

# ROTARY CLUB OF NAROOMA INC

## BEACON



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THE PRESIDENT WRITES

### *Oyster Festival Results*

Jack has informed me that the takings for Saturday are **\$2,280**. Last year the combined takings for Saturday and Sunday were \$3,471. In 2010 the takings on the Saturday were \$1,990.

We had the usual array of problems before and during the event i.e. site change, power outages, underestimating the demand for certain food items, BBQ issues (warranty claim) etc. Many thanks to all those who helped make the day a success.

### *Use PINTEREST to promote Club activities*

*From Rotary on the Move, May 2012*

The popular social networking site **Pinterest** provides a new way for people to share their interests online. In February, Pinterest sent more referral traffic to websites than Twitter. To see how Rotary International is using this new tool, click on <http://pinterest.com/rotary/pins/>



### *What is Pinterest?*

Pinterest is a social media network based on images. If you find a recipe, a blog post, a clothing item, or a piece of furniture that is of interest, you can “pin” it to a board and share it with your followers. Similarly, if you see something someone else has “pinned” you can “repin” it your board. Picture an enormous blank wall with individual bulletin boards organised by interest.

Pinterest is a particularly powerful opportunity for non profits. Non profits are naturally image-based. Therefore, include a compelling picture in every story you create about your non profit and “pin” it on Pinterest. For the Rotary Club of Narooma it is another way for the Club to promote service projects and fund raising activities.

**President John**

## *Tonight*

Tonight Tim will tell us about his year of Rotary Exchange to date. No doubt a highlight will be his recent outback trek. Partners are very welcome.

## *Coming Events*

- 10 May Presentation by YEX Tim, partners most welcome
- 17 May Joint Board meeting outgoing / incoming boards
- 24 May Graham Peachey, Australian Maritime Safety Authority. Open meeting, prospective new member night
- 27 May Narooma Rotary Market
- 31 May TBC

## *The week that was*

We had a great meal at Taylor's last Thursday even if one meal was missed. It was great to see a number of guests and partners join us for the night. In many ways it



was the calm before the 'storm' on Saturday.

## *The Oyster Festival*

Saturday turned out to be a beautiful sunny day for the Oyster Festival. The crowd was large and there was plenty to do and see. The organisers should be pleased with their efforts. I am sure the

event will become a permanent fixture on the Narooma calendar.

Despite a few problems with power we did a roaring trade, especially between 11:00am and 2:00pm. Once again donuts, drinks and sausages were popular and much to our surprise so were the steaks (Last year we had trouble giving them away) and rissoles. Even though the new BBQ had a minor mishap it was much better than the old one and made the job of keeping up with the demand much easier.

It would not have been possible to get staff the van without many friends of Rotary and partners. Thanks to all who helped out.

## *Former Sudanese soldier pumps up the volume as Peace Symposium opens*

By Ryan Hyland

Rotary International News -- 3 May 2012

Emmanuel Jal began his keynote speech at the 2012 Rotary World Peace Symposium in Bangkok, Thailand, not by talking about peace but rather by singing about it.

The former Sudanese child soldier, now an international peace advocate and hip-

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

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Duties  
**This week**  
Cashier  
Chris O'Brien

3 Minute Talk  
Terry Irvine

Wheel  
Jack Wightman

**Next week**  
Cashier  
Rolf Gimmel

3 Minute Talk  
Chris O'Brien

Wheel  
Bob Aston

hop star, energized the morning session crowd with his song “We Want Peace.”

At the opening plenary session of the symposium, Thursday, 3 May, Jal talked about what peace means to him, the atrocities he witnessed as a child soldier, and the horrors he experienced while escaping Sudan’s bloody civil war.

“Peace means different things to people all around the world,” said Jal, a spokesman for Amnesty International, who has also worked on behalf of Save the Children, UNICEF, the World Food Programme, and Christian Aid. “Peace is when you leave home and come back safely. Peace is when you have a full stomach. For me, peace is justice, equality, and freedom for all.”

### **Escape**

Jal lost his mother and most of his family to the civil war and became a soldier for the Sudan People’s Liberation Army at the age of nine. Three years later, he was one of 400 boys who escaped the war by walking across the desert in search of refuge. In a poem, Jal described the journey and the effects it had on him.

“I was at my lowest point as a human being during my escape,” said Jal. “I was angry. I wanted to hurt those who killed my family and friends. But I learned to forgive. It’s a constant struggle for me. But forgiveness is a path to peace.”

A British aid worker found Jal and smuggled him into Kenya. Gradually, he discovered that music was a way to share his story. He founded GUA Africa, an organization that works with individuals, families, and communities to help them overcome the effects of war and poverty.

### **Chulalongkorn**

During a breakout session later in the day, Rotary Peace Fellows discussed the successes of the Rotary Peace Center at Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok. Former classmates Erinma Bell and Charles Allen discussed the skepticism they felt at first about having much in common. Bell is a grassroots peace activist in Manchester, United Kingdom, and Allen is a police officer in Victoria, Australia.

“We’ve had rough dealings with police officers where I work,” said Bell. “But I was interested in how [Allen’s] police dealt with crime in his area.”

After discussing ways to stem violence late into the night over tea, they both concluded they did have a lot in common.

“Eventually we realized that we did the same thing: we resolved conflict resolution through coproduction of communities, government, and nongovernment agencies,” said Allen. “Our professional relationship didn’t end when we left Chulalongkorn.”

Staying in contact, they developed a leadership program for Sudanese youth who live in Greater Dandenong, one of the neighborhoods Allen’s police department patrols.

“Many of these teenagers were disengaged and lacked hope,” said Allen. “Our goal was to activate them in the community so they could see the difference they could make.”

The former classmates are also working on an initiative to help get guns off the street in Manchester, where Bell works.

“One of the more important things I took away from Rotary’s program was understanding the difference between peacekeeping, peace building, and peacemaking,” said Bell. “There is a difference, and it can be implemented in war and disaster zones, as well as localized urban conflict. I learned it’s not just talking about resolving conflict; it’s getting together and actually doing things that produce results. Rotary does a great job at highlighting that.”

The symposium, together with the Rotary Alumni Celebration, is being held 3-5 May, immediately preceding the RI Convention.

## *Some words of wisdom - Thanks to Jack*

A paraprodokian is a phrase or sentence that leads us down the garden path to an unexpected ending. Here are some:

1. Don't argue with an idiot. He will drag you down to his level and beat you with experience.
2. The last thing I want to do is hurt you. But it's still on my list
3. Light travels faster than sound. That's why some people appear bright until you hear them speak
4. If I agreed with you we'd both be wrong
5. We never really grow up; we only learn how to act in public
6. War does not determine who is right only who is left
7. Knowledge is knowing that a tomato is a fruit. Wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad
8. Even news is where they begin with 'good evening' and then proceed to tell you why it isn't.
9. I thought I wanted a career - it turns out I just wanted pay cheques
10. Change is inevitable, except from a vending machine

## *The Funny side*

### **Driving?**

Two old friends, each well into their eighties, were heading out for dinner on a Tuesday evening. After Blanche drove straight through a stop sign, Elizabeth became concerned, but didn't want to embarrass Blanche so she held her tongue. After Blanche drove through a red light without stopping, Elizabeth became very concerned.

"Blanche, you just drove through a stop sign and red light without stopping. You're getting very careless and dangerous in your old age," Elizabeth chided.

A very startled Blanche replied, "Oh, am I driving?"

### **Big Trouble**

There were two young brothers, 8 and 10 years old, who were exceedingly mischievous. Whatever went wrong in the neighbourhood, it turned out they had a hand in it. Their parents were at their wits' end trying to control them.

Hearing about a pastor nearby who worked with delinquent boys, the mother suggested to her husband that she would ask the pastor to talk with the boys and he agreed.

The mother went to the pastor and made her request. He agreed, but said he wanted to see the younger boy first and alone. So the mother sent the younger boy to the pastor.

The pastor sat the boy down across his HUGE, impressive desk. For about five minutes they just sat and stared at each other. Finally, the pastor pointed his forefinger at the boy and asked, "Young man, where is God?"

The boy looked under the desk, in the corners of the room, all around, then said nothing. Again, louder, the

pastor pointed at the boy and asked, "Where is God?"

Again, the boy looked all around but said nothing. A third time, in a louder, firmer voice, the pastor leaned far across the desk and put his forefinger almost to the boy's nose, and asked, "Young man, I ask you, where is God?"

The boy panicked and ran all the way home. Finding his older brother, he dragged him upstairs to their room and into the closet, where they usually plotted their mischief. He finally said, "We're in Bi-i-i-i-i-i-g trouble."

The older boy asked, "What do you mean, 'BIG trouble?'";

His brother replied, "I'm telling' ya', we're in BIG trouble. God is missing and they think we did it!"

### *The World's Biggest Smiley!*



Members of the Rotary International Convention 2012 gather to form the world's biggest smiley during in Bangkok May 7, 2012. The number of participants is a reflection of the convention year, and the year Rotary reached its US\$200 million (6.1 billion baht) fundraising challenge for polio eradication. Rotary International Convention's concept of "The Land of Thousand Smiles" in order to convey in friendliness of the Thais and being the land of smile as well as to express Thailand's hospitality in welcoming participants from the four corners of the world. REUTERS/Chaiwat Subprasom (THAILAND - Tags: SOCIETY POLITICS TPX IMAGES OF THE DAY)