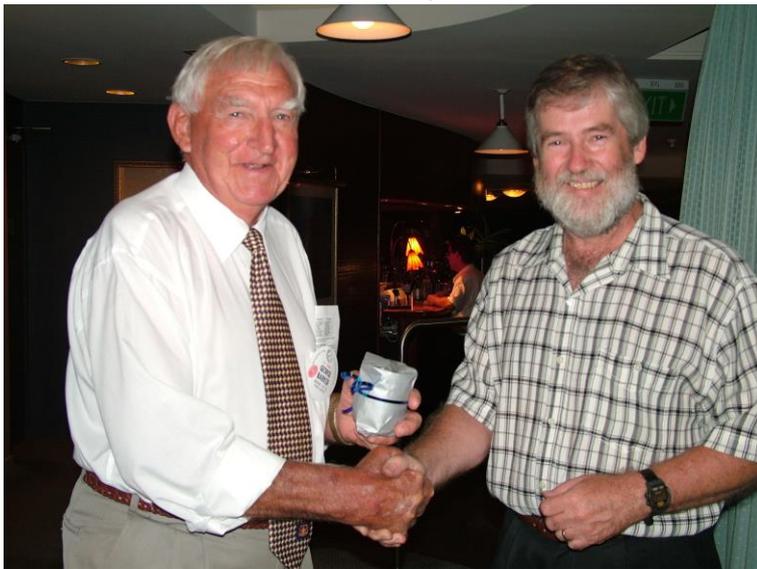




Laurelle's Musings



Tonight is of course our AGM when we finalise Marilyn's year and plan for the next year.

The big news is that we finally have a President Elect. Ted will do a great job, especially in such an important year for the Club.

Last week was quite a night. Tony Fahey was walking tall after at a glittering ceremony in Sydney on Wednesday night where a group of Year 11 students from Narooma High were announced as the national winners of the prestigious Young Achiever Australia Secondary Schools Company of the Year.

Then we heard from Paul Smith about a wonderful new automotive course he's teaching at Narooma High. It sounds so good and he has received some wonderful support from industry who obviously recognises the benefits. It was interesting he also spoke about incorporating driving skills into the course in the future.

Just to mention that the Club gave \$250 to the Relay for Life at Moruya recently which raised \$47,000 for the NSW Cancer Council. Moruya Rotary was very much involved with PP John Gillett chairman of the organising committee, entering a team in the 24 hour relay and operating their food van for the duration.

Enjoy your evening.
Laurelle

DECEMBER IS ROTARY FAMILY MONTH

Tonight's International Toast

This evening we visit the home club of Jonathan B Majiyagbe who was RIP in 2003-04. His theme for the year was "Lend a Hand". He is a member of the Rotary Club of Kano, Kano State, Nigeria

The city of Kano has a population of 3,848, 885 (second only on size to Lagos), and has four Rotary clubs of which RC Kano is the largest with 33 members. In District 9120, the club was chartered in 1961.

Program

Tonight: AGM

TASK	6 December	13 December	20 December
Greet /welcome/wheel	Jeremy Ferguson	George Barker	Bill Hardie
Cashier	George Barker	Bill Hardie	Tony Fahey
Toast / thanks	Bill Hardie	Tony Fahey	Marilyn Gibson
4-way test	Tony Fahey	Marilyn Gibson	Kevin Young
3-minute talk	Marilyn Gibson	Kevin Young	Angie Ulrichsen
FINES	Kevin Young	Angie Ulrichsen	Bob Aston
Introduction	Angie Ulrichsen	Bob Aston	Phil Gafney

If you can't make it to the next Rotary meeting, please ring our attendance officer Ted Bladwell the day before on 4476 4676 or you will be charged for your meal. (R) signifies a Rotary talk, if you can.

COMING EVENTS: Next Week: Board Meeting

9 December (SUNDAY)	We will have the van at NATA Oval for Christmas Carols by candlelight
20 December	Christmas Party at the Whale
23 December	Christmas Rotary Markets – NATA Oval
26 December – 1 January	Food Van at Bar Beach
27 December	No Meeting
2 January	Narooma Rotary Markets – NATA Oval
3 January	No Meeting

Rotary International and Gates Foundation together commit \$200 million to eradicate polio – From the RI Website

EVANSTON, ILL., U.S.A. (Nov. 26, 2007) -- Rotary International today announced a partnership with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation that will inject a much-needed US\$200 million into the global campaign to eradicate polio, a crippling and sometimes fatal disease that still paralyzes children in parts of Africa, Asia, and the Middle East and threatens children everywhere.

The Rotary Foundation has received a \$100-million Gates Foundation grant, which Rotary will raise funds to match, dollar-for-dollar, over three years. The Evanston-based volunteer service organization will spend the initial \$100 million within one year in direct support of immunization activities carried out by the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI), a partnership spearheaded by the World Health Organization (WHO), Rotary International, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and UNICEF.

"The extraordinary dedication of Rotary members has played a critical role in bringing polio to the brink of eradication," says Bill Gates, cochair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. "Eradicating polio will be one of the most significant public health accomplishments in history, and we are committed to helping reach that goal."

The polio eradication grant is one of the largest challenge grants ever given by the Gates Foundation and the largest grant received by Rotary in its 102-year history. Polio eradication has been Rotary's top priority since 1985. Since then, Rotary has contributed \$633 million to the eradication effort.

"Rotary members worldwide have worked very hard over the years to reach this point, and it is rewarding to see our approach validated in such a significant way by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation," says Dr.

Robert Scott, who leads Rotary's polio eradication effort and chairs The Rotary Foundation, the not-for-profit charitable arm of Rotary that will administer the grant. "We hope that this shared commitment of Rotary and the Gates Foundation will challenge other donors – including foundations, governments and nongovernmental organizations – to step up and make sure we have the resources needed to rid the world of polio once and for all."

Adds Rotary International President Wilfrid J. Wilkinson: "This endorsement of Rotary's polio eradication efforts by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation is just the catalyst and challenge Rotary members need to keep our promise to the children of the world that polio will be eradicated."

The Gates Foundation grant comes at a crucial juncture for the initiative, which urgently needs an infusion of funds to reach the eradication goal. Although the GPEI has succeeded in slashing the number of polio cases by 99 percent over the past two decades, the wild poliovirus still persists in four countries: Afghanistan, India, Nigeria and Pakistan. The polio cases represented by that final one percent are the most costly to prevent due to such factors as geographical isolation, worker fatigue, low coverage with the vaccine, armed conflict, and cultural barriers.

Last month, WHO released data confirming that all four remaining polio-endemic countries are on track to achieve eradication. In particular, significant progress has been made in India and Nigeria, which together account for 85 percent of the world's polio cases. Nigeria has reported 226 cases so far this year, compared with 958 at the same time last year. In both countries, more effective oral polio vaccines have contributed to steady progress in reducing polio cases.

WHO Director-General Dr. Margaret Chan says the Gates Foundation grant reaffirms that polio eradication is both feasible and achievable. "This investment is precisely the catalyst we need as we intensify the push to finish polio," said Chan. "We have the technical tools to do it, and we can achieve a polio-free world if the rest of our financial partners step up to meet the challenge."

Most of the initial \$100 million will be spent in support of mass immunization campaigns in polio-affected countries, poliovirus surveillance activities and community education and outreach. The grant will also support an expanded research agenda on ways to halt the spread of the poliovirus. Rotary will distribute the funds through grants to WHO and UNICEF.

"The funds made possible through the Gates Foundation grant will help the Global Polio Eradication Initiative scale up its efforts to provide oral polio vaccine to children in those isolated locations where it's most needed," says UNICEF Executive Director Ann M. Veneman. "This important contribution will improve the capacity to protect vulnerable children from this debilitating disease."

CDC Director Dr. Julie Gerberding says the collaboration between Rotary and the Gates Foundation underscores the importance of private-sector involvement in major public health efforts. "As a government agency, we think it's wonderful that our private-sector colleagues have taken a leadership role in something as important as polio eradication. Their participation is absolutely critical."

Founded in Chicago in 1905, Rotary is a worldwide organization of business and professional leaders who provide humanitarian service and help to build goodwill and peace in the world. Rotary's global membership is approximately 1.2 million men and women who belong to more than 32,000 Rotary clubs in more than 200 countries and geographical areas.

The Funny Side **Horse Racing Jokes**

The fun thing about betting on horse racing is that you're guaranteed to win! All you have to do is bet on all the horses.

What's the difference between praying in church and at the track? At the track you really mean it!

The tipster said this horse would walk in. It did, but all the others galloped.

I bet on a great horse yesterday! It took seven horses to beat him.

The horse I bet on was so slow, the jockey kept a diary of the trip.

What is one of the hardest times to win a horse race? 12:31, because it is 29 to 1.

Q) How do you make a small fortune in the horse industry?

A) Start with a large fortune.

Did you hear about the guy who went to the races and while there he observed a Roman Catholic priest who went over to a horse and sprinkled it with holy water. The horse went on to win the race, streaking ahead of the opposition. Before the next race he saw the priest go over to another horse and sprinkle it with holy water. Like the first horse it went on to win its race.

The guy said to himself that if the priest sprinkles another horse with holy water I am going to bet every penny I have on that horse. Sure enough, the priest went over to another horse and sprinkled it with holy water. So the guy went to a bookie and bet every penny he had on this horse.

Then the race started and the horse that the priest sprinkled with holy water dropped dead about 100 yards after the start of the race.

The guy was devastated. So he went over to the priest and said, "What's going on here? The last two horses you sprinkled with holy water went on to win their races, and this last one you sprinkled dropped dead after only 100 yards. I had put every penny I had on its nose!"

The priest replied, "You're not Roman Catholic, are you?" The guy admitted that he was not and asked, "But, how do you know that?"

The priest said, "Because you don't know the difference between giving a blessing and administering the last rights."

