



District Governor
Brian Atkins

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NEWSLETTER: 31st October 2013



**ROTARY CLUB OF CESSNOCK
DISTRICT 9670
SPOKE**

PRESIDENTS REPORT



As individuals within communities we are in a continual state of change. Whether this is within Rotary, the increase of technology, the way we do our shopping or the myriad of regulations imposed upon us by Governments, the present generation of over 60's have arguably survived a greater rate of change within our lives than in any other generation. Change is not new nor necessarily bad but as our speaker Dr. Ross Lidbury enlightened us last meeting, change following an ideological rather than needs driven agenda such as that being followed by TAFE is seriously negatively impacting the training and skills of our young tradespeople to be. Ross is to be commended for speaking up for and applying the values of the Rotary 4 way test in his endeavours to influence those of our decision makers in what is the Truth, is Fair to all concerned, will

build Goodwill and be Beneficial to all concerned. The 4 way test which governs all Rotarians' values and behaviour is arguably the single most important part of a Rotarians life. Thanks Ross for your contribution. Next week is a night of fellowship at Robyn Drayton's with our Rotary friends from Kurri Kurri. Please come and enjoy a night of fun and fellowship.

President David

Words from the Secretary - 24th October, 2013.

PP Gail has told me that after Peter Rosemond addressed the Club last year, she offered the Club's assistance in putting together the 65th anniversary celebration for the PCYC. Peter has sent a message saying that the PCYC people have not yet got a date or even a real idea of what form the celebration will be. He will be back in touch with us. Vicki and I did go to Murrurundi on that day, but the train did not happen. Pres. Colin was happy with the attendance - mainly locals, but there was a sprinkling of Rotary people from other places. We had a pretty good time, and the scones were indeed brilliant. Plans for the Murrurundi for 2014 are being laid now. Given that the weather last year and this year was hot and windy, they're planning on a later date, and that will mean the visit to the horses will be easier to organise. November will bring a lot of Rotary activity for us. Activity often means a lot of fellowship as well, so be involved and enjoy these times!

PHOTOSHOP: The TAFE Course which I sent around has been cancelled. However, I managed to get the TAFE teacher to do a one on one with me at home. She suggested that she could run a small group of about 6 or 8 people maybe at Northnet. It would be great if you had a laptop and you can download a trial version of Photoshop if you haven't got it. Let me know who's interested.



We had a very distinguished guest with us last week. Denise Way who is a past President of our club. Denis was our president 1988 - 1989. Looks like Denise was well received by our senior members.



That cheeky red head is off on holidays again. Louise is doing a cruise and one of the many places on her tour is Bora Bora in Tahiti. That is one place where I still want to go one day as well. We will all miss you and that happy cheery smile. Be sure to have a good time.

ROSTER 31st October		7th November
INTERNATIONAL TOAST	At Robyn Draytons	Margaret Maley
TELLER:	FELLOWSHIP NIGHT	Maley/Thomas
WELCOME TO GUESTS:	with KURRI KURRI	Vicki Steep
INTRODUCE SPEAKER:		Trish Davies
GUEST SPEAKER		Hunter Life Education
VOTE OF THANKS:		Steve Jackson
FINE SESSION:	Peter Carver	Peter Carver
STEWARDS:	All members	All members

FUTURE EVENTS

31st Oct - Kurri Kurri Inter Club Visit at Robyn Draytons RSVP latest 30th Oct.

7th Nov - Sally Coddington
Hunter Life Education

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.

FORMER EXCHANGE STUDENT REBECCA BACHMANN PAUL HARRIS FELLOW

At the Club's meeting held at the Maitland Mercury, Rebecca Bachmann, former Exchange student, three-time member of a Nondugl team and a member of Rotary Club of Nesodden, Norway, was presented with a Paul Harris Fellowship by Joan Latter. The Award, in memory of Joan's late husband, PDG Jack Latter, recognises Rebecca's exemplary involvement in the Youth Exchange program as well as her significant contribution to the Nondugl project. Congratulations Beccy!! Beccy is pictured with her mother Jutta, also a member of the Nondugl team, and Joan Latter.



Rebecca's reaction was "Wow, what a great honour to be awarded the Paul Harris Fellow last night! I am so grateful to be presented with this award at such an early stage in my life. A huge thank you to Joan Latter for this recognition - I know just how much this award means to you, which makes it even more precious to me. Thank you to my host families, friends, East Maitland Rotary Club, Greenhills Rotary Club, Nesodden Rotary Club and the entire Nondugl team "

I wouldn't be where I am now without your support. Together we can make a difference!

15 volunteers spanning from Australia, Germany to Norway live the village life in Nondugl, a needy villiage in the Western Highlands of Papua New Guinea helping the locals and surrounding villages with Health, Construction, Educational goods and much much more..

Beccy was one of the students on the first Capricorn Ramble trip which I was one of the leaders on and I remember her as one of the friendliest and very popular members amongst the students.

CONGRATULATIONS BECCY

RAWCS AT WORK AGAIN IN NONDUGL PNG



It was the fourth time since 2010 that a Rotary team made their way up to the village of Nondugl in the Western Highlands of Papua New Guinea. The RAWCS Project was initially instigated under the leadership and guidance of Adrian Roach who at this time was a member of the Rotary Club of East Maitland Inc. Just over twelve months ago, the Rotary Club of Green Hills was chartered, and both clubs agreed that the project be transferred to the Rotary Club of Greenhills. On the 7th October 2013, the team once again headed off to Nondugl. The team included members from several clubs in D9670 as well as from D2260 in Norway. Several containers filled with classroom furniture, "mother & baby packs", hospital beds, football jerseys, painting gear,

cement mixers and all sorts of other things were transported by containers up the rough roads to Nondugl. The rainy season was just about finished the day our team arrived. The roads, however, were still muddy, and it seemed impossible to move the container, which had been stuck on the very last hill for several hours. The team was just about to give up. Suddenly a feeling of despair, courage and strength went through the group. What happened was a miracle. A combined effort of more than 70 local villagers working together as a team pushing and pulling, the truck miraculously made its way to the top of the hill. It was truly inspirational to see what can be achieved by a team effort. The team had two big weeks ahead of them as the plan was to concrete four classrooms, paint two classrooms, sort out a few hundred new books for the library, build a pig pen, set up two water tanks, do some more training at the health clinic and education at Nondugl primary school, distribute fabric and sewing utensils, and so on. The rainy season was just about finished the day our team arrived. The roads, however, were still muddy, and it seemed impossible to move the container, which had been stuck on the very last hill for several hours. The team was just about to give up. Suddenly a feeling of despair, courage and strength went through the group. What happened was a miracle. A combined effort of more than 70 local villagers working together as a team pushing and pulling, the truck miraculously made its way to the top of the hill. It was truly inspirational to see what can be achieved by a team effort.

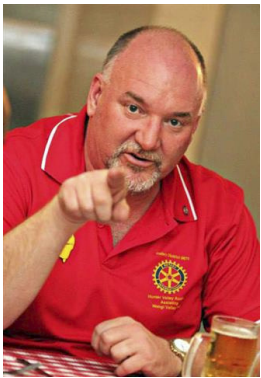
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Gerard Burke was given the task of supervising the concreting team. This team comprised of 16 villagers and a few team members, hereunder Ian Belcher. This was a mammoth task, but Gerard kept the team under full control. During the first day, they levelled and started the concreting of the floor of the first classroom. By the end of the week, the locals were able to complete the task by themselves and were both proud and amazed of what they had achieved. The brand new “concreting shirts” we discovered in one of the boxes were a great reward for the new “Nondugl concreting team”. Chris Roach and Beccy Bachmann, together with several other team members, were in charge of painting the classrooms and gave them a fresh white coat of paint.

Midwife Judy Hicks and nurse Lyn Thorpe were especially pleased to see that the health clinic was still in good shape. Both Judy & Lyn got down to continue to do some more medical training with the local hospital staff. Five babies were born during our stay, one was named after team member Lutz Bachmann from Norway. We were also able to catch up with some of the babies born on previous trips. We had also brought along hygiene packs for girls, made by volunteers of “Days for Girls International” in Australia. This was a great success, and something that needs more focus on in the future. The girls were very grateful and the local sewing group has now set themselves a task to produce sanitary pads and liners themselves.

Belinda Blain, a teacher from the East Maitland Primary School, was in charge of getting the library organised, which took almost the entire trip to complete. The Nondugl library now also includes a little science corner with a microscope sponsored by the National History Museum - University of Oslo. Jutta Bachmann introduced some of the students and teachers to the world of biology. They were truly amazed to see little insects 48 times enlarged!



Team leader Adrian Roach was able to start the formation of a Rotary Club in the village, and has held several meetings during our stay. They were introduced to the concept of community service, and came up with several great ideas how they could contribute in their community. We wish them all success in the future! We were also able to restructure the local school board. From what we could see money that appeared to be given by the government has been miss-spent on dinners for the board. A new board is about to be elected and together with the government they will keep a closer eye on the funds and interest of the school. Ladybird Elementary School, run by Elis Tunn, is still doing an amazing job. Three of the teachers have never been paid, but are still dedicated to their job. It was great to see that the resources and toys we had given them two years ago were still being used. Bethwyn Burke and Geoff Hicks were able to sort out a never ending amount of boxes filled with sewing gear. We were able to hand these out to the local sewing groups, and did some knitting classes for the ladies.

The pig pen was set up by Scott Atkinson, and our rotary pig Adriana is due to have up to 14 piglets before Christmas. These will be sold as a fundraiser for the school. The shelter was sponsored by our master chef Phil Gorton. He did an absolutely amazing job, and also taught the locals how to butcher a pig.



THE OPERA HOUSE IS 40 YEARS OLD



It seems like yesterday that Jorn Utzon designed and won the competition for the Sydney Opera House. It took a few years with quite a few hiccups before it was completed and way over budget. But these days we look at it as our major landmark in Australia. Forty years ago there was a Folkloric Dance performance at the opening of the Opera House in which 18 countries participated with many musical performances as well. Amongst that successful group of countries was Hungary with your man in the centre with the tight leotards and long hair. It brings back so many fond memories of the time when we danced on centre stage to a full house. There was a book published about that event where the author was quoted as saying "Folk dance is people. Folk dance is sharp cries, irresistible shouts, swirling, turning and leaping for joy. It is drama and comedy. Folk dance is the very spirit of man given outward expression."