



# The Beacon

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## *Laurelle's Musings*

A good hearty welcome to Moruya Rotarians and friends tonight for our annual Cinders Challenge. We would like members of both our clubs to sit and mix with each other over dinner and so enjoy fellowship, and then after dinner we will separate into our Club teams for the battle of wits, trivia and everything else. Our quiz masters Bob and Therese Aston are above bribery and corruption (at least they were when I last checked!) and I am sure everyone appreciates the efforts they have made to ensure we all have a good night. I know everyone will enjoy the evening, and dinner at The Whale is always special.

Last week PE Ted Bladwell introduced us to how he thinks we can best adapt the new Club Leadership Plan and it seemed to go down well with everyone. It was a good presentation put together by Ted and incoming secretary John Messner, with technical assistance from Bob.

Our big news is that we now know when Katja is arriving from Switzerland – 19 July. She is getting very excited as am I. Don't forget all those who have volunteered to be host families for Katja, Ted has invited us to a get-together at his home this coming Saturday at 5.

It was lovely to have Erin and Sue Fahey with us last week. I know everyone wishes her well for her interview for the Youth Exchange Program in Canberra this weekend.

Enjoy your evening.  
Laurelle

### *International Toast*

Continuing our quest for Rotary clubs not within the bounds of a Rotary district, we discover the Rotary Club of Gibraltar. The club was chartered in 1966 and has 40 members.

The rock on the southern tip of the Iberian Peninsula was ceded by Spain to Britain in 1713 and remains a British Overseas Territory despite continuing claims by Spain and an in-principle agreement in 2002 for joint sovereignty which was soundly rejected by a referendum of voters. The population of 28,000 prospers from shipping, tourism, finance centre activities and the internet.

**JUNE IS ROTARY FELLOWSHIP MONTH**

## *Program*

**Tonight: Cinders Night – Partner's Night. Quiz master open to bribes**

<b>TASK</b>	<b>12 June</b>	<b>19 June</b>	<b>26 June</b>
<b>Greet /welcome/wheel</b>	John Messner	Bill Hardie	Annual
<b>Cashier</b>	Bill Hardie	Marilyn Gibson	Changeover
<b>Toast / thanks</b>	Marilyn Gibson	Kris Elphick	Night
<b>4-way test</b>	Kris Elphick	Bill Hardie	
<b>3-minute talk</b>	No talk	Jeremy Freguson	
<b>FINES</b>	No fines	Bob Aston	
<b>Introduction</b>	Laurelle Pacey	Lin Morley	

*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: Board Meeting**

15 June (Sunday)	<b>10am Ringlands Walk with Norm Lenehan – meet at Ringlands Point</b>
22 June	<b>Narooma Rotary Market at NATA Oval</b>
26 June	<b>Changeover</b>

## *From the International Service Director*

This week's topic is Rotary Against Malaria (RAM) whose objective is "The prevention of mortality, and a reduction in morbidity and social and economic loss caused by malaria through a progressive improvement and strengthening of local and national capabilities in malaria control". In this context, "national" refers particularly to Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands and Timor Leste, the three countries in our region in which the incidence of malaria is very high - over 300 per 1,000 persons per year. RAM's target is to reduce it to less than 80 per 1,000.

The "Adopt a Village" program operating in PNG and SI facilitates the provision of life-saving treated bed nets and their distribution through various channels including church groups, government agencies, NGOs and In-country Rotary clubs. In 2006 this club "adopted" two villages in the Namatanai District of New Ireland Province of PNG by dint of donating \$1,000.

The Rotary Foundation has granted an enormous amount of money to the cause of malaria reduction in SI. With approval of the latest 3H Grant, funding by TRF is now about US\$1 million. Previous funding by TRF has resulted in the incidence of malaria being reduced to below the target of 80/1,000/year to, in some cases, about 20/1,000/year.

## *Messages- From our RI President*

Dear fellow Rotarians,

I wish that every Rotarian could have the opportunities to see Rotary in action that Joan and I have enjoyed over the past months. From India to France, Hong Kong to Brazil, the Philippines to Turkey, we witnessed Rotarians demonstrating, with great compassion and ingenuity, just how much *Rotary Shares*.

We saw incredible disaster relief efforts in Pakistan and had the chance to inaugurate one of seven schools being built there with contributions by Rotarians. In India, we surveyed the impressive results of Rotarian tsunami recovery projects. In Brazil, we visited a school supported by the Foundation of São Paulo Rotarians that offers academic and vocational education as well as a program for the hearing impaired. And we felt very proud when we saw what Houston Rotarians have done in establishing a four-star hotel for patients and families visiting the M.D. Anderson Cancer Center.

Another of the year's highlights was our North American membership conferences. These seven meetings drew many Rotarians eager to reverse the region's downward trend in membership. They shared ideas and left energized to strengthen their clubs' membership.

Peace conferences provided another source of great inspiration for Rotarians, who met in Bulgaria, India, Kenya, and Turkey to discuss the obstacles to peace in each of these regions and consider how Rotary clubs can offer practical solutions. In Canada and France, Rotarians organized conferences around the theme Peace Is Possible, drawing participants from neighboring countries to offer a valuable international perspective.

This month, we'll come together in Los Angeles for another important Rotary meeting – our 2008 RI Convention. I hope that many of you will take advantage of this opportunity to experience a little of the international fellowship that I've been so privileged to enjoy as RI president.

Throughout my travels this year, I met many people who congratulated me on Rotary's work to eradicate polio and to improve the quality of life in some of the world's poorest regions. I was especially struck by the words of Olafur Grimsson, the president of Iceland, who said to me: "Rotary has the right answer. Your organization includes men and women on an equal basis, and you have members from many countries who represent every race, color, and creed. So what the world must do is have more Rotarians."

I couldn't agree more.

Thank you all for your great work. Joan and I will never forget the 2007-08 Rotary year.

Wilfrid J. (Wilf) Wilkinson  
President, Rotary International

## *Funny Side*

### **MICROSOFT Bids to Acquire Catholic Church**

VATICAN CITY (AP) -- In a joint press conference in St. Peter's Square this morning, MICROSOFT Corp. and the Vatican announced that the Redmond software giant will acquire the Roman Catholic Church in exchange for an unspecified number of shares of MICROSOFT common stock. If the deal goes through, it will be the first time a computer software company has acquired a major world religion.

With the acquisition the Pope will become the senior vice-president of the combined company's new Religious Software Division, while MICROSOFT senior vice-presidents Michael Maples and Steven Ballmer will be invested in the College of Cardinals, said MICROSOFT Chairman Bill Gates.

"We expect a lot of growth in the religious market in the next five to ten years," said Gates. "The combined resources of MICROSOFT and the Catholic Church will allow us to make religion easier and more fun for a broader range of people."

Through the MICROSOFT Network, the company's new on-line service, "we will make the sacraments available on-line for the first time" and revive the popular pre-Counter-Reformation practice of selling indulgences, said Gates. "You can get Communion, confess your sins, receive absolution -- even reduce your time in Purgatory -- all without leaving your home."

A new software application, MICROSOFT Church, will include a macro language which you can program to download heavenly graces automatically while you are away from your computer.

An estimated 17,000 people attended the announcement in St Peter's Square, watching on a 60-foot screen as comedian Don Novello -- in character as Father Guido Sarducci -- hosted the event, which was broadcast by satellite to 700 sites worldwide.

The Pope said little during the announcement. When Novello chided Gates, "Now I guess you get to wear one of these pointy hats," the crowd roared, but the pontiff's smile seemed strained.

The deal grants MICROSOFT exclusive electronic rights to the Bible and the Vatican's prized art collection, which includes works by such masters as Michelangelo and Da Vinci. But critics say MICROSOFT will face stiff challenges if it attempts to limit competitors' access to these key intellectual properties.

"The Jewish people invented the look and feel of the holy scriptures," said Rabbi David Gottschalk of Philadelphia. "You take the parting of the Red Sea -- we had that thousands of years before the Catholics came on the scene."

But others argue that the Catholic and Jewish faiths both draw on a common Abrahamic heritage. "The Catholic Church has just been more successful in marketing it to a larger audience," notes Notre Dame theologian Father Kenneth Madigan. Over the last 2,000 years, the Catholic Church's market share has increased dramatically, while Judaism, which was the first to offer many of the concepts now touted by Christianity, lags behind.

Historically, the Church has a reputation as an aggressive competitor, leading crusades to pressure people to upgrade to Catholicism, and entering into exclusive licensing arrangements in various kingdoms whereby all subjects were instilled with Catholicism, whether or not they planned to use it. Today Christianity is available from several denominations, but the Catholic version is still the most widely used. The Church's mission is to reach "the four corners of the earth," echoing MICROSOFT's vision of "a computer on every desktop and in every home".

Gates described MICROSOFT's long-term strategy to develop a scalable religious architecture that will support all religions through emulation. A single core religion will be offered with a choice of interfaces according to the religion desired -- "One religion, a couple of different implementations," said Gates.

The MICROSOFT move could spark a wave of mergers and acquisitions, according to Herb Peters, a spokesman for the U.S. Southern Baptist Conference, as other churches scramble to strengthen their position in the increasingly competitive religious market.

### *Some Trivia*

- 1 Roger Bannister broke the 4 minute mile barrier in
- 2 Dawn Fraser won Olympic Gold for 100m freestyle
- 3 What country's won the most soccer world cups?
- 4 What is the diameter of a Golf cup (or hole)?
- 5 How many players in a (outdoor) polo team?
- 6 A perfect tenpin bowling game has how many strikes?