

Rotary Club of Narooma Inc. weekly
bulletin

The Beacon



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Laurelle's Musings

Well our big news is we have taken the plunge and committed the Club to both hosting an exchange student as well as sending a student overseas.

This is an exciting new era for the Club because it has been a while since we have done either, let alone both at the same time. So it's really important that we wholeheartedly get behind it as a Club and support it in every way possible.

Many thanks to everyone who has volunteered to be host families and so made it possible. We will have a meeting of all host families in about two weeks time with PE Ted to plan the year.

Last week's visit by Rohan and Pauline Gleeson as well as exchange students Valentine and Lucas highlighted how much the students themselves, the Club and the wider community benefit from Youth Exchange. It was also a chance for us all to ask a few questions.

We had two inquiries for our outgoing RYE, but only one applicant. That's Tony and Sue's daughter Erin who we interviewed on Saturday. We think she would make a great exchange student. The Faheys have hosted a number of students over the years. She now goes forward to the District selections so we all wish her well.

Our incoming student sounds delightful. Her name is Katja Gfeller, aged 16 (turns 17 in December), and she's from a small town called Lindau in the province of Zurich in Switzerland. Her high school is about the same size as Narooma High.

From what I have been able to determine, we last sponsored an exchange student in 1993-94 - Charlotte Middleton. Past Youth Exchange students sponsored by the club were Vicki Creighton (1971-72), Lynise Swan (1976-77), Leanne Brown (1978-79), Meredith Watt (1981-82), Alison Gill (1983-84), Melita Michelson (1992-93) and Charlotte Middleton (1993-94).

Tonight we welcome back Norm Lenehan from Eurobodalla Shire Council who will bring us up to date with what Council has been doing on the Ringlands Rotary Walk and how we can help. Following is a summary of last month's Board meeting.

Enjoy your evening.
Laurelle

MAY IS ROTARY PLANNING MONTH

Program

Tonight: Norm Lenehan from Eurobodalla Shire Council who will bring us up to date with what Council has been doing on the Ringlands Rotary Walk

TASK	8 May	15 May	22 May
Greet /welcome/wheel	Lin Morey	Angie Urichsen	Phil Gaffney
Cashier	Angie Urichsen	Phil Gaffney	Tony Fahey
Toast / thanks	Phil Gaffney	Tony Fahey	Chris O'Brien
4-way test	Tony Fahey	Chris O'Brien	John Messner
3-minute talk	Chris O'Brien	John Messner	No Talk
FINES	John Messner	Bill Hardie	No Fines
Introduction	Bill Hardie	Marilyn Gibson	Bob Aston

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

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
22 June	Narooma Rotary Market at NATA Oval
26 June	Changeover

The Board Report

SUMMARY OF APRIL BOARD MEETING

50th Celebrations: The venue is booked, the menu decided on, and invitations about to go out. Our MC will be PP Peter Bull. It has been disappointing we haven't had more success with coming up with more names of past Rotarians but we persevere.

Program – Laurelle mentioned doing possible video of interviews of several Rotarians about highlights of their time with Rotary, with the idea of it being professionally edited. Maximum length eight minutes. This would be supported by a constant Power point display of photos over the history.

Project: Kevin has met with Council staff re possibility of a cover over table at Dalmeny Park. Kevin is to report back.

Bowelscan: was a big success this year, thanks to the efforts of George and Ted and the combined publicity campaign across Australia. We sold 309 kits, about 100 more than last year.

Web Page: Pages is almost there.

Cinders Trophy: Date has been confirmed as the 12th June.

Disbursements: We have now donated \$1,000 to RFS and \$1,000 to Coastal Patrol. The donation of \$1,000 for the Surf Club's sun shelter will happen "soon" once the lettering is completed.

The Board decided to donate \$2,000 to the South Care Helicopter Service which transported Kevin's son Mick to Canberra Hospital recently, and \$2,000 to Angel Flight.

The Board decided to donate a total of \$200 to Narooma High SRC's Stewart House Appeal.

The audited accounts: for the past four years have now been received from the accountant and all is in order.

Gazebo: The tent was purchased as requested by board at a total cost of \$298.75, the lettering has been done, and was used at last month's markets and was a great success.

Van: A new Menu sign was ordered and should be ready for the April Markets.

Oyster Festival: After some discussion it was decided that as many members as possible be available to walk behind the Rotary banner (which has been ordered) in the parade.

A roster for the food van yet to be prepared

Attendance: Mention was made of a concern re attendance of some members. Attendance Officer Ted stressed it was important for everyone to let him know if they are not coming or if they have guests so we can get the numbers right for The Whale.

BAAS Matching Grant: Director Jack informed the meeting that he and Ian Thomlinson were still working on applying for a matching grant – "a work in progress".

GSE: The Board decided to apply to District for participation in the next GSE visit from France.

Ambassadorial Scholars: Director Jack will invite a scholar as a guest speaker.

Centurian Project: Director Jack will encourage members to contribute on a per year basis.

Youth Exchange: Further applicants are to be sought for YEP. President Laurelle to prepare story for 'Narooma News'. The Board also discussed hosting an incoming student, depending on whether we can get enough host families. -Ted said we have two families so far interested. Ted reported that Rohan Gleeson was coming to talk about Youth Exchange at the first meeting in May.

[NOTE: The Host Rotary Club provides full board, pocket money (amounts vary), school fees and travel, food and accommodation at Rotary events.]

Pride of Workmanship Awards: Vocational Director Bob plans to hold the Pride of Workmanship Awards 22 May at The Whale. Laurelle to check if Bob needs a hand.

New Board: A letter of resignation as incoming secretary of the new Board was received from Laurelle Pacey who has accepted a Directorship on the new board.

To fill the vacant position, under the Club's present By-Laws, the board appointed John Messner as the Secretary for the Rotary year 2008-2009.

Leave of absence: was granted to Angie Ulrichsen until mid August and to Ian Thomlinson until 19th June, following receipt of their written applications.

Funny Side

A young sailor was sitting in a bar having a few drinks when he looks over and sees a pirate. The pirate has a wooden peg-leg, a hook for a hand, and patch over his eye. Unable to resist, the sailor asks "How'd you end up with a peg-leg?"

"I was swept overboard during a fierce storm," says the pirate. "and a bloody shark bit off me whole darn leg!"

"Holy cow!" said the sailor. "What about the hook, how'd you get that?"

"Me crew and I were boarding an enemy ship, a fierce sword battle ensued. One of them cut me darn arm!"

"Absolutely incredible!" gasped the sailor. "And the eye patch, tell me how you got that?"

"A bloody seagull dropping fell into me eye," replied the pirate.

"Umm, you lost your eye to a seagull dropping?" asked the sailor, admonished.

Embarrassed, the pirate answered "It was me first day with the hook."

Airman Jackson was assigned to the induction centre, where he advised new recruits about their government benefits, especially their GI insurance.

It wasn't long before Captain Haverty noticed that Airman Jackson was having a staggeringly high success-rate, selling insurance to nearly 100% of the recruits he advised.

Rather than asking him about this, the Captain stood at the back of the room and listened to Jackson's sales pitch.

Jackson explained the basics of GI Insurance to the new recruits, and then said, "If you are killed in a battle and have a GI Insurance, the government has to pay \$200,000 to your beneficiaries. But, if you don't have a GI insurance and get killed in the battle, the government only has to pay a maximum of \$6000."

"Now," he concluded, "which group do YOU think they're gonna send into battle first?"

Exchange Students

The last inbound exchange hosted by the Club was Juha Kujala in 2000 – 2001. Juha was from Finland. He stayed with the Therese and me, Jeremy and Heather and Ian and Micki. We lost contact with Juha about 12 months after he returned home. Last week when discussing exchange students, Jenni wondered if we could track him down. Within minutes she had found him on *Facebook* and sent him a message a day later we got the following response:-



Hi Jenni!

Yep, I'm the same Juha that stayed at your place for a few months in 2001. How are you and your family?

I'm just finishing my Master's studies in Helsinki University of Technology. I'm writing to you from Stanford, California, where I have been doing research work lately.

I'm married with Laura and we have a lovely baby girl, Frida.

It was good to hear from you! Please say hi from me to your family too!

Ain't technology wonderful!