

# Rotary Club of Narooma Inc. weekly bulletin

## The Beacon

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### *Marilyn's Message*

Dear Fellow Rotarians, Friends and Family,  
I apologise that I am unable to be with you tonight. I am in Sydney at the State Principals Conference. (Doing it tough at the Wentworth!) Tonight we have as our Club guests Emma-Lynn Barrett, Past District Governor Ron Thornton and his wife, Pam. It certainly looks to be a very enjoyable meeting and I am sorry that I will not be there.

Last Sunday's market was blessed with perfect weather. Unfortunately the crowds were down, possibly because of the Moruya Jazz Festival. The white elephant stall was a lot of fun and once again made a little bit of extra money for our Youth programs. Despite the cynics, we managed to sell the white vase (?), the yellow lamps and the fake antique telephone!

Many thanks to all Rotarians and partners for your work and commitment to the markets. We may be few in number but we do get the job done!

Have a great night tonight. See you all next week.

President - Maz

### *Rotary Foundation – Snippets*

This week's snippet is about PolioPlus Partners.

PolioPlus Partners was created in 1995 to allow Rotarians in polio-free countries to partner with Rotarians in polio-endemic countries by providing support for National Immunization Days and other critical activities. Over US\$33 million has been contributed to more than 400 projects since then, yet there is still a need today. The Partners program allows Rotarians to choose a project of interest by reviewing and selecting from the Open Projects list available on the Rotary website. These projects support our fellow Rotarians in the final battles against polio.

International Director – Jack

### *The Market Report*

42 stallholders turned out on Sunday, as well as the High School P&C crew for the van. We took \$740.00 in site fees and \$432.35 from van sales. At the main gate the Wishing Well collected \$60.25 in visitors' donations. As a result \$1,232.60 was added to the Charity account.

President Marilyn's White Elephant stall made a very handy \$80.25 to augment the Administration account. Now the stall needs to be stocked up again, so look again for saleable articles that are surplus to your needs and give them to Marilyn.

Many thanks to the members who joined the roster for this market. We owe them a debt of gratitude.

## *Program*

**Tonight:** Emma Lynn Barrett (2004 Scholarship recipient), Past Dist. Governor Ron Thornton

<b>TASK</b>	<b>26 October</b>	<b>2 November</b>	<b>9 November</b>
<b>Greet /welcome/wheel</b>	Ted Bladwell	Laurelle Pacy	Bob Aston
<b>Cashier</b>	Marshall Binstock	Jack Wightman	Kevin Young
<b>Toast / thanks</b>	George Barker	Bob Aston	Lin Morey
<b>4-way test</b>	Chris O'Brien	Marshall Binstock	John Messner
<b>3-minute talk</b>	Laurelle Pacey	Marilyn Gibson	Marshall Binstock
<b>FINES</b>	Kris Elphick	John Messner	Ted Bladwell
<b>Introduction</b>	Jack Wightman	Jack Wightman	Kris Elphick

*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, if you can.*

**Next Week:** Ray Johnson & Junette Harris, St. John's Ambulance service.

### **COMING EVENTS:**

- 27-29 October **DISTRICT CONFERENCE AT BATEMANS BAY – theme is 'Building on a strong Foundation'**
- 2 November Kokoda Track Day Anniversary. Australian Troops retake Kokoda on this day in 1942
- 9 November Board meeting
- 16 November
- 23 November Thanksgiving Day – Special Roast Turkey Dinner. Carolyn Wightman will thrill us with a recount of a real Thanksgiving Day.
- 30 November

### *Some Information from the ACEL Website*

If only we lived in a world where we never made mistakes! We don't, of course, and managers are no different. As we do err, success will come to those who learn to turn their goofs into gold. The golden rule is never ignore your mistakes - if you do, you will probably repeat them. In short, it is no crime to err; the crime is not to learn from the mistake and not to improve as a result. Turn your goofs into gold by considering the following advice...

#### **1. Admit your mistake.**

Never ignore a mistake or try to cover it up. Confession can be good for the soul. In management, it can sometimes be a very effective strategy.

Unless the mistake is catastrophic, a manager has little to lose by admitting an error. In fact, you will gain the respect of staff. By admitting your error, you lend credibility to those occasions when you are right; and your staff will be less likely to challenge your judgement if they know you are honest and as demanding of yourself as you are of them.

As well, you demonstrate that you value truth above excuses, and truth is what you will get in turn from your staff. If they know that you know that everyone, including yourself, is human, they will do their best for you.

#### **2. Do not try to shift the blame.**

As the manager, you are ultimately responsible for the final decision and for the error. Your job now is to find ways to remedy the blunder, not to find someone to blame. If you side-step accountability by manufacturing excuses or by being defensive, you lose everyone's respect. Instead of becoming a learning opportunity, the mistake will simply become another exploding problem.

### **3. Assess the damage.**

You cannot deal with a mistake intelligently unless you know how bad it is.

Consider first its importance - there is a great deal of difference between miscalculating product sales in one district and re-tooling a factory to produce a new product line with no customer appeal. Then consider its cost - there's a great difference between a \$500 goof and a \$50,000 blunder. Finally, consider its implications for you, your unit, or the organisation. The significance of the damage will determine the extent to which you must move into damage control.

### **4. Determine the cause of the problem.**

To learn from your mistake, you must find out why it happened. Only then can you take appropriate steps to prevent the mistake from recurring. Seek answers to such questions as:

*How good was my planning?* Did I allow enough time, enough money? Did I allocate the right equipment, material, and people? Were bottlenecks anticipated?

*How good was my information?* Was it incomplete, unreliable, out of date? Were my sources appropriate?

*How good was my timing?* Did I launch the plan or initiative on the wrong day, in the wrong week, month, or season?

*How well was the plan supervised?* Did I rely too much on others? Were they as committed as I was? Did I check progress adequately and often enough?

*Was anyone else at fault?* We're not always personally to blame. Was a supplier late? Did a supervisor take an unauthorised short cut? Did someone miss a deadline? You're not looking for a scapegoat, just a cause.

*Did we run into unexpected problems?* Did equipment break down? Did we encounter a maritime strike?

Were communications poor? .....and so on.

In answering such questions, you should be able to pinpoint the cause of your mistake. You should then be in a position to cash in on what you have learned.

### **5. Prepare a plan of action to remedy the situation.**

Any remedial action is usually dictated by the causes identified. Often, simple mistakes have simple remedies. If, for example, you underestimated costs, you must provide better budget estimates next time. For more complex resolutions, follow these steps:

*Salvage what you can.* Isolate those components of your original plan that worked well. They're reusable. Now attend to those parts that did not work...

*Explore new approaches.* Investigate new ideas and solutions through reading, consultation, and discussion; and get these new methods down on paper.

*Look for flaws in the new plan* - don't replace your original mistake with one of a different kind.

*Assign tasks and implement the new plan.*

Ask yourself: 'How much smarter am I for this experience?'

### **6. Encourage all staff to be alert for mistakes.**

If you ensure that your staff understand that mistakes are opportunities for growth and that they can learn from everybody's blunders, you and your employees should be prepared to disclose errors as soon as they appear. Indeed, if members of your staff tell you that you have made a mistake, applaud them for it - for three reasons:

They are probably right; if so, you'd better know about it.

It helps staff get used to telling you unpleasant things quickly, so that you can put them right before they really go wrong.

This way, you can learn from your own mistakes and show staff how to learn from the mistakes of others.

**OCTOBER IS VOCATIONAL MONTH**

## *Attention, Bush Walkers*

PP David Clark is trying to put together a Rotary trip to walk the Kokoda Trail in late July early August 2008. The tour is Military History based so there will be lots of stopping along the way to explore, and the tour guide is an expert on the history of the Trail.

The trip is for 12 days with 10 days of walking. The cost is around \$5,000 inclusive of air fares, accommodation Port Moresby on arrival and departure, charter flight to Kokoda and return, all fresh food meals on track, (what? no hard rations?), and porters to carry your camping gear and food. An extra \$450 if you want a porter to carry your own pack.

The trip is open to around 20. For more information contact David on 4448 7738 H/F or 0414 364 812 M or [daveclark@westnet.com.au](mailto:daveclark@westnet.com.au)

## *The Funny Side*

- Why are cigarettes sold in gas stations when smoking is prohibited there?
- Why isn't phonetic spelled the way it sounds?
- Why are there flotation devices under plane seats instead of parachutes?
- You know how most packages say "Open here". What is the protocol if the package says, "Open somewhere else"?
- Why do we drive on parkways and park on driveways?
- You know that little indestructible black box that is used on planes, why can't they make the whole plane out of the same substance?
- Why is it that when you transport something by car, it's called a shipment, but when you transport something by ship, it's called cargo?
- When you choke a smurf, what colour does it turn?
- Why do they call it a TV set when you only get one?
- What was the best thing before sliced bread?  
If corn oil comes from corn, where does baby oil come from?

### **Tonight's international toast**

Still in District 5010 we go to the west of Eastern Russia to visit Omsk, a city of 1,135,000. The Rotary Club of Omsk was chartered in 1997 and has 15 members.

Yes, there is a Rotary club (19 members) in Tomsk as well, also chartered in 1997.

The Narooma Rotary Beacon

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