

The Beacon



Vol. 50 No.24 13 December 2007

Laurelle's Musings

A group of us had a big but I think enjoyable night manning the food van on Sunday night at the Christmas Concert on NATA Oval. We were slammed from the minute the first sausages and donuts went on sale almost until the end of the concert.

A huge thank you to Jeremy, Bill, Ted and Angie who were there for almost four hours, and to Lin, Maureen and Kevin who came in during the evening to assist. A mighty effort. We made a few trips for extra sausages and patties etc. I didn't count the money on the night, but it will be interesting to hear from Kris what we made. We all felt attending events like this lifts our profile in the community and we have already expressed to Kate Jackson of the Plaza we would be interested in doing it again next year. The overloaded electrics gave us a little grief – we need to get that done soon.

Last week was the AGM, and tonight is our Board meeting.

Don't forget our Christmas Party on the 20 December which is a partners night and AG Phil Armstrong and his wife Kim will be our guests. Would everyone please bring a small gift (value about \$5) to go under our Christmas tree.

A few updates. We now have a new markets banner – on display tonight – and our webpage is now under construction. I am circulating tonight the various pages of the Lions website; ours will be similar to that but following our pamphlet more. Then we will set about establishing links. I am getting a little anxious about whether we will physically be able to man the van at Bar Beach during that week after Christmas – the towing demands being a key issue. We will talk about this tonight and I will circulate a draft roster to get everyone thinking about whether they can commit to that time. In the meantime, please don't forget to start selling your duck race tickets to friends and relations – don't leave them until the last minute. The proceeds will go towards the purchase of a Shelterbox.

Enjoy your evening.
Laurelle

Enjoy your evening.
Laurelle

DECEMBER IS ROTARY FAMILY MONTH

Tonight's International Toast

RIP in 2002-03 was Bhichai Rattakul whose home club is Dhonburi in Bangkok, Thailand. His theme for Rotary in that year was "Sow the Seeds of Love". RIP Bhichai is currently a Trustee of The Rotary Foundation.

The Rotary Club of Dhonburi in District 3350 was chartered in 1958. With 100 members, the club sponsors an Interact club and a Rotaract club.

Program

Tonight: Board Meeting

| TASK | 13 December | 20 December | 27 December |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Greet /welcome/wheel | George Barker | Bill Hardie | No Meeting |
| Cashier | Bill Hardie | Tony Fahey | No Meeting |
| Toast / thanks | Tony Fahey | Marilyn Gibson | No Meeting |
| 4-way test | Marilyn Gibson | Kevin Young | No Meeting |
| 3-minute talk | Kevin Young | Angie Ulrichsen | No Meeting |
| FINES | Angie Ulrichsen | Bob Aston | No Meeting |
| Introduction | Bob Aston | Phil Gafney | No Meeting |

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: Christmas Party

| | |
|----------------------------|---|
| 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 |
| 10 January | A night of fun at Bob and Therese Aston's place 8 Tarourga Place Dalmeny |
| 17 January | Home visit TBC |

Meet out outgoing GSE team



From left, Matthew Fallon (Canberra); Jillian Rheinberger (Bega); Eva Taylor; Kirsti Dixon (Jindabyne) and Christian Halverson (Moruya).

Four young professionals from D9710 have been selected as the Group Study Exchange team to travel to Poland, the Ukraine and Belarus in 2008.

They are:

- Matthew Fallon from Canberra, a Producer/Director working for the Production Hub in Canberra;
- Jillian Rheinberger from Bega who us Planning Project Officer for Greater Southern Area Health Service and currently assisting in the planning of three new Health Facilities in the district;
- Kirsti Dixon, a clinical Nurse Specialist in Stoma Therapy and a generalist Community Health Nurse from Jindabyne;
- Christian Halverson a Science teacher from Moruya.
- The team will be led by PP Eva Taylor of Bega

who is Executive Officer of Tulgeen Disability Services in Bega.

They will be away for four to six weeks, experiencing the host country's culture and institutions, observing how their vocations are practiced abroad, developing personal and professional relationships, and exchanging ideas.

The Rotary Foundation pays for travel, and the cultural value of these exchanges is strengthened by Rotarians in the host area providing meals, lodging, and group travel within their district.

A second Rotary GSE team from D9710 will be going to Indiana in the United States in 2008.

We should be looking for someone to send to a future GSE.

RYLA

RYLA 2007 is to be held at Greenhills (near the Cotter) from Monday 28 January to Saturday 2 February 2008. Nominations are lagging a bit at this point and the District seeks your help in getting nominations from the local community. We are looking for young adults between 18 and 25 years old who have potential for leadership in their various community activities and workplaces.

All the relevant information (and nomination forms) may be found at the D9710 RYLA Website (<http://www.ryla.org.au/>)

The Funny Side

'Twas The (Politically Correct) Night Before Christmas

'Twas the night before Christmas and Santa's a wreck...
How to live in a world that's politically correct?
His workers no longer would answer to
"Elves".

"Vertically Challenged" they were calling
themselves.
And labor conditions at the north pole
Were alleged by the union to stifle the soul.

Four reindeer had vanished, without much
propriety,
Released to the wilds by the Humane
Society.
And equal employment had made it quite
clear
That Santa had better not use just reindeer.

So Dancer and Donner, Comet and Cupid,
Were replaced with 4 pigs, and you know that
looked stupid!

The runners had been removed from his sleigh;
The ruts were termed dangerous by the E.P.A.
And people had started to call for the cops
When they heard sled noises on their roof-tops.

Second-hand smoke from his pipe had his workers quite frightened.
His fur trimmed red suit was called "Unenlightened."

And to show you the strangeness of life's ebbs and flows,
Rudolf was suing over unauthorized use of his nose
And had gone on Geraldo, in front of the nation,
Demanding millions in over-due compensation.

So, half of the reindeer were gone; and his wife,
Who suddenly said she'd enough of this life,
Joined a self-help group, packed, and left in a whiz,
Demanding from now on her title was Ms.



And as for the gifts, why, he'd ne'er had a notion
That making a choice could cause so much commotion.
Nothing of leather, nothing of fur,
Which meant nothing for him. And nothing for her.

Nothing that might be construed to pollute.
Nothing to aim. Nothing to shoot.
Nothing that clamored or made lots of noise.
Nothing for just girls. Or just for the boys.

Nothing that claimed to be gender specific.
Nothing that's warlike or non-pacific.

No candy or sweets...they were bad for the tooth.
Nothing that seemed to embellish a truth.
And fairy tales, while not yet forbidden,
Were like Ken and Barbie, better off hidden.

For they raised the hackles of those psychological
Who claimed the only good gift was one ecological.

No baseball, no football...someone could get hurt;
Besides, playing sports exposed kids to dirt.
Dolls were said to be sexist, and should be passe;
And Nintendo would rot your entire brain away.

So Santa just stood there, disheveled, perplexed;
He just could not figure out what to do next.

He tried to be merry, tried to be gay,
you've got to be careful with that word today.
His sack was quite empty, limp to the ground;
Nothing fully acceptable was to be found.

Something special was needed, a gift that he might
Give to all without angering the left or the right.
A gift that would satisfy, with no indecision,
Each group of people, every religion;

Every ethnicity, every hue,
Everyone, everywhere...even you.
So here is that gift, it's price beyond worth...
"May you and your loved ones enjoy peace on earth."

