



ROTARY CLUB OF WARRACKNABEAL INC

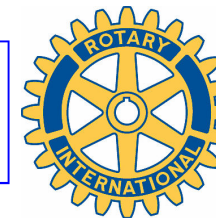
Bulletin

Incorporation No A13811J

ABN No 124 1387

Volume 50 No 41

22 April 2009



Anniversaries etc

Inductions	
Birthdays	Ben Bentley 26 April
Partners Birthday	
Wedding	
Meeting Stats	
Attendance	93%
Visitors	
Apologies	Lindsay Smale, Ron McKay, Ray & Leora Duffield, Peter Martin, Deb Holland
Make Ups	Ron McKay, Ray & Leora Duffield, Peter Martin,

Diary Dates

6 May	<i>Ken Dowsley - House Building in Cambodia</i>
20 May	<i>Club Assembly</i>
SAT - 4 JULY 2009	<i>WARRACKNABEAL CHANGE OVER NIGHT</i>

Reminder - Men's Breakfast - Tuesday 21 April - 7.30 am
Bernard Denner - Renowned men's health speaker - gold coin donation.

REMINDER: Directors Reports to Martin by 14th June to be delivered in Word Format and Times Roman 14.

Congratulations to Jack Pickering for winning his first ever 100UP in bowls

Coming Up

	WEDNESDAY 22 April 2009	WEDNESDAY 29 April 2009
Venue	Warrack Hotel	Warrack Hotel
Time	6 pm for 6.30 pm	6 pm for 6.30 pm
Meal	Roast	Schnitzel
Reception	Ron McKay	Calvin Muller
Assistant Treasurer	Ben Bentley	Rob de Vries
Invocation	Helen Peters	Jacky Roberts
Chairperson	Stan Avery	Ben Bentley
Visitors	Deb Holland	Gavan Inkster
Up Front	Sue Watts	Jean Wise
Program	Don Kent Why I like Sheep Hills Dawn Service	Jim McLoughlan National Science Forum
Thank You	Rob de Vries	Ray Duffield
Bulletin	Jean Wise	Jean Wise
Coin Toss	Leora Duffield	Tony Gregson

Apologies to Gavan Inkster on 5394 1061 by Tuesday noon
PLEASE LEAVE A MESSAGE

If unavailable for duty please advise President Martin

DAVID DRAGE - NUFFIELD SCHOLARSHIP



In 2008 David successfully applied for a Nuffield Scholarship to study the effects of emissions trading schemes on agriculture. The scholarship is sponsored by the estate of RC&EC Webb. The scholarship consists of \$26,000 to put towards travel expenses, and requires the recipient to spend 16 weeks away from their home and business, studying and producing a report. The first six weeks of this study time is an organised tour as a group looking at global agriculture; the global focus program. In mid February David and eight other scholars met in Canberra to begin the tour. Starting in Canberra in NFF House listening to a number of Australian agricultural advisors as well as a delegation from the Mexican embassy, they then left for a week in New Zealand, where most of their time was spent in the intensive dairying area of the North Island. In the past few years most farmers have increased production using borrowed funds, and are now facing the prospect of lower milk prices and low equity due to falling land values. Whilst farmers are in denial of the problem they are facing suppliers and advisors are seriously worried.

From New Zealand they flew to London where all 50 Nuffield scholars met up for a week, where they had a tour of the Houses of Parliament and met with numerous advisors and politicians. They also met with the Duke of Gloucester, who is the Patron of the Nuffield organisation as well as being the Queens cousin.

David also discovered that he farms close to where his ancestors farmed until they left England for Australia! They then spent a day visiting English farms and were concerned to find that despite subsidies almost all farmers need a considerable form of off farm income to keep them farming. One farm just outside London had converted all their old barns and stables into offices, and other farms had opened farm shops, where farm produce was sold direct to customers. One farm shop owner had actually leased out his farm and now sold produce sourced from all over Europe as home grown from his farm shop!

From London we travelled to France where we met with one of the largest farmer co-operatives operating in France. Whilst almost all cooperative ventures have disappeared from Australian agriculture they are still very strong in France. The rest of that day was spent touring the battlefields of Northern France and Belgium. The battlefield of Fromelles was visited along with a number of Commonwealth War Grave sites. The day finished with the Last Post ceremony at the Menin Gate in Ypres. This was a very emotional place with thousands of names for which there is no known grave listed on the walls of the monument. I found the names of a number of Warracknabeal residents who lost their lives on the battlefields of Belgium. The next stop on the tour was Brussels where they lost a day of their life to the crazy ramblings of the Eurocrats. Whilst emotion overrules economics and science in the European parliament we cannot expect to see any change in the European subsidy system. From Brussels they then headed for Brazil

Arriving in Sao Paulo, a city with a population about the same as Australia's they saw that whilst there were areas of obvious poverty, the average citizen seemed to be living quite well. In the rural areas the people all appeared to have a standard of living equal to or better than rural Australia. We visited a number of different farms; coffee, sugar, grain and dairy farms. We visited the capital, Brasilia, where a day was spent in the parliament speaking with the Agriculture minister, and advisors on environmental issues. We left the warm of Brazil for the snow of Nova Scotia. We were billeted out onto farms there; mostly dairy farms which were all doing well due to the Canadian milk quota system. Farming in Nova Scotia is very diverse due to the temperate climate there. There are plenty of orchards, fruit and vegetables as well as cereal grains and milk. We also visited a maple syrup farm. Washington D.C was our next port of call, where the highlight was a meeting with the chief Democrat and Republican agriculture advisors. Neither side yet has a grasp on how Barak Obama will treat agriculture, but both left us in no doubt that there is no conclusion near in global trade talks.

From Washington D.C they flew to Mexico City, where they were guests of CIMMYT for a couple of days. The highlight of this for the grain growers in the group was seeing the storage vault where all the worlds wheat and corn genotypes are stored. For a wheat farmer this is the holy grail. From Mexico city they flew up to Obregon, where CIMMYT has its trial farm. Another day was spent meeting with local farmers, who were the closest farmers to Australians they met on the whole trip.

The last visit before returning home was to the central Valley of California. This area is highly productive low rainfall country dependant on irrigation and Mexican labour. Water is getting scarce in the area, and pollution and other environmental rules have a major effect on farming in the area. Throughout their travels the issues of declining water availability and environmental law restrictions were common themes. Security of food supply was also a big concern in those countries where this has been an issue in past history.

David is now home until late July, when he will head off to complete his studies. He will spend most of his time in the U.S.A and Europe, where other emissions trading schemes already exist.

Up Front: John Tonkin

On Line Make-ups - there are now 14 E-Clubs world wide. John did a make up with London Centenary Club who meet at 12 noon. Cost to John was five pound (the cost of a meal). He told them all about our club, our projects and filled them in on the bush fires. It was a good experience, but doesn't come close to the fellowship you get at our meetings.

Community Service: Thanks to all who helped on the gates at the Vintage Rally. Volunteers needed for Sunday 19th at 10 am for a Wedding BBQ.

Pleasant Day our for our Seniors has been deferred to 2009/2010 (September)

International: Our Shelterbox (Number 5024) can be tracked through www.shelterboxaustralia.or.au

Fellowship: Market day BBQ Saturday