent
Member data:	Ken Goard
Webmaster:	Robin Cromer

### Contact Information

PO Box 637 Woden ACT 2606

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

### Previous Issues of the Raven:

<http://www.rotarnet.com.au/woden>

**Organiser of the Rotary Spring Cycle - Held annually in September**

## The back page

**Random thoughts:** Have you ever been walking down the street and realised that you're going in the complete opposite direction of where you are supposed to be going?

But instead of just turning a 180 degrees and walking back in the direction from which you came, you have to first do something like check your watch or phone or make a grand arm gesture and mutter to yourself to ensure that no one in the surrounding area thinks you're crazy by randomly switching directions on the sidewalk!

### Last week's attendance

**Guest speaker:** Ben Farrell (UNHCR)

**Club Guests/ visitors:** Nil

**Members present:** 20

**Make-ups:** 5 **Countable:** 21

**Percentage:** 63.3%

### APOLOGIES

**BY 3 PM TUESDAY**

Norma Donaldson  
6231 6680

[normad@apex.net.au](mailto:normad@apex.net.au)

### DINNER ROSTER

Program	This week - 9 December	Next week - 16 December
	<b>Club Christmas Party</b>	<b>Christmas Message - Curtin Uniting Church</b>
	Italian Choir	Rev. Dr. Ockert Meyer (Yarralumla Uniting)
Introduction	Ros Osbourne	Peter Evans
Appreciation		David Fox
Fellowship	Gary Scott	Des Henderson-Kelly
	John Gray	Jeff Ibbotson
Raven Recorder	Gary Scott	Bernadette Cappello
Birthdays	Gerda Lambeck 5/12	Jill Cromer 20/12, Jonathan Benyei 23/12, Noel Hart 25/12
Anniversaries	Nil	Jill and Robin Cromer 17/12

**Parking at Thoroughbred Park**

Monday 28 December. Peter Evans (Leader), Des Henderson-Kelly, Jeff Ibbotson, Bish Mukerjee

The Raven - Page 4



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# THE RAVEN

THE WEEKLY BULLETIN OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF WODEN

Meetings 6.00 for 6.15 pm each Wednesday, Federal Golf Club, Gowrie Drive, Red Hill

## Your fellow member - Piers Norleigh Booth

Born in Newcastle upon Tyne in 1934, and am therefore a Geordie. After 5 years of living in greater Newcastle, at the start of the 1939-45 war my family moved into the country, and eventually settled in Corbridge. I was educated at Bryanston School, and the Universities of Cambridge and Newcastle upon Tyne, before qualifying as a medical practitioner in 1960.

After several appointments in hospital and general practice posts, I emigrated to Australia in 1965, and from 1966 to 1972 worked in Bateman's Bay, as a general practitioner. Then 5 years back in the NE of England, training as an anaesthetist, before coming to Canberra in 1977, to work as a specialist.

Around the time of my retirement 12 years ago, I worked on several occasions in Nepal. Earlier in my retirement

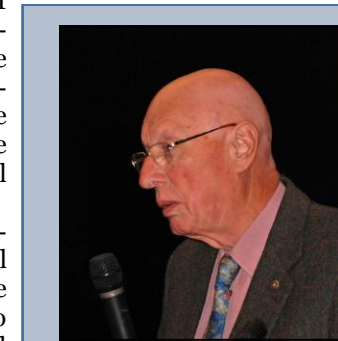
I completed a degree in theology.

I met Maureen, my wife, in 1962, and we were married a year later. We have 3 children, Justin, Caroline and Marcus, and 5 grandchildren. Maureen

and I enjoy our retirement, pandering to our ageing dog, and as members of St James Uniting Church, with its progressive theology. My main interests are gardening, reading including 2 newspapers each day, and theology, including leading worship and preaching on occasions.

**Editor:** Piers has been very modest about his outstanding Rotary

service. He was President of Bateman's Bay and Woden Clubs, a strong supporter of ROMAC particularly in relation to Somchai, and he has made a continuing contribution to the Children of the Golden Triangle project in Thailand.



Piers Booth

### Dates for your diary

<b>Parking:</b>	See Roster at foot of page 4
<b>9 Dec:</b>	Club Xmas Party
<b>16 Dec:</b>	Xmas Message - Rev Dr O Meyer
<b>23-30 Dec:</b>	No meetings
<b>6 Jan 2010:</b>	BBQ Edison Park
<b>13 J an:</b>	First meeting Golf Club
<b>Feb 26-28:</b>	Parking at Royal Canberra Show

### Tonight

**Club Christmas Party**

**Italian Choir**

**December is Family Month**

## Guest Speaker - Ben Farrell (UNHCR)

Ben Farrell is the External Relations Officer at the United Nations High Commission for Refugees Office for Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea and the Pacific (since January 2009). Ben holds a Bachelor of Arts (Communications) from the University of Canberra and a Master of Politics and Public Policy from Macquarie University. In his current role, Ben is responsible for building and maintaining relationships with stakeholders in the government and non-government sectors, as well as undertaking media and communications activities for the UNHCR.



Ben Farrell

The UNHCR is an impartial, humanitarian and non-political organisation mandated by the United Nations (UN) to lead and coordinate international action to protect refugees and resolve refugee problems world-wide. Its primary purpose is to safeguard the rights and well-being of refugees. It strives to ensure that everyone can exercise the right to seek asylum and find safe refuge in another State, with the option to return home voluntarily, integrate locally or to resettle in a third country.

The 1951 UN Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees is the key legal document in defining who is a refugee, their rights and the legal obligations of states. Article 1A(2) of the Convention defines a refugee as a per-

son who "owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group, or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality, and is unable to or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country...".

In Canberra, the UNHCR Regional Office for Australia, New Zealand, PNG and the South Pacific provides legal, resettlement and information services. Australia and New Zealand, as long-standing signatories to the 1951 Convention and its 1967 Protocol, have accepted

responsibility for providing protection to persons obliged to flee their country because of persecution and have long-established systems for determining refugee status. Papua New Guinea and some countries in the South Pacific are also signatories to the Convention but have less-established local systems.

Robyn Singleton thanked Ben for his presentation, noting the enormity of the challenge facing UNHCR and how sobering it is to think of so many refugees and other displaced persons, whose situations may never be resolved.

Further information about the work of the UNHCR is available at [www.unhcr.org](http://www.unhcr.org) and [www.unhcr.org.au](http://www.unhcr.org.au)

## Club news

### Meeting 16 December:

Piers Booth advised that the Club's final meeting for the year, on Wednesday 16 December 2009, will be held at St James Uniting Church, **CURTIN**. To assist with catering arrangements (food only), members are asked to let Piers know if they plan to attend the meeting. Drinks will be BYO.

**Kintore:** President Ros reported that tax deductible donations for the Rotary Western Desert Project can now be received by the Rotary Club of Woden. Cheques should be made payable to the **J C Olsson Relief Trust Fund** and posted to the Rotary Club of Woden Inc., PO Box 637, Woden ACT 2606.

**National Youth Science Forum:** The NYSF will be held at the ANU in January 2010, with two successive 2-week programs. Rotarians are invited to attend either of the Forum dinners in the **Great Hall of the Australian National University** (University House) on Thursday 7 or Thursday

21 January and/or host a small number of students at home on either Sunday 10 January or Sunday 24 January. The home visits are intended to give students an opportunity to wash some clothes and have some rest and relaxation in a home environment. Members wishing to attend one of the dinners, host some students, or both, should advise Gary Scott.

**Fundraising Dinner:** Jeff Ibbotson reported that the Board is exploring the feasibility of holding a fundraising dinner in 2010, with former Governor-General, Major-General Michael Jeffery AC, CVO, MC as a possible guest speaker. Members are encouraged to pass on any useful ideas to Jeff or, even better, to join a small working group, which Jeff will convene, to explore the proposal further.

**Raven Reporter:** Christine Bell  
**Photos:** Bernadette Cappello & Robin Cromer



The Canberra Cup at Thoroughbred Park, and the winners were: Woden Rotary!



What a (parking) team.