



District Governor
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NEWSLETTER: 27th February 2014



**ROTARY CLUB OF CESSNOCK
DISTRICT 9670
SPOKE**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Last Rotary night was a Board meeting followed by Club Assembly. The Board meeting was well attended and the discussions were fruitful. Details will be sent by Secretary Janette in due course. Next week is a partner's night with special guest speaker Dr. John Tierney. Chair of Polio Australia. Please invite friends, acquaintances and neighbours to come along and hear from and extremely interesting and accomplished man who himself is a polio survivor. Remember also to let Graham know additional numbers for catering purposes.

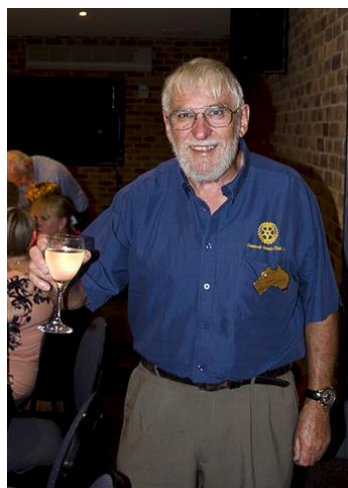
President David

From the Secretary . . .

Board matters touched upon included acquiring of the grant to help East Cessnock PS; assisting with the celebrations of 75 years of the PCYC; working through responses to suggestions by Meg Jowett for an initiative on water security (there are already many activities in progress, so a donation may be made to one of those); financial reports; Trish gave a report on her teaching project in PNG; YEP for next year (possibly a Norwegian); future speakers, future events Bunnings BBQ, BBQ at Cessnock Toyota, Innovation and Excellence Awards, vocational visits. Things you might like to attend : Sunset Soiree for International Women's Day (Ballabourneen Wine Co., Broke Rd, Friday 7th March, 6.00 to 8.00. cost \$45 - contact Janette if interested); Muswellbrook Rotary is holding a ball to aid Endeavour in Muswellbrook, 5th April, \$100 per person). I have a short contact list for members - mainly contact numbers, and small enough to put in your wallet. If interested, let me know.

Sydney Convention registration figures : up to 31.3.14, \$360, after 1.4.14, \$410.

I sent a suggestion that anyone who wanted to could contribute the cost of a meal to an initiative to put more into the pot for the Polio campaign. We can make a donation directly to the Parramatta office, or members can give the money to Trish, who can forward it on. And I'm starting to extend the Club Diary into the new Rotary year - send dates to me as they arise!



Steve Jackson did the Rotary International Toast to the Rotary Club of Abington Vesper in the UK. The town's largest fund raising event for the year is the Abington Dragon Boat Day. Plus they have visiting scholars from other countries who they help host and show around during their time in the UK. This Rotary Club is the host club for this District's Rotary Global Grants Scholar, Annelise Bissett, who is Sponsored by the Rotary Club of Newcastle Sunrise, a club in which Steve was formally a member. Ennalise since graduating has worked as an environmental consultant primarily in the contaminated land Industry and she is the product of the University of Newcastle.



Matt was very pleased with the outcome of his Austrian Day at Quorrobolong, as was everyone who attended. Matt is still staying in Kurri Kurri with the Bevans and enjoying his stay. Lorraine doesn't mind the quick one minute decisions when Matt decides that he is going to make a special cake for the evening, but Greg is sent shopping for all the ingredients. But it proves worth his time spent shopping. Capricorn Ramble is just around the corner and all exchange students are very keen for the starting date.



MUNA 2014

Rotary District 9670

will be held at

Muswellbrook

on

23rd and 24th May 2014

Applications close on Friday 14th March 2014

Enquiries: district9670muna@gmail.com

Applications have been forwarded to our three Cessnock high Schools. Mount View High have attended in previous years and it would be good to see the other two schools take part as well. I will inform the club when I receive applications.



Rotary

2014 ROTARY INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION
SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA | 1-4 JUNE 2014

REGISTER NOW



ROSTER 20th February 2014

INTERNATIONAL TOAST TELLER: Greg Bevan
 WELCOME TO GUESTS: Maley/Selmes
 INTRODUCE SPEAKER: Jack Grant
 GUEST SPEAKER: George Koncz
 VOTE OF THANKS: Dr John Tierney
 FINE SESSION: Vicki Steep
 STEWARDS: Peter Carver
 All members

27th February

Graham Lidbury
 Maley/ S Jackson
 Brian Howe
 TBA
 TBA
 Peter Carver
 All members

FUTURE EVENTS

27th Feb - Dr John Tierney
 1st March - Road Clean Up.

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.

What is a True International Student?

I have been asked the question many times “What do Exchange students even do?” Well to tell you the truth, it’s a lot more information than what anyone expects, but I sum it up into one word “LIVE”. Not to toot my own horn, but Exchange Students are some of the most outstanding people you will meet in your life. We have all been bitten with the disease to explore the world and to become something more than what we are. We have to travel and see as many parts of the world as we possibly can. We are not satisfied staying in one place for too long. What do we do? We study. We leave everything familiar to us. We explore. We make bonds with people all over the world that no one else can even fathom. We break boundaries. We educate others. We become something that we never knew was possible. We change. We adapt. We are the crazy kids that get dropped in the middle of a foreign country, with no idea of which way is up. We become the people our parents always wished that they could be. But most importantly, we thrive. Many people try to relate exchange to the same difficulties of going of to college in a new town, but trust me, it is much more difficult. Most of us are at least 3000 miles from our “homes” and spend months contemplating our decisions of coming to the unknown. After initial shock, we realize that we couldn’t picture ourselves anywhere else. We learn languages, even ones not related to the culture we are submersed in. We expand our knowledge of the world, and want nothing more but to share it with others. We attend schools in another language and have no idea what is happening, but continue to push ourselves to be as uncomfortable as possible. We are comfortable being uncomfortable. We realize that we have many more homes than what we thought. We have one thing we all want... to explore! We start to think about traditions back home. We forget about them. We start forgetting our own language and can only remember the words in our new language. We are happy. We are sad. We are depressed. We are ecstatic. We love to have a healthy dose of knowledge and an unhealthy dose of food. We have happy “Hello’s” and tear-filled “Goodbye’s”. We know what we want. We don’t know how we want it. We don’t know where we want it. We don’t know how we will do it. But, we know we will do it. We are wanderers. We are travelers. We are anything we think we are. We talk to strangers. We eat things that only resemble food. We live. Exchange is not something that can be understood, because it cannot be defined. It can only be experienced. We can tell you “Oh exchange is this amazing thing where you go to another country for a year and learn a new language and culture.” Well in my opinion that just does not do Exchange any justice. It is much, much more than that. Exchange is more difficult than moving to a new town. But, more valuable than all the money in the world. Exchange is not a Year in the Life, but a Lifetime in a Year.



THE MAYONNAISE JAR AND TWO BEERS

A professor stood before his philosophy class with some items in front of him. When the class began, he wordlessly picked up a very large and empty mayonnaise jar and proceeded to fill it with golf balls. He then asked the students if the jar was full. They agreed that it was.

The professor then picked up a box of pebbles and poured them into the jar. He shook the jar lightly. The pebbles rolled into the open areas between the golf balls. He asked the students again if the jar was full. They agreed that it was.

The professor next picked up a box of sand and poured it into the jar. Of course, the sand filled up everything else. He asked once more if the jar was full. The students responded with a unanimous, "Yes." The professor then produced two beers from under the table and poured the entire contents into the jar, effectively filling the empty spaces between the sand.

The students laughed. "Now," said the professor as the laughter subsided, "I want you to recognize that this jar represents your life.

"The golf balls are the important things - your family, your children, your health, your friends, and your favourite passions - and if everything else was lost and only they remained, your life would still be full. "The pebbles are the other things that matter, like your job, your house, and your car. The sand is everything else - the small stuff.

"If you put the sand into the jar first," he continued, "there is no room for the pebbles or the golf balls. "The same goes for life.

"If you spend all your time and energy on the small stuff, you will never have room for the things that are important to you. Pay attention to the things that are critical to your happiness. Spend time with your children; spend time with your parents; visit with grandparents. Take your spouse out to dinner; play another 18.

"There will always be time to clean the house and fix the disposal.

"Take care of the golf balls first - the things that really matter. Set your priorities. The rest is just sand." One of the students raised her hand and asked what the beer represented.

The professor smiled and said, "I'm glad you asked.

"The beer just shows you that no matter how full your life may seem, there's always room for a couple of beers with a friend."

My Fantasy is having two men
at once
One Cooking, One cleaning

Always remember that
your present situation is
not your final destination.
The best is yet to come.

