



**Invocation.** *For good food, for good friendship and the privilege to serve we give thanks.*

**Four Way Test of the things we think, say or do.** *Is it the TRUTH? Is it FAIR to all concerned?*

*Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS? Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?*

## Derek's Dissertations

Whilst the races last Sunday were an important event on the racing calendar, the day was relatively quiet. The afternoon was not all that busy, though Fred reported we took \$4,563.25. Our next busy race day will be on Easter Saturday, 30<sup>th</sup> March, which is our Rotary Charity Race day.

Last Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March, we attended the funeral for the late Annette Nader at the Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Moruya. She was a great friend to many in our club and within the Moruya community. Our condolences go to John and his family at this sad time, and we need to gather round John and support him and his family. We formed a Guard of Honour outside the Church as Annette's Casket was driven out for a private burial.

Last week we met at the Moruya Museum for a pizza night. There were about 19 of the Museum volunteers, and they provided the drinks for the night. Steve and Jan ordered sufficient pizza's to feed their volunteers and about 20 plus Rotarians and partners who attended. We were all given a guided tour of the facilities at Emmott House, and they have an amazing display of Moruya's history. The weather was kind, so we were able to enjoy the evening in the Museum grounds. Excess pizzas were delivered to Gillett House where they went down a treat. Whilst there, I made some inquiries as to the history of Garlandtown, the small settlement adjacent to Moruya Airport. Originally established as accommodation for R.A.A.F. personnel during WW11, then a free camping spot and now a collection of private houses. In their files, they have all sorts of information stored away, and we can go and peruse what they have any time during their opening hours. A big thank you goes to President Sue Murphy and her volunteers for a very pleasant evening.

This week we have our Board meeting, and Secretary Vere has sent a request for Directors reports. If you have anything you wish to add to the agenda, please let Vere know so that any items can be added to the agenda. As I reported last week, at the Board Meeting we will confirm our Changeover night so necessary invites can be considered and sent.

This week we have a social evening, a good time to enjoy fellowship. Enjoy your Rotary. *Derek*



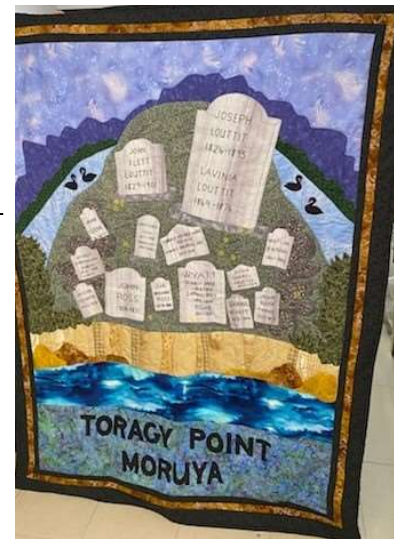
## Last Week at the Museum

A pleasant change of venue, which worked well. The pizzas arrived on cue and the Museum volunteers and Rotarians mingled as we crunched our way through them. It was good to see the old house lit up with people moving through the various displays.

## The Toragy Cemetery Project

At the meeting, Chris Manahan brought us up to date with his latest conversation with National Parks, a subject in which the Historical Society is much interested.\*\* In addition to the spades and tools needed for the 9am start on Monday, 11 March, we now need handy persons with soft paint brushes, water and detergent to clean the lettering on the tombstones.

*\*\* In the back room of the museum there is this large tapestry of Taragy Point, the work of Shirley Jurmann.*



**President Derek's Board.** *Vice President* Allan Veness; *Immediate Past President* Shirl Cornish; *Secretary* Vere Gray; *Treasurer* Jeff Proud; *Director Club Service* Steve Young; *Meal Numbers* Steve Young; *Program* John Gillett; *Bulletin* John Sewell; *Membership* Peter Smith; *Director International* Shirl Cornish; *Director Vocational* Peter Smith; *Director Community Service* Chris Manahan & Steve Picton; *Director Youth Service* Rhonnie South; *Rotary Foundation* Phil Armstrong; *Catering Projects* The Armstrongs, *Protection* Col Jay.

## Annette's Requiem

We were well represented at the 11am service, which filled the Church—a fitting tribute to her and the Nader family. The burial was private then the well attended wake was in the afternoon at the Golf Club.

## Last Sunday's Races—Manager Keith Reports

A successful day at the races!!

On Sunday 3 March we opened the kiosk at Moruya Jockey Club for the **Newhaven Park SERA Country Championships Qualifying Heat** race day. It was an important day for the Jockey Club as one of the winners on the day will race in Sydney for the final of the Championship. Our clientele seemed to be more mature with fewer of the younger set! We were not rushed off our feet but there was a steady stream of customers and ended up taking over \$4500 for the day. Our thanks go to those who regularly gather the goods for sale and to those who turn up for rostered duties on the day. It's also not a bad day to enjoy the company of fellow Rotarians, partners, offspring, and friends.

## Races on March 30th

John Spencer is starting work on the roster for the Easter Races on Saturday March 30th.

These are the designated Rotary Races to which all three clubs and the Jockey club contribute. It will be for the three clubs to decide where the funds from the day will be spent and we will be discussing our preference at Tuesday's Board meeting. Presumably the Carers' accommodation at the new hospital, as a benefit for the whole shire must be a strong candidate.

## The Travels of Alan Shephard.

Two weeks ago we reported that Alan had broken his hip in his fall in Vulcan Street. Alan is a shade confused and believes it was a leg bone which was broken, but it was indeed his left hip. Three days ago, it was decided that he could be sent back to Moruya for rehab, but our rehab unit had no bed so he ended up in Batemans Bay hospital. On Thursday he was moved to room 33 in the subacute ward at Moruya, much to his relief. Alan would welcome visitors—probably best to keep the visit short at this stage.



Photograph by Steve Young

Duty	This Week 12 March	Next Week 19 March
Badges	Merv Jamieson	Steve Picton
Invocation/toast	Col Jay	Jeff Proud
Meet & Greet	Steve Picton	Rhonnie South
Cashiers	Chris Manahan Fred Power	Peter Smith Fred Power
4 Way Test	Michel Nader	John Sewell
Introduce	—	Allan Veness
Thank	—	President Derek

Mar 8-10 Weekend	PETS & District Learning	Batemans Bay
Mar 11 Mon- day	Toragy Point Cemetery	From 9am
Mar 12 Tues- day	Board Meeting	
Mar 18 Mon- day	Hosting ANU med- ical students	Andrew Elek
Mar 19 Tues- day	Emeritus Bishop George Browning	Palestinian Issue
Mar 26 Tues- day	Social evening	
Mar 30 Sat- urday	Rotary Easter	Charity Races
April 2 Tues- day	Andries Dijkstra	Prothesis
April 10 Wed April 11 Thurs	RYDA	With Batemans

**Shirl, our Director International,** leaves this weekend for a month of hard work in the Philippines, selling the Sexual Health Education by Pictures (SHEP) message.

When SHEP was accepted by RAWCS as an add on to many overseas projects it was taken up by Walter Boch as part of his Min-PRA project (Mindanao Poverty Relief Action). Shirl and John spent three hectic weeks teaching SHEP to 13 Philippine High Schools.



Walter Boch spoke to us on 21 November last year and we concluded that he was then in his eighties. Nevertheless he seems to be the driving force behind the project which Shirl explains on the next page.

## THE CHALLENGES OF SEX EDUCATION IN RURAL SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES

The Editor asked me to write something about the Misamis 2024 SHEP Mission so here is a glimpse.

The statistics of the outcome of sexual activities in the Philippines are high reflecting lack of knowledge. 51% of all births are illegitimate, most of these to fathers not in the age group of the women (including family members). Teenage pregnancies are getting younger, (influenced by phones, pornography and alcohol). It has the highest rate of teenage pregnancies in South East Asia. On our last trip the teachers told me of their sad stories confirming the statistics. One said, 'We used to have girls getting pregnant at 16 and 17 now it is 14 and 15.'



On the positive side, just before leaving parliament in 2022 Rodrigo Duterte (a local hero) passed a bill raising the Age of Consent from 12 (the only country lower being Nigeria with 11) to 16. A guilty verdict is from 15 years jail to life. The UN has been pushing for this as 7 out of 10 victims of sexual violence (not just a little bit) are children and 1 out of 5 from 13 to 17 year olds experience sexual violence. (United Nations Children's Fund report).

What to do? We detail the man's contribution to the making of a baby and see a certain amazement perhaps even responsibility. Have gentle pictures of what consent is and what it is not. A short list of many health risks of having a baby before maturity - under 18 (with poor healthcare). This helps them see the consequences of what they see and know. We give the fact that the number of children per woman is down from 6 in 1970 to 2.6 in 2022 – so why rush into it (at 14). And think about when, how many and in what circumstances you want children rather than, 'It wasn't planned, it just happened. I didn't particularly want to but went along with it anyway.' Men say this sort of thing too. Activities encourage talking about it – which is a bit taboo, embarrassing – but once begun, blossoms.

We mention that the pill is safe – which is contrary to public thinking which is influenced by the Catholic church. The consequence being that 100,000 women a year attend hospitals after backyard abortions. And take into account that because our students are at High School they are the not very poor, they can access contraception. I have 1,500 condoms, enough for one between two students, hopefully, and 10 plastic bananas. I can hear the noise already. There is a list of YouTube links to take home.

I still do not know the logistics of all this but it is something like, 5 trainers from Australia and 7 from the Philippines, teaching several concurring lessons of 2, for 3 classes a day + parents and community after school; for 5 days a week, for 6 weeks.

And I will not have time for a holiday as SHEP has a booth at the May Singapore Convention – which is being held at the Marina Bay Sands Hotel complex where Taylor Swift performed. *Shirl*

**We have the skills**—Alan Wilton from Bega is part of the Group 16 Rugby League competition administration. They are organising a Group 16 Rugby League knock-out competition next weekend, Friday 15<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March to be held at Mackay Park in Batemans Bay.

There will be 16 men's teams and 12 women's teams competing. He is offering Rotary \$500 for a day if we were able to man the entrance gates on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup>.

We would need 3 teams of 3 Rotarians to take the money/efpos and sell entrance tickets. There will be a security guard always in attendance, and entrance would be foot traffic only.

Timing would be from 8:00 am till about 3:30pm, so each group of 3 would work a shift of 2-3 hours each.

If you would be interested in assisting, could you please let me know by close of business **next Monday, 11<sup>th</sup>** March so I can notify Alan if we are able to accommodate his request. *Derek*