



ROTARY NOMADS

Meeting Dot Points



29 October 2014

- **Greg:** Welcome. Reminder - mute your microphones throughout the meeting unless you are wishing to speak.
- **Lorelle – Welfare Officer update:** Great to see Paul C on line this evening Paul had a double knee replacement last Thursday evening – out of hospital 4 days later, but as Paul later mentioned the hard work starts tomorrow when he goes to his physio. Well done Paul, trust it continues to go well. Greg quipped that Paul should lead the barn dance at Broken Hill!
- **Greg - Membership update:** As previously mentioned we have had 44 enquiries that have not yet been finalised. These have now all been processed with 2 new Friends and at least 2 members so far. This has taken quite a bit of time but it great to see this club growing at such a great rate. Thanks Russ H for your help in this regard.
- **Geoff – Social update:**
 - Wednesday last – St Clairs, Fallons, Barkers and Adams met for lunch at a pub outside Toowoomba. Great opportunity to meet the Adams. Then Saturday there was a BBQ at Chateau St Clair as Peter and Marion Fitz had arrived from Melbourne. Higginbothams, Hunters, Fallons, St Clairs, Adams and Fitz (and their dogs) had a great get together. Everyone except Higginbothams stayed the night in their vans and had a great time. Sunday the Barkers joined them and continued the social weekend.
 - Realise that only those in SEQ could join in, but please let us know if you are travelling up this way, as we would love to catch up with you.
 - Everyone just clicked, and it seems almost a pre-requisite that most Nomads have a dog!
- **Gary Adams – Behind the Badge** – thanks Gary for a very interesting Behind the Badge. You have done a bit of travelling! Please see a transcript of Gary’s talk attached.
- **Greg - Broken Hill update**
 - Still vacancies at the caravan park in Silverton – let Meg Fallon know if you need a powered site, plenty of space if you don’t.
 - As previously mentioned Charter event will be held Tuesday 10th March 2015 as a luncheon followed by the Charter followed by a tour of the RFDS base. Also we have the opportunity to assist the RFDS with some projects, details have not yet been received. Will keep you updated.
- **John C** also mentioned that Neil and Mary H will be visiting them next week so great to see Nomads catching up.
- **Wayne Kemmis** mentioned that his article in *Caravan and Motorhome On Tour* is published this week. Keep an eye out for it.
- **Service Hours:** Geoff reminded everyone that we need to email him with details of any service hours we have done as this is a necessary part of the clubs reporting. Once a month, there will be a discussion about service work performed and club visits.

- **Smoko & Yarn:** For those near Brisbane - this Sunday 2nd Nov is the Smoko and Yarn and working bee at District Headquarters (9630) at Wacol from 9.30 – 12.30. This will be an opportunity to new members to learn a little more about Rotary and as it is a District event, for us to spread the word about the Nomads. It will also count as service hours for those who attend.
- **Facebook & Website: Greg –**
 - Please ensure you regularly check our website and Facebook as this is how we intend to provide members with info, rather than emailing everyone. Please check them out each week and provide feedback to Greg and Geoff. How can we improve the site, what else would you like to see?
 - Greg wants everyone to send him Recipes this week and ongoing. Jenny's carrot cake was a real hit and is a definite for the Nomads Recipe Book in coming months.
- **Greg:** Terry Barker guest speaker next week talking about Rotary Foundation.
- **Dot Points –** Lorelle to do Dot Points for November. Thanks Peta for doing them so well in October.
- **New meeting Times** from next week – see new times below. Meeting closed at 8pm Sydney time.

EFFECTIVE 05/11/14

MEETING START TIMES WITH DAYLIGHT SAVINGS

- NSW, VIC, TAS – 8pm
 - SA – 7:30pm
 - QLD – 7pm
 - NT – 6:30pm
 - WA – 5pm

Behind The Badge By Gary Adams - 29 Oct 2014

I was born in Toowoomba Qld into a family with 4 older sisters, and attended Toowoomba North State School, then Toowoomba State High School. On attaining my junior certificate, I gained an apprenticeship as an electrical fitter/mechanic, in the early to mid '60's. I became very interested and involved in motorsports, particularly speedway, where I had only moderate success in Ford Zephyrs. It was through speedway that I met Jenny, and we married in 1967, with our first child Joanne being born late that year. Frances, a sister for Joanne, was born in mid 1969.

After having a few jobs around the Darling Downs over the next couple of years, I applied for a job in Western Australia as an electrician for Hamersley Iron in Dampier. We moved there in 1970, and lived in Karratha. What was then the whole town is now a suburb of the town. Frozen food was trucked in weekly and we lined up to climb up stairs to purchase frozen milk, bread, and meat. Larger items were sent from Perth by ship once a month. Both girls started school in Karratha. I was instrumental in forming the Nicol Bay Speedway Club, and was very successful racing an EH Holden. In 1973 I was a charter member of the Karratha Apex Club, and was a director for 3 years.

In 1975 I transferred to CRA Services as Electrical Supervisor, and we moved to Tom Price

During 1977 I transferred to Mary Kathleen Uranium near Mt Isa in QLD, and worked up the ladder to become Project Co-ordinator, in charge of the engineering construction office, with draftsmen/inspectors, powerhouse, maintenance electricians, and contractors all under my control. Both girls attended school there, and Joanne went to All Souls and St Gabriels school in Charters Towers to attend high school. In 1977 I was a charter member of the Mary Kathleen Apex Club, and held directorships for 2 years.

By 1980 the mine was starting to wind down, and we thought that we should find a place to live where work opportunities suited our skills, and where the girls might easily find employment when they finished schooling. We moved to Gladstone. There we started an electrical contracting firm which developed into a thriving business also including a fuel outlet, lpg agency, and computer shop.

Our customer base included every federal and state government agency, coal mines, power stations, all major shopping centres, and chemical plants. I joined South Gladstone Rotary Club early in 1986, and held many directorships.

I was club president 1989/90, when I received the Distinguished Club Citation from Hugh Archer, RI president.

I was district chairman of vocational service 1995/96, under District Governor Sandy McGregor.

I was a Workskills Australia national judge in 1995, and at a local level 1993 to 1997.

I was a committee member and judge for the Queensland Government state training awards in 1996.

After selling our business to a competitor, I joined GEC Electrical in Gladstone and one day noted a vacancy for a branch manager at GEC in Karratha. Jenny and I thought it would be a bit interesting to go back there and see the place again, so I applied, was offered the job, and we headed off in 1998. I joined Karratha Rotary club, and was a member for 3 years, during which time I was a regional judge for Workskills Australia.

All went very well for a few years, till I saw an ad for senior electrical inspector for the state government, based in Karratha. My application was successful.

This was a very challenging position, and involved travel throughout the Pilbara and Kimberley auditing contractors, aboriginal communities, mines, homesteads, and power companies.

Investigations into electrical accidents and prosecution of errant tradesmen were also part of the job. For 2 years I was paid to do what other tourists pay heaps of money to do, roaming the country in an extremely well set up Nissan Patrol. I was well known in some communities, where I was named "Njabiru", and I was renowned for "lookit lecky bloke work, an rouse im up big time".

Eventually I was headhunted by one of my clients to help commission stage 4 of an LNG plant on the Burrup Peninsula near Karratha.

I was the electrical supervisor in a crew of over 100 technicians, commissioning over a period of twelve months. During the entire period I was awestruck by the sheer magnitude of the plant and the power of some of the equipment.

After that job had finished, I set up the work permit system at a major chemical plant also on the Burrup Peninsula.

Christmas eve in 2004 the flies and heat got the better of me and I convinced Jenny we should retire as soon as practical.

As I was still on a "retainer" from my employer at the LNG plant, I rang the CEO and advised him of our plans.

He convinced us to go to Perth for a while to help set up the new contracting arm of the firm.

We worked at head office in St Georges Terrace for a while, living in a swish apartment in Hay St until the first job came in, and we were both on the management team.

.....Collie, the Worsley alumina refinery.

We relocated again. Although we had a nice house at Australind, we travelled to work in the dark, worked in freezing wet conditions for long hours, then back home again in the dark. Hated it, and longed for sunny Queensland.

In August 2005 we bought an off-road caravan and said "Hooroo, we're finally retired". The trip back up and across the top went well enough, but our son-in-law in Gladstone mentioned that the Port Authority needed someone to help commission an expansion to the coal terminal. "Only three months" he said. We thought this would be just perfect for a visit to see the family which now included 2 grandsons.

Almost four years later I had finished re-writing their high voltage isolation and operating procedures and completed manuals and training for all electrical personnel.

“Enough!” I said, and we found our retirement property at Meringandan West, a tiny village just 20 minutes out of Toowoomba. Since moving here we have been very busy building gardens, sheds, and fitting in a few good trips in the Eastern half of the continent.

Cars have been a big part of my life, having owned at least 60 at last count. MY current car is a 1959 Holden FC special sedan, presently undergoing restoration. JENNY’s current car is a 1974 Holden HJ utility, in absolutely stock original condition. I christened it “Mr Woolworth” (fresh from the farm). OUR car is a 2012 Jeep Grand Cherokee V6 diesel. The current caravan is a 23’6” Blue Sky Splendour.

Holiday travel has also featured, having crossed the Nullarbor Plain four times since 1970 in a 1962 EK Holden, a 1969 HT Kingswood and a 1974 SLR Torana. We crossed the top in the Kingswood then a 2004 Navara towing a Coromal. Cape York was visited in 1990 in a 1986 Nissan Patrol. A 1994 Holden Jackaroo took us to Fraser Island, Roper Bar, Kakadu, Darwin, Broome, and Cape Leveque. The Navara was also used for an extended trip through all parts of WA, and through all Eastern states, Tasmania, parts of South Australia, and up the red centre to Darwin. The Jeep has been at Bathurst, on to Sydney, the Hunter valley, and all up the East coast. It has also taken us to Birdsville, Big Red, the Dig Tree, then to Karumba.

End