

VALLEY VIBES

Volume 6 Edition 10

BULLETIN

May 2017

NEXT MEETING, 10 MAY 2017

Dr Ross Wilson BVSc

Veterinary Surgeon

(Ross Wilson's visit rescheduled from last month)



Dr Ross Wilson grew up in Brisbane and studied Veterinary Science at the University of Queensland, St Lucia. He held the position of Official Cattle Veterinarian at the Royal National Agricultural and Pastoral Show for a period of 10 years and holds a Bachelor of Veterinary Science Degree from UQ.

Ross is married to wife Diana and has three (3) children. His professional interests are in disease immunity and the immune systems of animals. He is community minded having served on the Board of Boonah Ambulance. He is a Life Member of the Boonah Squash Club and represented Australia in Track and Field at the 1970 Commonwealth Games in Edinburgh, Scotland.

Ross has lived in Boonah for 44 years working as a veterinary surgeon in private practice for 32 years and with Plasvacc at Kalbar as their Chief Scientific Officer for 18 years. He is currently working as a locum, supporting other veterinary practices in South-East Queensland and comes as guest speaker from Oakey where he is currently working and to where he returns after speaking to us. We are grateful to Ross for his generosity in visiting Rotary Fassifern Valley.

MEETING, 24 MAY 2017



Royal Flying Doctor Service

The furthest corner. The finest care.

Sarah-Jayne Curry & Rob Needham

The RFDS has a rich and vibrant history, starting with the dream of a Presbyterian minister, Reverend John Flynn. Ordained in 1911, Flynn initially worked in rural and remote Australia setting up hostels and bush hospitals for pastoralists, miners, road workers, railwaymen and other settlers. He witnessed the daily struggle of pioneers living in remote areas and his vision was to provide a 'mantle of safety' for people of the bush.

On 15 May 1928, his dream became a reality when a long time supporter, H.V. McKay, left a large bequest for 'an aerial experiment'. This enabled Flynn to open the Australian Inland Mission Aerial Medical Service in Cloncurry, Queensland (later to be renamed the Royal Flying Doctor Service).

By the late 1930's the RFDS operated in Victoria, Western Australia, South Australia, New South Wales, Northern Territory and Queensland. By the 1950s it was acknowledged by former Prime Minister Sir Robert Menzies as **"perhaps the single greatest contribution to the effective settlement of the far distant country that we have witnessed in our time"**.

In the 1960s the RFDS moved away from aircraft contractors to progressively purchasing its own aircraft and employing its own pilots and engineers. Today, it owns 66 fully instrumented aircraft operating from 23 aerobases across Australia. Flynn once said

"If you start something worthwhile - nothing can stop it",



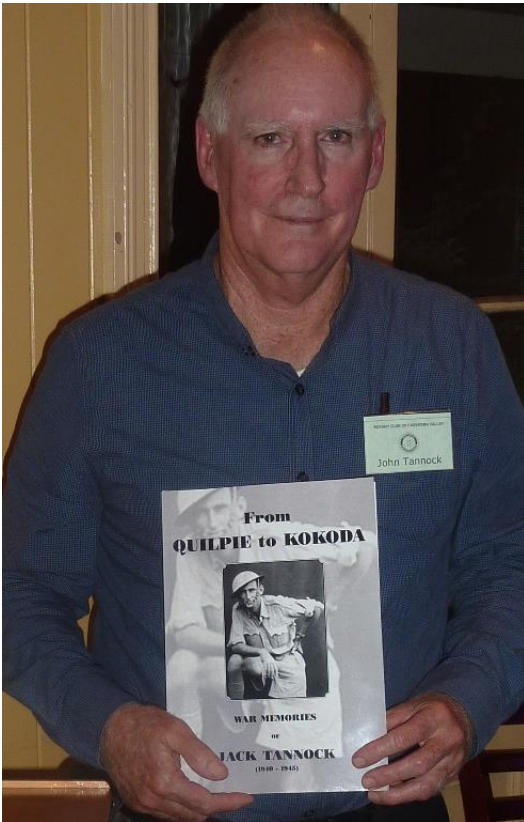
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LAST MEETING, 26 APRIL 2017

John Tannock

ANZAC Memorial Address



John with his book "From Quilpie to Kokoda"

John Tannock was welcomed by Marjorie who reflected on her early acquaintance with the Tannock family when at school travelling to Ipswich each day by bus or rail motor. She was pleased to welcome John back to the Fassifern Valley to tell of his father's war memories as recorded by John in his father's biography "*From Quilpie to Kokoda - War Memories of Jack Tannock*".

John commenced referring to chats, when about 8 years of age, with his grandfather who recollected a couple of his experiences in the Boer War with Lord Kitchener and Lord Baden Powell. The first was their incredible thirst in the desert due to no water and the stench while hiding behind their dead horses after being surrounded by the Boers for up to two weeks. The second was his grandfather's anger following his decision as an Officer, not to execute his prisoners who had laid down their arms, in defiance of Lord Kitchener's orders. He faced court-marshal in contrast with the actions subsequently taken against Breaker Morant who was court-marshalled for doing so. Neither of these incidents was documented which led to John and others of his family not letting their father's war memories go unrecorded. John reports on coercing

his father in the late 1980s to recall and write down his war memories. With a fountain pen and foolscap pad he commenced writing. His virtually unedited script finished up as the book "*From Quilpie to Kokoda*".

The first chat with his father focused on his first day in battle in Syria being the most frightening experience of his life. It was against the French Foreign Legion in North Africa, who had sided with the Nazis after France fell, a battle of World War 2 unknown to many Australians. After a large loss of Australian lives the battle was finally won under the command of Sir Roden Cutler VC.

After the Middle East, Jack Tannock was deployed to New Guinea with the 2/25th Battalion, following the Japanese advance southward to the Owen Stanleys, overlooking Port Moresby. John recounted his father doing things the hard way by crossing the Owen Stanley Ranges and the Kokoda Track up to 5 times. This in part was caused by his suffering dysentery forcing his withdrawal from the front line several times. He spoke of the battle at Gorari which lasted five days during which he lost many mates. On the second day, 10 November 1942, Jack received two bullet wounds to the head penetrating his steel helmet, knocking him senseless.

In the early 1990s John's wife as a Blue Nurse, one evening reported being assigned a new patient named Don Fogg from Toogoolawah. Remarkably Don had served in Syria and New Guinea with Jack Tannock. He had taken a camera with him and had photographs of many of the incidents recorded in the book. John was delighted when he gave permission for them to be used in the book.

John recounted several remarkable examples of people settling in the Esk area following service with his father, regrettably unknown at the time of writing. He stated that recounting their experiences to be highly emotional for his family. Typically the appalling, inhuman conditions endured were seldom discussed causing John to regret not pressing his father when he had the opportunity. Those that were asked revealed the wasted lives of so many talented young Australian men. For those who returned, it was their only way of coping, not to reflect on the horror of their wartime experience. This places an onus on us, the next generation, to remember, **Lest We Forget**. Many purchased "*From Quilpie to Kokoda*" to assist in that.

Our sincere appreciation was conveyed to John for his presentation.



A Wonderful Conference

District Governor Michael and his organising committee deserve to be commended for putting on a top District conference at Ballina RSL on the weekend overlooking the beautiful Richmond River.

Our club was extremely well represented with the Champions', Kays', Porters' and myself attending and were treated with an absolute array of quality speakers throughout the 2 days. Apart from many Rotarians, researchers, authors, award winning florist, who shared their stories and experiences, there were 3 absolute standout speakers in my mind.

The first was Kerry O'Brien, former compere of the 7.30 report who spoke on Saturday afternoon about his examples of true political leadership. His 3 examples were Nelson Mandela for reuniting South Africa, Paul Keating for creation of APEC and the Mabo legislation and John Howard for changes in gun control following the Port Arthur massacre.

On Sunday morning we were treated to a wonderful presentation by Editor, author, TV presenter and former Australian of the Year Ita Buttrose, who spoke, not only of her vast experiences with her journalist life, but her work with Macular Degeneration and other aging issues confronting our population.

When we thought the conference couldn't get any better, Noel Pearson, Lawyer and academic took the stage. Noel spoke passionately about leadership, welfare, technology and societal changes we face and the need for the "radical centre" to take charge. I cannot remember when I have heard a more impassioned speech and if we are able to secure a copy, I would urge all members to watch it.

Col Lee, from the Ballina club, had his niece Rachael Beck, star of stage and screen, to treat us to some musical numbers to finish off the conference. All in all, a great way to spend 2 days.

Ross McInnes - President

Club President: Ross McInnes
District 9640 Governor: Michael Irving
Rotary International President: John Germ



Kerry O'Brien addresses the conference



Conference delegates – RCFV at lower RHS



Ita Buttrose at conference



Noel Pearson with Benji

Secretary: Marjorie Porter
Webmaster: Aleeta Wozencroft
Editor: Graham Porter OAM



From the Secretary's Desk

Cattle Sale

Our Annual Silverdale Cattle Sale Day, held in conjunction with RC Toowong, was again a most successful day. Members and friends from both clubs met at the Australian Wild Camel Corporation farm, Harrisville. The farm commenced operation less than 12 months ago and already have over 500 camels. Jackson Johnston provided a most interesting tour of the facilities finishing with morning tea in the renovated homestead.



Jackson Johnston with Toowong and RCFV Rotarians

From there, it was on to Silverdale Cattle sale yards, where unfortunately the numbers of stock on offer, as well as the attendance, were lower than normal. Our beast sold, albeit for a lower than hoped for price.

Aleeta's lovely establishment – Lizzy's Kitchen at Mackaway's Café – beckoned for lunch, and this was enjoyed by over 30 members and friends from the two clubs.

The day was greatly enjoyed by all and thanks to our President Nominee Andrew Kay for co-ordinating with our club's Honorary member, Wes Nichols from RC Toowong, to arrange this most appealing day in the country for our city friends.

ANZAC Day Books

A set of ten books was chosen as the gift for each of the seven local primary, presented as an ANZAC Memorial. The schools – Mutdapilly, Peak Crossing, Warrill View, Harrisville, Roadvale, Kalbar and Aratula – appreciate receiving them, and an email confirmed this saying ***your donation is so generous and will be a very valuable addition to our school library for years to come.***

We appreciate the book plates provided by Andrew and Ann Kay from Wagtail Graphics. They are always so beautifully presented, and when placed inside the front covers of the books we donate, leave a lasting message honouring ANZAC Day.



Aleeta and Lindy with ANZAC Books for schools

District Conference Raffle

I thank supporters of the Raffle in aid of Malaria Vaccine Project. It's draw has been postponed until District Changeover on 25 June 2017.

Changeover

Roadvale Hall will be the venue on Saturday 27 May 2017 when President elect Scott Champion takes over the reins of our Club from President Ross McInnes (officially, not until 1 July 2017). Sam Savery is catering for this occasion and we look forward to a most enjoyable meal on the evening.

Are there any family and friends whom members would like to invite? I am happy to send a personalised invitation at your request.

RYPEN

Our Club is sending two young people to RYPEN at Camp Bornhoffen from 19-21 May 2017, and we wish them well on this great adventure

Marjorie Porter - Secretary.



Party Time

Birthdays

6 May Bev Ward
 8 May Jon Gormley
 13 May John Brent

Wedding Anniversaries

1 May 1993 Andrew & Ann Kay
 30 May 1970 Neil & Jenny Summerson



Upcoming Events

May 27 – RCFV Changeover
June 25 – District Changeover – Kingscliff Bowls Club
Aug 27 – Peak Crossing Car Display Day – Summersons' home

It's a Laugh!



Meeting Program and Duty Roster: May

DUTY ROSTER	Wed 3 May '17 Business Meeting	Wed 10 May '17 Dinner Meeting	Wed 17 May '17 Business Meeting	Wed 24 May '17 Dinner Meeting	Wed 31 May '17 Social Meeting
Duty Officer		Aleeta Wozencroft		Bev Ward	
100 Club , Stamps and/or Raffle	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Chairman/ Rotary Reflections	Ross McInnes	Ross McInnes	Ross McInnes	Scott Champion	Ross McInnes
Meeting Venue & Time	Harrisville State School. 6.45 for 7.00pm	Royal Hotel, Harrisville 6.30 for 7.00pm	Harrisville State School. 6.45 for 7.00pm	Royal Hotel, Harrisville 6.30 for 7.00pm	TBA
Program and/or Guest Speaker	Club Business	Dr Ross Wilson Veterinary Surgeon	Changeover Planning	Royal Flying Doctor Service	TBA

MEMBERS NOTICE:

1. To ensure a punctual 7.00 pm start, members are requested to arrive no later than 6.45pm.
2. When you have duties on the Roster and are not available, could you please arrange for someone else to fill in, and advise Secretary Marjorie of the change (Mob 0419 781 264).

