

The Brunswick Rotary Club Inc.
PO Box 152 Brunswick VIC 3056
Charter No. 906 District 9800
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SERVICE Above Self

A GREAT MEETING

We were visited by Steve Nicholls, Paul Roberts and Brad Anderson from the Seeing Eye Dog Organisation and treated to a very informative and entertaining discourse.

Steve discovered that not everybody in the world has rotten eyesight when he was about 20 and found himself regularly smashing his car and finding his way to places by peering at the tail lights in front of him and trying to follow them. He discovered that he has tunnel vision and no night vision.

We learned that the most favored dogs are Labradors and Golden Retrievers who really enjoy their work. Steve's dog, Zappa, is nine years old and is a black golden retriever. (Don't ask me to try to explain the contradiction in terms). The dogs are taught to follow about 30 commands, including when to drop their henries, and even taught when to ignore commands. For example, if the dog is ordered "forward" to cross the road and he/she sees that it is not safe to proceed, the order will be ignored.

There are about 30 dogs trained each year at an average cost of \$25,000 each with no help from either Government. That seems quite reasonable as it would be unfair for the Government to divert funds from such great causes as the protection of the green eyed silver bellied river rat to assisting blind people.

ROTARY RAFFLE

Doug and Mal took charge of selling tickets over the weekend, and the membership officer would really like to thank all of you who turned up at one time or another as I was "in training" in Echuca. There was a good number of Dance into Life leaflets handed out and a few meeting invitations as well. Thanks Doug and Mal for doing the hard yards. I hear that Reg is going to set up at Union Square before we look to Moonee Ponds. Great to hear Reg. Lets make sure he has some company!

CONFERENCE

Lauri reported that 19 members and spouses went for dinner last Friday night and that a smaller number remained for the Conference. Lauri's assessment of the event was that Friday night dinner was "excellent" the Conference was "OK" and that the tucker on Saturday night was "sh'house".

Lauri is a most enthusiastic proponent of attendance at Conferences and is already preparing a roundabout itinerary for next year.

BOARD MEETING

This months board meeting is tonight at Brunswick Industries, 5.30pm, all welcome.

MEETING VENUE

The venue issue will be put to the Board Meeting tonight. The Reggio Calabria Club will not be visited as it is not open until this weekend. Adam will propose moving to Curly Joes on the assumption that should access be attended to at the Abruzzo Club then we will return.

This decision will affect us all, so **please let an attending board member know if you wish to express a strong opinion as to where we should meet.** Feel free to call Adam on 0418 142 562 to express your view.

PETS TRAINING – ECHUCA

Adam attended the “President Elect Training Session” at Echuca on the weekend. Friday night wine and cheese aboard a paddleboat followed by dinner at “Oscar W’s” on the wharf was a great start.

Saturday was a full days training, with the highlight being a performance from “Silent Voices” , a disbled group who signed the words to background music. Everyone in the room was moved.

Saturday night we were again hosted by the Rotary Club of Echuca-Moama in the old Rail Shed, with “Checken-Beef” on the menu. Again we were treated to a wonderful indigenous husband and wife team performing an interesting blend of music. Didgeridoo and Fiddle!!!! Sounds bizarre but was wonderful.

Sunday was a half day and I got back just in time to help pack up at Barkly Square, inspired and invigorated.

I should point out that the Rotary Club of Echuca-Moama numbers only 30, yet they hosted the 70 President Elects, most with partners and all the district representatives and did a wonderful job for the entire weekend. We should not be too worried about taking on activities!

GUEST SPEAKER THIS WEEK

Liz Mazeva - “New Procedures Testing”