

Our Guest Speaker tonight was

Reverend Kesh

Topic: **Refugee Reverend**

A spiritual journey through many faiths & many countries

Kesh (aka Rico Govan) gave us a very humorous story about his life. Being also a bit of a stand-up comedian, he spiked his talk with funny jokes and anecdotes.

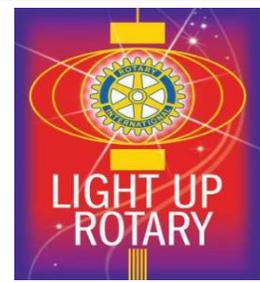
He was born in India but spent most of his life in Africa. Kesh was originally of Hindu faith. Father came from the NW of the country, in fact his Great-Great grandfather was a Scottish soldier in the British army that fell in love and run away with an Indian girl and changed his name and became a Muslim. The family followed the Portuguese trade route from Goa to Mozambique as merchant farmers. When business got bad they moved again, to Portugal, his mother originally from Durban/South Africa of Indian origin. In Portugal business was not that great, so on advice of the local Catholic priest they all converted to catholic and business flourished from there on. Later on they moved again, to England where his family owned pubs and hotels with mother performing as singer and father doing stand-up comedy.

As one of eight children his upbringing was very strict and one of his father's sayings was: "Somebody is going to get hurt real bad" when one of them was in trouble.

Their home was very religious; they had a mix of religions praying to Hindu gods during the day and catholic rosary in the evening, even a shrine with Hindu, Catholic and Muslim symbols in it. Probably a 3way bet, one of them must be right god.

Kesh's passion is religion, just like an artist, his studio is the church he loves god but claims not to be that highly religious. In his teenage years in fact he thought of becoming a Hindu priest because they could have 2 wives. His training for that would have to be back in India, about them he discovered the beauty of a girl named April and others of the fairer sex, that idea went out the window. Teenage years were great, with music sport and girls and stints as night club dancer from the age of 16 -19 until he got struck down with Crohn's disease. He discovered Jesus while in hospital when Christians came to visit and pray with him. After the operation he was cured and enjoyed life again and dropped the idea of priesthood.

Until one Christmas Eve after he went to the midnight service, at 4:23am Jesus appeared to him in his bedroom and told him he loved him, from thereon he realized priesthood was his destiny with his new lease of life. He came to Australia after posting on a website for clergy and the bishop in Newcastle wanted someone a bit different and to revive the diocese and parish here in Nelson Bay; after reading his CV employed him straight away. He enjoys the weather and beaches and hopes never have to leave again.



Inside:

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Nadine's farewell,
NGSE
Exercise trail progress
Changeover dinner notice

Congratulations

Members birthdays:
Ann Evans

Wedding anniversaries:
Judi Priestly & Chris Bartlett
21 years

Lady Luck

Heads & Tails:
John Stuhmke

Raffle winner:
Guest speaker Rev. Kesh

Duties next Meeting

MC:
Phill Smith

Loyal Toast:
John Cropley/Bart Richardson

Grace:
Ken Arnett

Meet and Greet:
Don & Fiona Whatham,
John & Yvonne Stuhmke,
Judi Priestly, Trica Parnell

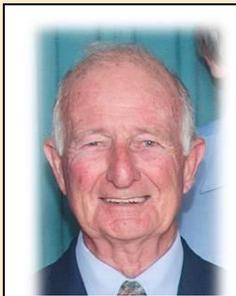
Bulletin:
Henk Tobbe for Phill Smith

Intruduce Guest Speaker:
n.a.

Thank Speaker:
n.a.

Apologies/Extras: to Ros Cribb by noon on Wednesday

Phone or Text to: 0401 450 239



Peter McBean relayed the sad news that Pat Probis, a generous benefactor of our club passed away age 96. At one Project Neighbor outings she had handed him a cheque of \$10,000 which was duly invested in the installation of the binoculars on Gan Gan lookout netting us about \$4,000 p/a. Her mobility scooter was also donated and the sale proceeds thereof went into our service account



The Rotary Club of Nelson Bay Fitness Trail

President Chris reports the exercise trail is to be installed by end August.

Dutchies: 6 stretching stations

Bagnall Beach east:
3 Sit-up, Push-up & Vault bar

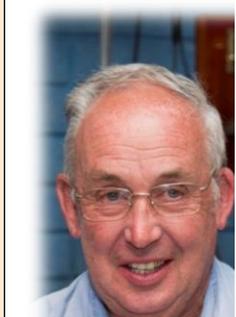
Bagnall Beach west:
Chin-up, Step-up & Body curl

Conroy Park: Long Hop Bench Dip & Bench Curl

This a joint project of our club and PS Council.

Funding is by grants and Council contribution of \$15,000.

RC Nelson Bay is to receive naming rights



Richard Tuner our club historian provided us with information & statistics about the number of exchange students our club has hosted. Since 1976 we hosted 37 students; home hosted by different members of our club with Nadine from Austria being this year's student.

Japan	1	France	2
S/Africa	3	Belgium	1
USA	5	Sweden	1
Finland	2	Denmark	3
Poland	1	Canada	3
Germany	4	England	1
Holland	1	Argentina	2
Brazil	2	Mexico	1
Austria	1		



Nadine's Farewell

Last night we farewelled Nadine Versell, our exchange student from RC-Feldkirch/Austria. During her 12 month stay she was hosted jointly by Salamander Bay Rotary and RC Nelson Bay's Cropley and Orr Families.

In her final presentation she reported that the exchange year exceeded all her expectations and said it was her best decision she has ever made, a dream come true. Initially she was a bit apprehensive leaving her family for a full year, with mixed feelings what to expect from that far away "down-under" country with strange & deadly creatures, foreign vegetation and people with that funny English accent. (a huge and gutsy decision). Schooling was vastly different from back home, class times, school uniforms, classes spread over a large area, never the less, she made great friends amongst her class mates. Her highlight of the year was without doubt the Capricorn Ramble where in 3 weeks she saw more of Australia as many locals. She was spoiled by her four host-families that did many short trips with her, such as to Sydney, Melbourne, Gold Coast & Blue Mountains even before the big 'Ramble'. It was also a great way to experience the different workings of the four families, as strict vegetarian a fair bit of adaptation was required by all parties. Some of the things she'll miss back home are: Vegemite, Tim Tams, Beaches & Sea, laughing Kookaburras & all the SUVs and utes.

She thanked both clubs for hosting her during this year and hopefully will be back one day. She was a great ambassador of Austria and Rotary as whole



NGSE New Generation Service Exchange provides college, university & graduate students with the opportunity to meet people from other countries and experience new cultures & career opportunities and to learn firsthand about life in other countries.

Adults ageing from 18-25 years may participate for up to 3 months and must have a strong vocational or humanitarian service component.

The RC of Myall Coast is sponsoring this graduate by the name of Charlotte Wheatly, Bachelor of Science in Marine Biology & Oceanography.

She will be working out of the Port Stephens Fisheries Institute at Taylors Beach and is generously hosted by Doug & Jenny Craike for the duration of her stay.

Next Week -

Rotary Changeover Night

Thursday 25th June 2015

@ 6.00pm for 6.30pm

Rotary Club of Nelson Bay

Venue:

Nelson Bay Bowling Club

Cost \$40 pp

Please pay before the event

Includes two course dinner + table wines and soft drink



