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# The Beacon



*RI President  
Dong Kurn Lee*

*9710 DG  
Phil Mewett*

*President  
Ted Bladwell*

*Secretary  
John Messner*

*Treasurer  
Kris Elphick*

*Apologies to  
Ted Bladwell  
the day before  
on 44763676 or  
you will be  
charged for  
your meal.*

## *The Rotary Club of Narooma Inc. Bulletin*

### **Ted's Tips**

Hi everyone !

What a great night we had for the Changeover. As usual Laurelle handled the evening in her usual style and a happy smile, and Ian kept us on track and handled the job of MC with dignity and aplomb.

What a rewarding year we had not only financially but also with a full year of service to Rotary and to the Community.

The new Board have already met informally, to consider expectations and goals for the new Rotary year, and as President I would hope that this year will be one of joy and achievement, not only for the club but for each and every one of us. As a Rotarian I realise that we can only do so much as an individual but with Rotary behind us, we can and will move mountains. I will be asking much of you in support of our Club programs, some will carry more of the burden than others, but please consider the personal rewards in a job completed and well done. The old saying is family first, occupation second and Rotary third. To enjoy Rotary we must enjoy our fellowship and that fellowship extends away from the weekly meetings.

This weeks meeting is a Club Assembly. This is the time to express your views on the way you want the club to operate. This is usually a closed meeting and if you need to tell the Board of your opinions please do so. A lively Assembly is a good one.

Lets '*Make dreams Real*' for Rotary and Narooma

Cheers

Ted

### **Tonight**

**The first meeting of the new Board!**

## Duties

<b>TASK</b>	<b>3 July</b>	<b>10 July</b>	<b>17 July</b>
<b>Welcome/Wheel</b>	Laurelle Pacey	Kris Elphick	George Barker
<b>Cashier</b>	Kris Elphick	George Barker	Jeremy Ferguson
<b>Toast / thanks</b>	George Barker	Jeremy Ferguson	Marilyn Gibson
<b>4-way test</b>	Jeremy Ferguson	Marilyn Gibson	Lin Morey
<b>3-minute talk</b>	Marilyn Gibson	Lin Morey	Ian Tomlinson
<b>FINES</b>	Lin Morey	Ian Tomlinson	Bob Aston
<b>Introduction</b>	Ian Tomlinson	Bob Aston	Chris O'Brien

## Coming Events

3 July	Club Assembly & Board Meeting
10 July	TBC
17 July	BOARD MEETING
19 July	Our Youth Exchange student Katja Gfeller from Switzerland arrives in Australia.
20 July	Our Club is hosting a barbecue for the Conservation Volunteers on Ringlands Point. They will be working for the week on the Ringlands Track. Everyone is invited to help/host.

## A Word from the Editor

Hello everyone and welcome to the 51st volume of The Beacon. I have changed the format a little time around. Please let me know what you think.

Just a reminder that the copy deadline each week is Sunday at 3:00pm

Cheers  
Bob.

# Afghanistan students earn money through carpet

Rotarians in Pakistan and the United States are using the centuries-old craft of carpet weaving to help inhabitants of a town in Afghanistan make better lives for themselves.

Spin Boldak, in southern Afghanistan near the Pakistani border, has certainly felt the effects of the war. Thousands face a daily struggle to survive or find work.

Past RI Director Lynmar Brock helped connect the Rotary Club of Abaysin Central in Peshawar, Pakistan with the Rotary Club of Central Chester County, Pennsylvania, USA, to establish a project, to teach residents the art – and marketable skill – of carpet weaving, after Brock returned from a visit to Pakistan. The Pakistan club wrote up a matching grant application and sent it to Brock, who helped them find an international partner.

For centuries, experienced weavers in Afghanistan have painstakingly created a heritage of rugs, with many families passing on their designs for generations. A new 3 x 5-foot rug made by an amateur can sell for US\$50 at a local bazaar – and overseas, the decorative carpets sell for far more.

“Skills in carpet weaving in war-torn areas of Afghanistan are an immediate source of earning, either in a carpet weaving factory, or one can start his or her own facility,” explains Vasanth Prabhu of the Central Chester County club.

The two Rotary clubs raised \$15,000 with the help of the matching grant, which was used to buy 10 looms, tools, and wool for the training center.

Despite continued unrest in the region, materials still flow to Spin Boldak, allowing more and more of its residents to learn to weave. As of March, 90 men and women, mostly in their 20s and 30s, had graduated from the two-month training program.

Prabhu says the clubs are now hoping to cooperate with another nonprofit to sell the rugs internationally.

This will allow those in the program to concentrate more on the actual weaving and less on the marketing and selling of the carpets, says Prabhu.

“[It’s] a chance to be employed with a decent salary.”

**Pictures from the Changeover**

