

# THE ROTARY CLUB of WOOLGOOLGA Inc.

## Woopi Whisper

VOLUME 24, Issue 15 — 10 Oct 2011

Club President  
**Norm Michener**

District Governor  
**Barry Hacker**

RI President  
**Kalyan Banerjee**



Reach Within to Embrace Humanity

### TONIGHT (10 Oct)

Tonight, Adam Curlis, a Disability Consultant with North Coast TAFE is coming along to talk to us about Coffs Regional Community Gardens. There has long been an interest in the Club in considering a possible project for Woolgoolga of this sort. Adam has a lot of recent experience and will share that with us.

### LAST MEETING (26 Sep)

Last week was a long weekend (and also an auction weekend) so there was no meeting. At our previous meeting we heard about blueberries from **Scott Wolgamot from the BerryExchange**. Many in the Club were stunned by the sheer magnitude of this industry



in our own back yard. Scott was expecting over 600 pickers to roll up for work during the week he addressed us...plus over 100 raspberry pickers!

The market is still expanding with plantings in places as diverse as Chile, Mexico, Poland and Africa. There is increasing competition so prices are dropping. The blueberries in Corindi have a longer season than most other growing areas and the packing shed operation is increasingly high tech with mechanical sorting by colour, firmness and automatic filling of punnets by weight at the rate of 100 punnets per minute!!

Hand picking is important but hand packing is also required for some varieties and for some punnet sizes. Currently 50% of packing is done by machine and that will be increasing to 60%. The company is now also growing blueberries in Morocco where they have 127 hectares planted, increasing to 250 hectares soon. These out of season blueberries are headed for the European market. In Australia there are farms in Tasmania as well as Tumburumba in the Snowy Mountains and this spreads the risk by geography and climate.

Scott entertained us with a few humorous stories (no doubt stressful at the time) of language problems with workers (there's a market niche for some multilingual eye charts!!). In Australia, wages are the biggest cost but exchange rate movements can also push us out of some markets as can fruit fly problems. And finally, the answer we were waiting for...the 2nd grade berries are indeed still for sale through the front office (MMMMM!! Home-made blueberry jam sounds like a great addition to our Christmas Market stall at December auction!!)

### CLUB SPEAKER

David F gave us the lowdown on his recent 60th birthday "magical mystery tour". The trip encompassed Bowral, Melbourne & the Yarra Valley, Hobart and the Tasmanian east coast, Canberra and Armidale before heading home. There were 7 separate birthday functions with different groups of friends and family! David encouraged all to visit the new



MONA gallery in Hobart, Freycinet National Park (photo at left) and the Tarrawarra winery gallery in the Yarra Valley - highlights of the trip (along with the Carlton vs St Kilda AFL game!)

Meeting Place

**Woolgoolga  
Bowling Club**

**Monday Evenings**

**6.00pm for 6.15pm**

Apologies to

**6654 9584  
by 10.30am Monday**



*Scott Wolgamot  
Production Manager  
at BerryExchange*

### STATS AT A GLANCE

**Visiting Rotarians:** nil

**Visitors:** Scott Wolgamot.

**Apologies:** John, Bill, Keith, Patty, Garry, Rob, Karen, George, Ray

**Attendance:** 14 (60.9 %)

**Raffle winner:** Pam!

**Birthdays:** Rod Mackenzie 4 Oct.

**Anniversaries:** nil

## SERGEANT'S SESSION

Sergeant Rod was in fine form (except for the “Deady Bears” joke!) and launched into fining President Norm for changing the meeting order and Gareth for winning the cosmetics raffle prize at the African night. Trish was fined for her African dancing and then everyone who didn't attend Africa night was fined for good measure. President Norm was of course fined for Collingwood making it to the grand final and not having bought tickets (ground hog day?) but we hear he since snaffled some tickets, attended and this time the pies let him down (see result in photo at right!).



There was a lightheaded hair cut fine for David E and Geoff was fined for creating a bit of a “buzz” at his table by telling everyone that the fruit fly has a similar genetic make up to humans (enough said bzzz bzzz!)

## CLUB NEWS

The Small Business Social Forum is **Monday 17 Oct, 6 for 6.15 inside Woolgoolga Post Office. This is instead of our meeting and an opportunity to meet local business people, share views on the needs of our community, better inform the community on what we do and maybe subtly encourage a few new members to join. See Trish or Ray for details & let Pam know of any potential new members you might wish to invite. Cost for members is the standard \$20, \$15 for partners and the Club will cover costs of business guests. Finger food and drinks served throughout the evening rather than a sit down meal.**

Melbourne Cup Night is Monday 31 Oct. To whet your appetite, photos at right show scenes from last year's hat competition. This year there will be sweeps as well as interesting competitions. Partners and guests welcome. Check out future Whispers for details.



Club Christmas Party Advance notice that the Club Christmas party is **Monday 19 December** instead of our usual meeting. Thanks to Echah's generosity we are planning an Indonesian “Rijsttafel” at Echah's place (this means literally “rice table” and is a selection of many different sorts of Indonesian food—a banquet in fact). If you have a favourite Indonesian recipe you may be asked to prepare it!! Fun activities and games will also be on the agenda. Planning and preparation tasks will be allocated closer to the time. We will also be taking the opportunity to think of others over Christmas and planning something to cheer those less fortunate, including via funds raised at the Christmas market stall at December auction.



Update on the bus shelter We now have the Rotary wheel insignia on each end of the bus shelter and it looks a treat (photo at right). Thanks Terry.

### CLUB NOTICES

10 Oct	Board Meeting
17 Oct	Small Business Social Forum at the PO.
31 Oct	Melbourne Cup celebrations (partners)
28 Nov	YEP Dive Course
19 Dec	Club Christmas function at the Wrights

### DISTRICT NOTICES

28 Oct	Science Experience apps close.
10 Nov	Presidents & Secretaries meeting
16 Feb	Presidents & Secretaries meeting
9-11 Mar	District Conference Inverell
6-8 May	International Conference Bangkok

### MEETING DUTY ROSTER Please swap nights if you cannot attend

Date	10 October (board mtg)	17 October (partners)	24 October
Attendance	Terry Booth	Patty Delaney	David Edwards
Welcome/Fellowship	Patty Delaney	Norm Michener	Garry Kennedy
Club Speakers 3-5 minutes	David Edwards	Pamela Fayle Gareth Owen	Peter Lacy
Introduce Guest Speaker	Pamela Fayle	Na	Ray Willing
Vote of Thanks	Echah Wright	Na	Terry Booth
Guest Speakers	Adam Curlis Nth Coast TAFE “Coffs Regional Com- munity Gardens	Small Business Forum at the PO instead of usual meeting	Kelvin Harris Event Manager Curryfest

**Your Rotary Club  
Needs  
YOU**

Help with  
**AUCTION PICK-UPS**  
or want to be an  
**AUCTIONEER?**  
(See Dick)

**WISH TO PROPOSE A  
NEW MEMBER?**  
(See Pam)

**KNOW A FAMILY  
INTERESTED IN  
HOSTING a YEP  
STUDENT?**  
(See Patty)