

The Beacon

Vol. 49 No. 25 21 December 2006



Marilyn's Message

Dear Fellow Rotarians, Friends and Family,

Twas the week before Christmas
And all through the Club
Rotarians were gathering
Around the chilled tub

The table was set
And the fine food was near
When laughter and song
And the sounds of good cheer

Spread all through the room
From the ceiling to floor
As a strong gust of wind
Blew in through the door.

Resplendent in red
Old Santa flew in
He looked just like Frank
But not quite as thin.

His nose was all flushed

Happy Christmas!
Pres. Maz

President – Maz

The Foundation Snippet

In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, many Rotarians were interested in developing projects to alleviate the suffering and hardship of individuals in the affected communities. Many of the needed items, such as basic necessities and medical care, were to be provided through a District Simplified Grant (DSG).

District Simplified Grants are one means by which Rotary districts can support short-term humanitarian projects that benefit local communities. DSG funds can be used for disaster relief efforts as long as Rotarians clearly identify the proposed grant-funded expenditures and there is active Rotary participation in the project. Clubs interested in receiving DSG funds must contact their district leadership.

As we no longer have a role in Southern Eurobodalla Disaster Welfare, we should keep in mind that DSG funds can possibly be accessed for use in a flood, fire or other local emergency.

Like a little squashed cherry
His lips were aquiver
As he aimed for the sherry.

"Ho! Ho! Rotary friends!"
Old Santa roared out,
He raised up his glass saying
"Marilyn's shout!"

He hefted his sack
(Rotary rejects no doubt!)
Spilled presents galore
Then flew right on out.

May your Christmas be Merry,
Your friends a delight,
May your family be bearable
And not prone to fight.

May your children be kind,
And your days nice and long,
May your evenings be special
With peace, love and song!



Program

Tonight: Christmas Party – Partners and Friends Night. Bring a gift to the value of \$5.00

TASK	21 December	11 January	18 January
Greet /welcome/wheel	Laurelle Pacey	No Duties	No Duties
Cashier	Kevin Young	Summer Meetings	Summer Meetings
Toast / thanks	Bob Aston	At	At
4-way test	John Messner	The Whale	The Whale
3-minute talk	Marshall Binstock		
FINES	Bill Hardie		
Introduction	Not Needed		

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: No meeting. Next meeting 11 January 2006

COMING EVENTS:

- 24 December **Rotary Markets at NATA Oval**
- 28 December No Meeting
- 3 January A Special evening Rotary Market at NATA Oval – 3.00pm start
- 4 January No Meeting – President Maz has granted all a make up from the market on 3 January.
- 11 January Summer meeting at the Whale – AGM
- 18 January Summer meeting at the Whale – Keely Boom
- 25 January Summer Meeting at the Whale

A Message from the Editor

The Editor will be taking a break over the holiday period. The next Beacon will be published for the 25 January 2006 meeting. Remember that the deadline is 3.00pm on the Sunday prior to the meeting.

Have a great Christmas everyone!

Annan praises Rotary's leadership in global polio effort

By Vukoni Lupa-Lasaga
Rotary International News

In a farewell address on 11 December, outgoing United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan cited Rotary International as an example of a private organization or non-state actor whose partnership with public agencies helps achieve major social goals.

Speaking at the Truman Presidential Museum and Library in Independence, Missouri, USA, Annan said the "wonderful partnership between the UN family, the U.S. Centres for Disease Control [and Prevention] and, crucially, Rotary International" is close to eradicating polio worldwide.

The UN secretary general explained that he has been guided during his 10-year tenure by the principle that nonstate actors can help the organization accomplish its aims. According to Annan, a result of that principle is the Global Compact he made with international business leaders in 1999 to harness private-sector goodwill to meet the challenges of globalization.

It's impossible for governments alone, especially in the face of limited public resources, to solve all humanity's ills, the UN chief noted. Instead, much more can be achieved through public-private partnerships and initiatives, he said.

Annan, who steps down on 31 December, chose the venue of his farewell speech to signal the need for the international community to return to the ideals that inspired world leaders, including U.S. President Harry Truman, and humanitarian organizations to establish the UN after the horrors of two world wars.

More than 40 Rotarians served as advisers, consultants, and delegates at the UN charter conference in 1945. Rotary and the UN have enjoyed a close relationship ever since, with Rotary currently represented at the UN by 23 Rotarians. Rotary also has high-level nongovernmental organization consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council, which oversees many specialized UN agencies. In addition, Rotary has its own day at the UN, marked by panel discussions to pinpoint new opportunities for the two organizations to work together.

Cordial relationships among Rotary and UN leaders help strengthen the ties between the organizations. Annan, in particular, has openly expressed his admiration for Rotary's educational and humanitarian initiatives.

On 4 November, for example, the UN chief acknowledged Rotary's invaluable partnership to hundreds of Rotarians gathered at UN headquarters in New York to celebrate Rotary-UN Day. He said in a written statement, "Rotary is living proof that people with diverse backgrounds can learn to get along with each other and concentrate more on the things we have in common, rather than on the things that drive us apart."

Courtesy: eFlash_Rotary (And Fred Doctor)

The Funny Side

Enter the Pearly Gates

Three men die in a car accident Christmas Eve. They all find themselves at the pearly gates waiting to enter Heaven. On entering they must present something relating or associated with Christmas. The first man searches his pocket, and finds some Mistletoe, so he is allowed in. The second man presents a cracker, so he is also allowed in. The third man pulls out a pair of stockings. Confused at this last gesture, St. Peter asks, "How do these represent Christmas?" Answer... "They're Carol's."

Downsizing Christmas

Today's global challenges require the North Pole to continue to look for better, more competitive steps. Effective immediately, the following economy measures are to take place in the "Twelve Days of Christmas" subsidiary: The partridge will be retained, but the pear tree never turned out to be the cash crop forecasted. It will be replaced by a plastic hanging plant, providing considerable savings in maintenance.

The two turtle doves represent a redundancy that is simply not cost effective. In addition, their romance during working hours could not be condoned. The positions are therefore eliminated.

The three French hens will remain intact. After all, everyone loves the French.

The four calling birds were replaced by an automated voice mail system, with a call waiting option. An analysis is underway to determine who the birds have been calling, how often and how long they talked.

The five golden rings have been put on hold by the Board of Directors. Maintaining a portfolio based on one commodity could have negative implications for institutional investors. Diversification into other precious metals as well as a mix of T-Bills and high technology stocks appear to be in order.

The six geese-a-laying constitutes a luxury which can no longer be afforded. It has long been felt that the production rate of one egg per goose per day is an example of the decline in productivity. Three geese will be let go, and an upgrading in the selection procedure by personnel will assure management that from now on every goose it gets will be a good one.

The seven swans-a-swimming is obviously a number chosen in better times. Their function is primarily decorative. Mechanical swans are on order. The current swans will be retrained to learn some new strokes and therefore enhance their outplacement.

As you know, the eight maids-a-milking concept has been under heavy scrutiny by the EEOC. A male/female balance in the workforce is being sought. The more militant maids consider this a dead-end job with no upward mobility. Automation of the process may permit the maids to try a-mending, a-mentoring or a-mulching.

Nine ladies dancing has always been an odd number. This function will be phased out as these individuals grow older and can no longer do the steps.

Ten Lords-a-leaping is overkill. The high cost of Lords plus the expense of international air travel prompted the Compensation Committee to suggest replacing this group with ten out-of-work congressmen. While leaping ability may be somewhat sacrificed, the savings are significant because we expect an oversupply of unemployed congressmen this year.

Eleven pipers piping and twelve drummers drumming is a simple case of the band getting too big. A substitution with a string quartet, a cut back on new music and no uniforms will produce savings which will drop right down to the bottom line.

We can expect a substantial reduction in assorted people, fowl, animals and other expenses. Though incomplete, studies indicate that stretching deliveries over twelve days is inefficient. If we can drop ship in one day, service levels will be improved.

Regarding the lawsuit filed by the attorney's association seeking expansion to include the legal profession ("thirteen lawyers-a-suing"), action is pending.

Lastly, it is not beyond consideration that deeper cuts may be necessary in the future to stay competitive. Should that happen, the Board will request management to scrutinize the Snow White Division to see if seven dwarfs is the right number.

Tonight's international toast

Tonight we visit Odense, the third largest city in Denmark, population about 146,000. Named for Odin, the Norse God of War (and several other things), Odense is "Odin's Sanctuary". Odin lives on in Wagner's opera cycle "The Ring ..." and appears as Gandalf the wizard of JRR Tolkien's "The Lord of the Rings".

The Rotary Club of Odense in District 1460 was chartered in 1927. Their 72 members meet at lunchtime on Mondays.

There are six other Rotary clubs in Odense including RC Odense H.C. Andersen, the city being the birthplace of Hans Christian Andersen.

The Narooma Rotary Beacon

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DECEMBER IS ROTARY FAMILY MONTH