

OK, it's official: 2014 has started – only just, considering the meeting attendance! OMG.

APOLOGIES: Everybody except Peter Hoey, Chris Turner (back from his world trip. Clearly, nobody else will have him); Richard Brady, Denise (in the chair), Paul Della, Rumpole and Erwin. Audra Fletcher was on her 5th visit. John Clements visited from Yankallilla. Guy Price, five months in town and interested in joining Rotary, came as a guest. He is an environmental health officer (who inspects commercial kitchens and so on for cleanliness). Somewhat mysteriously he did not order a meal.

Denise was creative in her estimate of attendance percentage, 65%. That would have been accurate if we had a membership of 11. Richard corrected: 28% it was.

Denise reported that Matt had tried to hand over in Adelaide our \$5000 for shelter boxes in the disaster-struck Philippines, but couldn't find anyone to issue a receipt, and so did not leave the money.

Also, our bill to the Mbantua festival is still unpaid.

We did not take on a pancake making job on Australia Day.

Yes, there will be a Territory Dinner: Denise, Fran, Roz Wade and Kevin Hickmont (the usual MC for the night) are on the committee, a temporary booking has been made at Heavitree Resort again for October 4, the week before the Masters Games. Denise has asked for more government money.

Yes, there will be a Henley on Todd, on August 16. Paul reported Miranda Daniels has been appointed as sponsorship manager. Gosh, how our diary is filling up!

More major news from Paul: He became engaged over the holidays, to a lady from Tenterfield in NSW. I've heard about couples with separate bedrooms but separate towns? States?

Chris reported Paul Pringle will visit. Stand by for more ...

We've said thanks but no thanks to the Bunnings BBQ – the hours are too long, the temperatures too high and the conditions too rigid.

See'yall on Tuesday!

Paul Della added

Except you didn't mention your own experience so something else needs to be added:

Erwin aka "The man of steel" (and I'm not referring to his superhuman effort in surviving a nasty hit and run from a cowardly driver), literally he told us he was full of metal plates and things!, gave a first hand account of his accident and recovery (and for a more detailed account you can visit Alice Springs News Online and read Erwin's article there.

Those present were amazed that he could walk unaided, Erwin put it down to a great surgeon and rehab people but obviously Erwin has been doing everything asked of him and more to be back on his feet so soon.

Denise volunteered to bring an oil can to future meetings in case any parts needed oiling "we don't want Erwin locking up during the meeting" she said.

It was great to have Erwin back on board and not only did he keep Alice Springs News Online running (with more than a little help from his wife one suspects while he was recovering) but he has prepared out first newsletter of the year too!