

Rotary Club of Narooma Inc. weekly
bulletin

The Beacon



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Laurelle's Musings

Tonight we welcome our District Information Officer John O'Neil who will explain the new Club Leadership Plan to us and how we could adapt it for our purposes in preparation for Ted Bladwell's year.

We have a lot happening at the moment – we seem to be building up in momentum towards the end of my year as president (I can't believe how quickly it has gone!) rather than winding down, which will ensure a steady flow of action into Ted's year.

The Board has endorsed the Club becoming involved again with the Rotary Youth Exchange Program after a gap of some years. We already have had one application from a student and we could have more following the article in Narooma News this week.

We are putting ourselves forward to host an incoming student, based on the interest shown by several of our members.

Bob Aston is also moving ahead with the Pride of Workmanship awards and letters have gone out to many Narooma businesses calling for nominations.

If you know of any business that could be interested, please check with Bob to make sure they are on our mailing list.

We also need to start warming up for Cinders – we will have to have a few Trivia quizzes over the next few weeks to limber up. If your brain cells are anything like mine at the moment, they'll need it!

A summary of last week's Board meeting will be in next week's Beacon.

Enjoy your evening.
Laurelle

APRIL IS ROTARY MAGAZINE MONTH

Program

Tonight: John O'Neil – New Club leadership plan

TASK	24 April	1 May	8 May
Greet /welcome/wheel	Jack Wightman	Kevin Young	Lin Morey
Cashier	Kevin Young	Lin Morey	Angie Urichsen
Toast / thanks	Lin Morey	Angie Urichsen	Phil Gaffney
4-way test	Angie Urichsen	Phil Gaffney	Tony Fahey
3-minute talk	Phil Gaffney	Tony Fahey	Chris O'Brien
FINES	Tony Fahey	Chris O'Brien	John Messner
Introduction	Chris O'Brien	John Messner	Bill Hardie

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 – Rohan Gleeson – Youth Exchange Program (Partners Night)

27 April	Narooma Rotary Markets at NATA Oval
8 May	TBC
15 May	Board Meeting
22 May	Pride of Workmanship – partners Night
25 May	Narooma Rotary Market at NATA Oval
29 May	Joy Gillette
5 June	TBC
12 June	Cinders Night
19 June	Board Meeting

From the international Service Director

For more than a decade, the Rotary Club of Crows Nest in Sydney has been helping families in rural Binxian County, Shaanxi Province, China; invest in their children's future. Previous efforts, some supported by Rotary Foundation Matching Grants, have trained primary school teachers; provided schools with desks, chairs, and books; and given scholarships to students, enabling them to stay in school.

In 2006, the club joined with the Rotary Club of Shanghai in a Matching Grant project that provided nearly 6,500 books to create libraries at 29 schools and tuition support for 148 students. Before the effort began, students in the isolated villages had no access to outside study resources because no other libraries existed.

Ongoing support is making a critical difference in the children's lives. "Our first priority is to continue financially assisting students we supported in previous years until they leave primary school," says Crows Nest member Bill Lee. "When family income is insufficient, the girls are first to be taken out of school. This is our reason for giving preference to girls."

One student, Han Mei, gained admission to Baoji University of Arts and Sciences. At its own expense, the club is continuing to support her education until she receives her bachelor's degree in Chinese literature.

Magazine Month. Rotary Down Under

Rotary International News - 15 April 2008

Sydney tots get a head start

According to developmental scientists and early childhood educators, the cognitive, social, and emotional development of children begins at birth and continues at home long before they enter school. To this end, the Rotary Club of Sydney, New South Wales, Australia, donated US\$160,000 to an innovative, early-childhood educational enrichment program offered at La Perouse Public School, located in a nearby suburb.

The Home Interaction Program for Parents and Youngsters works with refugees, migrants, isolated rural community members, and other disadvantaged groups throughout Australia. Through a two-year curriculum, specialists at La Perouse teach parents of three- to five-year-olds how to develop their child's school readiness, communication abilities, and relationship skills before they begin their education in the classroom. By training as home tutors, parents gain confidence in their role as their child's first teachers. Families also receive educational books and games that emphasize reading and math skills.

"Thanks to Rotary, the children of La Perouse are more likely to succeed at school, hold down a job, buy a home, and enjoy good physical and mental health in their adult years," says Tony Nicholson, executive director of the Brotherhood of St. Laurence, which runs the program.

Sydney club member Gerry Rihs says his club is pleased to support projects that help reduce poverty and promote universal primary education.

Sherri Longbottom, coordinator of the La Perouse program, is grateful for the club's contribution. "Thanks to Rotary Sydney for their much-appreciated donation. This now means we will be able to continue to work with more parents and their children in our community."

This story was adapted from Rotary Down Under, the Rotary regional magazine serving districts in more than a dozen geographical areas, including Australia and New Zealand.

Funny Side

Darwin Award Candidates

If you are unfamiliar with the Darwin Award, it is an annual honour to the individual who did the largest favour to the gene pool by killing himself (herself) in a most unusual and unintelligent fashion. I suppose the recognition as the Darwin Award is based on the notion that by removing the stupidity genes from the gene pool, one improves the likelihood of a more advanced human race. While the individuals in the following story did not kill themselves and are thus not eligible for the Darwin Award this year, the DA committee will undoubtedly want to keep their eyes on these two -- it's only a matter of time before they qualify.

Michigan, USA.

Guy buys a brand new Grand Cherokee for 30 some thousand dollars and has 400+ dollar monthly payments. He immediately contacts his friend and they go do some male bonding. They go duck hunting and of course all the lakes are frozen. These two geniuses go to the lake with the guns, the dog, the beer and of course the new vehicle. They drive out onto the lake ice and get ready. Now, they want to make some kind of a natural landing area for the ducks, something for the decoys to float on. Remember, it's all ice and in order to make a hole large enough to look like something a wandering duck wants to fly down and land on, it is going to take a little more effort than a ice hole drill. Out of the back of the new Grand Cherokee comes a stick of dynamite with a short, 40 second fuse. Now these 2 Rocket Scientists do take into consideration that if they place the stick of dynamite on the ice at a location far from where they are standing (and the new Grand Cherokee), they take the risk of slipping on the ice when they run from the burning fuse and possibly going up in smoke with the resulting blast. So, they decide to light this 40 second fuse and throw the dynamite which is what they end up doing.

Remember a couple of paragraphs back when I mentioned the vehicle, the beer, the guns AND THE DOG ???? Yes, the dog. A highly trained Black Lab used for retrieving, especially things thrown by the owner. You guessed it, the dog takes off at a high rate of doggy speed on the ice and gets the stick of dynamite with the burning 40 second fuse about the time it hits the ice much to the dismay of the two idiots yelling,

stomping, waving arms and wondering what to do now. The dog, well-pleased with itself, heads back from where it came from moments before, with the stick of dynamite, only to the mounting woes of the 2 bozos now really waving their arms, yelling even louder and jumping to new heights than ever before.

Now one of the guys decides to think, something that he has never done before this moment, grabs a shotgun and shoots the dog. The shotgun is loaded with #8 duck shot, hardly big enough to stop a Black Lab on its appointed rounds. Dog stops for a moment, slightly confused and continues on. Another shot and this time the dog, still standing, becomes really confused & of course scared, thinking these two Nobel Prize winners have gone insane. The dog takes off to find cover with the now really short fuse burning on this stick of dynamite, still in its mouth. The cover the dogs finds? Underneath the brand new Grand Cherokee 30 some thousand dollar 400+ monthly payment vehicle sitting on the lake ice. BOOM ! Dog dies and it and the brand new Grand Cherokee 30 some thousand dollar 400+ monthly payment vehicle sink to the bottom of the lake leaving the two candidates for Co-leaders of the Known Universe standing there with this "I can't believe this happened" look on their faces.

Later, the owner of the vehicle calls his insurance company which tells him that sinking a vehicle in a lake by illegal use of explosives is not covered. He had yet to make the first of those 400+ a month payments.

I felt pretty sorry for the dog myself.

When they made the movie Fargo they should have waited a few more months and this could have been added into it.

International Toast

Edmunston in the Province of New Brunswick in Canada is adjacent to Quebec and the US state of Maine. The population of about 17,000 is 98% French speaking so I guess the other 2% must understand the language in order to get by. The main industry is forestry, with several saw mills and paper plants in the vicinity.

The Rotary Club of Edmunston in District 7810 consisting of 14 members was chartered in 1936.

Pride of Workmanship

It is that time of year again. The Club will host its Pride of Workmanship Awards on Thursday 22 May 2008. We need nominations! If you know of any employee who may be suitable please give their employer a nomination form – see attached. You can even nominate your own employees. Nominations close on 7 May 2008.

The Rotary Club of Narooma

2008 Pride of Workmanship Nomination

Name of Company or Employer:

Business Address:

Telephone:

Email:

Nature of Business:

Name of Nominator:

Position:

NAME OF NOMINEE:

Employed as:

Private address (not for publication)

Please state why you consider this employee is worthy of the '*Pride of Workmanship*' Award
(Please note: Your statement should be worded in a form suitable for reading as a short citation for the awardee at the presentation)

Signature of nominator: