

Rotary Club of Narooma Inc.
weekly bulletin

The Beacon



Vol. 49 No. 48 28 June 2007

The President and Members of the Narooma Rotary Club extend a very warm welcome to you on the occasion of our 49th Changeover

Presidents Report 2006 - 2007

It has been a very great honour to be president of the Narooma Rotary Club over the past twelve months. Our Club is a great little club and it has made amazing achievements despite our relatively small membership.

My year started for me a little like a Dicken's novel. It was the best of times and it was the worst of times. From the buzz and excitement of the induction to the harsh reality of losing members, it felt a little bit like being on a roller coaster for the first month or two.



President Marilyn at the Blues Festival

I am pleased to say that our membership has stabilised and I have had the pleasure of inducting four wonderful new members this year who I am sure will make significant contributions to our club.

I have learned throughout the year that it is the quality of membership, rather than quantity of members, that makes a club strong and viable. Our club certainly has quality members. They have worked hard throughout the year and I thank them all from the bottom of my heart for their loyalty, commitment and support of Rotary ideals.

This year we have had great success with fundraising and it was a special privilege at our last Board meeting to be able to make disbursements that will benefit the local, regional and international community.

Our main income has come once again from our monthly Rotary markets. Market manager Chris O'Brien does a mighty job, and Community Services director Kris Elphick has excelled with the organisation and catering for the food van. Jack Wightman and Kris Elphick have given up their Saturdays to mark the oval and they turn up again on Sunday to help, rain, hail or shine. George Barker and Bill Hardie have shown ingenious and creative salesmanship with the white elephant stall and the wishing well continues to raise additional funds. Ted Bladwell and Jeremy Ferguson have always been there to help with the towing, setting up and packing up of the van and I must make special mention of the market dawn shift girls, Chris O'Brien, Kris Elphick and Laurelle Pacey, who get up on dark and cold Sunday mornings to sort out, by torchlight, the many market stall holders as well as put out the signs and the bunting. They are always full of positive energy, good humour and community spirit. And of course, all our members have contributed to the success of the markets in many ways.

The Blues Festival in October also generated income through our food van but more importantly it generated great team spirit. Family members and friends expanded our workforce and everyone worked multiple shifts making doughnuts and sausage sandwiches. The effort was worthwhile and no one complained. (Well, I didn't hear them!) It was great fun and we got to see and meet lots of interesting people.

Our Duck Race was another fundraising and spirit raising highlight of the year. It was held on the June long weekend. The weather was fine and the ducks behaved perfectly. Kris Elphick organised this event and once again she showed what an exemplary Rotarian she is. Laurelle also showed her dedication when she took to the water in the surf lifesaving rubber ducky to replace a missing crewmember. The ducks would not have dared escape through the bar with Laurelle on board with the scooping net! Well done Laurelle! You showed true Rotary spirit!



Kris & Marilyn at the Duck Race

We once again had some interclub projects. We combined with Batemans Bay Rotary Club and Moruya Rotary Club for our Literacy project, where books are presented to newborn babies at Moruya hospital to help foster a love of reading. We also met with Moruya Rotarians to compete for the esteemed Cinders trophy and I am happy to report that we won it back! This hard fought win features amongst my

proudest accomplishments this year! Narooma's youth featured strongly for our Club in the past year. The theme chosen by Rotary International President William Boyd for this Rotary Year was "Lead the Way" and what better way to lead the way than to give young people support and guidance for their future. Our tertiary scholarship winner this year was Elizabeth Downie, a remarkable young lady who I am sure will make a great success of whatever she chooses to do with her life.



Rotary Junk at the Markets

We were blessed this year to be associated with many remarkable young people and many of them attended our meetings and spoke to us of their dreams and aspirations. One young lady who left an indelible impression is Ame Barnbrook. Ame is at Wollongong University this year and she has faced many challenges because of her physical disability. We were able to obtain a grant of \$5000 to assist Ame through the Movement Disorder Foundation.

It is a great privilege to be able to help young people achieve their goals. Another student who impressed us all is Alissa Van Soest who was sponsored by our Club to attend the prestigious National Youth Science Forum. This was a life changing experience for Alissa and it was a pleasure to hear her speak to us of her experience with such enthusiasm and excitement. We also sponsored students to the Siemens Science School, RYLA and RYPEN. Many thanks to Youth



Lori, DG Mick, Marilyn & Jim

Services Director John Messner who worked with great energy and demonstrated great commitment to our youth.

Our local community also benefited through our Club's efforts this past year. Rotary Park facilities were improved with the erection of shelters above the new picnic tables. Many thanks to Kevin Young for his efforts with this. The Rotary Ringlands Walk also received some attention, thanks to Jeremy Ferguson's timely intervention, and plans have been made for further work on this project in the forthcoming year.

Another highlight this year was the presentation of Pride of Workmanship awards for Vocational excellence. This was a very successful night, organised by Vocational Services director Laurelle Pacey. Nine businesses nominated very deserving employees for these awards and I was proud to assist Assistant District Governor Phil Armstrong as he presented them.

The Rotary Bowel Scan project was again a success this year. Many thanks to Jack Wightman and Kris Elphick for their work in promoting this very worthy project.

Another achievement this year was the development and publication of an information brochure for our club. It is something we have needed for some time. Many thanks to Laurelle for her initiative and hard work in getting it done.



Jack at the Cocktail Party

This year we were recognised by our District for our club's generous contributions to the Australian Rotary Health Research Fund and ADG Phil Armstrong presented us with a beautiful banner of recognition.

We also assisted the Pambula Rotary Club with their Rotary International project in Timor Leste, supporting the rebuilding and refurbishing of the Natabora Agricultural College.

Another project, which is still underway, is the Ranfurly library project. We have collected many books, which will soon be sorted and sent overseas to grateful recipients.

I wish to thank all members and particularly my board this year. Our board meetings have been enjoyable and very productive. What a great team! Many thanks to Vice President Jeremy Ferguson and Vocational Services Director Laurelle Pacey who have represented me on occasions when I have not been able to attend.

Special thanks to Secretary Ian Thomlinson for his guidance and wisdom, to Kevin Young for keeping us on the financial straight and narrow, to Bob Aston, who undertook to write the weekly bulletin (and a fine publication it has been!). Bob has shown considerable patience with an often tardy president and has educated us all on the Nyngan rules of golf. Grateful thanks to Bill Hardie, who gave me his support as a past president when the immediate past president left. And I must make special mention of Jack Wightman, who exemplifies everything a Rotarian should be. Jack has been a wonderful International Director, Rotary Foundation Director and Relieving Treasurer. Thanks also to Ted Bladwell who has ably assisted as Relieving Secretary when Ian has been travelling.



Laurelle with PP Georgie at the Cocktail Party

I would like to share with you all tonight one of our secrets to Rotary bliss. It is having our meetings at the Whale. Sincere thanks to Matthew and Jennifer Deveson, and their staff, who have looked after us like VIPs throughout the year.

Finally I would like to acknowledge the love and support I have had from my husband Jim. He puts up with my moods, my highs and lows, my whinges and complaints. Thank you my darling for putting up with me!

I wish Laurelle and her Board all the best for 2007 - 2008.

Thanks everyone!

Luv,

President Maz

Program for our 49th Changeover

Chairman - P.P. Bill Hardie

6.30 pm registration and fellowship

7.00 pm Call to Order

Welcome: President Marilyn Gibson

Rotary Grace: PP George Barker

Loyal Toast: PP Ian Tomlinson

Apologies and introductions (Chairman)

Guests, Visitors and partners

Visiting Rotarians and partners

Members' partners

Toast to our Partners: Ted Bladwell

Response: Heather Ferguson

Dinner

Toast to Rotary International: Rotarian Jack Wightman

Response: PDG Ron Thornton

Retiring President's Report and presentations
(Marilyn Gibson)

Installation of 2007-2008 President

Incoming President's Address

Introduction of 2007-08 Board of Directors
(Laurelle Pacey)

National Anthem

Duties for the next two weeks

TASK	5 July 2007	12 July 2007
Welcome/wheel	John Messner	Lin Morey
Cashier	George Barker	Kris Elphick
Toast / thanks	Lin Morey	Ted Bladwell
4-way test	Kris Elphick	Marilyn Gibson
3-minute talk	Bill Hardie ^(R)	Bob Aston
FINES	Marilyn Gibson	Chris O'Brien
Introduction	Chris O'Brien	Phil Gaffney

If you can't make it to the next Rotary meeting, please ring our attendance officer Ted Bladwell the day before 4476 4676 or you will be charged for your meal. (R) signifies a Rotary talk.

COMING EVENTS: Next week Club Assembly

12 July	TBC
19 July	TBC
22 July	Narooma Rotary Markets
26 July	DG Visit – Bernie Rogers Partner's Night

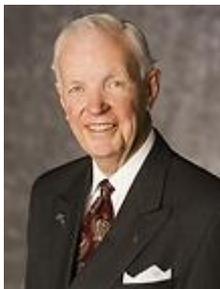


Changeover night – 27th June 2006

Rotary Shares

The 2007 – 2008 Rotary Theme

Dear fellow Rotarians,



Rotarians are a varied lot. We come from dozens of countries, speak hundreds of languages, and adhere to a wide spectrum of religious, political, and philosophical beliefs. If one strong common thread exists among our 1.2 million members, it is our willingness to *share*. Rotarians share their time, their talents, their expertise, and their money to successfully carry out projects that tackle a vast range of humanitarian and social issues. They share their compassion, their enthusiasm, and their commitment to help those in need and make the world better. And they share an unparalleled passion for service that has made Rotary the world's premiere service organization.

It is this fundamental spirit of generosity that I have tried to capture in our theme for 2007-08: *Rotary Shares*. I hope that it serves as both a point of pride for all Rotarians and a motivating force for our activities in the coming year.

Sharing is a concept generally associated with promoting the greater good, but it is also an individual action, a personal choice. Each one of us decides how much of our time and energy we want to share with Rotary, which ultimately determines how much each club can share with its local community and communities abroad. For that reason, I urge you to become more personally involved in Rotary and to actively participate in both service projects and membership development.

My call for individual involvement includes everyone in the family of Rotary, another emphasis that I want to continue. Our far-reaching family encompasses Rotarians and their families, Rotaractors, Interactors, Youth Exchange students, the widows and widowers of former Rotarians, and others who collectively work to promote Rotary's goals and ideals. Together, we can promote Rotary's programs throughout the world, handing down the ideals of service and fellowship from one generation to the next.

Continuity is essential to Rotary's success, and so health, literacy, and water will remain our service emphases for the year. For many clubs, that will mean continuing ongoing, successful projects in their communities and internationally. For those who want to start new projects, I urge you to think creatively and consider some new approaches. For example, let's look at how we can use new technologies to purify water, teach people to read, or provide safe sources of energy for homes. Then let's share those innovative solutions with other Rotary clubs that are looking for successful project ideas.

As they make plans for 2007-08, I also encourage clubs to consider the United Nations Millennium Development Goals, especially the Millennium Villages project in sub-Saharan Africa. Like our Rotary Community Corps (RCC), these villages employ a bottom-up approach to helping communities pull themselves out of extreme poverty. Let us share the knowledge we have gained in promoting self-sufficiency through RCCs to support this important goal.

Our theme for 2007-08 is reversible: *Rotary Shares* and so we must all share Rotary. During the first three decades of my life as a Rotarian, Rotary was growing steadily. No thanks to me, however, as I never brought in any new members. When Rotary's numbers began to drop in existing clubs, however, I suddenly realized that the organization I had come to care about so deeply would not simply continue to grow on its own. I understood then that I — and every other Rotarian — share the responsibility of bringing new members into our ranks, and it was time that I did my part.

In the coming year, I will be encouraging each one of you to do your part and share Rotary with other business and professional leaders in your community. I have set a goal for every Rotarian on my leadership team of directors, training leaders, membership coordinators, district governors, and club presidents to bring in at least one new member in 2007-08. I'm even asking all the past RI presidents to join us in this effort. Moving on from there, I have established a plan for recognizing all Rotarians who bring in new members. Working together, let us share the responsibility for Rotary's growth and make all our clubs stronger and more viable.

The dedicated Rotarians who develop dynamic project ideas and galvanize other members to action form the backbone of every club, but there are too few of them. I believe that every one of us could be that kind of Rotarian if we just take that important first step toward personal involvement

— if we just say yes.

Yes, I will lead that project.

Yes, I will bring in a new member.

Yes, I will share my ideas and my resources to make my club stronger.

I'm convinced that 1.2 million involved and active Rotarians can finish the job on polio eradication; carry out projects involving health, water, and literacy; promote the cause of peace to every part of the globe; and clearly and powerfully demonstrate to the world that *Rotary Shares*.

Wilfrid J. (Wilf) Wilkinson
President, Rotary International, 2007-08

The Funny Side

Automatic e-mail reply messages

1. I am currently out at a job interview and will reply to you if I fail to get the position. Be prepared for my mood.
2. I'm not really out of the office. I'm just ignoring you.
3. You are receiving this automatic notification because I am out of the office. If I was in, chances are you wouldn't have received anything at all.
4. Sorry to have missed you but I am at the doctors having my brain removed so that I may be promoted to management.
5. I will be unable to delete all the unread, worthless emails you send me until I return from vacation on 18/7. Please be patient and your mail will be deleted in the order it was received.

6. Thank you for your email. Your credit card has been charged \$5.99 for the first ten words and \$1.99 for each additional word in your message.

7. The e-mail server is unable to verify your server connection and is unable to deliver this message. Please restart your computer and try sending again.

8. I am on holiday. Your e-mail has been deleted.

9. Thank you for your message, which has been added to a queuing system. You are currently in 352nd place, and can expect to receive a reply in approximately 19 weeks.

10. Please reply to this e-mail so I will know that you got this message.

The last Golf Story of the year

Four men, well along in years, had played golf as a foursome every Sunday morning, until one of them passed away. The other three asked the club pro if he could find them a compatible gentleman to fill out the foursome again. "No problem," answered the pro.

"But, you have to understand," one of the guys, named George, explained, "that Moe, who died, was like our eyes. We're all getting some cataracts, and have trouble seeing the ball. Moe's eyesight was perfect, and he was our spotter."

The pro promised to see what he could do, and, when the others returned the following Sunday, he introduced them to a truly ancient looking gentleman, named Gary.

"How old are you?" George asked.

"I'm ninety-four," Gary responded.

"Fabulous," said George. "But how's your eyesight?"

At this, Gary blew up. "Don't insult my eyes," he yelled. "I may be old, but I've got 20-20 vision. I have eyes like an eagle. Don't insult me!"

"Okay, okay," the others said. "Let's play golf."

George was first on the tee, and he hit a long, low drive, that faded significantly after about 200 yards. He turned to Gary.

"Did you see where it went?" he asked the ancient one.

"Did I see where it went? I told you not to insult my eyesight. Of course, I saw where it went. I've got eyes like an eagle!" Gary yelled.

"Okay, I'm sorry," said George. "Where did it go?"

Gary dropped his head, and muttered, "I forgot."



This wins the prize as the funniest picture of the year!