



The Beacon

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Laurelle's Musings

Well we're in for another exciting few weeks what with operating the food van plus marching at the Oyster Festival this Saturday, Pride of Workmanship next Thursday which is a Partners Night, and the markets the following Sunday.

So hopefully as many members, partners and friends as possible can lend a hand. This will all be discussed tonight at our Club Assembly which will be followed by a Board meeting.

It was great to have Norm Lenehan from Council join us last week to tell us about what projects he has planned for Ringlands. He has access to considerable funds for Ringlands and is keen to see what we think needs doing along the track. The track was established during Kevin Young's term as President. Already Norm has had a team of Conservation Volunteers weeding areas identified by Margaret Lynch. He has another team coming for a week in July to do more work and Norm is keen to see what we think needs doing. So anyone interested should come along to walk through with Norm on Sunday June 15. Direction signs are certainly a priority.

Today Ted and Laurelle have been down to Bega with Narooma High students for the Rotary Youth Driver Awareness (RYDA) program.

More about all of these and an update on Youth Exchange tonight.

Enjoy your evening.
Laurelle



Sam and Ted check out the new menu sign!

International Toast

These are troubled times. It's a pity we seem to think this is so day after day, year after year, however with no Rotary clubs in Burma to empathise with, thoughts turn to Lebanon where Beirut is the centre of strife.

There are two Rotary clubs in District 2450 in the city - Beirut Cosmopolitan (36 members; chartered 1995) and Beirut Metropolitan (20 members, chartered in 2004). They both sponsor Rotaract clubs, and remarkably, 18 of the 20 Rotaract clubs in Lebanon sponsor Rotaract clubs.

Program

Tonight: Assembly and Board Meeting

TASK	15 May	22 May	29 May
Greet /welcome/wheel	Angie Urichsen	Phil Gaffney	Tony Fahey
Cashier	Phil Gaffney	Tony Fahey	Chris O'Brien
Toast / thanks	Tony Fahey	Chris O'Brien	John Messner
4-way test	Chris O'Brien	John Messner	Bill Hardie
3-minute talk	John Messner	No Talk	Marilyn Gibson
FINES	Bill Hardie	No Fines	Kris Elphick
Introduction	Marilyn Gibson	Bob Aston	Neville Gough

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 - **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

Narooma answers Rotary's call for Burma

Our Club has promptly answered Rotary's urgent call for more Shelterboxes to send to Myanmar (Burma). A special meeting of the Board on Thursday decided to send money for two more. The Board also decided that all proceeds from the food van and wishing well at the Oyster Festival markets should go towards that.

Rotary's ShelterBox was one of the first Aid Organisations the Military Junta allowed into the country.

Latest reports suggest the scale of the disaster and its aftermath could rival the 2004 Asian tsunami. Cyclone Nargis pounded the country's low-lying south Friday week ago, followed by a massive tidal wave. The statistics are horrendous – up to 100,000 people feared dead, one million missing and millions without homes. Many more are expected to die in the aftermath.

As you know, there is the added problem of the Military junta's reluctance to accept international assistance and its apparent failure to respond to the crisis in any effective way.

The first consignment of 220 Shelterboxes (from the depot in Dubai) arrived in Burma last Thursday along with four Response Team members from the UK, all of whom had visas and were allowed into the country. As of Saturday night, a further 1,000 boxes from the UK and Melbourne were on their way and a response team is also preparing to go from Australia.

ShelterBox Australia Administrator Ray Stewart says the ShelterBox team in the UK and Australia are now looking at the logistics of providing a much greater response than first contemplated.

He is heartened by the response.

"The response from Rotarians and others around Australia is remarkable ... but not surprising," he said.

"There is a great appreciation of the ShelterBox response, including the effective mobilisation of its resources and overcoming operational problems.

Our last Shelterbox (from money raised in the Duck Race in January) was one of 200 sent from Australia that were delivered by Shelterbox Response team members Carol and Shaun Halbert to a remote area of Ecuador called Lojo and the even more remote sacred village of El Cisne. Lojo was completely wiped out in devastating landslides in early April and the two communities cut off by the slide. Despite their circumstances, the local community demonstrated their appreciation by presenting the Halberts with one mountain flower for each tent erected.

It is extraordinary isn't it that through the worldwide Rotary network our fundraising in Narooma can help give people so far away, whose lives have been devastated by a disaster, some hope for the future. It makes me very proud to be a Rotarian.

President Laurelle

Pride of Workmanship

Thank you to all members of the Club who chased up nominations for our Annual Pride of Workmanship Awards. We have received 12 nominations from 9 Businesses in town! It looks like next week's meeting will give us the opportunity to recognise the talents and dedication of those who prove outstanding service day in and day out.

Scottish golfers aim to set world record, raise funds for PolioPlus

By Jennifer Atkin

Rotary International News - 29 April 2008

Rotarians in District 1230 (Scotland) are out to break a world record with a golf fundraiser that could bring in more than US\$50,000 to support the global effort to eradicate polio.

At the 22 June event in Ayrshire, organizers hope to beat the record for the most golfers to complete a round of the game on a single course in 24 hours. The current record, set in China in 2007, is 623 players; the previous record of 491 was set at St Andrews Bay, Scotland, in 2003.

"It's time to bring the record back to Scotland," says District Governor Drew Hughes. "We gave the world the game of golf, so where better to hold the world record?"

All 56 clubs in District 1230 are urged to send teams, and members of the public are invited to play. Proceeds will benefit PolioPlus, so participants are encouraged to raise at least £50 (\$100) and solicit sponsorships. If organizers reach their goal of 624 golfers, they will generate more than \$50,000 for the polio eradication effort.

The fundraiser will take place at the championship-caliber, traditional-style Dundonald Links, cited as one of the best new courses in the world by the *Robb Report* in 2004.

The first tee time is set for 03:30, and the first holes will be illuminated by floodlights to enable early-bird golfers to see their way through. Organizers expect that 160 tee times will occur at six-minute intervals throughout the near-midsummer day, which will offer over 18 hours of sunlight.

Speed of play will be the key to success, Hughes says. Players are encouraged to treat the game as a "five-club challenge," in which golfers limit themselves to four clubs and a putter, and to focus on working together to break the record and have fun rather than on achieving a top individual score.

"This is an excellent way of raising funds to eradicate polio," says Rotary Foundation Trustee Chair Robert S. Scott, noting that he learned to play golf in Scotland.

“The world record would be a bonus, but the main reason for the event is to raise funds for PolioPlus,” Hughes emphasizes.

Funny Side

Mr. Merv Grazinski of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, purchased a brand new 32-foot Winnebago motor home. On his first trip home, having driven onto the freeway, he set the cruise control at 70 mph and calmly left the drivers seat to go into the back and make himself a cup of coffee. Not surprisingly, the R.V. left the freeway, crashed and overturned.

Mr. Grazinski sued Winnebago for not advising him in the owner's manual that he couldn't actually do this. The jury awarded him \$1,750,000 plus a new motor home. The company actually changed their manuals on the basis of this suit, just in case there were any other complete morons buying their recreation vehicles.

A Philadelphia restaurant was ordered to pay Amber Carson of Lancaster, Pennsylvania, \$113,500 after she slipped on a soft drink and broke her coccyx (tailbone). The beverage was on the floor because Ms. Carson had thrown it at her boyfriend 30 seconds earlier during an argument.

A woman came home to find her husband in the kitchen shaking frantically, almost in a dancing frenzy, with some kind of wire running from his waist towards the electric kettle. Intending to jolt him away from the deadly current, she whacked him with a handy plank of wood, breaking his arm in two places. Up to that moment, he had been happily listening to his iPod.

MAY IS ROTARY PLANNING MONTH