



The ROTARY CLUB of COROWA



13/01/2021: Issue 82 Number. 26

Service Above Self

82 Years of Service



Rotary Opens Opportunities

Program and Roster:

Corowa Civic Centre

Wed 13th Jan

Barefoot Bowls

Chairman

Paul

Treasurer

Deb

Rotary Grace

Graham B

Loyal Toast

Jeff

International Toast

Margaret

Rotary Information

Howard

Sergeant's Help

Stephen

Happy New Year

Happy New Year Puns

1. The fattest knight at King Arthur's round table was Sir Cumference. He acquired his size from too much pi.
2. I thought I saw an eye-doctor on an Alaskan island, but it turned out to be an optical Aleutian.
3. She was only a whiskey-maker, but he loved her still.
4. A rubber-band pistol was confiscated from an algebra class because it was a weapon of math disruption.
5. No matter how much you push the envelope, it'll still be stationery.
6. A dog gave birth to puppies near the road and was cited for littering.
7. A grenade thrown into a kitchen in France would result in Linoleum Blownapart.
8. Two silk worms had a race. They ended up in a tie.
9. A hole has been found in the nudist camp wall. The police are looking into it.
10. Time flies like an arrow. Fruit flies like a banana.
11. Atheism is a non-prophet organization.
12. Two hats were hanging on a hat rack in the hallway. One hat said to the other: 'You stay here; I'll go on a head.'
13. I wondered why the baseball kept getting bigger. Then it hit me.
14. A sign on the lawn at a drug rehab center said: 'Keep off the Grass.'
15. The midget fortune-teller who escaped from prison was a small medium at large.
16. A backward poet writes inverse.
17. In a democracy, it's your vote that counts. In feudalism, it's your count that votes.
18. When cannibals ate a missionary, they got a taste of religion.
19. If you jumped off the bridge in Paris, you'd be in Seine.
20. A vulture carrying two dead raccoons boards an airplane. The stewardess looks at him and says, 'I'm sorry, sir, only one carrion allowed per passenger.'



Federation Weekend 2021

Friday 22nd January - Tim Fischer

Oration - Guest Speaker Brendan Nelson AO

Tickets \$60 @ Marshall Batteries 0260331689





The Birthday Boys

Ian Kerr 24/12/1947 The baby Boomer Generation. The Baby Boomers were named after the explosion of babies that were born following the end of World War II. The amount of babies born during this time period were roughly 50% higher than average.

December 24th, on this day in History

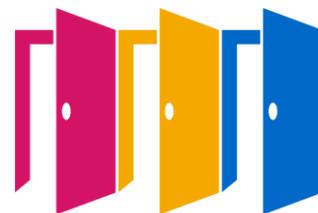
- 1814-12-24 Treaty of Ghent signed ending War of 1812 (This news did not arrive until after Battle of New Orleans)
- 1818-12-24 Silent Night composed by Franz Gruber sung next day
- 1865-12-24 Several Confederate veterans form the Ku Klux Klan in Pulaski Tn
- 1871-12-24 Giuseppe Verdi's 'Aida' premiere in Cairo at Suez canal opening
- 1906-12-24 1st radio program broadcast in Brant Rock Mass
- 1906-12-24 Reginald A. Fessenden became 1st to broadcast music over radio
- 1910-12-24 Luisa Tetrazzini sings to 250 000 people at Lotta's Fountain
- 1943-12-24 FDR appoints Gen Eisenhower supreme commander of Allied forces
- 1951-12-24 Libya gains independence from Italy
- 1966-12-24 Luna 13 lands on moon
- 1968-12-24 Apollo 8 astronauts read Old Testament Book of Genesis passages
- 1970-12-24 Walt Disney's "The Aristocats" is released
- 1980-12-24 Americans remembered Iran hostages by shining lights for 417 seconds



Bill Bott 25/12/1944 The Silent Generation. The silent Gen were born into a fortunate time period associated with wealth, and high education. Contrary to their name, the Silent Generation tended to be very patriotic and ambitious. They were plagued with the Korean war, and economic instability following WWII.

December 25th, on this day in History:

- 0336-12-25 1st recorded celebration of Christmas on Dec. 25 took place in Rome
- 1066-12-25 William the Conqueror was crowned king of England
- 1758-12-25 Halley's comet 1st sighted by Johann Georg Palitzsch during return
- 1776-12-25 Washington crosses Delaware & surprises Hessians
- 1818-12-25 Silent Night by Franz Joseph Gruber & Joseph Mohr sung for 1st time
- 1926-12-25 Hirohito became emperor of Japan
- 1931-12-25 NY's Metropolitan Opera broadcasts an entire opera over radio
- 1939-12-25 Montgomery Ward introduces Rudolph the 9th reindeer
- 1941-12-25 Japan announces surrender of British-Canadian garrison at Hong Kong
- 1963-12-25 Walt Disney's "The Sword In The Stone" is released
- 1968-12-25 Frank Borman's Christmas reading while orbiting moon
- 1977-12-25 Charlie Chaplin died in Switzerland at 88



Rotary Opens Opportunities

Rotary Grace:

Oh Lord, the giver
of all good,

We thank you for
our daily food.

May Rotary friends
and Rotary ways,

Help us to serve
you all our days.

Amen.

.....

For Good Food,

For Good
Fellowship

And the
opportunity for
Serve service in
Rotary,

We Give Thanks.

Amen.

.....

Today we are
thankful for all
we've received.

However we live, we
firmly believe

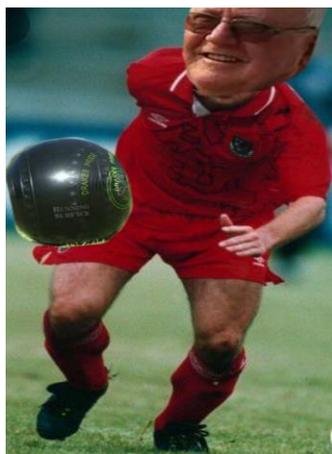
All is a blessing that
we must pass on

No matter our status
or where we have
gone. Kindness and
generosity are what
we impart

Showing the world
what's in Rotary's
heart.

Some of our Rotarians enjoying Barefoot bowls at the Corowa Civic Bowling Club

Back to regular Rotary Meeting next week @ Royal Hotel



The Wisdom of Your Inner Crowd

- The average of a bunch of idiots is a genius** - Ever play that game where there's a jar full of candy and everyone is supposed to guess how much candy is in the jar, and whoever guesses the closest wins the jar?
Yeah, I never won those things either.

But here's a cool little factoid you may not have known. If you have dozens of people guess the amount of candy in the jar, and then average their guesses, that average will usually be incredibly close to the answer. In fact, in most cases, that average will be closer than any individual's guess.

This phenomenon is called "The Wisdom of the Crowd." It's poorly-named, in my opinion, as anyone who has spent much time in crowds knows that when large mobs of people get together, everybody's IQ drops about 30 points.

But the Wisdom of the Crowd is the curious fact that when estimating some outcome, averaging the guesses of a large number of people gets you surprisingly close to the correct answer. The wisdom of the crowd is why stock markets tend to be accurate at evaluating businesses or prediction markets tend to outperform even the best experts.

But what's cool about the wisdom of the crowd concept is that it doesn't just apply to large numbers of individuals—it applies *within us* as individuals as well.

Let's go back to the candy jar. If you've ever played this game, then you know most people are horrible at it. They're way off. Often hilariously off.

But let's say that instead of making one guess, you make ten guesses. You pick a high estimate and a low estimate and a bunch of estimates in between, based on all the factors you can think of. What's amazing is that if you then average your own ten guesses, that average will tend to be more accurate than any individual guess.

Call it, "The Wisdom of the Inner Crowd."

This has all sorts of practical uses. Suppose you think a project may take six months. Instead of making that single estimate, you could make a "best case scenario" estimate, a "worst case scenario estimate," and an "average case estimate." Maybe those three scenarios are four months, eighteen months, and six months, respectively.

Average them, and you end up with approximately nine months. Chances are that the nine month estimate is going to be far more accurate than your original estimate of six months... which, if you've ever worked on something you thought was going to take six months, you've already found out the hard way.

- Saving us from ourselves** - While 2020 has been a raging dumpster fire of a year and most of us have spent it being mopey on Zoom calls and binge-watching Netflix, one thing has quietly had one of its best years ever.

Science.

- In the sunniest parts of the world, the cost of solar power recently broke below the cost of fossil fuels for the first time ever. The drop in the price of solar power has been so rapid that it's now more than ten years ahead of what most expert models and projections expected and it continues to fall, with wind energy not far behind. This is a huge deal because once renewables are reliably cheaper than fossil fuels, *everyone* will switch. And not out of ideology or environmental concerns, but simply to save money.

- Scientists were able to reverse aging and vision by injecting genetically-modified cells into optic nerves. But what's even more incredible is that they did it *by causing the optic cells to actually become younger*. Holy cannoli, Batman.

- A team in China built the first-ever photon-based quantum computer that is 100 trillion times faster than the most powerful conventional supercomputers. It is able to do some calculations in seconds that would take other computers two billion years.

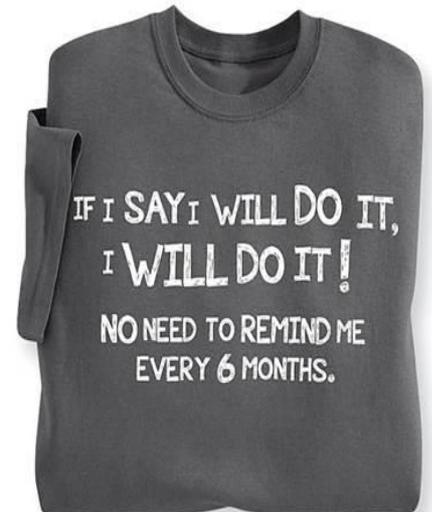
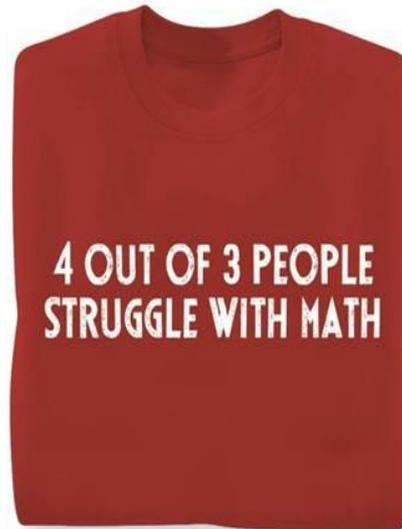
- In May, SpaceX sent its first manned rocket to space. SpaceX is now able to send humans to space for roughly \$62 million dollars per flight. To put that into perspective, NASA's old space shuttle missions used to cost approx. \$1.5 billion per flight. That's a 96% drop in the cost of space flight in less than 20 years. By continuing to drive down the cost of space travel, SpaceX will make entire new industries possible (space tourism, space logistics, space mining, etc.). Musk talks a lot about Mars, but flying from New York to Sydney in less than 90 minutes (and through space!!!) sounds way cooler to me.

- Protein-folding, the biggest problem in molecular biology, has just been solved by an AI, making this a double breakthrough. I don't totally understand the protein folding thing, but top biologists in the field are saying things like, "it's possibly the biggest scientific breakthrough of my lifetime," and, "I was beginning to think I wouldn't live to see it." Apparently it will bring huge advances in genetics, pharmacology and medicine.

- Oh, and there is not one, but *two*, highly effective vaccines that will likely be approved within nine months of the biggest pandemic in 100 years. Their trial results were stellar. The story of Moderna's vaccine is particularly impressive. On January 11th, Chinese scientists posted the genome of COVID-19 online for the world to begin working on it. By February 5th, Moderna had created the first batch of its vaccine. By February 24th, it had initiated its Phase 1 trial. To put that into perspective, there were still fewer than 50 confirmed cases in the US when Moderna had already completed its vaccine and began testing it. Incredible.

Meeting Date	Wed 13 th Jan	Wed 20 th Jan	Wed 27 th Jan	Wed 3 rd Feb
Venue	Civic Center	Royal Hotel	Royal Hotel	Royal Hotel
Program	Barefoot Bowls	Australia Day Meeting	tba	tba
Chairman	Paul	Meredith	Robyn	Rosie
Treasurer	Deb	Paul	Meredith	Robyn
Rotary Grace	Graham B	Deb	Paul	Meredith
Loyal Toast	Jeff	Graham B	Deb	Paul
International Toast	Margaret	Jeff	Graham B	Deb
Rotary Information	Howard	Margaret	Jeff	Graham B
Sergeants Help	Stephen	Howard	Margaret	Jeff

and on the lighter side: HAHAHA You know the saying "If the shirt fits wear it!"



Please remember to notify **Neil Davis** if you **CAN NOT** attend our weekly meetings or if you wish to bring any guests.

If you are arranging a guest speaker, please advise Neil of the number of

people attending and if they need the screen and projector.

Neil can be contacted by:

Phone or text on **0499 878 529** or email davis98@bigpond.net.au

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE REPLY DETAILS HAVE CHANGED

The Rotary Club Of Corowa meets every WEDNESDAY at the The Royal Hotel: 6:30pm for a 7:00pm start



President 2019-2020: Rotarian Norm O'Flaherty
Secretary: Rotarian Neil Davis
Treasurer: Rotarian Paul Miegel
Vice President: Rotarian Paul Miegel
President Elect 2021-22: Rotarian Deborah Rowe
P.O. Box 153 Corowa, NSW, 2646.

Bulletin Editor: Rotarian Kerrie Crawford
crawfordkerrie@y7mail.com - 0439 930 739

