



Coolamon Rotary News

Bulletin of the Coolamon Rotary Club Inc, Coolamon, NSW Vol. 41(22) 2 April, 2012

Regular Meeting – 26 March, 2012

In attendance: Christine Atkinson, John Burns, Ian Durham, John Glassford, Dick Jennings, Ian Jennings, Grahame Miles, Neil Munro, Marg Perkin, Garth Perkin, Leslie Weston, Paul Weston

Visiting Rotarians: Peter Gissing and Alan Sharp (Wagga Wagga Sunrise); Ross Reid, Roger Quinne, Peter Commens, and Doug Bell (June)

Guests: Val Burns, Susan Glassford, Marilyn Jennings, Christine Lorraine, Sharon Miles, Ingrid and Keith Sykes

Special Guests: GSE team visiting from Scotland (Mark Bryce, Jamie Harrison, Amanda Ingram, Anne Sutherland, Peter Farr/Team Leader)

President Marg called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Aside from the usual food, drinks and fellowship, the meeting featured the GSE team visiting from Scotland. The team consisted of team leader and Rotarian Peter Farr (Rotary Club of Bridge of Allan and Dunblane, Scotland), Mark Bryce (firefighter), Jamie Harrison (police inspector), Amanda Ingram (waste management), and Anne Sutherland (events manager). The lads dressed in their formal best (kilt with matching tie and sporan); John G., who has Scottish ancestry, also wore the traditional garb. The group gave informative talks describing their lives and professions in Scotland, and their experiences to



Scottish GSE team members Jamie Harrison, Peter Farr, Amanda Ingram, Mark Bryce, and Anne Sutherland

date in Australia. The group were near the end of their formal GSE visit, but Amanda and Anne planned to take in a bit of sightseeing for a couple of weeks before returning to Scotland. It was a thoroughly enjoyable evening, and naturally, no one was spared fines by our determined Sargeant at Arms Dick, not even the visitors.



President of Rotary International
Governor of District 9700
Coolamon Club President
Coolamon Club President-Elect
Coolamon Club Secretary
Coolamon Club Treasurer



Kalyan Banerjee
Ian Simpson
Marg Perkin
Paul Weston
John Glassford
Henk Hulsman

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Web Site: <http://www.coolamonrotary.com>

Regular Meeting – 2 April, 2012

In attendance: John Burns, Ian Durham, John Glassford, Ian Jennings, Grahame Miles, Neil Munro, Marg Perkin, Garth Perkin, Leslie Weston, Paul Weston
Guests: Melina Skimore (guest speaker)

President Marg called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. The main items of business were soliciting volunteers for two upcoming events: the markets at the Up-To-Date Store on the 15th of April and the racing event at the showgrounds on ANZAC Day. After concluding business and enjoying food and fellowship, we listened to an emotional and inspiring talk by Melina Skidmore, the founder and CEO of Angels for the Forgotten. Melina described a very sad tale of abuse at the hands of a dysfunctional mother, uncaring foster parents (144 homes over the space of several years!), and an abusive husband.

Despite these hardships, or perhaps because of them, Milena founded Angels for the Forgotten, a charitable organization that caters to the needs of foster children as well as single parents in needy situations. It's truly remarkable that a woman as young as Milena has done so much to assist foster children throughout Australia, who unfortunately are woefully under-cared for by government agencies. With a tiny staff of co-workers, Angels for the Forgotten distributes care packages to foster children (who often are taken from their homes with nothing but the clothes on their backs) and to victims of natural disasters (e.g. the recent floods in the Riverina), as well as running programs to assist at-risk single parents and youngsters. This is all accomplished with a shoestring budget consisting mainly of contributions from a few wealthy benefactors. All in attendance were moved by the presentation, and will be investigating ways to raise funds for such a deserving organization.

President's Report



28 March - It was great to meet up with the GSE team from Scotland over the weekend and to hear their presentation on Monday night. They are a lovely bunch of lads (said with a Scottish accent!). I know they really enjoyed their time in Coolamon. Thank you to the families who hosted them (Glassfords, Burns, Durhams, Miles and Perkins). Also to Ian J. who set the itinerary and drove the bus for the past 2 days, ably assisted by other Rotarians. Thank you also to John, who drove Mark to Narrandera this afternoon so he could visit his sick, elderly aunt. The team only have one more club to visit before Jamie and Mark head back home and Ann and Amanda travel up the coast from Melbourne to Sydney for a few weeks and Peter heads to Melbourne to catch up with his sister then they too head back to Scotland.

Garth, John, Susan and I attended the District conference, the Glassfords for the whole weekend and Garth and I for the Sunday. By all accounts it was a good conference. Garth and I certainly enjoyed the quality of presentations we heard. Probably the most moving for me was Bernie Rogers, PDG, who was born with polio and has been actively involved in its eradication. Glenys McDonald spoke of the search she has been involved in of the HMAS Sydney.

March is Literacy month in Rotary.

The Temora club has invited us to their club on the 16th April for an interplast talk. It will cost \$20/head. They need to know numbers by the 13th April. If you intend going, please give your name to Garth. I'm sure we can organise a car pool.

Grahame will be wanting lots of helpers on the 15th April so please help out as much as you can as this is our major event for the year. The banner certainly looks good, and it's great to know that we'll be able to use it for future markets.

As a result of the Partner's program which Jean Simpson launched, \$7000 was raised. This means that 55 swags have been ordered, and 400 households in Luro, Timor Leste will have safe drinking water as a result of the water filters.

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President's report (continued)

2 April - What an amazing lady, Melina Skidmore. She certainly had a story to share and she did this so eloquently. Melina founded Angels for the Forgotten after a very difficult early life which inspired her to set up the program. Angels for the Forgotten is a program dedicated to making a difference and real impact in the lives of children who live in and out of foster homes or crisis accommodation through the provision of special care packages, resources, information and support. Milena actually had no packages to show us as they had all been used in the recent Wagga floods. The members of the club in attendance were inspired to help out in some way, which will be discussed at the next Board meeting.

Melina told me while we were eating that she has 4 children, each of whom have special needs, 2 with autism. So is quite an amazing person who has done something positive to alleviate the plight of children. She doesn't want others to suffer the difficulties she had in early life.

Remember to support the Market day as best you can. A roster is currently being devised.

The Harness Club require assistance on ANZAC Day. I have contacted Wendy Dennis to let her know the Perkins and Westons will be able to help out. She will let me know what jobs she wants done. If you can help out, let Garth know.

A message from AG Gary Roberts: The Visit by RI President will be Tuesday 22nd May. AG Ian has requested that all clubs not have their regular meeting that week but come to this function instead. It will be a cocktail function at the Wagga Country Club for Rotarians and partners, and will cost \$20 for finger food. Drinks will be available at the bar. There will be a mass induction of new members. All club presidents who have inducted a new member since March 1st will present that member to the RI President for him to pin them with their badge (I hope you will be there, John Burns!!). Invites for this event will be forthcoming.

A lot to look forward to. Happy Easter to everyone.

Yours in Rotary,

Marg

Upcoming Events

- Don't forget the garden show planned for Easter Saturday (7th April). Tours of local gardens of distinction will be on offer, an effort to promote the township of Coolamon.
- Produce and Craft Market at the Up-To-Date Store on 15 April. We'll be needing help from members to man the entrance tables and sell raffle tickets. Please reserve the date.
- On 23rd April we will hear a presentation from Narelle Thomas, a botanical artist who recently had an exhibition at the Wagga Art Gallery. Narelle has been inspired by the unique Australian flora and fauna, and will be the Artist in Residence at the art show and the Up-To-Date Store later this year.

Don't forget to consult the diary for other upcoming events.

DIARY

(NOTE: All Coolamon RC meetings are 6:30 for 7:00 unless otherwise listed)

- 9 April No meeting (Easter Monday)
- 12 April Bingo. Roster: Leslie Weston, Paul Weston, Marg Perkin, John Glassford.
- 15 April Coolamon Rotary Craft & Produce Market, Up-To-Date Store, 9:00 am – 3:00 pm.
- 16 April Fundraiser for Zone 10/District 9700 at Temora Ex-Services Club. Guest speaker: surgeon from Interplast. Cost: \$20/head. Contact Garth to confirm attendance by 13 April.
- 23 April Coolamon RC regular meeting (Coolamon Sports & Rec Club). Guest speaker: Narelle Thomas, botanical artist. Gilbert catering; ring with apologies.
- 25 April ANZAC Day. Harness racing event at the showgrounds (volunteers needed).
- 29 April District Assembly in Grenfell. Please plan to attend.
- 30 April Outing to Thirsty Crow microbrewery and restaurant in Wagga. Ring Garth if planning to attend.
- 7 May Regular meeting and board meeting at bottom pub. Ring Garth with apologies.
- 6-9 May Rotary International conference in Bangkok. Further information can be located on www.rotary.org/convention.
- 2 July Changeover dinner and drawing for Monster Shopping Spree raffle.
- 7 July Street raffle

Websites of Interest

Coolamon Rotary Club: <http://coolamonrotary.com>

Mountains of the Moon Climb 2011: <http://www.mountainsofthemoon.org>

Rotary Down Under on line: <http://flipflashpages.uniflip.com/2/26587/49598/pub>

Rotarians For Fighting AIDS: <http://www.rffa.org>

Our Rotary Centennial Twin Club Hout Bay, Cape Town, South Africa:

<http://www.rotaryhoutbay.org>

Don't forget to regularly check our club web site for current information such as bingo rosters and various newsletters from the District Governor, the School of St. Jude's, the monthly membership on the move newsletter as well as several other club bulletins.

On the lighter side...

A guy is sitting at home alone when he hears a knock on the front door. When he opens the door, he encounters two sheriff's deputies, one of whom asks if he is married and, if so, whether the deputy can see a picture of the wife.

The guy says "sure" and shows him a picture of his wife.

The deputy looks carefully at the picture and then gravely says, "I'm sorry sir, but it looks like your wife's been hit by a truck."

The guy says, "I know, but she has a great personality, is an excellent cook, and lets me play golf whenever I want to!"