

The Beacon

Vol. 49 No. 29 15 February 2007



Marilyn's Message

Dear Fellow Rotarians, Friends and Family,



I hope you all are recovered from last Saturday night! Many thanks to Bob & Therese Aston for hosting such a fantastic Cocktail Party. Therese did an expert job as 'cocktail waitress' and plied the willing Rotarians with a rainbow palette of alcoholic and non-alcoholic concoctions from blues to reds and all the colours in between. Neville enjoyed the 'fluffy ducks' and the girls got stuck into the pina coladas. A great night was had by all. (Even my darling Jim enjoyed a cocktail or two, but he did suggest a beer and sausage night next time!)

Don't forget there is a Board meeting this Thursday. If you have agenda items please pass them on to Ian

Love (hic!) You (hic!) All (hic!)

Pres. Maz

Last Week

Was the Cocktail Party at the Aston's – the numbers were down a bit and the weather played havoc, however everyone had a great time. I am still not sure what Jack means when he asks for a rusty nail and daffy duck (should that be a fluffy duck)!

We have a bit of grog left over – maybe they can be part of the raffle for the next few weeks.



FEBRUARY IS ROTARY WORLD UNDERSTANDING MONTH

Program

Tonight: No Meeting on Thursday – Cocktail Party at Bob & Therese's Place.

TASK	15 February	22 February 2007	1 March
Greet /welcome/wheel	George Barker	Ted Bladwell	Marshall Binstock
Cashier	Ted Bladwell	Marshall Binstock	Chris O'Brien
Toast / thanks	Marshall Binstock	Chris O'Brien	Laurelle Pacy
4-way test	Chris O'Brien	Laurelle Pacy	Bob Aston
3-minute talk	Laurelle Pacey®	Bob Aston	Kris Elphick
FINES	Bob Aston	Kris Elphick	John Messner
Introduction	Kris Elphick	John Messner	Kevin Young

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: Board Meeting?

COMING EVENTS:

15 February Board Meeting

22 February

25 February **Rotary Markets at NATA Oval**

1 March

8 March

The Foundation Snippet

This week's snip is about the Haiti Safe Water Plus project.

Coordinated by District 5950 leaders in Minnesota, it has become a multi-million dollar world community service project that exemplifies the powerful impact that Rotarians can have in the world. Fresh water wells and sanitation facilities are being constructed in the central plateau area of Haiti and the Dominican Republic. This project will provide key sanitation needs to over 141 villages in these areas. A local Dominican woman remarked to a visiting Rotarian who was inspecting one of the new wells, "After Rotary drilled the well," she said, "the children stopped dying." Contributions to the Annual Programs Fund help make these projects possible.

From RI President Bill Boyd

February 2007

The Rotarian

Dear fellow Rotarians,

Thirty-one years ago, Muhammad Yunus, then a professor of economics at Chittagong University in Bangladesh, discovered a harsh reality of extreme poverty: The difference between self-sufficiency and virtual slavery is much smaller than one might think. In the village of Jobra, he found, it was just a few cents.

While talking to a bamboo-stool maker, Yunus learned that the woman purchased her supply of bamboo on credit, for roughly 25 U.S. cents, every morning. Lacking the money for even a single day's supply of bamboo, she would never be able to repay the loan. Throughout the village, Yunus found many in similar

straits. Their total debt? Twenty-seven U.S. dollars. Yunus did what was, for him, the natural thing: He paid their debts. The new entrepreneurs quickly turned a profit, his loan was repaid, and microcredit was born.

The idea of giving small loans to the very poor was a revolutionary one, and it has had revolutionary results. In 2005 alone, 100 million microcredit loans helped people in 130 countries. Today, Rotarians are involved in more than 60 microcredit projects around the world. In 1999, Yunus was honoured at the RI Convention in Singapore. In October, he received the Nobel Prize.

The simple principle of microcredit is also a principle of Rotary. Small changes can become great changes, and a seemingly inconsequential act can have tremendous consequences. Just as 25 cents in that Bangladeshi village meant so much more than merely a quarter of a dollar, the prosperity of an unnoticed individual or village has international implications.

As we enter World Understanding Month, we are reminded by Yunus' achievement that we can never know every consequence of what we do. His loan of \$27, given in compassion, led to far more good than he could possibly have imagined. Our Rotary work also leads to benefits we'll never see: new friendships, new connections, warm feelings among people who may have little in common.

Poverty, as we know too well, is a tremendous obstacle to peace and stability. So, every intelligent act of generosity, every project that helps others to lead better lives, is also an act of hope. We Rotarians share the belief that love for others does make a difference. Each small act of kindness, from one human being to another, brings us closer to each other and to the kind of world we hope to leave to our children.

We may think we are only helping to equip a school, supply a clinic, or build a well for a faraway community. But in truth, what we are doing is helping to build a better, more stable, and more peaceful future.

W.B. (Bill) Boyd
President, Rotary International
(From RI Website)

The Funny Side

Via Chris O'Brien

Number One Idiot of 2006

I am a medical student currently doing a rotation in toxicology at the poison control center. Today, this woman called in very upset because she caught her little daughter eating ants. I quickly reassured her that the ants are not harmful and there would be no need to bring her daughter into the hospital. She calmed down and at the end of the conversation happened to mention that she gave her daughter some ant poison to eat in order to kill the ants. I told her that she better bring her daughter into the emergency room right away.

Here's your sign, lady. Wear it with pride.

Number Two Idiot of 2006

Early this year, some Boeing employees on the airfield decided to steal a life raft from one of the 747s. They were successful in getting it out of the plane and home.

Shortly after they took it for a float on the river, they noticed a Coast Guard helicopter coming towards them.

It turned out that the chopper was homing in on the emergency locator beacon that activated when the raft was inflated.

They are no longer employed at Boeing.

Here's your sign, guys. Don't get it wet; the paint might run.

Number Three Idiot of 2006

A man, wanting to rob a downtown Bank of America, walked into the Branch and wrote "this. Put all your munny in this bag."

While standing in line, waiting to give his note to the teller, he began to worry that someone had seen him write the note and might call the police before he reached the teller's window.

So he left the Bank of America and crossed the street to the Wells Fargo Bank. After waiting a few minutes in line, he handed his note to the Wells Fargo teller. She read it and, surmising from his spelling errors that he wasn't the brightest light in the harbour, told him that she could not accept his stickup note because it was written on a Bank of America deposit slip and that he would either have to fill out a Wells Fargo deposit slip or go back to Bank of America.

Looking somewhat defeated, the man said, "OK" and left.

He was arrested a few minutes later, as he was waiting in line back at Bank of America.

Don't bother with this guy's sign. He probably couldn't read it anyway.

The Narooma Rotary Beacon

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NAROOMA SPORTING & SERVICES CLUB

Tonight's international toast

Leaving Lapland in Sweden, we go to Finland which claims to be one of the leading countries in Rotary density in the world with one Rotarian for each 410 inhabitants. We are bound to visit Alajarvi, the home town of Juha Kujala who made Narooma his home town in 2000-01 as a Youth Exchange student, hosted by PP Ian and PP Jeremy. The Rotary Club of Alajarvi in District 1380 was chartered in 1966 and has 16 members.

A Gentle reminder that subs for the second half of the year are now due.
Please see Treasurer Kevin or his able lieutenant Jack. Subs are \$100.00.