



District Governor
Gerrard McMillan

PRESIDENT:
SECRETARY:
BULLETIN EDITOR:

VICKI STEEP
JANETTE JACKSON
GEORGE KONCZ



ROTARY CLUB OF CESSNOCK
DISTRICT 9670
SPOKE

P O Box 101 CESSNOCK NSW 2325 AUSTRALIA

www.cessnockrotary.org

NEWSLETTER: 13th November 2014

PRESIDENTS REPORT

Last night at the HVG Lights a Rotarian from Albany in WA was discussing with Steve Jackson and myself some of the challenges the Rotary Club of Albany were facing due to the aging membership of the club. To us it sounded like a familiar story. Today I found a quotation from an unknown author;

“A bird sitting on a tree is never afraid of the branch breaking, because her trust is not on the branch but on its own wings”.

With President Vicki travelling in Europe it was my role last meeting to chair the meeting and as I surveyed the familiar faces of the members I again wondered about the future of our club and our ability to sustain the role our community requires of us in the context of Service above Self. I then listened to the many conversations of members in a very informal atmosphere as they spoke passionately about what they were doing and what were their plans.

Things like the passion of PP Gail Thomas and the East Cessnock School Garden Project involving some significant effort by club members in heavy physical activity working with only the end in mind; Steve Crane sharing the details of next week’s Effie O’Neil High School Debate he has arranged; Steve’s passion with Rotary Foundation learnings and action; PDG Greg Bevan sharing with us the experiences of Rotary fellowship on their recent travels; Jack Grant leading us in a toast to Houdini, Jack’s favourite magician and the Rotary Club of Appleton of which Houdini was a member following his family escaping from Budapest in 1878; Secretary PDG Janette discussing the correspondence involving our club and Rotary in general and the general discussions of members supporting and encouraging each other.

In reflecting on these matters I must admit that there are times I have worried so much about the failure of the tree branch on which I perceived our club was sitting that I had ignored the strength in the member’s wings and their ability to fly to safety and another perhaps larger branch, to ensure a continuing Rotary future should this branch break. In a sobering moment of reflection, I was reminded that our proud club has been flying on its member’s wings from branch to branch for 77 years – what a story! Let’s keep our wings in good flying order.

We are now into our first week of the HVG Lights and I thank all members and their friends for the willingness to contribute to this service. The next roster is now out and I encourage all members to participate in this significant fund raiser.

Next week is the Effie O’Neil High School Debate, it is a partner’s night and I encourage all members to come along and witness the debating greatness of our High School debaters.

Acting President David



Robyn has finally closed her chapter in the wine industry after taking over the Reg Drayton Winery twenty years ago, after the tragic death of her parents Pam and Reg. Since then Robyn has had a very successful business under her own name and Robyn Drayton Wines have won many awards over the twenty years. It will no doubt be a sad time for Robyn and her three boys Justin, Liam and Taylor to leave this property which they grew up in. Robyn has added many additions and alterations not only to the winery and tasting area but to the house as well.

Robyn had a farewell party to see out her involvement with the wine industry. There were many in attendance for her farewell and Robyn and Liam are celebrating the occasion with no doubt a Robyn Drayton wine. The Rotary Club of Cessnock has had far too many functions here to remember them all. Reg Drayton was awarded The Reg Drayton Shield for Fellowship, which is awarded each year at the District Conference. Robyn has followed in her Dad's love for having a great time and we have had many fantastic Rotary meetings at Robyn's place, which we will all miss.

ROSTER 13th Nov 2014

INTERNATIONAL TOAST N/A
 TELLER: Maley/ S Jackson
 WELCOME TO GUESTS: Alison Crane
 INTRODUCE SPEAKER: Steve Crane
 GUEST SPEAKER: Debate Teams
 VOTE OF THANKS: Steve Crane
 FINE SESSION: N/A
 STEWARDS: All members

20th Nov 2014

Graham Lidbury
 Maley/Thomas
 David Lennon
 N/A
 N/A
 Peter Carver
 All members

FUTURE EVENTS

13th November - Effie O'Neil Debate Partners Night.
 27th Nov - Ian Scanlan District Learning Centre

Meeting time is 6 for 6.33pm

Apologies to Graham Lidbury by 11am on Thursday on phone **0419 682 573**
 or Email: lids@westnet.com.au

REMEMBER: you will be charged for your meal if you are absent and do not apologize.

EAST CESSNOCK SCHOOL PROJECT



Past President Gail's East Cessnock School Project is back on track. You just have to look at the workers to realise why this project is so special. How could any project not go according to plan with such a dedicated and willing labour force. The Water tank was connected to the existing roof structure and the overflow pipe goes out to the street, just in case if we have too much water. The tank is then connected to the orchard and berry farm area via an ground poly pipe and each tree and vine have two drippers each, to help the growth of the plants. All we need now is the plants. Gail will no doubt have another working bee to dig and plant trees. So if you want to be part of this vibrant team, then let Gail know. The fun is just endless, its a pity if you missed out on the trench digger, that was simply awesome to work with.



It was asked last meeting who you think of when you have to name the best magician. Well it would be a toss up between Jack Grant and Harry Houdini. It was Jack's turn last week to do the Rotary International Toast and Jack told us about the life of Harry Houdini and that the Roosevelt Hotel in Hollywood was the venue where The Rotary Club of Hollywood used to meet and it was also the venue for the first Academy Awards and also the place for the last séance conducted by Houdini's wife. Good research Jack and a great toast.

THE PROBLEMS WITH WINKING

A man with a winking problem is applying for a position as a sales representative for a large firm. The interviewer looks over his papers and says, "This is phenomenal. You've graduated from the best schools; your recommendations are wonderful, and your experience is unparalleled.

"Normally, we'd hire you without a second thought. However, a sales representative has a highly visible position, and we're afraid that your constant winking will scare off potential customers. I'm sorry ... we can't hire you." "But wait," says the applicant. "If I take two aspirin, I'll stop winking!" "Really? Great! Show me!"

So the applicant reaches into his jacket pocket and begins pulling out all sorts of condoms: red condoms, blue condoms, ribbed condoms, flavoured condoms; finally, at the bottom, he finds a packet of aspirin. He tears it open, swallows the pills, and stops winking.

"Well," said the interviewer, "that's all well and good, but this is a respectable company, and we will not have our employees womanizing all over the country!"

"Womanizing? What do you mean? I'm a happily married man!"

"Well then, how do you explain all these condoms?"

"Oh, that," he sighed. "Have you ever walked into a pharmacy, winking, and asked for aspirin?"



Some of you who are not on Facebook have asked me to put some of the Thailand photos on, so here are a few before I do the Photobook one day. The above two are the James Bond Island trip.



Floating Markets just outside of Bangkok.



The White Temple in Chiang Rai which is about three hours from Chiang Mai



Beach from our Hotel at Cape Panwa which is right down south of Phuket



WHOT PHO BANGKOK