

The Beacon

Vol. 49 No. 34 22 March 2007



Marilyn's Message

Dear Fellow Rotarians and Friends,

I missed you all last week as I attended a superannuation information night in Bega. (Very boring!) . I hope you all had a very enjoyable meeting.

Tonight we have a club assembly, followed by a board meeting. Phil Armstrong, Assistant District Governor is our guest tonight. We haven't seen Phil for a while so it will be good to catch up with him again.

Luv,
Pres. Maz

Last Week

Last week I very carefully wrote down everything that happened at the meeting so that I could report on events in the Beacon. Sadly my notes were thrown out! I can report however, that Phil and Lin informed us with their life histories – very interesting. John Messner gave a three minute talk on liability and keeping financial planners in check. Kevin Young entertained us with his version of the Narooma Rotary football team.

The Foundation Snippet

This is about why there continues to be growing support among Rotarians for The Annual Programs Fund. Did you know that:-

- Your gift is wisely invested, so the full amount is directed to support the programs of our Foundation such as PolioPlus, Group Study Exchange and Matching Grants. Only a portion of the investment earnings pays for administration.
- After a three-year investment cycle, half of your contribution comes back to our district to be spent on selected programs, and a portion can be spent locally.
- Contributions through the Australian Rotary Foundation Trust which support humanitarian projects in developing countries are tax-deductible.

MARCH IS POLIO ERADICATION MONTH

Program

Tonight: Club Assembly and Board Meeting

TASK	22 March 2007	29 March 2007	5 April 2007
Greet /welcome/wheel	Laurelle Pacey	Bob Aston	Kris Elphick
Cashier	Bill Hardie	Kris Elphick	John Messner
Toast / thanks	Kris Elphick	John Messner	Kevin Young
4-way test	John Messner	Kevin Young	Ian Thomlinson
3-minute talk	Kevin Young	Ian Thomlinson	Bill Hardie
FINES	Ian Thomlinson	Bill Hardie	Ted Bladwell
Introduction	Bill Hardie	Ted Bladwell	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, if you can.

Next Week: Guest Speaker – Eurocare

COMING EVENTS:

25 March **Rotary Markets at NATA Oval**

Bill's MESSAGES

March 2007
The Rotarian

Dear fellow Rotarians,

As members of a family of book lovers, we have always made literacy a high priority in our lives. Our home is full of books, and neither Lorna nor I ever travel without two or three. Reading is a great joy for both of us, and it is a joy we've shared with our children and grandchildren. Unfortunately, for many people around the world, the simple pleasure of reading seems hopelessly out of reach.

Without literacy, all the written words we encounter every day – not just in books and newspapers, but in maps, labels, street signs, and billboards – are mysteries and roadblocks to full integration into society. For me, teaching someone to read is one of the most rewarding acts of service imaginable. All it costs is patience and time, and the rewards are incalculable.

Like nothing else, literacy is a stepping stone away from poverty. It is a gift of self-reliance, one that can be freely passed on from generation to generation. Once there's literacy in a family, it's almost always there to stay, as literate parents raise literate children. Literate parents are also more likely to raise healthier children, whose horizons will stretch far beyond their own homes and villages. Literacy, quite literally, opens up a new world.

We need to be aware that illiteracy is not a problem only of the developing world. Even in the wealthiest countries with universal education, many people are functionally illiterate. Where illiteracy carries a stigma, it can be especially difficult to combat. Yet, in highly literate societies, being able to read and write is crucial in almost every job. Go into any prison or hospital, and you will find a disproportionate number of people who are functionally illiterate. Too many of those who work in unskilled jobs are illiterate and need their workmates to read for them. But Lorna and I have seen illiterate women in Uganda learn to read within days and children exposed to books for the first time in South Africa finding a new world they didn't know existed. We've seen Rotarians in India and Nigeria and Turkey using the concentrated language encounter method to teach thousands of women and children, and some men, to read. The issue is not one of intelligence but of opportunity.

Literacy has rightly been high on Rotary's service agenda for many years now, and it should feature among the projects of every Rotary club. Whether the goal is donating books, running literacy classes, supplying elementary school students with dictionaries, or just helping children with their schoolwork, literacy projects bring great results with very little investment of money. As someone who has spent many hours sitting on undersized chairs listening to children read, I wholeheartedly believe that the stiff muscles are a small price to pay for the lifelong benefits of literacy.

W.B. (Bill) Boyd
President, Rotary International

The Funny Side

He's going to Heaven

Father Murphy walks into a pub in Donegal, and says to the first man he meets, "Do you want to go to heaven?"

The man said, "I do Father."

The priest said, "Then stand over there against the wall."

Then the priest asked the second man, "Do you want to go to heaven?"

"Certainly, Father," was the man's reply.

"Then stand over there against the wall," said the priest.

Then Father Murphy walked up to O'Toole and said, "Do you want to go to heaven?"

O'Toole said, "No, I don't Father."

The priest said, "I don't believe this. You mean to tell me that when you die you don't want to go to heaven?"

O'Toole said, "Oh, when I die, yes. I thought you were getting a group together to go right now."

Tonight's international toast

Galway (officially *Gaillimh*) in western Ireland is an "eventful" city, holding a festival almost every month celebrating Spring, arts, traditional music, jazz, literature, film, gay pride (of course), horse racing and oysters.

The 64 members of the Rotary club of Galway, chartered in 1966 in District 1160, meet at the Great Southern Hotel which is where the Oyster Festival was inaugurated.

THE OBJECT OF ROTARY

The object of Rotary is to encourage and foster the Ideal of Service as a basis of worthy enterprise and, in particular, to encourage and foster:

1. *The development of acquaintances as an opportunity for Service;*
2. *High ethical standards in business and professions; the recognition of worthiness of all useful occupations and the dignifying by each Rotarian's occupation as an opportunity to serve society;*
3. *The application of the ideal of service in each Rotarian's personal, business and community life;*
4. *The advancement of international understanding, goodwill and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional persons united in the ideal of service.*

The 4-Way Test

of the things we think, say or do:

1. Is it the TRUTH?
2. Is it FAIR to all concerned?
3. Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
4. Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

Rotary Grace

O Lord and giver of all good.

We thank Thee for our daily food.

May Rotary friends and Rotary ways.

Help us to serve Thee all our days.

The Narooma Rotary Beacon

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