



Bulletin 15 of 6th of October Speaker Ian Cowling

Speaker tonight was Ian Cowling is the manager of France Family Funerals in Nelson Bay. Ian has been involved in the funeral industry for 30 years and has great experience of the changes within this industry.



Different cultures manage the farewell of a person in many ways. Celebrations of the dead in Mexico, or a wake in Irish culture. Some cultures like to bring the body home for a period, a practice which may be uncomfortable for others.

Ian shared some statistics about how people view planning for their death. He suggestion is that it is a good idea to discuss this matter with family before the chance is lost. It actually reduces the stress of those left behind. 87% of this surveyed believe it is important do an end of life plan. 31 % have not done planning of any sort. 69% had a will. The main barrier mentioned to starting this process was that it was too emotional and people were uncomfortable to talk about death, feeling it was too morbid. There are now a few campaigns which aim to start this conversation, " Dying to Know" which is a day held each year where the plan is to have the chat round the dinner table.

Ian then spoke about " Get Dead Set" which is another program with 3 points to organise people in the planning of their end of life process.

1. Capture your choices in writing.
2. Have the conversation with family(Round Table)
3. Plan your send off.

You might like to make an emotional will as well. In this you capture values, hopes, dreams of your life and perhaps anything you wish to pass on to loved ones like a favourite recipe or message.

Ian finished the talk with chance to ask questions, and this was a great chance to ask those questions you never had the chance to ask. We thank Ian for his interesting coverage of this topic.

In this Bulletin:

1. Report on tonights speaker
2. Binoculars and BBQs
3. Regionalisation

In October

Birthdays

Members

Bill Michel on the 16th

Anniversaries

None this week

Heads and Tails

Jim Booth

Raffle Winner:

Lesley Freeman hence 3 minute talk to follow this week.

Next meeting

Club Assembly Discuss
Palliative Care Project

Door: Doug C.

Grace: Peter Page

Welcome :Geoff Robinson

Bulletin: Phil Smith

Photos: Phill Smith

Binoculars: Geoff D.

Board Meeting Wednesday
12th in the Bay Room 6 pm

**Meals to be ordered by Members in the Bistro prior to meeting commencement
\$5 fee to be paid at the door.**

Binoculars Update

Geoff Gave us an update on the trials associated with the Binoculars on Gan Gan. This has been a great earner but of recent times has been subjected to multiple acts of vandalism. The binoculars were damaged again having only been replaced the night before. It has only been the capacity of certain members to repair them which has avoided major costs. Geoff has checked that the gate has been closed at 9pm but this is already allowing access after dark for a few hours.

The coins are being removed every day and in the time since they were reinstalled 1 week for one set, and 2 weeks for the other, it has generated \$480.00. The club benefits greatly from them, particularly when other sources of revenue are no longer available to us. Geoff is planning to keep a close eye on them but potentially they might not be able to continue unless the constant damage can be halted.



Farewell To Kitty our waitress of 3 years tonight.

It is with sadness we had our last meeting attended by Kitty who has been involved with club meetings for 3 years. Phil Smith thanked her for her time in looking after our group and we provided a card and gift.



Erin is Back

Erin returned to the States from May to October to catch up with her family and work in different locations (California and Michigan). She mentioned trying to visit a couple of Rotary clubs whilst over there but found most met during the day when she was already work committed. She managed to find a couple of music books on American themes for the Bulletin editor this week. Erin is looking forward to being involved with the club activities again.



BBQ News

The Bunnings BBQ last Saturday was the most successful ever with a profit of over \$1500. The price increase on the sausage sandwich has made a huge difference in the final result. Thanks to Richard, Ella, Peter M, Dieter, Don, Geoff, Phil S., Doug C, and John Stumpke.

The next Bunnings Day is the 5th of November.

The members rostered for this day are as follows:

AM Doug C, Jim B, John C and Brian C.

PM: Ian B, Helen R, Rob M and Henk T. with John Stumpke as coordinator.



The Club has accepted the job of catering at Bunnings on Boxing Day 26th of December.

There have a number of members offer to help, but there are still a few spots which need to be filled. Please advise if you are available.

Treasurer Geoff advised that an average of the last 5 Bunnings BBQ resulted in \$1000 each time and that this is a significant income for our club.

Trek-4-Kids

Peter Page updated the club on the final result for the car rally with which he had been involved. This year Trek 4 Kids gave the proceeds to the Newcastle Starlight Room. The amount was an impressive \$266,000. Peter thanked the club members for donations which we had made to boost his fundraising efforts.



Regionalisation Program.

President Don reported that all districts in the target area except one had exceeded the 75% club vote to proceed with the regionalisation trial. The remaining district had a positive result over 50 % but had not reached at the 75 % level. As a result the program will be able to commence.

A couple of jokes.

My wife and I have reached the difficult decision that we do not want children. If anybody does, please pass on your contact details and we can drop them off to you tomorrow.

The other day, my wife asked me to pass her lipstick but I accidentally passed her a glue stick. She isn't talking to me anymore.

I will never forget my Grandads last words to me before he died. "Are you still holding onto the ladder."