



The Beacon

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Laurelle's (Ian's) Musings

This week in Laurelle's absence we have a mini musings as I am not after one night in the chair, in a position to make Presidential pronouncements!

Last week a great roll up for the India tour with many partners and friends to share our fellowship and a very tasty curry. Micki informed and amused us in her inimitable style with tales of our Rajasthan trip last November, but due to an unforgivable slip up by yours truly, the photos of the second part of the trip

were not available. My sincere apologies for that.



A big thank you to the multi skilled Bob Aston for providing technical IT support with software and projection, not to mention adding a human touch with photos of a certain Indian cricketer (one of the Singh family) interspersed throughout the slide show.

Continuing with the cricket theme, Bob entertained us with a surprising scoop revealing names of Narooma Rotarians who have been selected at bargain prices for the upcoming Indian Premier

League cricket competition.

Don't forget markets this Easter Sunday and please let Kris know if you are able to help. A call also goes out for more of your unwanted items for the white elephant stall, which continues to bring in the dollars each market courtesy of the two entrepreneurs Marilyn and George.

That's it from me.

VP Ian

MARCH IS ROTARY POLIO ERADICATION MONTH

Program

Tonight: Board Meeting

TASK	20 March	27 March	13 March
Greet /welcome/wheel	Jeremy Ferguson	Marilyn Gibson	Chris O'Brien
Cashier	Marilyn Gibson	Chris O'Brien	Kris Elpkick
Toast / thanks	Chris O'Brien	Kris Elpkick	Bob Aston
4-way test	Kris Elpkick	Bob Aston	Jack Wightman
3-minute talk	Bob Aston	Jack Wightman	Kevin Young
FINES	Jack Wightman	Kevin Young	Lin Morey
Introduction	Kevin Young	Lin Morey	Angie Urichsen

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: Combined meeting with Bega Rotary at the Cobargo Pub

23 March	Narooma Rotary Markets at NATA Oval
3 April	Combined Rural Fire Service and Royal Volunteer Coastal Patrol meeting TBC
10 April	Youth Week speakers
17 April	BOARD MEETING
24 April	CINDERS NIGHT – with RC of Moruya at Narooma with Bob and Therese Aston as quiz masters PARTNERS NIGHT
27 April	Narooma Rotary Markets at NATA Oval

Moving Kenya forward: Rotarians seek to heal wounds

By Sandra Prufer

Rotary International News - 12 March 2008

Two hundred Rotary volunteers went door-to-door in Nairobi on 10 January, asking the public to donate for the needy. Similar efforts were made in Mombasa and Kisumu. *Photo by Dan Poenaru.*

Welcoming the peace deal signed last week to end their country's postelection crisis, Rotarians in Kenya met on 7 March with diplomats and civic and professional leaders to discuss practical ideas for healing the nation.

The Rotary Club of Nairobi hosted a panel discussion to talk about the role of civic society in the reconciliation and recovery process. The event, which was part of the club's annual World Understanding and Peace Day luncheon, was held at the Hilton Nairobi.

Moderated by national TV presenter Michael Oyier of KTN, the panel consisted of UN-Habitat Executive Director Anne Tibaijuka; retired Lt. Gen. Lazaro Sumbeiywo, who was the Intergovernmental Authority on Development's chief mediator in the Sudanese peace negotiations; clinical psychologist Gladys Mwiti;

BBC East Africa correspondent Adam Mynott; and Vimal Shah, representing the Kenya Association of Manufacturers.

Following the disputed December election, riots reflecting ethnic divisions erupted across Kenya. More than 350,000 people fled their homes, and at least 1,000 were killed.

Though last week's reopened parliament is expected to soon ratify the power-sharing agreement brokered by former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, the country will feel the socioeconomic effects of the crisis for years to come.

The panelists concurred that the political agreement is just the beginning of the necessary reconciliation process.

Tibaijuka stressed the importance of dealing with the fundamental causes of inequity, while Sumbeiywo called for a better education system and an economic recovery plan akin to the Marshall Plan and urged Kenyans to reach out to their neighbors.

According to Mwiti, Kenyans are suffering from a massive depression. "We already had HIV, road traffic accidents, robbery, and violence, and now on top of that, the postelection violence. We should concentrate on healing and counseling," she said.

Following the panel discussion, the Nairobi club presented its Amazing Kenyans Peace Award to three citizens who had performed extraordinary actions in the period of postelection violence. The recipients are:

- Dekha Ibrahim, co-founder and chair of the Concerned Citizens for Peace initiative, which launched a national media campaign to stop the violence, sent strong messages to political leaders to restore peace, and provided a platform for citizens and organizations to coordinate peace and justice work.
- Superintendent Joseph Musyoka Nthenge, a police officer who surprised many when he was caught on camera pleading with demonstrators to be patriotic and not to destroy the socioeconomic gains that had been made. With tensions high, he put himself at risk and inspired others, exhibiting patience, wisdom, and courage.
- Alice Auma Opolo, of the Faida Karanja self-help group, aided the displaced by sending gunshot victims to the hospital, raising funds for funeral expenses, and housing families until they found other shelters.

International Toast

Back to Canada and to the province of Saskatchewan where we find the Rotary Club of Moose Jaw. The city, population about 33,000, is a retirement and tourist centre in southern Saskatchewan. It was the base for the British Commonwealth Air Training Scheme in World War II and is now Canada's principal military flight training centre.

RC Moose Jaw, SK in District 5550 was chartered in 1916 and has 51 members. It is the oldest Rotary club in the province.

Happy Easter to all Rotarians and their Families

The Foundation Snippet

Nine countries and two World Health Organisation regions have received The Rotary Foundation's first distribution from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation's US\$100 million challenge grant for polio eradication. Made in January, the US\$40 million disbursement is being used by WHO and UNICEF to carry out immunisation activities in the four remaining polio-endemic countries - Afghanistan, India, Nigeria and Pakistan - plus five others where "imported" polio cases have been reported.

Since the grant distribution, Rotarians have continued their hands-on support to maximise the push to end polio. A team of 54 Rotarians and friends from Australia, Canada, France, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the United States helped promote and carry out India's National Immunisation Days (NIDs) in February, which reached more than 170 million children.

The team worked hand in hand with community members throughout the NIDs. "Along with us was a young girl, a Muslim, of about 17 years," Elias Thomas of the Rotary Club of Sanford-Springvale, Maine, USA, reports on the team's blog. "She was a member of the Interact club in her town and served as our translator."

"Now is the time to step up the momentum to get polio out of India forever," says Deepak Kapur, chair of India's PolioPlus committee. "Communication is necessary in getting families to understand the benefits of immunisation, and is a critical piece of the overall strategy to make that happen."

Funny Side

WIFE: "There's trouble with the car. It has water in the carburettor."

HUSBAND: "Water in the carburettor? That's ridiculous."

WIFE: "I tell you the car has water in the carburettor."

HUSBAND: "You don't even know what a carburettor is. I'll check it out. Where's the car?"

WIFE: "In the pool."

A defendant in a lawsuit involving large sums of money was talking to his lawyer. "If I lose this case, I'll be ruined." "It's in the judge's hands now," said the lawyer.

"Would it help if I sent the judge a box of cigars?"

"Oh no! This judge is a stickler for ethical behaviour. A stunt like that would prejudice him against you. He might even hold you in contempt of court. In fact, you shouldn't even smile at the judge." Within the course of time, the judge rendered a decision in favour of the defendant.

As the defendant left the courthouse, he said to his lawyer, "Thanks for the tip about the cigars. It worked!"

"I'm sure we would have lost the case if you'd sent them" said the lawyer.

"But, I did send them" said the defendant.

"What? You did?" said the lawyer, incredulously. "Yes. That's how we won the case." "I don't understand," said the lawyer.

"It's easy. I sent the cigars to the judge, but enclosed the plaintiff's business card."

