

THE ROTARY CLUB OF WOOLGOOLGA INC.

WOOP! WHISPER

VOLUME 22, Issue 44 — 21 Jun 2010

Club President
Geoff Royal

District Governor
Neville Parsons

RI President
John Kenny



CHANGEOVER TONIGHT (21 Jun)

The Changeover Program Booklet tells the story of our year — you might be surprised at how much we've accomplished! Remember, 6 for 6:30pm, Bowling Club auditorium.

Please let [Patty Delaney](#) know if you think of a local family that might make a great host family for 3 months for our incoming YEP student [Stina Palm](#).

LAST MEETING (7 Jun) - 2 talks (!) by **Rashmere Bhatti**



Rashmere Bhatti, a Woolgoolga native and sister to member John Arkan, came to tell us about a chapter from her book, *A Punjabi Sikh community in Australia: from Indian sojourners to Australian citizens*, but she gave us more than we bargained for, with a fascinating insight into her own life, a fine talk by itself. One of six children, Rashmere's life changed markedly in 1970 when her father was killed in a car accident on the Pacific Highway. (Her father had arrived in Australia aged 5.) The family came under the wing of Birthright, and it was this vital welfare support that was to shape her future career, as the Manager of the Woolgoolga Neighbourhood Centre, as well as the careers of her siblings. She told how she ended up, to her surprise, following the local Sikh tradition of finding a marriage partner in India; they now have a 21-year-old son. She outlined the history, achievements & role of the Neighbourhood Centre, and mentioned her work as TAFE teacher & on Regional Development Board.

Rashmere's grandfather had arrived from the Jalandhar area, Punjab, India at the time of Federation, and like many Punjabi Sikhs, spent time in the Clarence/Richmond River and Atherton Tablelands areas. Often only the men would live mainly in Australia, and would visit their wives in India every 5 years. Rashmere's own mother was unusual in coming to Woolgoolga in 1958. Rashmere identified phases: Pre-Federation, when a successful emigrant was one who worked hard as an agricultural labourer, hawker or pedlar, remitted the bulk of his earnings and returned to live out his life in the natal village; Federation, when discrimination was enshrined in the White Australia Policy, but Sikhs could often wangle a Certificate of Domicile; pre-WWI racism; WWI; then 1925-1929 when Indians gained formal status & rights above and beyond any other Asian group in Australia; 1930s when the sons arrived; and WWII when Punjabis drifted from the Clarence area to Woolgoolga & Coffs Harbour to work on banana plantations (Rashmere's grandfather arriving in Woopi via a link through Richards' General Store, based in both Grafton and Woolgoolga where Top Town Hardware is today). Partition of India in 1947 brought massive upheaval, when many Punjabis returned to India, but those from Woolgoolga often came back to farm bananas, as prospects were better here. The 1950s brought a move from assimilation to integration as Punjabis were allowed naturalisation; wives started moving here, and children started being born here. Multiculturalism followed in the 1970s. Rashmere explained why property ownership & house size are important.



Meeting Place

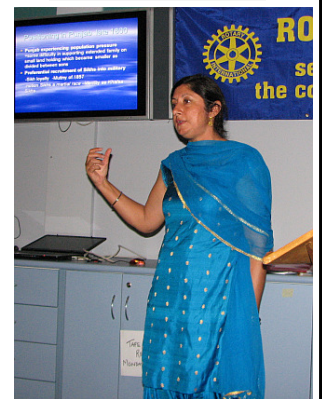
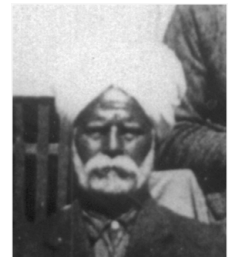
Woolgoolga Bowling Club

Monday Evenings

6.00pm for 6.15pm

Apologies to

6654 7700 by 10.30am Monday



STATS AT A GLANCE

Visiting Rotarians: none.

Visitors: Rashmere Bhatti, Ila and Edith

Apologies: John, Clive, Mark, Alastair, Ray, Trish, Echah, Rod, Terry, Keith, Merv, George, Brian.

Attendance: 12 (48 %)

Lucky Draw: Patty

Birthdays: none
Anniversaries: none



CLUB SPEAKER: Sel Rogers raised a fascinating spectre from Uralla — that bushranger Thunderbolt's grave may contain someone else's body, and that Thunderbolt (Frederick Ward) may have died in Ottawa decades later. The body of evidence certainly sounded convincing. In fact I reckon we saw Thunderbolt's horse Combo in a paddock near Uralla Central School when we were there for the District Assembly ... and who was that tall woman all in black?

SERGEANT'S SESSION: Sergeant Norm, in fine form again, hit Sel & Ila on their anniversary, a double whammy after last week. George's photo was in the paper. The auction brought some titillating moments, with several caught hoarding a donated painting of a topless woman, Bill, our current electrical tester, agitated by dramas testing a vibrator, and Patty getting all excited holding two warm toasters to her chest! Pam apparently dropped a pot in shock. Karen attracted punishment by suggesting that Norm might be a bit short. Later, after Sel's talk, a further cross-fine was in order, given that Thunderbolt, as a schoolboy in Wilberforce, was taught everything he knew by Pam's 3-greats-grandfather, teacher John Wenban!

CLUB NEWS AND ACTIVITIES

RYDA Date confusion The Year 11 Coordinator at Woolgoolga High School still has RYDA day as 12 Aug and wants it to stay there. The School Calendar however says 4 Nov, but those relevant have not been notified. We are awaiting clarification**. Peter Lacy found out by chance, at WHS promoting Honeywell Science & Engineering.

Sam Wiggins, who we sponsored for Honeywell in Dec 2008, has won a university scholarship worth \$80,000.

For Auction Helpers: Please don't drive the trailers with the jockey wheels down. The replaced one had a ruined tyre, tube and rim.

New Fund Raising Project: Echah has been keen for some time to raise money for the Nepalese Orphanage she visited last year. The Board approved her doing so with Club support to match funds raised up to \$500. The fundraising project is to be a **garden produce and plant stall** at either the August or September Auction. We've salvaged a large number of plastic pots from the shed and hope members will pot up some seedlings for us as they do their winter garden clean up. **DON'T THROW THAT PLANT OUT!!! POT IT FOR SALE!!** Cleaned plastic pots will be available at meetings from 28 June. Please also bring along to Pam or Echah any old garden books or magazines you wish to get rid of. We'll also be looking for donations of fruit, herbs, veggies, jams, jellies, pickles etc closer to the time. There will be a Nepal night prior to the fund raiser including a slide show on the orphanage in Kathmandu.



Lastly, as John Cleese might have said, "don't mention ze football!" OK Laura, we have to admit, the Germans comprehensively demolished our team and look to be a major prospect as the eventual winner. We've still a chance.

CLUB NOTICES

21 Jun Changeover
 3 July Auction (Lodge)
 12 Aug RYDA (**confirmed)
 16 Aug District Governor Jo Wilkin's visit
 9 Sep Getting Out There Day
 4 Nov (**NRMA driver program at WHS)

DISTRICT NO-

20-23 Jun International Convention
 Montreal Canada
 3 Jul District Changeover
 Jan 2011 Polio vaccination trip to India
 Feb 2011 GSE team from Alberta visits

MEETING DUTY ROSTER Please swap nights if you cannot attend			
Date	21 June Changeover	28 June	5 July
Attendance	Bill Carroll	Patty Delaney	David Edwards
Welcome/ Fellowship	MC Pamela Fayle	David Edwards	Peter Lacy
Club Speaker	Geoff Royal the past year	Trish Baker	Alistair Milroy
Vote of Thanks	n/a	Rod Mackenzie	Dick Matthews
Guest Speaker	Holly Lockwood on RYAG Equine	tbc	tbc

Your Rotary Club Needs YOU

Help with
AUCTION PICK-UPS
(see Dick or Sel)

AUCTIONEERS
For 1st Sat of the month (See Sel & Keith)