

# The Beacon



**RI President**  
**Kalyan**  
**Banerjee**

**9710 DG**  
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**President**  
**John Messner**  
**Mob 0402219423**

**Secretary**  
**Jack Wightman**

**Treasurer**  
**Kris Elphick**

**Apologies**  
**and**  
**additional**  
**guests to**  
**Rolf Gimmel**  
**the Tuesday**  
**before the**  
**meeting on**  
**44762274 or**  
**email**  
**rolfs@dodo.**  
**com.au**  
**OR you will**  
**be charged**  
**for your meal.**

*Rotary Club of Narooma Inc. Bulletin*



## *The President Writes:*

### **26 February - Market**

The Roster was circulated at the last meeting. An updated Roster will be circulated by email during the week commencing 20 February. There are still many vacant slots.

We hope that the Food Van is fully functional. Many thanks to Laurelle and Steve for their efforts in cleaning and repairing the van during the past week.

Also, there will be polio eradication fund raiser at the market. This will be subject to receiving the 100 Safe Moneyboxes and tweaking the lucky dip add-on which would be an incentive for the public to buy them.

### **1 March – Meeting at Bermagui**

Each year we have a combined meeting with RC Bega. This year it will be held at the Bermagui Country Club. RC Bega has the responsibility for organising the event. Transport arrangements will be as per previous years.

In my discussion with President Jan last year I suggested that we add a Trivia (quiz) section to the meeting that would be limited to about 30 minutes. There is now agreement that this will be part of the meeting with Narooma to organise this section of the evening.

I understand that the membership of RC Bega has enthusiastically responded to the call to take on the infidels from the north at their favourite sport ....This will be a warm up for the Cinders Trophy.

### **Van Supplies**

Given that Kris Elphick has taken extended leave from the Club, Angie Ulrichsen has agreed to take on the duties associated with the management of food van supplies. This involves purchasing new stock and managing the leftovers with a short shelf life.

**(Continued on Page 4)**

**TONIGHT (WEDNESDAY)**  
**Combined meeting with Moruya & Batemans Bay at Moruya**  
**Rotary's 107<sup>th</sup> Birthday**

## COMING EVENTS

22 February	Combined meeting with Moruya & Batemans Bay at Moruya – Rotary's 107 <sup>th</sup> Birthday
23 February	No Meeting
26 February	Markets
1 March	Combined meeting with Bega at Bermagui – Trivia Night
8 March	Club BBQ at Narooma Rotary Park
15 March	TBC
22 March	Board meeting
25 March	Markets
29 March	TBC

TASK	16 February	23 February	1 March
Cashier	Jeremy Ferguson	No Meeting	Angie Ulrichsen
3-minute talk	Tim	Meet with RC of	Bob Antill
Wheel	Laurelle Pacey	Moruya 22/2/12	Charmaine White

### *The week that was! (Thanks to reporter, Ian)*

Once again we were delighted to welcome visiting Rotarian Richard Fish, and his wife Martha from RC Trail, British Columbia, Canada. We also welcomed PDG Noel Trevaskis our guest speaker, from RC Bega as our guest speaker and our resident youth exchange student Tim, now back with the Fergusons.

Laurelle gave the meeting an update on the state of the food van which is now in a clean non-smelly condition plus a replacement tyre, all thanks to Laurelle and Steve who gave up so much weekend time to get the job done. Thanks to them for a great effort.

Tim gave us a review of his Australian experiences so far and apart from all the good times and wonderful places he has seen, it is clear that his diet has been



well balanced as we have never seen a young man grow so fast. Already he is towering over everybody in the club and is still going up towards 190 cm, And this has happened without the benefit of the Australian summer sun, much to Tim's disappointment.

Guest speaker Noel gave us a thought provoking talk on membership and the need for clubs to present themselves to the public and to potential members as well run, enthusiastic and welcoming organisations. This applies equally to maintaining existing club membership as well as attracting new members.

Noel emphasised that women represented the greatest membership growth opportunity particularly in the 35 to 55 year old group.

A club membership and retention plan is considered vital to increasing the club strength and should be a commitment from the President.

To be an effective plan, a minimum membership target is essential.

As far as membership retention is concerned, Noel stressed his belief that attendance should not be considered the key to good membership but the member's engagement with the club and its activities.

An interesting and well balanced weekly program including a social activity every 4 or 5 weeks to involve members and partners is key to the camaraderie and vitality of the club and to retaining and attracting members.

And the Wheel winners were:-

Wine.....	Lin Morey
Port....	George B.
Rolf's bread....	Guest Martha Fish

## ***Clean up Australia Day - Sunday 4 March***

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Our Club will be helping Narooma Lions on Clean Up Australia Day.

Any volunteers will be greatly appreciated. Four, maybe five people volunteered last week which is great. More would be even better.

We need to report to George Hogge at Ken Rose Park (where the Australia Day ceremony is held, near the bridge) that Sunday morning at 9 and George will allocate our areas.

Make sure you have on your Rotary tee-shirt, wear a hat and have some good gardening gloves. Bags will be provided.

Past experience suggests teams of two or three work well, but it's up to you.

Please confirm with Laurelle closer to the time.

## ***The President Writes (Cont)***

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### **Rotary Foundation**

The Rotary Foundation is our charity. Earlier this month DG Rob Woolley presented the Rotary Club of Moruya with two Rotary Foundation banners:

- Highest Per Capita Annual Giving Banner - \$283.83, and
- Every Rotarian Every Year Club Banner where every member gives at least \$100 per year to the Foundation

The Rotary Club of Canberra was 2<sup>nd</sup> with \$258.44 per member and the Rotary Club of Belconnen was 3<sup>rd</sup> with \$236.03 per member.

### **How to raise \$1,000 in an hour**

Rotarians of the Rotary Club of Bega raised \$1,000 in an hour when they deconstructed the Christmas tree at Woolworths at Tura Beach. From the photo in the District Chronicle, 20 people were involved in the exercise so the hourly rate is \$50 per person. That was a good outcome.

### ***President John***

## ***Rotary news from around the globe***

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## **Peace in our time**

by Kate Nolan

*The Rotarian -- February 2012*

One year after the terrorist attacks of 9/11, the first class of Rotary Peace Fellows began their studies. Since then, more than 590 fellows have gone on to build peace in their communities and nations, as well as across international lines. They include graduates of a two-year master's degree program and a three-month professional certificate program at Rotary's partner universities.

Today, these alumni are settling border conflicts in West Africa, analyzing development aid at the World Bank, briefing U.S. generals on peace-building in Afghanistan, crafting legislation to protect exploited children in Brazil, and mediating neighborhood disputes in New York City, among many other career paths devoted to peace.

On the 10th anniversary of The Rotary Foundation's Rotary Centers for International Studies in peace and conflict resolution, we bring you the stories of 10 fellows who are creating change locally and globally.

Author and film producer Alex Kotlowitz also describes the importance of the grassroots approach to peace and how it is working on the inner-city streets of Chicago, where former gang members are mediating conflicts and preventing bloodshed. And Anne-Marie Slaughter, an *Atlantic* contributor and Princeton University professor, writes about how technology has transformed international relations, granting individuals and small groups unprecedented power to connect to one another and influence global events. Here is a collection of dispatches from the front lines

## The elections monitor

**Certificate class:** 2006  
**Rotary Peace Center:** Chulalongkorn University  
**Sponsor:** Rotary Club of Freetown, Sierra Leone  
**Master's class:** 2012-14  
**Rotary Peace Center:** University of Bradford, England  
**Sponsor:** Rotary Club of Folsom, Calif., USA  
**Citizenship:** Liberia

**Richelieu Allison** grew up in Monrovia, Liberia, during a brutal civil war. Many of his friends became child soldiers, some on their own, but others after being grabbed off the street. "My mother said, 'I am not going to allow any of my children to walk out of the house to join the rebel movement,'" he recalls. "I have been opposed to violence all my life because of my mom."

To avoid the kidnapers, he stayed indoors, passing the time by learning to cook. He ventured out to accompany his mother on peace marches, which bore risks of their own. "We were in a march on our way to the president's mansion," he explains. "Suddenly bombs were firing all over the city. We had to run. I looked down and saw blood on my shirt and realized it was someone else's."

When the rebels invaded the area, his family fled to a refugee center. There, he formed his first advocacy group. Today, Allison, 40, is cofounder and regional director of the West African Youth Network in Freetown, Sierra Leone, which mobilizes and trains young people to help restore peace and human rights in West Africa. In late November 2010, he led a peace caravan – two buses with about 40 Rotarians and members of his youth network – to border towns in four West African countries, where they held workshops to teach conflict resolution.

Allison returned to Liberia to help monitor the successful 2011 presidential elections. "I grew up in a country that was peaceful, but all of a sudden one of the most gruesome conflicts ever seen in Africa erupted," he says. "Look how far we've come."

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## The Killing Fields survivor

**Class:** 2002-04  
**Rotary Peace Center:** University of Queensland  
**Sponsor:** Rotary Club of Bathurst, Australia  
**Endowment:** Hartley B. and Ruth B. Barker Endowed Rotary Peace Fellowship  
**Citizenship:** Cambodia

When his Rotary Peace Fellowship in Brisbane, Australia, ended, **Path Heang** headed home to Cambodia, an impoverished nation where the Khmer Rouge killed more than two million citizens between 1975 and 1979. Heang, now chief of a UNICEF field office, works to improve the lives of women and children in his country's poorest households. He manages six programs that help millions in need.

"In Cambodia, privileges traditionally are for men and older people. Women and children are not a priority. They need access to education, health care, and training for employment," Heang explains. "In the future, I will work in other countries. Because Cambodia needs people like me, I felt obliged to

come back.”

Heang, 43, meshes his peace studies with his prior experience in a weapons eradication program and his native understanding of Cambodia. “I am in a senior position because of the analytical skills and tools I learned as a peace fellow,” he says. “Now I can influence national policy for the poor in Cambodia. [This work] is not about perception. It is about evidence.”

Reflecting on his peace fellowship, Heang says, “It changed me.” His studies explored the Khmer Rouge tribunal in Cambodia and security issues in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations. At the same time, he says, he had to learn the basics of life in a wealthier nation, such as how to use an ATM.

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### The general’s adviser

**Class:** 2007-09  
**Rotary Peace Center:** University of Queensland  
**Sponsor:** Rotary Club of Rosslyn-Fort Myer, Va., USA  
**Endowment:** Hartley B. and Ruth B. Barker Endowed Rotary Peace Fellowship  
**Citizenship:** United States

Unlike many Rotary Peace Fellows, **Kevin Melton** grew up far from a conflict zone. “But he’s put himself there,” says Georgetown University professor Craig Zelizer, who first met Melton when he was in high school, and Zelizer was assisting with a peer mediation program. The two have kept in touch while peace projects have taken Melton to hotspots such as Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and South Sudan.

Melton, 29, is now back in Afghanistan, his second stint since 2007. During his first, as a manager for Chemonics (a development firm contracted by USAID), he helped farmers find viable alternatives to growing poppies for opium.

In September 2009, he returned to work for USAID in Arghandab, where he helped warring tribes and ethnic groups work together to rebuild the nation. A year later, he became a policy analyst for NATO security forces in Afghanistan. Melton advised General David Petraeus, commander of NATO’s international forces in the country, and now works with his replacement, General John R. Allen, on peace-building and counter-insurgency efforts in the face of imminent troop withdrawals and uncertain sources of future humanitarian aid. Melton says his job in Afghanistan relates closely to his peace studies, which focused on grassroots strategies. His fieldwork, an assignment on Afghanistan at NATO headquarters in Brussels, Belgium, also proved a valuable antecedent, he says.

“In this field,” Melton says, “people have almost instant respect for you as a Rotary Peace Fellow, and they trust you are working on something for the long term.”

## *News from the Board – 2 Feb 2012*

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### **Decisions Taken**

- Notification received from Kris Elphick of her intention to take leave from the Club (Dec 11 –June 12). The Board accepted the period of absence.
- Ian Thomlinson has been appointed to the Board given the absence of Kris Elphick and other up and coming occasional absences.
- The day-to-day duties of the Treasurer will be undertaken by the Secretary (Jack Wightman) with help as necessary.
- Approval for the purchase of 100 Safe Moneyboxes as part of a polio eradication fund raiser.
- Production and distribution of pamphlet that would inform High School students about programs offered by the Club

### **Other Matters**

- A committee has been formed for the purposes of fund raising for the redevelopment of the Moruya Hospital Oncology Unit. The group is called “Moruya Cancer Carers”. Clr Rob Pollock is Chairman and Ron Snape is Deputy Chairman.
- It has become necessary to replace the Club barbeque(s). Options are being investigated and the matter should be resolved in the coming weeks.

## *Some Humour!*

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The questions below about Australia are from potential visitors (*so the website says – Ed*). They were posted on an Australian Tourism Website and the answers are the actual responses by the website officials, who obviously have a sense of humour (*so the website says- Ed*).

Q: Does it ever get windy in Australia? I have never seen it rain on TV, how do the plants grow? (UK)  
A: We import all plants fully grown and then just sit around watching them die.

Q: Will I be able to see kangaroos in the street? (USA)  
A: Depends how much you've been drinking.

Q: I want to walk from Perth to Sydney - can I follow the railroad tracks? (Sweden)  
A: Sure, it's only three thousand miles, take lots of water.

Q: Is it safe to run around in the bushes in Australia? (Sweden)  
A: So it's true what they say about Swedes.

Q: Are there any ATMs (cash machines) in Australia? Can you send me a list of them in Brisbane, Cairns, Townsville and Hervey Bay? (UK)  
A: What did your last slave die of?

Q: Can you give me some information about hippo racing in Australia? (USA)  
A: A-fri-ca is the big triangle shaped continent south of Europe. Aus-tra-lia is that big island in the middle of the Pacific which does not... oh forget it. Sure, the hippo racing is every Tuesday night in

Kings Cross. Come naked.

Q: Which direction is North in Australia? (USA)

A: Face South and then turn 180 degrees. Contact us when you get here and we'll send the rest of the directions.

Q: Can I bring cutlery into Australia? (UK)

A: Why? Just use your fingers like we do.

Q: Can you send me the Vienna Boys' Choir schedule? (USA)

A: Aus-tri-a is that quaint little country bordering Ger-man-y, which is...oh forget it. Sure, the Vienna Boys Choir plays every Tuesday night in Kings Cross, straight after the hippo races. Come naked.

Q: Can I wear high heels in Australia? ( UK)

A: You are a British politician, right?

Q: Are there supermarkets in Sydney and is milk available all year round? (Germany)

A: No, we are a peaceful civilization of vegan hunter/gatherers. Milk is illegal.

Q: Please send a list of all doctors in Australia who can dispense rattlesnake serum. (USA)

A: Rattlesnakes live in A-meri-ca which is where YOU come from. All Australian snakes are perfectly harmless, can be safely handled and make good pets.

Q: I have a question about a famous animal in Australia, but I forget its name. It's a kind of bear and lives in trees. (USA)

A: It's called a Drop Bear. They are so called because they drop out of Gum trees and eat the brains of anyone walking underneath them. You can scare them off by spraying yourself with human urine before you go out walking.

Q: Do you have perfume in Australia? (France)

A: No, we don't stink.

Q: I have developed a new product that is the fountain of youth. Can you tell me where I can sell it in Australia? (USA)

A: Anywhere significant numbers of Americans gather.

Q: Can you tell me the regions in Tasmania where the female population is smaller than the male population? (Italy)

A: Yes, gay nightclubs.

Q: Do you celebrate Christmas in Australia? (France)

A: Only at Christmas.

Q: I was in Australia in 1969 on R+R, and I want to contact the girl I dated while I was staying in Kings Cross. Can you help? (USA)

A: Yes, and you will still have to pay her by the hour.

Q: Will I be able to speak English most places I go?(USA)

A: Yes, but you'll have to learn it first.

From [Dave Jeanes Driving Around Australia](http://www.naroomarotary.com) Website