

BULLETIN FOR MEETING NUMBER 3284 – held 14 August 2024 – THE LOXTON HOTEL

ANOTHER HISTORY INSTALMENT OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF LOXTON – provided by the irrepressible Tony Moyle

Rotary Club of Loxton vs Minister of Defence

Early on the morning of Saturday, 17 May 1997, Dean Nicholson, Paul Pfitzner and Tony Moyle, all members of the Rotary Club of Loxton, drove to Waikerie for a prearranged rendezvous with Federal Parliamentarian, Neil Andrew MP, Member for Wakefield. On the return trip, Paul drove Tony's car, while Tony chauffeured Neil and Dean, comfortably seated in the spacious back seat of Neil's government car, east to Loxton.



The purpose of this exercise was to convince Neil that he should ask the Minister of Defence, the Hon Ian McLaughlan AO MP, to consider making available an Australian Defence Forces C130 Hercules Transport aircraft to fly from Loxton to Birdsville, via Port Pirie, and transport Rotarians to a major international event - the 'Australian Outback' International Rotary Meeting. With a little help from Tony via the rear view mirror, Dean put a very convincing argument to Neil.

Several months earlier, a Royal Australian Air Force C130 had landed in Loxton on a training exercise to improve their familiarity on the use of unsealed rural airstrips. We were confident we could fill all seats available on a C130, and were prepared to pay a minimum of \$100 per seat with the funds raised going to the RFDS.

As part of his argument Dean pointed out that the formation of the International Fellowship of Motorcycling Rotarians was the second Australian sponsored International Rotary Fellowship at that time, and in addition to the Australian riders crossing the Simpson Desert, the other Fellowship would also be raising money for the Royal Flying Doctor Service. There were going to be Rotacyclists from other countries riding as well, and the World President of Rotary International, Glen Kinross and his wife Heather, would also attend the Birdsville Dinner!

Dean and Tony received a faxed copy, dated 23/5/97, of the request that Neil had hand delivered to the Minister of Defence. The final line of the thankyou to Neil, on behalf of the Rotary Club of Loxton read: "Thanks! We know it's a long shot, and if it fails, it will not be for the lack of your support!"

We were not surprised by the Minister of Defence's response - the last line reading: "A further consideration is that flights in and out of unsealed runways, as is the case at Loxton, are usually operational in nature and, as such, are flights upon which the carriage of civilian passengers is not permitted."

President Peter Angel
Secretary Sarah Edwards

0429 173 263
0488 536 409

loxphoto@dodo.com.au
loxton@rotaryclub.org.au

Loxton Rotary BSB 105-059
Bank Details Acc 036-934-840



BULLETIN FOR MEETING NUMBER 3284 – held 14 August 2024 – THE LOXTON HOTEL

Despite this minor setback, there were 146 Rotarians and friends at the World President's Banquet, 15th August 1997 in Birdsville!



17 of them had ridden motorcycles across the Simpson Desert, 28 of them had driven across the Simpson Desert in 14, 4WD support vehicles. Seven light aircraft carrying Rotarians and their partners flew into Birdsville, and numerous assorted vehicles had driven up the Birdsville Track.

\$10,000 was raised for the Royal Flying Doctor Service!

As an aside, unbeknown to Dean Nicholson, the Rotary Club of Loxton had planned bestowing a Paul Harris Award on Dean, and it was to be presented to him by the World President at Birdsville.



Not long before the event, Dean developed some health issues and decided it would not be wise for him to fly the Birdsville as planned! Loxton, being a small town and everybody knowing everybody else, someone spoke to Dean's doctor and explained the situation. The doctor, after having spoken to the pilot that Dean had intended flying with, and explaining to him what would be necessary if Dean was to take a turn for the worse, suggested to Dean that it should be okay for him to make the flight.



BULLETIN FOR MEETING NUMBER 3284 – held 14 August 2024 – THE LOXTON HOTEL



Dean would be one of a very small number of Rotarians who have had a PHF bestowed on him by a Rotary International President, and certainly the only Rotarian ever to have this done in Birdsville!

(L to R) Loxton Rotary President, Tom Avery; RI World President, Glen Kinross; and Loxton Rotary PHF recipient, Dean Nicholson

NOW, BACK TO THE PRESENT

Unfortunately a very small turnout at our last meeting to hear our very interesting guest speaker, Donna Neale, update us on the Murray River Queen relocation saga.

Present were Members:

Robert Fielke
Harry Ostendorf
Kate Tate
Bert Haslam

Tom Shannon
Craig Dowling
Peter Angel

And guests:

Praanash Mahadevan
Adam Barich
Kathy Schliebs

Kath Haslam
Donna Neale

With apologies from:

Kym Walton
Daryl Blythman
Jenny Mills
Paula Nitschke
Sarah Edwards
Tony Altschwager
Des Schliebs

Larry Whitelaw
Fran Whitelaw
Nicholle Jachmann
Sue McDonald
Mike Woosnam
Bill Ebert

Craig Dowling took the Chair and provided the invocation and the loyal toast.

BULLETIN FOR MEETING NUMBER 3284 – held 14 August 2024 – THE LOXTON HOTEL

It was noted that our very own Sarah Edwards was slotted in as the guest speaker, but an overnight stint in hospital a couple of days earlier gave her a reasonable excuse not to show, and our Programs Coordinator Bert Haslam talked Donna Neale into filling the spot at very late notice. Donna was scheduled to talk to us next meeting in Renmark, but as her boat, the subject of the presentation, was possibly heading for dry-dock, it was a timely switch. Many thanks to Donna for filling in as such short notice.

Bert introduced Donna and reminded us of a dream that he and Tom shared about getting the Murray River Queen from Renmark down to Loxton, which now looks like it is coming to fruition.

Guest Speaker Donna Neale

Donna introduced herself as having been born in Loxton and at the age of eleven went to Adelaide with her family. About six years ago she returned and bought the established clothing store now known as Country Proud.

While the Murray River Queen's Thai Restaurant was in operation in Renmark she really enjoyed dining there, and was very disappointed when it closed. However, when the boat came on the market she saw an opportunity and started talking to the owners, but the buying process took around six months to negotiate. In April of 2021 she approached the Loxton Waikerie District Council with the idea of relocating the boat to Loxton...and so the saga began.

Her vision was, and still is, to create a colourful, sustainable destination that will a legacy not just for Loxton, but for South Australia.



Photo: ABC Regional News

Around three years ago Channel 9's Today Show produced a program where they stayed on the boat and were very excited with the experience. Shortly after that renovations were undertaken to upgrade the accommodation. Then COVID hit which created a very difficult time because Donna had only just taken over and started to invest in upgrading. She has plans to continue renovations, to the restaurant and café dining infrastructure, but also more to the accommodation as income starts to come in.

BULLETIN FOR MEETING NUMBER 3284 – held 14 August 2024 – THE LOXTON HOTEL

There have been many delays outside her control, initially with COVID then with the 2022-23 flood, but Donna was complimentary of the patience of the Renmark Paringa Council in dealing with those situations. Her lease with Council expired and she now has just two months to vacate, and she anticipates that by October the boat will be on the move.

Accommodation will be ready to go immediately upon being set up in Loxton, with 17 rooms available. However, until she has a definite date, she can't hire a chef to get the restaurant part of the business under way. The style of the restaurant is not yet set in stone, Donna is keen to get the right person to lead the food service side, so there will be a delay, hopefully not too long.

Donna noted that some structural renovations she has invested in might ultimately lead to the boat being brought back 'into survey' so it can operate as a paddle boat taking tours. She has a local captain arranged for the difficult task of piloting it into dry dock, which apparently is challenging and requiring a high level of skill and experience, and is hoping she has someone available in the future should operational tours become a reality.



Chairman Craig presented Donna with the traditional engraved glass.

Several questions from members and guests indicated the interest we all have in this venture, with everyone very positive about having another food and accommodation option for Loxton, not only to provide choice, but to ensure existing providers have competition to keep their standards high.

After breaking for dinner, Craig restarted the meeting with reports.

President – Peter

Peter thanked the seven members who attended tonight's meeting, lamenting it was a pity our guest speaker has so few to speak to. Thank goodness we had several guests to pad out the numbers. However, it was very pleasing to received 13 active apologies, the strong hints that an apology is an expected courtesy if a member cannot attend, is hopefully bearing fruit and will continue.



Postie Bike Challenge – we have accepted to host them on their Brisbane to Adelaide ride overnight on Sunday 8 September, they will be almost 'home'. Apex don't have manpower so now talking to the Hockey Club to provide the Sunday evening meal due to the clash with Blythman's Breakfast planned for that morning. We can take advantage of providing breakfast Monday morning by duplicating Blythman's Breakfast only 24 hours prior. Melissa will help with costings as she will already be doing it.

BULLETIN FOR MEETING NUMBER 3284 – held 14 August 2024 – THE LOXTON HOTEL

Heaven project – Council have come back with wording for a sign. Note our suggestion of Heaven-on-Murray has been declined as it is listed on maps as simply ‘Heaven’ so it will stay that way. Signage wording has obligatory acknowledgement of Govt grant contribution, but Peter will liaise with Council to change the sequence of words to ensure the Rotary/Council partnership is obvious as the instigator of the project, not Govt as is implied on first draft.

AusCycling National Championships – Council has invested to bring this event to town for 19-22 September. Rotary has been requested to assist with one full day (8:30am-5pm) of marshalling requiring 10-20 people. If divided into two half-day shifts, that’s 20-40 required! Only two members indicated they are available so resolved to advise Council we are unable to assist, but those interested encouraged to contact Sue Schultz at Council.

Walk for Respect – in Adelaide on September 14, Peter & Craig will attend with Loxton’s banner. Encouraging others to join them...would love at least a carload.

Blythman’s Breakfast – ~~Sunday 8th September~~. Melissa will coordinate volunteers for cooking/serving roles but need 4 people for roughly an hour Saturday afternoon beforehand to erect the marquee and some setting up. Names into Red Book circulating.

STOP PRESS – Blythman’s Breakfast postponed, stay tuned for new date.



Sports and Recreation Expo at The Precinct on Sunday 15 September. BBQ set up, cook then cleanup in two shifts, 2-3 people for each. Names into Red Book circulating.

Carp Jackpot Jamboree – Harry

Infrastructure arrangements now in place. 100 entries so far with majority from outside Loxton postcode, so great tourism opportunity. Looking for full commitment from Rotary Club as it will require a lot of people on the day. Event will go 8am-2pm with couple of hours afterwards to finish up, licenced booth available. The winner of the event will take home \$3,000 plus a 1-in-50 chance to win \$10,000 as well from envelope draw.



Apex Park is the location - portable toilets needed along bank as Council refurbishing/rebuilding others so won’t be available.

Program – Bert

October is Mental Health Month. Marc Ryan, known as The Beautiful Bogan, is a comedian/mental health advocate, and Council has funded a free show at the Village on Wednesday October 16 at 6pm. He has agreed to speak to the Men’s Shed for the annual Men’s Health Breakfast the following morning free of charge if Rotary provides the sausage sizzle – which we accepted.

BULLETIN FOR MEETING NUMBER 3284 – held 14 August 2024 – THE LOXTON HOTEL

An invitation has been extended for anyone interested to take a guided tour through the construction of the new Library/Visitor Information Centre. Likely to be during the day (not a Rotary meeting), but Bert will arrange and advise and interested individuals can participate.

Youth – Tom

High School Breakfasts are under way again.

Have identified a student for the RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Awards) coming up. Will liaise with Sarah to ensure suitability, or an alternative.

Chairman Craig then provided his Thought of the Week:

Our prime purpose in this life is to help others. And if you can't help them, at least don't hurt them.

Dalai Lama

Robert attempted a very lame fines session 😊, but still managed to elicit gold coins and the occasional note for the kitty. And even lamer, when the winner of the raffle attempted to claim their prize, Robert announced there wasn't one! However, Kathy dobbed Treasurer Des in, noting that the envelope on their kitchen table as she came in was probably intended to save Robert's skin!

President Peter finished the meeting with the Rotary International President's Theme of 'The Magic of Rotary'.



What's Coming Up?



Date / Start Time	Event	Location
Wed 28 Aug – 6.30pm	Loxton Rotary Club General Meeting #3285 Donna Neale – River Murray Queen Sarah Edwards – recent trip to southern Africa	Note Changes Bus to Renmark Loxton Club
Wed 11 Sep – 6.30pm	Loxton Rotary Club Assembly - Meeting #3286	Loxton Hotel
Wed 18 Sep – 7.00pm	Board Meeting	Op Shop

Save the Date

Sun 8 Sept – 9am TBA	Breakfast at Blythman's – Mardi Gras fundraiser	New date - TBA
Sun 8 Sept – 4pm	Postie Bike Challenge arrival (greet/direct only)	#2 Oval/Hockey Club
Mon 9 Sept – 6am	Postie Bike Challenge – breakfast/cut lunch	#2 Oval/Hockey Club
Sat 14 Sept	Walk for Respect - march	Adelaide
Sun 15 Sept – 9:30am	Sport & Recreation Expo – cooking BBQ	The Precinct
Thurs 19 Sept	Cycling Road Race – involvement to be confirmed	No involvement
Sat 5 Oct – 8.00am	Loxton Carp Jackpot Jamboree	Loxton Apex Park
Sun 6/Mon 7 Oct	Loxton Show – catering van	Loxton Oval
March 2025	Club weekend away (proposed)	Lake Cullulleraine???

President **Peter Angel**
Secretary **Sarah Edwards**

0429 173 263
0488 536 409

loxphoto@dodo.com.au
loxton@rotaryclub.org.au

Loxton Rotary **BSB 105-059**
Bank Details **Acc 036-934-840**

BULLETIN FOR MEETING NUMBER 3284 – held 14 August 2024 – THE LOXTON HOTEL

Regular dates to remember

2nd Wed of the Month - General Meeting (Loxton Hotel)

3rd Wed of the Month - Board Meetings (Op Shop)

4th Wed of the Month - General Meeting (Loxton Club)

IF YOU CANNOT ATTEND PLEASE SUBMIT AN APOLOGY, IF NOT IT IS ASSUMED YOU WILL BE THERE AND THE VENUE ADVISED ACCORDINGLY.

ROSTERS

If you can't fulfil an obligation, it's your job to find a replacement.

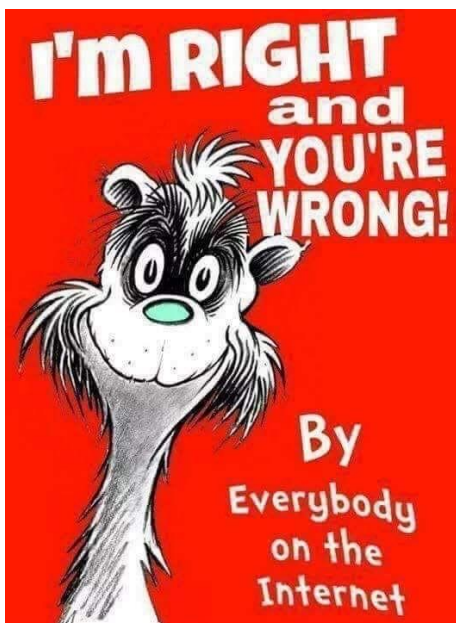
MEETING TASKS				
DATE	NOTE	VENUE	CHAIRPERSON	EQUIPMENT/PLAQUES
28/8/24	GENERAL	CLUB	Robert Fielke	Kym Walton
11/9/24	ASSEMBLY	HOTEL	Mike Woosnam	Tony Altschwager/Larry Whitelaw
25/9/24	GENERAL	CLUB	Craig Dowling	Bill Ebert/Liz Dymott
9/10/24	GENERAL	HOTEL	Bert Haslam	Sue McDonald/Harry Ostendorf

Saturday	OP SHOP CLEANING & RETAIL	
24 Aug 2024	Peter Angel	Kym Walton
31 Aug 2024	Tony Altschwager	Daryl Blythman/Larry Whitelaw
7 Sep 2024	Bert Haslam	Nicolle Jachmann
14 Sep 2024	Robert Fielke	Bill Ebert
21 Sep 2024	Liz Dymott	Jenny Mills
28 Sep 2024	Sue McDonald	Des Schliebs
5 Oct 2024	Paula Nitschke	Tom Shannon/Fran Whitelaw
12 Oct 2024	Peter Angel	Kym Walton/Harry Ostendorf

BULLETIN FOR MEETING NUMBER 3284 – held 14 August 2024 – THE LOXTON HOTEL

OP SHOP ROSTERS - Support			
Week Start	Weekend	Morning	Day
26 Aug 2024	1 Sep 2024	Peter Kennedy (Mon) Greg Schell (Tue-Fri)	Tony Altschwager
2 Sep 2024	8 Sep 2024	Peter Kennedy (Mon) Greg Schell (Tue-Fri)	Bert Haslam
9 Sep 2024	15 Sep 2024	Peter Kennedy (Mon) Greg Schell (Tue-Fri)	Bill Ebert
16 Sep 2024	22 Sep 2024	Peter Kennedy (Mon) Greg Schell (Tue-Fri)	Des Schliebs
Wednesday 7.30am		LOXTON HIGH SCHOOL BREAKFAST SUPPORT	
		Ethan Grosse (LHS) Mob: 0488 444 240	
28 August 2024		Les Burgemeister	
4 September 2024		Kym Walton	
11 September 2024		Marian Woodberry	
18 September 2024		Bert Haslam	

IT'S A DIGITAL WORLD



I got myself a seniors' GPS. Not only does it tell me how to get to my destination, it tells me why I wanted to go there.

