

Rotary Club Gold Coast

25 October 2013 Issue#103

Meet us for lunch most
Fridays 12:00 for 12:30 at
the Arts Centre Gold Coast.
www.goldcoastrotary.org.au
RI #17910 District 9640



President Kathy's report

Our speaker last week was certainly lively and interesting. Kristiain Braeuer is a teacher at a private Gold Coast primary school and is, along with his father, managing New Beginnings International which is helping to provide much needed resources to extremely poor schools in Ghanaian villages. He spent time in Ghana and some of the toughest schools in South West London and has seen a variety of systems, economically, educationally and socially. He talked about the differences in learning between our children and the children in Ghana. Our lucky children have ipads, computers and of course books (but these seem to be out dated now) whereas the Ghana students share one book and even that sometimes has pages missing. Even though Rotary worldwide has great literacy projects, including our DG's partner Dianne Heading, there can't be too many people involved with literacy projects. It seems to be a bottomless pit of need. Good on you Kristian.

On the same theme this week's speaker should be a treat with Felix from the School of St Jude in Tanzania, talking about *'To educate disadvantaged, bright students from the Arusha municipality to become moral and intellectual leaders in Tanzania, and for St Jude's to thereby demonstrate educational leadership in Tanzania.'* Invite others to attend with you to hear this talk. It might inspire them to join Rotary as well.

Please put these dates in your diary:

2.00pm Thursday 28 November 2013 for the official opening of the two new Units at the Rotary Village. Invitations will be going out shortly.

Friday December 6th. Mark Urquhart and his committee are organising a Vocational visit on this date. Details soon.

This week: Felix Mollell, School of St Jude

Upcoming speakers November

1 Justin Shaffer, *My Rotary experience*

8 Tbc

15 Margarita Rickards, *Membership Matters*

22 Robyn Clelland, *What you need to know about aged care*

29 tbc

December

6 Mark Urquhart, *Vocation visit,*

October Roster

If you're unable to attend please *directly* arrange a replacement before the meeting. Thank you.

Welcome

Greg Bowler

Front Desk

Andrew Chan

Meeting Chair

Kathy Hogan

International Toast

David Baguley

Sergeant

Andy Csabi



Club President

Kathy Hogan PHF PP
0407 634 029

Kathy@khresources.com.au



It's amazing how you find out who you really are

An old Marine Pilot sat down at Starbucks, still wearing his old Air Force flight jacket and ordered a cup of coffee. As he sat sipping his coffee, a young woman sat down next to him. She turned to the pilot and asked, "Are you a real pilot?"

He replied, "Well, I've spent my whole life flying planes, first Stearmans, then the early Grummans. Flew a Wildcat and Corsair in WWII, and later in the Korean conflict, Banshees and Cougars. I've taught more than 260 people to fly and given rides to hundreds, so I guess I am a pilot, and you, what are you?"

She said, "I'm a lesbian. I spend my whole day thinking about naked women. As soon as I get up in the morning, I think about naked women. When I shower, I think about naked women. When I watch TV, I think about naked women. It seems everything makes me think of naked women."

The two sat sipping in silence.

A little while later, a young man sat down on the other side of the old pilot and asked: "Are you a real pilot?" He replied, "I always thought I was, but I just found out I'm a lesbian."

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The hows and whys of being a Rotarian

Did you know that people are more interested in the "why" than the "how?" of being a Rotarian?

This applies strongly to Rotary membership. It's far less interesting *how* you became a Rotarian than *why* you became, and why you remain, a Rotarian.

I became a Rotarian because of my innate character to give. I am, by nature, altruistic and I believe in doing the right thing (even when no one is looking). In a nut shell, I feel good when I'm helping others. I remain in Rotary because I feel good when I'm helping others.

I also remain in Rotary because of the connectedness I feel with my fellow Rotarians through service and fellowship. We are *engaged* in each other's lives in and outside of our Rotary meetings. My fellow Rotarians really care about me and I really care about them. Outside of family, where else does that happen? Rotary has become my extended family and the fact that my family reaches around the world has a huge impact on me!

Rotary in the future

I wonder what Rotary will look like in 2050? I wonder about how our journey, together as Rotarians, will take shape?

I imagine the powerful and meaningful projects that will happen along the way. I imagine the positive impact we will

have on human lives, all over the world. I imagine the lifelong friendships and bonds that will spontaneously occur as a result. It makes me smile to think about it all. Have you noticed the common theme in my words above? It's happiness.

I believe that Rotary makes people happy. The givers and receivers of our Rotary service are happy people!

And when we are happy, we work, play, and love harder and better. Our performance, energy and creativity increases. In Rotary, the happier we are, the harder and better we serve others!

Success doesn't lead to happiness; happiness leads to success. Our goal in Rotary is to serve others and to do good in the world and by working toward and achieving these goals, alongside my fellow Rotarians, I am a happy person!

Mary Berge, RC Johnstown, Pennsylvania



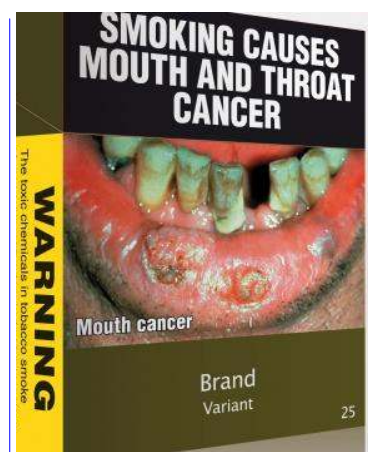
If pigs can fly...

...so can Eartha!

Eartha had a great time at the recent Swell Festival down at Currumbin.

As you can see, she met up with her old friend Porky and left Tini and I to hang around sipping coffee (a new experience for both of us!) whilst they both flew over the beach checking out the babes in bikinis.

Porky took a few photos of Eartha at Swell, and we'll be showing a select few of them in the coming weeks.





Cost of raising kids up 50% to \$812,000!

If you think your children are costing more than they used to, you're right.

Research out today has revealed parents are paying fifty percent more to bring up two children than they did five years ago. Today the average middle income Australian family will now spend \$812,000 dollars by the time their kids are 21. Five years ago it was \$537,000'.

Much of the extra money is discretionary, going on childcare and private schools. Lower income families spend significantly less. In 2012, an Australian family earning \$110,000 a year will spend nearly eight times that amount to bring up two children.

Said one mother, "Part of that expense is the practicalities of life. Teenage boys eat so much for a start but it's also the social pressure of them having to have certain things in order to fit into a particular social group - X-Box, the latest skateboard, you know, the right type of shoes and that sort of thing."

Partly it's higher prices, so things like private school education, university education, the cost of recreation and transport. There's also been a shift towards many items that are quite expensive such as private school education. So parents are actually choosing to spend more money.

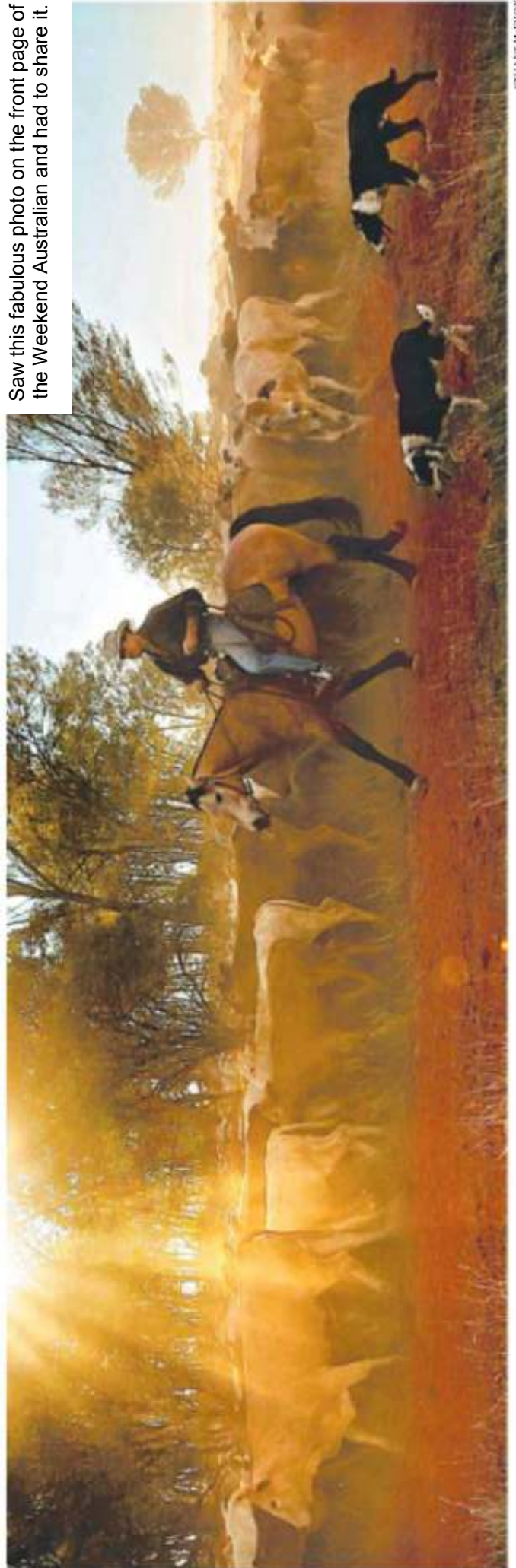
For families on the lower income end of the spectrum the average cost of two kids is much lower, at around \$450,000. Much of that cost is met by the government. Around 85% of their costs were actually paid for effectively by the government either through family payments or baby bonuses or school kids bonus. You still find that at the lower income families actually face a higher proportionate cost relative to their income. Older kids certainly cost a lot more than younger kids and that does have ramifications in terms of those family payments.

So things like baby bonuses, family payments are quite heavily directed or at least equally directed towards younger children whereas we're finding the cost of older kids is so much more. So perhaps there needs to be more tweaking of the family payment system towards those older children.

Researchers found many women are paying three-quarters of their income in childcare costs and tax, effectively taking home only 25 cents for every dollar they earn and that leads to difficult decisions over whether to return to work or stay at home.

- ABC AM Breakfast

Saw this fabulous photo on the front page of the Weekend Australian and had to share it.



STUART MEYER
Boss drover Bill Little drives a mob of cattle along one of the traditional stock routes near St George in southern Queensland this week. The drive, the brainchild of sheep and cattle baron Tom Brinkworth, is the biggest in a century and will take 18,000 head 2,500km from Queensland to southern NSW. But with parts of the nation's famous "long paddock" in drought, not everyone is thrilled with the historic journey. FULL REPORT P4

COME AND PAT THE MINI DONKEYS!

Winterwood Stud, 308 Birds Road, Guanaba

Come along with your kids to meet these gorgeous animals!

There will be Alpacas, Chickens, Ducks, Guinea Pigs and even Homing Pigeons.
As well as Face Painting, Hay Rides and an Accordion Player.

Plus BBQ Hot Food, Soft Drinks and Coffee for sale.

Sunday, 3rd November 2013
11am to 3pm

(If inclement weather:
Alternative date 17th November)

Early Bird

\$25.00 per family



Early Bird bookings: \$25.00 per family
<https://register.eventarc.com/18771/minidonkey>

At the gate: \$30.00 per family

This is a Surfers Sunrise Rotary Club event.

All proceeds go to local charities, including Projects for Homeless Kids

