

**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

We've all been shocked by the attack on innocent victims (mostly women) in Bondi Junction recently but heartened by the response not only of the police officers and paramedics, but members of the public who just saw a need to help and didn't hesitate to step up. Police Inspector Amy Scott eventually ended the rampage when she shot the person who had caused so much trauma. Amy Scott, in 2019, was recognised at the Rotary Club Police officer of the Year award ceremony in Sydney when she received the Demonstrated Courage and Devotion to Duty award. The Rotary Club Police officer of the Year recognises outstanding police officers who are nominated by their local Commanders, and after a selection process across the state, the eventual award winners are selected in various categories. And as we saw, Inspector Scott demonstrated her courage and devotion in Bondi Junction.

Last week PP Shirl's enthusiasm was on display when she talked about her recent visit to the Philippines on the R.A.W.C.S. project about sexual health. This was her second visit in 5 years, and it appears there has been some improvement in the attitudes of the young people.

Don't forget the kitchen at the Golf Club will be closed on 30<sup>th</sup> April for a changeover of caterers, and so we will be having a social night at the Legacy of India restaurant in Moruya. John Gillett is organising the evening, so you would need to let John (or myself) know if you and your partner wish to attend.

This week we welcome our local state member of parliament Dr Michael Holland, M.L.A. Dr Holland has been a vocal supporter for the need to build a level 4 hospital here in Moruya for the Eurobodalla region.

*Enjoy your Rotary,*

*Derek*



## Last Week—Shirl's Philippine Adventure

Mindanao is the second largest in the Philippines, with a population of around xxx., most of whom are Catholics.

Walter Boch of the Rotary Club of Burwood spoke to us last November—an extraordinary Rotarian making big money through raffles which went into a Community Chest and funded mainly overseas projects, not least of which was MINPRA (Mindanao Poverty Relief Action). Walter has been the Project leader for several years.

For the month long program, Walter had assembled a team of five Rotarians and ten or so local nurses and teachers—see photo below -for teaching Shirl's SHEP campaign to High School pupils.

Page three is Shirl's report on a hectic month.



**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.

## We are short of Speakers

John Gillett has filled in the program for the rest of the Rotary year, which shows that we have vacancies which could be filled with invited speakers. So I guess it is up to all of us to see if we can help.

Possibilities include new arrivals in our area, particularly if they intend to open a business. Or perhaps new people anxious to settle in the community—remember if you bring them along as your guest, the Club pays for the first two weeks.

Perhaps people who have retired from innovative careers would have a good story to tell. Or at the other end of the scale, people who have experienced poverty and/or homelessness.

We have a “Meet & Greet” roster of members charged with looking after newcomers.

Duty	This Week 23 April	Next Week 30 April
<b>Badges</b>	John Sewell	Dinner at Legacy of India 6.30 for 7pm Partners Welcome
<b>Invocation/toast</b>	Phil Smith	
<b>Meet &amp; Greet</b>	Rhonnie South	
<b>Cashiers</b>	Wendy Smith Fred Power	
<b>4 Way Test</b>	John Spencer	
<b>Introduce</b>	Phil Armstrong	
<b>Thank</b>	Tony Armstrong	

**Birthdays:** None

**Anniversary:** None

## RED DOOR THEATRE PRESENTS

A Programme of Two One-Act Plays

**Moments**, by Bruce Kane  
**Strip Poker**, by Jean-Pierre Martinez

May 17, 18, 24, 25; 7.00pm

May 18, Matinee; 2.00pm

Moruya RSL Hall, Page St, Moruya  
From \$20 Concession to \$30 Premium

**Tickets:**

[moruyareddoortheatrecompany.com.au](http://moruyareddoortheatrecompany.com.au)  
or by phone **0490 805 389**

By permission : Bruce Kane Productions & La Comediatheque



**Rotary International Convention. 25-29 May 2024 .**

Registrations are open on the Website. All RI events take place at the Marina Bay Sands Expo & Convention Centre unless otherwise indicated.

We have paid for Shirl's stand in the House of Friendship. Stand Number 2230. She has the promise of help for another stall holder but clearly the business of setting up the stand and manning its displays will be difficult. So if you are going to the Convention, talk to Shirl.

The Convention promises a program of influential speakers, of whom John Hewko is potentially the most interesting. We are used to communications from him in his role as General Secretary and CEO of Rotary International and The Rotary Foundation. He leads a diverse staff of 800 at RI's World Headquarters in Evanston and seven international offices. His parent Rotary Club is Kiev in the Ukraine.

April 23 Tues	Dr Michael Holland	State Member for Bega
April 30 Tues	Dinner at “Legacy of India”	Partners welcome
<b>April 26 Fri</b>	<b>Races</b>	<b>See Page 4</b>
May 7 Tues	Tracy Blake and Claire Waite	Oncology/Prostrate
May 14 Tues	Board Meeting	
May 21 Tues	Andrew Constance	
<b>May 26 Wed</b>	<b>Races</b>	<b>Broulee /Tomakin Cup</b>
May 28 Tues	Social evening	
June 4 Tues	Angie Winter	Anglicare
June 11 Tues	Board Meeting	
June 18 Tues	Social Evening	
June 25 Tues	<b>CHANGEOVER</b>	
<b>June 28 Fri</b>	<b>Races</b>	<b>Tradies Day</b>

## DISTURBING THOUGHT FOR TODAY:

War does not determine who is right - only who is left.

## TEENS IN TROUBLE

### Sexual Health Education by Pictures provides solutions to teenage pregnancy in the Philippines

The Australian crew of five Rotarians met at Sydney airport and 2 days, 2 flights and a squishy 6 hour drive later, we arrived at Gingoog, Mindanao in Southern Philippines at 4 am. 'Today we talk with Superintendent of Education and the Mayor,' we are told. 'We meet at 7 am.' Okay we went and got permission to teach SHEP in high schools. Eleven young local excited trainees eagerly awaited a chat and demo class – they had done their homework.

Next morning was an enigma wrapped in a mystery. But it all went swimmingly. We had the idea that the Sydney team would set an example. My first class was Year 11 and the young men quickly informed me that their one female classmate was pregnant. She gave a sheepish smile. This was a bit awkward and I skipped the scariest dangers of childbirth for those under reproductive maturity i.e. 18.



The schools teach in English but the students spoke their local dialect at home. Quickly it became obvious that our young trainees were more effective teachers than aging Rotarians. But we were unique, terrorists have scared away tourists and enterprise from Mindanao. So curious brown eyes gathered excitedly around us wanting a photo. Most had mobiles. 'You are like pop stars,' we are told. A 7-year-old gazed at me with amazement, 'You have blue eyes.'

When teaching a similar program five years ago, the clear anatomy drawings caused a loud whoop, the girls covered their eyes and the boys stared intently. This time even the year sevens were unmoved. 'They watch pornography,' the teacher explains. So they know basic external Anatomy but have not heard of consent. W Concerning which President Rodrigo Duterte – a local hero – had passed a law raising it from 12 (only country lower being Nigeria with 11) to 16 with conviction resulting in 15 years jail. The young ladies take note, the young men also but for different reasons.

Philippines University research shows an increase in younger teenage pregnancies. A teacher said, 'We have always had girls pregnant at 15 and 16 now they are 13 and 14.' The Head says, 'They arrange to meet on the phone, the parents cannot stop them, they come home at 1 am.' Another, 'One of our students has HIV, we have been told, but we not which one.' Then, 'We have chlamydia.'

Other disturbing statistics include: 51% of pregnancies are illegitimate and a high percentage of the fathers are in a 'different age group to the woman'. When I tell the classes this I can feel the young ladies understand and take note. A difficulty is that the Catholic Church, 84% of the population is catholic, and has convinced the population that the pill is, 'dangerous for women.' We can talk about condoms but were refused consent to actually show one.

The outcome for younger teenage pregnancy is in every school: the dropout rate, the health consequences, stigma and loneliness, the cycle of poverty, child care by a rotation of family members. Teachers are concerned and sympathetic, a few judgemental. Work overload, embarrassment and lack of training prevent them teaching the compulsory lessons. Hopefully our classes open conversations.

I was surprised that four of the 11 new trainers who wrote me strong personal messages of the benefits they recieved, 'My experience with you and this mission will be a strong testimony to me. I pray you will continue to be a light for other people' ... 'Aside from caring for the young people. I learned a lot from your project.' Worldwide change is rapidly affecting the structure of families, work, sexual choices and consequences. For young people to have facts, be aware, discuss and explore ideas, gives confidence and power to make choices and decisions and that give them, and those they care for, a chance of healthier, happier lives.

*Shirley Cornish 20 4 2024*