

ROTARY CLUB OF NAROOMA INC

BEACON

Tappings from Terry

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Last Thursday our guest speaker was Jackie Stallard - Eurobodalla Shire Council on Social Media. Jackie offered us some information on Social Media, in particular **facebook**. It is probably fair to say not many – maybe only one – members of the club are frequent users of **facebook**. I for one only look at it when I get an email telling me there are notifications pending.

In an attempt to get a feel for the social media scene I visited Google, and found there are 24 offerings considered to be social media, with varying demographics.

The challenge for the club is to find someone with the time and inclination to be posting to, say, facebook the activities of the club and directing visitors to our site to other RI sites. I am not aware of anyone with both of those attributes who can be our facebook person. However I will be pleased to be proved wrong.

Because this week the good intention to write this missive early was not achieved, I can now report we had a good combined meeting yesterday at Charmaine's home. The old and the new board met and covered a lot of ground. As Jack is likely to produce a report I will not attempt to steal his thunder. We should acknowledge though that Jack, to a large extent, is the glue that is holding this club together. He provides information to the president of the day, to the district and to RI, I certainly could not have survived without him.

He helps us to

Have fun with Rotary

Terry

Former Rotary Youth Exchange student designs a backpack bed for the homeless

By Megan Ferringer

The Rotarian -- June 2013

During Australia's colder months, emergency shelters often fill to capacity. Many homeless people searching for a warm bed are turned away, handed a piece of cardboard and a blanket for the night.

Tony Clark, an IT entrepreneur, 1992 [Rotary Youth Exchange](#) student, and the founder of the Melbourne-based nonprofit Swags for Homeless, offers an alternative.

In the past year, his organization has distributed more than 3,000 swags, or portable sleeping units, to charities and shelters throughout Australia, New Zealand, Germany, and the United Kingdom. The Backpack Beds, which Clark and his wife, Lisa, designed, are made of a lightweight fabric and have a built-in, 6-foot foam mattress and mosquito netting. But most important, they offer warmth with their waterproof, windproof design. The entire assembly weighs only 6.5 pounds and rolls into a backpack.

Clark was inspired to start the nonprofit when he questioned why so many shelters didn't provide homeless people with proper outdoor bedding. He immediately began working on designs for the versatile bed.

"I thought to myself, 'How would I like to be treated if I slept on the street?'" Clark says. "Homeless people suffering from frostbite, hypothermia, and trench foot are common in wealthy countries. A Backpack Bed is an interim crisis measure – one that can save the lives of those without shelter."

The bed, which can be purchased with a A\$68 donation, has won four international honors, including the Australian International Design Award and the German Red Dot "Best of the Best" award – one of the most prestigious accolades in the product design world.

The innovative beds offer more than physical comfort, say those who have used them – they also provide a renewed sense of dignity.

"Until people are faced with living on the streets, they have no idea of what is involved. Just getting a shower, finding a toilet, or trying to wash clothes becomes a big event," says Matt, a young homeless man in Australia. "This is the third time I have been on the streets, and previously I didn't even have a blanket. Tony Clark and his organization change the lives of people like me."

The success of Swags for Homeless throughout Australia and Europe has encouraged Clark to bring his Backpack Beds to the United States. Rotary clubs in District 9800, which includes Melbourne, funded and transported 100 beds to Baltimore and parts of New Jersey and New York to help the region's homeless and those displaced by Hurricane Sandy. District 7500 (New Jersey) worked with Australian Rotarians to coordinate the effort. Swags for Homeless also donated 60 beds for distribution in Chicago, Washington, D.C., and Los Angeles.

"We knew we had to take this idea and spread its success to other countries and help save others," Clark says. "Thanks to Rotary, this is an important moment: It will be the first time Backpack Beds will be distributed to street-sleeping homeless and disaster victims in the USA."

The Irish vs. Americans

A Texan walks into a pub in Ireland and clears his voice to the crowd of drinkers. He says, "I hear you Irish are a bunch of hard drinkers. I'll give \$500 American dollars to anybody in herewho can drink 10 pints of Guinness back-to-back."

The room is quiet and no one takes up the Texan's offer. One man even leaves. Thirty minutes later the same gentleman who left shows back up and taps the Texan on the shoulder. "Is your bet still good?" asks the Irishman.

The Texan says 'yes' and asks the bartender to line up 10 pints of Guinness. Immediately the Irishman tears into all 10 of the pint glasses drinking them all back-to-back. The other pub patrons cheer as the Texan sits in amazement.

The Texan gives the Irishman the \$500 and says, "If ya don't mind me askin', where did you go for that 30 minutes you were gone?"

The Irishman replies, "Oh...I had to go to the pub down the street to see if I could do it first".

| Duty | 23 May | 30 May | 6 June | 13 June | 20 June |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------|-----------------|
| Chair/Rotary History | Bob Aston | Jack Wightman | Mike Young | Changeover | Charmaine White |
| Cashier/Wheel | George Barker | Mike Young | Charmaine White | Changeover | Terry Irvine |
| Invocation | Mike Young | Charmaine White | John Messner | Changeover | Laurelle pacey |
| 3 Minute Talk | Charmaine White | John Messner | Chris O'Brien | Changeover | George Barker |
| Fines | | | | | |
| <i>If you cannot do your allocated duty please arrange a replacement then advise the editor</i> | | | | | |

| Date | Event |
|----------------|---|
| 23 May | Diamonds are Forever – Georgie Staley Partner's night |
| 26 May | Narooma Rotary Markets – NATA Oval |
| 30 May | TBC |
| 6 June | Pride in Workmanship Awards |
| 13 June | Changeover! Partner's Night |
| 20 June | Board Meeting |
| 23 June | Narooma Rotary Market |
| 27 June | TBC |
| 30 June | District Changeover – Narooma Golf Club |
| 4 July | No Meeting |
| 11 July | Club Assembly |

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| President Terry Irvine Mob 0415 414 980 | Secretary Jack Wightman | Treasurer Jack Wightman |
| 9710 DG Phil Armstrong | | RI President Sakuji Tanaki |
| Apologies and additional guests to John Rungen the Tuesday before the meeting on 4476 5932 or by email wardholt@iprimus.com.au OR you will be charged for your meal. | | |
| PO Box 151 Narooma 2546 | | Web Address: www.naroomarotary.org |