



BULLETIN 31st July 2008

Where we meet

Meets Thursdays 12.15 for 12.30
Southern Cross Yacht Club, Mariner
Place, Lotus Bay, Yarralumla

President Bill Andrews
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Secretary Tony Brickwood
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Contact

Rotary Club of Canberra Burley
Griffin Inc
GPO Box 602 Canberra City ACT
2601

Apologies

Please contact Pres Bill before 12
noon Thursday of the meeting or
earlier

Last meeting details

Members Present – 20
Attendance – 60%

International Toast

July 31 – Phil Hawke
August 7 – Chris Gray
August 14 – Fiona Carthew

Meeting Co-ordinator

July - Mike Purvis
August – Jenny Swanson

Vocational Update

August 7 – Olek Gancarz
August 21 – Tony Waring

Angas Downs – Helping to Restore Central Australia

Last week we had our member George Wilson and Lynette Liddle from Angas Downs to tell us about the property itself and the work they have both been doing over the years in the area. Angas Downs Station is half way between Ularu and Alice Springs and covers approx. 3,000 sq km. The station was owned by one of Lynette’s uncles but he went broke in the bad droughts so the land was handed to the Commonwealth Bank. The pastoral lease then went into private Aboriginal hands and it is now leased by Aboriginal communities. This project is to increase the preferred species of wildlife using scientific and cultural ideas whilst helping the local people.

More wildlife in the area means more physical activity and less processed foods in the traditional peoples’ lives. Through the project, the people living on the land were asked what they wanted and the response was that more kangaroos and goannas are need in the area and more bush plants like wattle seed. No longer can they find Bilby’s, Numbats and Rock Wallaby’s and these animals are also important to dream time beliefs. Camels, donkeys and rabbits have overrun the land and need to be taken out of this environment as they are definitely not suited to it.

Water and rock holes also need to be restored to their natural state. Water holes need to be fenced off to keep these introduced animals out and rock hoes have silted up so bores need to be replaced. It costs approx. \$8,000 for a solar powered water pump. Another environment factor is fire and burning of the land. There is an essential burning regime for the health of native Australian plant life that needs to be reintroduced.

Lynette is about to return to Angas Downs in a break from her studies at ANU. She has received a huge amount of donations from the Canberra community of clothing etc. to give to the local people as payment for helping her with her University projects. This form of payment is much more useful and appreciated than offering money. Lynette told us that this is an intergenerational project. As life expectancy is short in the Aboriginal people they must work quickly to share their traditional knowledge. They normally travel with 3 generations to help the constant learning.

The local people from Angas Downs consider George Wilson to be a “Cultural Mid-Wife” as he acts as one of their links to the government. He is someone who is really committed to the future dreams and realities of the area and the people. Aboriginals are cultural driven and are very attached to the landscape. They are not really happy unless they are working on country and important ceremonies revolve around the lands. Central Australia has gone from pastoralism to tourism and now back to looking after country. The Aboriginal community is just so excited to see this happening and the Grannies are so happy. Angas Downs does not allow drugs, petrol sniffing and the like anywhere on the property, only pride of people and country. Profits made on the land mainly go to supporting people like Lynette to go to Uni.



Pictured here are Lynette Liddle and seated are members George Wilson and Olek Gancarz

Rotary Grace

For good food, good fellowship, and the privilege to serve, through Rotary we give thanks.

Coming Events and Speakers

Thursday 31st July – Club Assembly

Thursday 7th August – Keith Gray "A Pictorial Tour of West Timor" Our Project

Friday 8th August – Jumptown Ball FUNDRAISING

Thursday 14th August – Nina Hicks from the Public Trustee ACT Office

Thursday 21st August – Su Su Shen, a Chinese Lawyer in Australia

Bulletin editor

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Door Roster

Thursday 31st July – Graeme Howieson and Peter Holley

Thursday 7th August – Tony Brickwood and Sharon Green

Thursday 14th August – Ross Brown and George Scott

If you can't do the door duties please arrange your own replacement.

The Rotary 4-Way Test

"Of the things we think, say or do:

Is it the TRUTH?

Is it FAIR to all concerned?

Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?

Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?"

A Note From Dorothea Polonyi (recent past member)

Hi, Fiona, and Canberra Burley Griffin RC members,
Our new life at Jellat-Jellat (pronounced "jilla-jilla") has proven to be every bit as enjoyable as we hoped, and being an existing member of Rotary has helped in this regard, I believe. I expect to be inducted shortly, but find myself participating fully in the meantime. The Bega club meets on Thursday evenings at a cute little coffee shop, which is closed to the public at that time. They prepare a meal for the members, the club secretary brings along the esky, and a good time is had by all. The club is run slightly differently to the CBGRT, most notably the singing of the national anthem at the close of proceedings. Finally, I know all the words! For those of you who knew her in Canberra, Anne Louttit is great fun and has been very helpful to me in enabling me to settle in.
Kind regards to all, Dorothea

This Week – Club Assembly

This Thursday will be a special club meeting when Ron Rabey will Chair the meeting and take us through the range of projects now in the Club program. We will review the new club administration layout and ask for ideas on improvements, and how everyone can participate.

Hope to see you there. Don't forget to bring a friend for only \$10 lunch.

Last Weeks moments



Pictured here is President Bill Andrew and his guest last week Joyce Lawrence and are dual Sergeants.