

ROTARY CLUB OF NAROOMA INC

BEACON



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THE PRESIDENT WRITES

April/May Manpower issues

In the coming weeks it appears that a significant number of our members will be absent from meetings and fund raising events due to other commitments, etc.

Some immediate challenges are the April Market, Cinders Trophy and the Oyster Festival. An attendance register for 22 April, 26 April and 5 May will be circulated to all members in the coming days to determine what external support is required to make these events a success.

ShelterBox Responds to Int'l Disasters



A ShelterBox Response Team (SRT) is flying to Fiji to assess the need for emergency shelter, following heavy rains over the past few months that have caused riverbanks to burst flooding villages. Thousands of homes have been damaged on the largest island of Viti Levu forcing around 8,000 people into evacuation centres. Water and electricity have been cut off in some areas. The floods are

'three to four times worse' than the last devastating floods in 2009, according to the South Pacific nation's Prime Minister Frank Bainimarama, who has called for a solution to the country's flooding problems.

'We are consulting with several key players, including Rotary in Suva, DISMAC (Fijian disaster management agency), Red Cross and the New Zealand Government to coordinate an appropriate response,' said ShelterBox International Director, Lasse Petersen.

Other active and previous deployments in 2012 are:

- Republic of Congo – Industrial accident
- Peru – Landslide
- Philippines – Earthquake
- Madagascar – Cyclone
- Brazil – Floods

Obviously ShelterBox Australia does not have a direct involvement in all these disasters.

Our Club is committed to funding the purchase of at least one ShelterBox in 2011-12.

President John

Tonight

Tonight we welcome Dr Jenny Wray and her husband Jock. Jenny will fill us in on what is happening in the medical scene on the far south coast.

Coming Events

- 19 April Board Meeting
- 22 April Narooma Rotary Market
- 26 April Cinders vs. Moruya RC. **PARTNER'S NIGHT**
- 3 May TBC
- 5 May Narooma Oyster Festival – All hands on deck

The week that was

Owing to the fact that it was the evening before Good Friday many members were off doing other things or preparing to visit family. It was great to see Lin Morey back with us after a period of time away owing to not so good health.

Program director Ian was in charge of the entertainment. For our sins were subject to a quiz based on the latest edition of *Rotary Down Under*. It would seem with the exception of Jack and Rolf most of us had not caught with the latest information in the Mag. Congratulations to Jack on getting the major prize with Rolf coming a close second.

Bob Aston gave a three minute talk on his favourite toy – The Apple – ipad, it does some amazing things



with over 700000 apps (or applications) to choose from. There is even a Rotary Club Locator App!

Angie gave us an update from RYDA, held in Moruya last week and involving year 11 students from Batemans Bay, Moruya and Narooma. As has been the case in previous years the program has a huge impact on our young learner drivers.

We also farewelled Richard Fish, who returns to Canada after three months down under. Richard enjoyed his time exploring the great south land and appreciated the fellowship of our small club.

The wine was won by Jack and the port by Angie!

RI President
Kalyan Banerjee

9710 DG
Rob Woolley

President
John Messner
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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

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Duties
This week
Cashier
Terry Irvine

3 Minute Talk
Rolf Gimmel

Wheel
Bob Aston

Next week
Cashier
Chris O'Brien

3 Minute Talk
Terry Irvine

Wheel
Rolf Gimmel



Receiving the gift of sight in Nicaragua

Posted on **March 29, 2012**

See

<http://blog.rotary.org/2012/03/29/nicaragua-eyeclinic/>

By Amber Recker, president-elect of the Rotary Club of Anthony Wayne (Fort Wayne), Indiana, USA.

Walking through the hall of a small clinic in Managua, Nicaragua, I met Stanley.

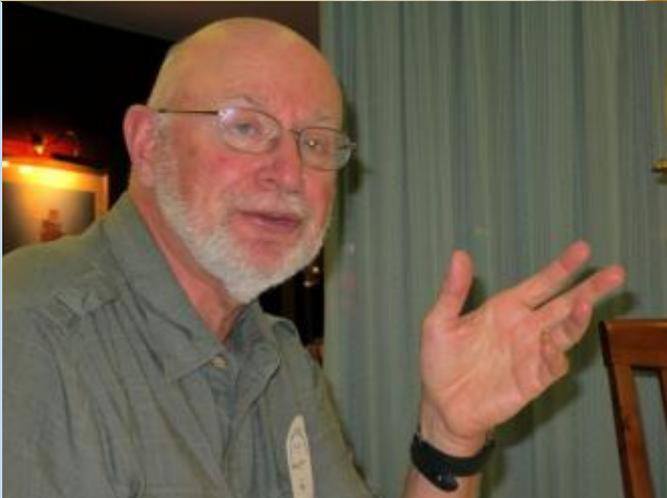
Stanley had cataracts and had lost all hope of keeping his eyesight. He was slowly slipping into a life of dependency on others. But physicians at the clinic were able to perform a simple procedure on Stanley, and today, he can see.

I visited the clinic in July 2011. People from all over Nicaragua travel to receive free eye-care for medical issues like cataracts, minor eye injuries, and complications from diabetes which are easily treatable in the United States. But because of their poverty and lack of access to medical care, people in Nicaragua lose their eyesight to these treatable issues.

Before Rotary began helping the clinic, it

**Above
George
with
Lin,**

**Right
Richard
Fish**



didn't have the supplies needed to perform necessary surgeries. The physicians made do with what they had and were able to help only a handful of patients a day.

Several years ago, Dr. Jonathan Walker from Fort Wayne, Indiana, was introduced to the clinic. He saw the potential for sustainability and a real willingness on the part of the physicians to help people and teach new physicians. He reached out to Rotarians in District 6540 and over the past few years, he and the organization have raised enough money to provide the clinic with diagnostic equipment, surgical tools, sterilization machines, teaching tools and more. Today, the clinic sees over 600 patients a day.

I heard many stories like Stanley's about how things used to be and how they had to cope with what they had. One doctor told us this story: a man came in with something in his eye. The doctor's only choice was to slash it open and ask the patient to lean forward so she could smack him on the back of the head in order to dislodge it. That was the extent of their technology.

Now they can screen, diagnose, treat and perform surgeries at the facility. With the new equipment, they are able to train new doctors and send them into remote villages, reaching people who would have never received the care they need.

My Rotary moment occurred that afternoon in the clinic administrator's office. I am so proud to be a Rotarian. I am forever changed because of the people of Nicaragua who give so much to each other every day.

Some Humour!

Donald MacDonald from the Isle of Skye was admitted to Oxford University, and was now living in his first year of residence there. His clan was very excited that one of their own had made it into the upper class of education, but were concerned how he'd do in "that strange land." After the first month, his mother came to visit, with reinforcements of whiskey and oatmeal.

"And how do you find the English students, Donald?" she asked.

"Oh, Mother," he replied, shaking his head sadly, "they're such terrible, noisy people: The one on that side keeps banging his head against the wall, and won't stop; and the one on the other side screams and screams and screams away into the night."

"But Donald! How do you manage with those dreadful noisy English neighbours?"

"Well, mother, I just ignore 'em. I just stay here quietly, playing my bagpipes..."

A little kid's in school, taking a true-false test and he's flipping a coin. At the end of the test he's flipping the coin again.

The teacher says, "What are you doing?"

He says, "Checking my answers."

Little Joe walked into his dad's study while his dad was working on the computer.

"Dad," said Joe, "Remember when you told me you'd give me twenty dollars if I passed my math test?"

Dad nodded.

"Well, the good news is that I just saved you twenty bucks."