



Rotary Club of Narooma



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NAROOMA ROTARY BEACON 18 JUNE 2015

Posted by Frank Eden on Jun 14, 2015

OUR CLUB'S VISION : We are a *vibrant, friendly club creating a better world by engaging the community in projects raising the quality of life locally and internationally.*

Angie's Angle.....

Welcome to our visitors: Steve Ross

Great to see Rotarians back: Frank Eden & Iris Domeier

Thursday 11 June 2015: Steve Ross' talk: Lawyering and Country Advocacy



Steve, lawyer and community advocate with a big heart, from Cobargo, had us spellbound with his eloquent talk last night and it was generally agreed to print most of his talk – which I will precis as it covers five pages. He is also Dad to Connor Ross, one of our Tertiary Scholarship holders and shared news from him.

He chose to speak about the delivery of legal services, taking a different approach and perhaps a bit controversial. Steve was strongly influenced by his paternal grandfather whose life is well documented as a political activist in Sydney, a trade unionist, leader in the Worker's Education Association movement, an academic and bureaucrat heading a Department in the Curtin and Chifley governments. He was a much sought after guest speaker at Rotary Clubs.

"I know he had two guiding principles. The first was he believed in a more just and fairer world and the idea of service. His life was a life of service and I know that many of you here also see the importance of service in your lives.

We live in a complex democracy and this weekend marks the 800 anniversary of the Magna Carta....A crucial aspect of it is that justice will be done by following rules that have been stated in advance and are

... The aspect of the rule of law that I wish to emphasise is participation in decision-making. This of course is also at the core of democracy. ... In my view, this means all people have the means to be involved and participate in decision-making of the organisations and structures that affect their daily lives. In order to do this they need to have their material needs met, housing shelter, food, education and be able to live a life free of fear discrimination and violence and justice. They also need in my view, to be able to have the opportunity to appreciate and to produce beautiful things.”

Early on Steve worked in community services assisting unemployed youth engage in activities giving them a sense of self worth and purpose. It became apparent to him that services to the distressed had to be delivered by properly trained and remunerated staff in sufficient numbers. This led him to be active in the social welfare workers union. Realising his own skills and knowledge were inadequate to assist people, he completed a degree in communications. He met Suzy his wife and both worked in the area of medium term housing, particularly women seeking refuge from violence. Both were involved in the establishment of a tenants' advice and housing referral service in NSW. “Many of us who worked in the area had the view that in order to provide an appropriate level of service we firstly had to be active politically, to seek to change certain laws and policy that had a direct impact on those people. ... We had to empower the people we were working with to feel comfortable participating in the decisions affecting their daily lives and significantly that we had to ensure that the physical spaces that we worked in and saw our clients were not just comfortable but also beautiful spaces to be in. This ultimately led Steve to do a Masters in Industrial Relations at Sydney University.

Later, moving to Brisbane both continued their work helping the marginalised and Steve commenced his Law degree studying externally through Macquarie University. At age 40, he was admitted as a solicitor working in private practice and in addition to Industrial law, also worked in Criminal law and Mental health and Guardianship law.

They moved to Cobargo 6 years ago and established Sapphire Mediated Resolutions including generalist legal services and are very involved in the community and arts.

...”In conclusion, it is my view that living in a complex and diverse democratic society is a good thing. The more just and equitable and the more that everybody is able to participate in that complex and diverse democratic society, then the better it gets for us all. We both find it extremely difficult to see people in circumstances where they are denied the opportunity for whatever reason to participate in our society, and so our concept of service is to work to enable and empower people to overcome those circumstances. Essential to that process is the creation and pursuit of beauty and justice.”

ROTARY BANNER gifted from Bad Camberg-Idstein, Germany:



Frank and Iris' trip to Italy for his daughter's wedding included joining with friends in Germany who are members of the Rotary Club of Bad Camberg-Idstein.

Frank presented us with their Club's banner.

ROTARY BOWELCARE PROJECT 2015: John Rungen is coordinating this and advises that kits are selling well at local pharmacies, Narooma, Cobargo and Bermagui and ends 27 June.

NEWS FROM CONNOR ROSS (Tertiary Scholarship holder for Bachelor of Arts (Music))

RMIT: "Melbourne's been great. I'm really enjoying my time here. The course is brilliant and I already feel that I'm getting a lot out of it. Most of my results are yet unforthcoming, aside from a few minor assessments I did in the first half of this semester, which I did quite well in. As soon as I have all my results I'll be sure to send them on straight away. I've given a short letter to Dad which he's promised to read out at your meeting on Thursday. It's just a little more about what I've been up to and how I'm going. Hopefully I'll get my results soon, then I'll be in touch right away. Thanks once again and best regards." Connor

Coming up2015

- **Sunday 14 June - RLI (Rotary Learning Initiative)** – Michael O'Connor will attend the last Session 3, on again at Baywaters, Batemans Bay from 9-4pm.
- **Thurs 18 June – Club Assembly & Board Meeting:** A great opportunity for round table discussion on any issues. Bob as incoming President 2015/16 is happy to talk about his plans.
- **Thursday 25 June: Our Club's President/Board CHANGEOVER** – Thanks to Laurelle Pacey who will be just back from Europe and kindly agreed to have our Changeover Bulletin published and needs all the info for it by weekend 20/21 June. Also a big thank you to Jack for paving the way so well and Peter Bull offering to be our super MC on the night.
- **Sunday 28 June:** Rotary market
- **End July - ROTARY YOUTH EXCHANGE:** Bob mentioned that Radar our Exchange student from Taiwan will be arriving here around 22 July. Rohan Gleeson, Rotary Moruya has been briefing Bob on how best to soften the impact coming to Narooma may have on Radar. Radar has been researching Oz and our region and is excited.
- **MUNA (Model United Nations Assembly) – weekend 14-16 August, 2015:** David McInnes, Michael O'Connor and I had our first meeting yesterday with teacher Sue Fahey and some of the NHS debating team, Sabine Kildea, Paris Blessington with Tyler Halloran a reserve. Keely Clark will join us next time. David asked them to do some research to become acquainted with the UN and its roles, look at last year's resolutions and consider some which may be put forward this time. David is also in email contact with the students and has attached the social media plan for MUNA so they can link into the Facepage site. Michael will help the team put together various positions in a resolution. Ang and Sue both attended MUNA last August and shared some observations and experiences. We'll be having meetings Wednesdays at the school 1.30-3pm. **The excitement is building!**
- **The CONOCOPHILLIPS SCIENCE EXPERIENCE @ Australian National University 23 – 25 September 2015:** So far we have one application from Bronwyn Glyde, NHS Science Master. There may be 2 other students interested in attending. Campbell Allison's first preference is the ANU in September. His second choice is The University of Technology which runs the program 1-3 December. Lynda Ord, Youth Director 2015/16 has now taken this program over and follow up with the school.

- **NYSF (National Youth Science Forum)@ Australian National University, January 2016:**

I have sent an email to Paul Roger, A/District Chair NYSF confirming our support for our NYSF applicant from St Peter's College, Lewis Ives following the interviews held 3 June. Canberra will now advise us when to proceed to the next stage of the selection process, sometime end July. Peter Bull has kindly offered to follow through.

INTERNATIONAL TOAST:

Paul Henningham @ the grand old age of 94 recently celebrated 60 years service as a Rotarian.

He joined Rotary in May 1955 (*Marrickville Club, NSW*). As a publisher he was the driving force in the establishment of our RDU magazine (*Rotary Down Under*).

HAVE A GREAT WEEK

Please organize with someone else if you are unavailable to do the meeting duty as rostered below

DUTY	18 June	25 June	2 July
Chair	Ang Ulrichsen	Changeover	Bob Antill
Cashier/Wheel	Peter Bull		Frank Eden
Invocation	Bob Antill		Jack
3 Minute Talk	Club Assembly		Rod Walker
Happy Moments	Club Assembly		Ang Ulrichsen
Introduce Guest Speaker	Club Assembly		Rolf Gimmel
Thank Guest Speaker	Club Assembly		Lynda Ord

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