



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

Last week we had a very interesting and informative talk by Emeritus Bishop George Browning. He gave us a detailed account of many proposed treaties concerning the Middle East from the end of WW1 to now. Most of the earlier treaties were set by European countries, and were primarily for the benefit of those countries, especially France & England, rather than the local inhabitants. Even so, Jews, Muslims and Christians lived together in relative harmony for many years. The advent of creating the land of Israel in 1947/48 changed all that. George Browning is a passionate humanitarian and has an encyclopedic knowledge and recall of these events, and all of us who were able to attend were given a great history lesson about that part of the world.

This week we have a social evening, a great chance to get together for fellowship, and discuss Rotary topics.

This coming Saturday (30th March) is the Easter Rotary Charity race day, with all proceeds going to the Carers Accommodation for the yet to be built Eurobodalla Regional Hospital. Our first meeting in April (the 2nd) will welcome Andries Dijkstra to talk about Prothesis. This is a topic close to Fran (and me) as her Father had both of his lower legs amputated as a result of diabetes. All this occurred shortly after he retired at the age of 60. He had artificial legs, though at home, and especially in his garden he moved around on his knees using leather knee pads a friend had made for him. Though we could never prove it, we believe his diabetes was the result of his war service in PNG.

At the risk of being repetitive, I must again emphasize the importance of someone standing up to take on the role of Club Administrative Secretary. Someone who is adept with computer skills, as most of what we receive comes through either emails or Rotary's Club Runner. Outgoing Secretary Vere will be only too glad to assist in the setting up for whoever takes on that role. So please consider, your *Club Needs You!*

Enjoy your Rotary,

Derek

Last Week—Bishop Browning

Accepting that Rotary is a non political organization, George said that politics had determined the shape and organization of modern Israel, beginning perhaps in the Balfour Declaration of 1917. This committed the British Government to support the establishment of a national home for Jews in Palestine.



With the breakup of the Ottoman Empire, Britain and France (both with a need to secure the stability of the Suez canal) established areas of influence as agreed in the Sykes–Picot agreement in 1916. This gave Britain Palestine, Jordan and Iraq, France Syria and Lebanon. So between the wars pioneers like Gertrude Bell and TE Lawrence helped draw the boundary lines and the state of Israel emerged. World War II and the holocaust helped establish Israel as the safe place for Jews. However relationships with Egypt and other Arab states deteriorated to the point where Israel launched a defensive strike in the six day war of June, 1967. Egypt withdrew from control of the Gaza Strip and Israel gained control of much of the Golan Heights as well as a portion of the West Bank, the site of continuing strife.

There were two Oslo Accords in the 1990's with Yassar Arafat leading the PLO and Israeli Prime Minister Rabin raising hopes of a two state solution. These hopes are now virtually dead with Hamas replacing the PLO and Netanyahu leading a right wing government. Hamas actions on 8th October were brutal beyond description, as are the Israeli retaliations in Gaza. Where to now?

Sadly George concludes that world wide we see the rise of despots and a genuine threat to democracy.

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.

The Australian Palestine Advocacy Network

Peter Smith picked up a passing remark by George Browning last week about his time as President of the Australian Palestine Advocacy Network. This led to some research about the Network.

APAC began around 2010 with George as a founder member. He soon became President. His signature on the 2019-2020 report summarises the position of Palestinians at that time, as he handed over the position of President.

Inter alia, we needed to:

'Find opportunities to listen to and amplify Palestinian voices who are able to articulate meaningful strategies for the way forward, including those articulating 'One State' options.

'Seek partnerships from within the Jewish community of friends who do not want to be associated with an Israel whose very existence depends upon the subjugation of others in perpetuity.

'Be resolute in opposing any form of antisemitism but equally resist the weaponising of the accusation in furtherance of Israel's colonising policies.'

Five years on, none of these aspirations has been met.

Regionalisation—a plea to us in 9705-7

Last week we all received an e-mail from DG Andrea telling us that it is time we nominated someone to be Rotary Community Leader of the twelve Clubs in our Community Group. It is probably time that we began thinking about what the future might bring.

The selection criteria for the position are so stringent that one suspects that only people of the caliber of ex DGs or members of District positions will be interested. We must hope that the successful candidate does not find it necessary to set up weekly zoom meetings.

So would we divide the twelve clubs into close neighbours and those requiring long journeys and possible overnight stays? In the first category we could see Eurobodalla clubs sharing meetings and projects such as catering at the races or as fund raisers, markets, projects requiring physical actions.

The more distant clubs we could perhaps share overseas projects—possibly through RAWCS.

Food for thought??

Duty	This Week 26 March	Next Week 2 April
Badges	Phil Smith	Steve Young
Invocation/toast	Wendy Smith	Kevin Armstrong
Meet & Greet	Peter Smith	Ndrew Elek
Cashiers	John Spencer Fred Power	Phil Armstrong
4 Way Test	Allan Veness	Tony Armstrpng
Introduce	—	President Derek
Thank	—	John Gillett

Birthdays: Bronwyn Jay and David Collis

Last Monday's Hosting Medical Students

All seemed to go smoothly. All were new to the Medical School, though several already held tertiary qualifications. Thanks to Andrew Elek for organizing the event.

Mar 26 Tuesday	Social evening	
Mar 30 Saturday	Rotary Esster	Charity Races
April 2 Tuesday	Andries Dijkstra	Prothesis
April 10 Wed April 11 Thurs	RYDA	With Batemans Bay

The Regionalisation Project

We are the Coast and Highlands Group, 9705-7

Batemans Bay
Bega
Berry
Bowral/Mittagong
Gerringong Sunrise
Merimbula
Milton Ulladulla
Moruya
Moss Vale
Narooma
Nowra
Pambula