

Rotary Club of Narooma Inc. weekly bulletin

The Beacon

Vol. 49 No. 44 31 May 2007



Marilyn's Message

Dear Fellow Rotarians and Friends,

Thank you to everyone who helped at the markets last Sunday. Unfortunately I was not able to be there to help as I was on my way to Wollongong for two days of Mental Health First Aid training (No comments please!)

This week Laurelle and I would like to have a Club Assembly. There a few things that need to be discussed before the next Board meeting.

I am looking forward to hearing from David Ashford at our next meeting as he talks about his adventures last year on the Kokoda Track. I am sure that David's talk will be of interest to many and I encourage you to bring your partners, loved ones and friends to the meeting.

Have a great week. Thank you to all who rang with get well wishes following my absence from last week's meeting.

Luv,
Pres. Maz

From the International Service Director

There has been a very good response to our call for used books and magazines for the Ranfurly Library Service which sends them on to South-West Pacific countries. Having collected them, our job now is to sort and pack them, and finally to send them to our Rotary colleagues in Sydney for further sorting, packing and on-forwarding.

We have all sorts of books to look over and stacks of National and Australian Geographic's. It's a collection that sorting and packing volunteers will find most interesting. I admit to "borrowing" one or two books for my own enjoyment.

Members who wish to participate in the project should leave their names with me. I plan to call on one or two from time to time to go through the collection with me when convenient. Fortunately we do not have a deadline to meet - we can take our time with this project.

Tonight's international toast

Tonight we visit Vienna (Wien) in Austria to greet a Rotary club, but which one to choose? Besides the Rotary Club of Wien which was chartered in 1925, there are 17 other Rotary clubs in the city with names prefixed with "Wien".

Since we toasted the Rotary Club of Offenbach/Main last week, let us greet the Rotary Club of Wien-Mozart this week whilst in a musical frame of mind. Chartered in District 1910 in 2003, the club has 40 members. Their weekly meetings are held at breakfast and lunch alternately.

Program

Tonight: Club Assembly

TASK	31 May 2007	7 June 2007	14 June 2007
Greet /welcome/wheel	Phil Gaffney	Lin Morey	Chris O'Brien
Cashier	Lin Morey	Chris O'Brien	George Barker
Toast / thanks	Chris O'Brien	George Barker	Bob Aston
4-way test	George Barker	Bob Aston	John Messner
3-minute talk	Bob Aston		Tony Fahey
FINES	John Messner		Lin Morey
Introduction	Tony Fahey	Lin Morey	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.

COMING EVENTS: David Ashford – Rotary Club of Batemans Bay – Walking the Kokoda Track. It will be a partner's night.

14 June

21 June

24 June **Narooma Rotary Markets at NATA Oval**

28 June **Changeover – Partners Night**

Last Week

Last week was a very quiet night. President Marilyn reported in sick, leaving VP Jeremy to take over at the last minute. Jeremy was a little jet lagged having just returned from a trip to Thailand. George Barker gave a three minute talk on the latest in painting and Bob Aston fined us all for the Blues loss in Sate of Origin.

After the dinner meeting a short Board meeting was held – no doubt the Club Assembly this week will fill us in on the latest!

Bill's Messages

June 2007
The Rotarian

Dear fellow Rotarians,

Nearly a year ago, I wrote on this page that, as Rotarians, "we are not content to let matters stay the way they have always been, in our clubs or in our communities. We are the ones who ask, Why not us?"

In the last year, I have been privileged to meet thousands of Rotarians who have asked themselves that very question and risen to its challenge. I have seen projects that have astounded me with their creativity and their ambition, and projects that came to fruition through an incredible degree of thought, planning, and insight. I have seen clubs overcome all sorts of barriers to deal with the true problems facing their communities. And I have seen all of this done with warmth, grace, and the skill born of local knowledge – and, often, with the support of our Rotary Foundation.

Every project I have seen has impressed me in its own way. The projects that have impressed me the most, however, have been those addressing a need that no one has been able to meet before, whether because of a lack of resources, a lack of ability, or simply a lack of awareness. Sometimes the problem

was obvious and acknowledged, such as an ill-equipped clinic or a polluted water source. Sometimes the problem was never openly mentioned, such as the dilemma faced every month by girls attending schools without bathrooms. What I have seen this year is that whether the need is for water filters, blood banks, HIV treatment, toilet stalls, or literacy, Rotarians are finding what needs to be done – and doing it.

The projects that stand out in my mind the most are those that are meeting real needs and quietly changing lives. I will always remember the Rotary club project that's bringing simple, yet effective, low-cost prosthetic hands to amputees, returning to them employability and self-sufficiency; the Rotary club supported library in Hsinchu, Taiwan, that gives so many more children access to books; the Rotary club-sponsored classroom that's educating children living in the tuberculosis ward of an African hospital; and the Rotary club-built school for autistic children, for whom there had been no services in the area.

These are just a few of the projects that have truly made a difference. There is no need for exaggeration or hyperbole here: These projects have very literally moved the courses of lives by giving people education, improved health, and a real chance at a better future. In some cases, Rotarians invested tremendous resources of time, energy, and their own funds. In others, all that was needed was a knowledgeable and caring person to step in, look around, and do what needed to be done.

It has been a great joy this year to see how Rotarians all over the world are choosing to Lead the Way. I look forward to continuing with you in this great task for many more years to come. Lorna and I thank you for your many kindnesses to us. This year has changed our lives.

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

Sport and Leisure Centre gets facelift

Many Rotarians will be interested to know that Eurobodalla Shire Council last Tuesday resolved to spend \$80,000 doing up the Sport and Leisure Centre. It is not clear whether Kevin Young's letter to Council had a hand in this, but it certainly reflects Kevin's concerns.

The \$80,000 is what remains of what had been allocated for work on the centre since 2004 - the rest has been spent in recent years on the swimming pool upgrades and street scaping. The report to Council noted the Centre was built 1984/85, it doesn't mention it was by Rotary, and served the community well for many years.

I am not sure at what point the hall was handed over to Council. However, in recent years it has had limited use except fro Meals-on-Wheels.

Repairs and maintenance had been let go with Council anticipating demolishing the building and incorporating a new community facility into the upgrade of the swimming centre. However, now that the pool upgrade has been put off for another 10 to 15 years and therefore with it any kind of replacement for the Sport and Leisure Centre, Council is concerned the Centre still has a life at least for that duration, but it needs short-term works to ensure it can continue to be used.

The report recognises that the Sport and Leisure Centre is an important asset for the local community. It doesn't spell out just what will be done, but mentions "numerous structural, operational and aesthetic issues which are limiting Council's ability to hire it out.

Laurelle Pacey

MAY IS PLANNING MONTH

The Foundation Snippet

This is about a Rotary Peace Fellow who is making a difference. Arnoldas Pranckevicius, a native Lithuanian, was a member of the first class of Peace Fellows. He now works as a domestic policy advisor to the President of the Republic of Lithuania. His responsibilities include analyzing trends and developments in the country's political system. Some of the main issues and projects he has tackled are political corruption, the establishment of ethical standards, and the promotion of a civic and open society.

Arnoldas is just one example of how Rotary Peace Fellows can shape policy and influence decision making at a national level.

The Funny Side

WASHINGTON, D.C.--The Institute for the Investigation of Irregular Internet Phenomena announced today that many Internet users are becoming infected by a new virus that causes them to believe without question every groundless story, legend, and dire warning that shows up in their inbox or on their browser. The Gullibility Virus, as it is called, apparently makes people believe and forward copies of silly hoaxes relating to cookie recipes, email viruses, taxes on modems, and get-rich-quick schemes.

"These are not just readers of tabloids or people who buy lottery tickets based on fortune cookie numbers," a spokesman said. "Most are otherwise normal people, who would laugh at the same stories if told to them by a stranger on a street corner." However, once these same people become infected with the Gullibility Virus, they believe anything they read on the Internet.

"My immunity to tall tales and bizarre claims is all gone," reported one weeping victim. "I believe every warning message and sick child story my friends forward to me, even though most of the messages are anonymous." Another victim, now in remission, added, "When I first heard about Good Times, I just accepted it without question. After all, there were dozens of other recipients on the mail header, so I thought the virus must be true." It was a long time, the victim said, before she could stand up at a Hoaxees Anonymous meeting and state, "My name is Jane, and I've been hoaxed." Now, however, she is spreading the word. "Challenge and check whatever you read," she says.

Internet users are urged to examine themselves for symptoms of the virus, which include the following:

The willingness to believe improbable stories without thinking;

The urge to forward multiple copies of such stories to others;

A lack of desire to take three minutes to check to see if a story is true.

D.S. is an example of someone recently infected. He told one reporter, "I read on the Net that the major ingredient in almost all shampoos makes your hair fall out, so I've stopped using shampoo." When told about the Gullibility Virus, D.S. said he would stop reading email, so that he would not become infected.

Anyone with symptoms like these is urged to seek help immediately. Experts recommend that at the first feelings of gullibility, Internet users rush to their favourite search engine and look up the item tempting them to thoughtless credence. Most hoaxes, legends, and tall tales have been widely discussed and exposed by the Internet community.

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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