

COOLAMON ROTARY CLUB INC.



March is Literacy Month

Bulletin # 32 for the Meeting March 14th 2011

{This bulletin prepared by John Glassford and Ian Durham.}

Members Present: 7. Make-ups 4

Attendance 58%

In attendance were Ian Durham, Ray Foley, Grahame Miles, Ian Jennings, Henk Hulsman, Marg Perkin and Max Chapman.

Our Guests tonight: John Byrne (Guest speaker) and Kevin Farrelly.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Ian Durham welcomed our members and our guests.

We had one guest, Kevin Farrelly, and of course our guest speaker, John Byrne. John spoke on building developments at the Coolamon Central School.

A total of approximately \$6 million was budgeted for the new building refurbishments et cetera at the school. This was a combination of Federal government money from the Economic Stimulus Program money and State government money, mainly for needed maintenance and new buildings, and updating of old school rooms. Co-incidentally, this funding came at the same time as the Federal money and it was Coolamon's time in the State School upgrade schedule to have this State government funding.

As well as the buildings et cetera, refurbishment consisted of complete new gas, electricity and phone systems (the latest technology) as well as a new wireless computer system. In all, Coolamon Central School has now a new hall, eight new classrooms, a new library, many refurbished classrooms and all the latest technology, as well as extensive landscaping. This should now enable the Coolamon Central School to be up to date for decades into the future.

John gave a very comprehensive and interesting talk which was well received by all those present.

Ray Foley moved a vote of thanks to John on behalf of the club.

Bingo this week was quite successful, with five Rotarians present and a total of 33 participants. The profit was approximately \$500.

We are still receiving money for sponsorship for our shopping spree raffle and after a slowdown in the phone book progress, we are now finalising the advertising in the phone book, with quite a number of new ads. coming in.

Japanese authorities request ShelterBoxes for the north

Local government authorities in Japan's Iwate Prefecture have requested 500 ShelterBoxes to provide emergency shelter and lifesaving supplies for families who lost their homes in last week's tsunami.

The request came via the local Rotary district and is initially for 100 ShelterBoxes for each of the following five cities: Miyako, Yamadamachi, Kamaishi, Rikuzentakata and Ofunato.

The ShelterBox Response Team (SRT) operating in the country are working in cooperation with the British Embassy, British military personnel and the US military to overcome the logistical challenges they are facing.

It is a seven-hour journey by road from Tokyo to the Iwate Prefecture and with fuel shortages, heavy snow, freezing temperatures and the ongoing nuclear situation there are a range of obstacles to overcome in order to ensure aid reaches the families who need it most.

'Every disaster is different but this one is certainly posing a unique set of circumstances for us to deal with,' said SRT member and ShelterBox International Director Lasse Petersen who has been in Japan since last Saturday.

'We mobilised on day one because we knew there would be a need for the provision of emergency shelter. The specific needs request means we can now begin our distribution and we continue to be ready to respond in whatever capacity is required from us.'



The Rotary Foundation sets up disaster fund for Japan.

In response to the massive earthquake and tsunami that struck Japan on 11 March, The Rotary Foundation has established the Rotary Japan 2011 Disaster Recovery Fund, which will support long-term recovery projects in affected areas.

Rotarians and non-Rotarians can donate online on the link below. Clubs and districts can contribute cash and District Designated Fund (DDF) allocations to the fund.

The 9.0-magnitude quake, Japan's largest in history, and the tsunami that followed it caused widespread devastation, paralyzing much of the northern coast. More than 10,000 people have been killed, and thousands are missing. Millions have been left without clean water or power, and at least 550,000 people have been forced from their homes.

[JAPAN EARTHQUAKE AND TSUNAMI APPEAL](#)

“BLAME GAME” Article supplied by PDG Harold Sharp

Take a few minutes to consider what constitutes a successful Rotary Club.

In determining the criteria, one must accept the fact that Rotary as such is not a “one size fits all” kind of organisation. Rotary International at present operates in 214 countries and geographic areas with many diverse cultures and traditions that must be respected.

The elements therefore of a successful Rotary club must allow for adaptability to cultural standards and changing times.

With this in mind the following are elements that are the essential framework for a successful Rotary club.

A successful Rotary club:

- 1. Is one that has the ability to sustain and / or increase its membership base**
- 2. Implements quality projects and programs that address the needs of the local communities together with international communities**
3. Supports the Rotary Foundation through program participation and financial contributions
4. Has a succession plan to develop members capable of serving their club and district
5. Is simply a group of men and women who acting as volunteers are visibly dedicated to making their communities better in many significant ways.

The key element in the above list is obviously number one, membership growth and retention. Without a strong and active membership Rotary clubs find it challenging and difficult to satisfy the other four elements.

The number one complaint by those Rotary clubs who are not successful is the difficulty of attracting new members.

UNTRUE!!!

In real terms, clubs and districts throughout each year attract many new members. People who are attracted to the elements listed above.

The problem arises that after joining the Rotary Club what they thought or hoped for does not eventuate.

Obviously there will always be natural attrition, but I have found through research that Rotarians both new and old are leaving for the following reasons:

- Lack of fellowship
- Poor venue
- Too much emphasis on fundraising
- Not enough time allocated for social functions
- Meetings lack interest
- Poor guest speakers
- Lack of leadership
- And many more.

Surely the time has arrived when each Rotary Club – successful or facing challenges – must stop the ‘blame game’ and denial that their club is not functioning at its potential.

There is nothing wrong with the principles and mission set out by Rotary International. In real terms it is not the product “Rotary” but us who are managing the product who are in the wrong. Let us all sit down and have a good look at ourselves and our clubs and ask a simple question:

“Why would anyone want to join my club?”

If the honest and realistic answer is positive, then congratulations.

If your response carries doubt and negativity, then be proactive and constructively discuss openly and honestly at your next club planning assembly,

“How can we continue to be a successful Rotary Club?”



"This is a changing world; we must be prepared to change with it." Paul Harris, Rotary's founder

ROSTERS:

1. Bingo

Thurs. April 14th: John Glassford, Dick Jennings, Max Chapman, Mark Reardon.

2. Caravan Park Cleaning

- Caravan Park 18th March 2011 Neil Munro and Henk Hulsman
- Caravan Park 25th March 2011 Henk Hulsman and Max Chapman
- Caravan Park 1st April 2011 Max Chapman and Ian Durham

DIARY:

28th March Monday Paul Weston guest speaker on digital photography.

1-3 April 2011 District 9700 Conference Orange

11-16th April R.Y.L.A. in Parkes (Rotary Youth Leadership Awards 18-25 years old.)

17th Sunday April Coolamon Community Day.

1st May Sunday District 9700 Assembly in Grenfell, all incoming directors should attend.

2nd May Monday 2011 Coolamon's 40th BIRTHDAY with John Winterbottom.

30th May Monday Monster Raffle Draw in Coolamon.

21-25 May 2011 Rotary International Convention in New Orleans

16th July Coolamon Street Raffle

29 July 2011 Coolamon's 40th Change Over Dinner {Friday Night}

October 2011 RYDA in Wagga Wagga (Rotary Youth Driver Awareness).

1st December 2011 Mountains of the Moon Summit.

COOLAMON ROTARY CLUB WEB SITE: <http://www.coolamonrotary.com>

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

Hout Bay Rotary Club our Twin Club: <http://www.rotaryhoutbay.org>

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

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

NOTE BENE:

If you are able to please send your contributions to the editor for stories photographs and anything else that you want to see reflected in our weekly bulletin.