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NEWSLETTER: 2nd October 2014



ROTARY CLUB OF CESSNOCK
DISTRICT 9670
SPOKE

PRESIDENTS REPORT

A well attended meeting this week, with visitors John and Edna Bastable from Kingaroy joining us as well as family and friends of members.

Iver had a busy day helping out at East Cessnock School garden project then playing soccer before coming to the meeting. We thought he was the star of the soccer team with 4 goals securing a 4 to Nil win last week and his team winning again this week 5 to Nil. This week however he tells us he “let” others have the claim of kicking the goals, but on further investigation as to why Iver did not kick any goals this week he admitted that the other team was an all girl team and he was his attention was not entirely on the game.

Gail rounded up quite a few helpers to continue further work on the school garden project and seems they not only worked well together under Gail’ guidance but were also enticed with a substantial lunch, bribery will work every time Gail.

Even though George tells us he only writes the Spoke and does not read it to see that he was to do the International Toast this week he did do justice to the Rotary Club of Miskolc Hungary where he and Claudia visited on the trip to Europe.

Beatrice Tucker, (John Jowett’s granddaughter), gave a very interesting talk on her experiences travelling with the Australian Youth Choir. While it is a lot of hard work Beatrice finds the effort very rewarding. Beatrice is a very talented young lady and not only sings but plays the piano and ukulele.

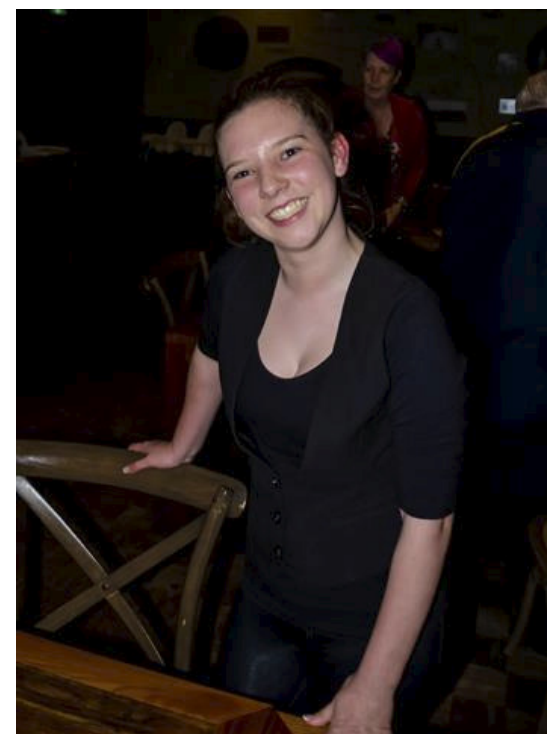
Cessnock Connect Day is being held on the 9th October 2014 at Cessnock TAFE. Members are required for a BBA roster to support this day.

George is off overseas with Claudia next to travel Thailand. Hope to see lots of “happy snaps” George. Have a great time and see you in three weeks.



President Vicki with John & Edna Bastable, plus a very proud John and Meg Jowett with Beatrice

GUEST SPEAKER BEATRICE TUCKER



What a delight it was to listen to Beatrice give us an insight into her musical career to date. We learned about her travels with the Choir which went to Europe and Taiwan as well. Beatrice also sang for us and sure has a very pleasing voice which will only improve with more training and experience. We also had Iver try a rendition with the ukulele and had Chloe back with us again.

ROSTER 2nd October

INTERNATIONAL TOAST

TELLER: Maley/Thomas
WELCOME TO GUESTS: Jack Grant
INTRODUCE SPEAKER: N/A
GUEST SPEAKER: Gail Thomas
VOTE OF THANKS: Louise Selmes
FINE SESSION: Peter Carver
STEWARDS: All members

9th October

Maley/A Crane
John Jowett
Janette Jackson
Rosemary Walters
Gail Thomas
Peter Carver
All members

FUTURE EVENTS

2nd Oct - Gail Thomas (This is your Life)
9th Oct - Rosemary Walters, Cessnock Library Services (Partners Night)
23rd Oct - Toni Stephens, Performer.
13th Nov - Efie O'Neil Debate

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.



Beatrice brought along her friend Paris from Sydney and Chloe, Iver, Sebastian and Claudia made up the young group for the night. Overall it was a very pleasant evening of fellowship and fun.



Past President Gail's East Cessnock School Project is finally progressing again. The BarBQ area is just about finished with new grass around the planter boxes. There was a good effort by members of the club to grub out the old grass and spoil before putting in a good layer of composted soil for the buffalo grass to have the best chance to grow. It was a team effort with Gail supervising and making sure that we didn't cut corners but did it precisely to her specifications. The next part will be the orchid areas if the trees are finally removed so that we can get to those areas to complete a great project, which will be a big bonus for the students and teachers.



Total weekend for the District 9670 Youth Exchange Students was another success where they met up again and were introduced the new Outbound students for next year. These meetings at Tocal are always a lot of fun when the students learn a bit more about each other and the Outbounds get first hand knowledge from the Inbounds and about the country which they selected.

THE DIRGE

As a bagpiper, I play many gigs.

Recently I was asked by a funeral director to play at a graveside service for a homeless man. He had no family or friends, so the service was to be at a paupers' cemetery in the Nova Scotia back country.

As I was not familiar with the backwoods, I got lost, and being a typical man, I didn't stop for directions. I finally arrived an hour late and saw the funeral guy had evidently gone and the hearse was nowhere in sight.

There were only the diggers and crew left and they were eating lunch. I felt badly and apologized to the men for being late.

I went to the side of the grave and looked down and the vault lid was already in place. I didn't know what else to do, so I started to play. The workers put down their lunches and began to gather around.

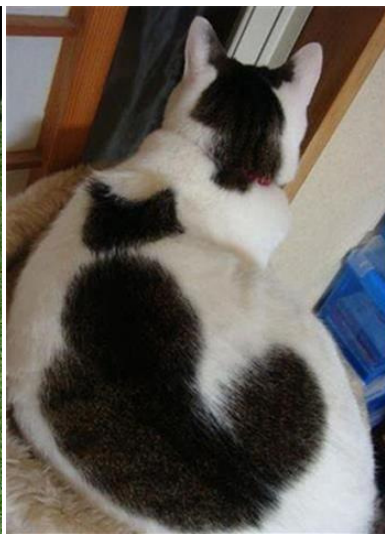
I played out my heart and soul for this man with no family and friends. I played like I've never played before for this homeless man.

And as I played "Amazing Grace", the workers began to weep. They wept, I wept, we wept together.

When I finished, I packed up my bagpipes and started for my car. Though my head was hung low, my heart was full.

As I opened the door to my car, I heard one of the workers say, "I never seen anything like that before, and I've been putting in septic tanks for twenty years."

Apparently, I'm still lost. It's a man thing.



Past President David will be doing the Spoke while I am in Thailand and Louise will be taking the photos, so everyone has to smile for the lovely coloured hair lady.

I will try my best to do lots of new photos, some of which will be on Facebook even while we are travelling.