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NEWSLETTER: 12th December 2014



ROTARY CLUB OF CESSNOCK
DISTRICT 9670
SPOKE

PRESIDENTS REPORT

We had a good night of fellowship last week and with our guest speaker Ian Scanlon from the CDLC it was great to be reminded again of the greatness of Rotarian Less Cooper whose vision back in 1995 led to the establishment of the CDLC.

Soberingly, the statistics that Ian quoted of the social, educational and unemployment issues relative to the youth and families in the Cessnock LGA were confronting and sadly real.

To listen to the stories from Ann Maree of the parent's joy at the reclamation of her son resulting from the CDLC work and the many examples of rehabilitated youth would have made Les proud.

We were therefore all saddened by the message that Ian and Ann Maree received on Thursday that the CDLC funding was withdrawn by the Government department and it would be compelled to close.

Martin Luther King Jr. once stated "*We must accept finite disappointment, but never lose infinite hope*".

Indeed our infinite hope is that the Government will restore the funding and resources needed to continue with what in Rotary terms is a labour of Service above Self.

Thank you Ian and Ann Maree for updating us on this significant community work.

And how about Georges International Toast to the Rotary Club of Beijing China. Good one George thank you.

Sunday resumes our next HVG lights roster and I thank all who volunteered their service. Saturday 6th December still needs support.

Also on Friday 5th December is the Wheeling and Able Christmas Party at the North End Hall in Church Street commencing at 6.30pm. This is also unfortunately a HVG lights night and I would urge all members not rostered for the lights to attend the Christmas party to help with this great work. You will be blessed when you see the special children and even more special parents of the children. Please come and help on that night.

Well we will really welcome back President Vicki refreshed from her international travelling next week. Vicki was attending training classes last week in Sydney but will be back on deck next week.

Acting President David



Cessnock District Learning Centre



Less Cooper started the CDLC in Cessnock, when he saw the great need by students for such a facility. Less was a member of our club. Today Cessnock District Learning Centre is a community supported organisation designed to meet the needs of “at risk” youth from the Cessnock area. Students are referred to the Centre by local high schools who nominate students experiencing serious behavioural, social, learning and other problems who are in danger of long term suspension. The Centre accommodates approximately 30 students at any one time with 60 students per year benefiting from the Centre. The Centre has been funded by the State Government for the past 10 years (two full time and two part-time staff).

Our Guest Speakers Ian Scanlon and Ann Maree are behind the success of the CDLC in Cessnock and it has been put up as an example to follow in other parts of NSW. Ian and Ann Maree told us just how successful the program is for students who would otherwise be unable to complete their education and more than likely be a very problematic person in our society. The students are referred to the CDLC when the schools simply can't cope with a students and if they are lucky they end up with a future after all. Ian said “The successful applicant will have tertiary qualifications and/or significant experiences in teaching students with behaviour difficulties, participating in outdoor education, planning, programming and accountability procedures, and effective communication.”

Now the government has decided to cancel any further funding for this very valuable program.

ROSTER 27th Nov 2014

INTERNATIONAL TOAST TELLER: Greg Bevan
WELCOME TO GUESTS: Alison Crane
INTRODUCE SPEAKER: George Koncz
GUEST SPEAKER: N/A
VOTE OF THANKS: N/A
FINE SESSION: N/A
STEWARDS: Peter carver
All members

4th Dec 2014

Peter Carver
Maley/Selmes
Gail Thomas
N/A
N/A
N/A
Peter Carver
All members

FUTURE EVENTS

4th Dec - Welcome back President Vicki
5th Dec - Wheeling & Able Christmas Party
Church Street Cessnock 6pm
11th Dec - AGM
18th Dec - Christmas Party (final night)

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.



It seems that Iver is enjoying his stay in Kurri Kurri and has had a lot of adventures during his week, which we found out about some of them during his weekly tales. After the meeting, some of us take a break before going home and I found these two waiting for a hot chocolate. It was as nice as it looks.





The Rotary International Toast was to the Rotary Club of Shanghai in China. It was interesting to know that this club is helping communities in outer Tibet with various services and communication is one of those. It was also interesting to note that Rotary was established in China prior to the communist regime but sadly was not able to function in that system. Today China has as many Rotary clubs as Cessnock. Namely two. Its a bit hard for outsiders to understand the ways in China but with its population, there must be avenues of reaching more than two Rotary clubs. It was “food for thought” that I chose China for my toast and it provoked a bit of interest and comments. Maybe in the future years there are big possibilities that clubs such as Rotary can get a better foothold then right now. Lets hope so, it could only be a better world if service clubs are involved in every country

Traffic Camera

A man was driving when he saw the flash of a traffic camera. He figured that his picture had been taken for exceeding the limit, even though he knew that he was not speeding.

Just to be sure, he went around the block and passed the same spot, driving even more slowly, but again the camera flashed. Now he began to think that this was quite funny, so he drove even slower as he passed the area again, but the traffic camera again flashed. He tried a fourth time with the same result. He did this a fifth time and was now laughing when the camera flashed as he rolled past, this time at a snail's pace.

Two weeks later, he got five tickets in the mail for Driving without a seat belt!!!



Don't forget that The Hunter Valley Lights Spectacular is on and David Clark has posted the roster for this week. There are a few members who are on nearly every night. That is fantastic but they also need a break. This week's roster is just about full but we will have two more weeks before the end of this years function. Ask some friends to come along and help out. It is not hard work but very rewarding and a great fund raiser for our club. You could even bring along your camera as I have known some members to do and take home some fantastic memories that will last.