

The Rotary Club of TAMWORTH FIRST LIGHT bulletin bulletin bulletin bulletin



www.tamworthfirstlight.org.au 19 August 2009 – Meeting #966

Brett's Banter



Quote of the Week

“Sex is like playing bridge –
if you don’t have a partner,
you better have a good hand”

- Woody Allen

We heard from Simon Hall this morning who is a young educator who spent a year working at the School of St. Jude in Tanzania. We have heard so much about the school and its progress, but it was good to get Simon’s perspective on the education and selection process from first hand experience.

Great to have Simon’s dad Michael visit us to listen to his son’s talk and also because Michael is a Charter member of our Club.

Qyhn Lam is back for a second time so maybe she has made a decision after visiting the Rotary clubs in Tamworth. If she does join us, then we will have the eyes covered with her and Peter and the ears with Jeanette. All we need then is the mouth. Steve goes part of the way.

Terry Burgess reported a provisional profit from the Gold Coast Golf trip of \$7,500.00. Great effort and we will ensure it is well allocated.

Michael Smith gave us his 2 minute vocational profile in 90 seconds. He certainly doesn’t take his profession too seriously, but he does provide what is now an essential service to businesses and most individuals.

And by the way to all the hard of hearing members in the Club, it is Pedal the Peel not Piddle the Peel. Maybe they thought it was a service project run in conjunction with Bowel Scan.

Terry Burgess reports the history of the club is virtually complete except for photos and stories and narratives.

Have a great weekend and week ahead.

Brett

AND FOR THE NEWS

YOUTH EXCHANGE PROGRAM – LONG TERM

We are seeking **ONE MORE FAMILY FROM TAMWORTH FIRST LIGHT (found one family – now need the second family)** to volunteer to host Swedish Exchange student Felix Frankenberg as of January 2010. Felix will be initially hosted by Ken & Di Hall and then Peter & Val Godden from Tamworth Rotary for the first half of his Exchange period. Please contact Annette Arthur to confirm interest – mobile 0418 243 835 or email arthura@ramsayhealth.com.au If any First Light member would like to have Felix join them for a weekend during this period please feel free to contact Ken on hallkr@tpg.com.au or 6765 7021.

GROUP STUDY EXCHANGE [GSE] PROGRAM FOR 2010

The exchange will take place from 3 May through to 7 June 2010. The District needs to select four non Rotarian team members aged between 25 and 40 years. Team members' applications close 28 August 2009.

Applications can be down loaded from our District web site www.rotary9650.org.au [click on Rotary Foundation in left hand column, then GSE in left hand column and follow the prompts]

Kristy Reading is our GSE applicant and will be seeking training support from the experts within our Club prior to going for interviews in September – very exciting

GOLF TRIP – Thanks to John Treloar, Dennis Maunder, Maureen Thornton and Julian Smith the initial results indicate that the golf trip raised \$7,500 – WELL DONE!!!!

PEDAL THE PEEL –

every member needs to be involved on 20 September – including a team from First Light – if able, please speak with Terry Robinson – depending on experience of cyclists – possibly only do the short course....

BLEDISLOE CUP – Phil Lynne from Harvey World Travel organising a trip to Tokyo, Japan – please speak to Michael O'Connor if interested (sorry – don't have dates for it)

Judy Coates wishes to thank the Club and members for the beautiful flowers and warm wishes following the recent loss of her mother.

Chris Sheppard confirmed that the provisional **Sunrise Rotary Club** would be preparing breakfast for a gold donation next Tuesday, commencing at 6:00 am to fit in with the **Sunrise** program – This is the Club’s first fund raiser and an interesting way to start **and** to be on National television even before being chartered – quite exciting.....

Walcha Road is on – Brian Yeo will provide final details at next Wednesday’s meeting.....

1,000TH MEETING on 28 APRIL AND 20 YEARS SINCE CHARTER – OUR BIRTHDAY IN MAY 2010)– Brett White feels these are great excuses for **“CELEBRATIONS”** - We have time so let the suggestions / ideas flow forth – leave your ideas with the door team as you pay each week – *surely there will be a prize for the most original suggestion.....*

CYCLING WEEKEND – 8 / 9 AUGUST - David Hinwood provided some interesting cycling photos plus Brian Logan is doing the final costings but appears that the Club raised about \$1,000. Brian thanked everyone for their assistance – particularly Brodie Shields and Steve Mitchell for their extra efforts.





ATTENDANCE – If members are going to be away for an extended period (holidays etc) please remember that a notification (letter) be sent to the Club Secretary noting date of departure and date of return and requesting “Leave of Absence” from the Club – just helps the Club run smoothly....

Please provide at least two week’s notice so that Bruce Hemmett can make the relevant changes to the weekly roster. At the same time could you please also notify Terry Burgess – the Club’s attendance officer.

Bruce Hemmett’s email address is bruce.013@decorama.com.au

Terry Burgess’ email address is ssegrub@westnet.com.au

The above information can also be found under Meeting Roster on the back page of the Bulletin

Why do some accountants decide to become actuaries?

The find bookkeeping too exciting.

GUEST SPEAKER - Simon Hall

A year at St Judes, Tanzania

Arusha is in the north of Tanzania – when Gemma Rice married Richard (Safari driver), Richard's father gave them a block of land. Gemma returned to NEGS and became involved with Rotary in 2002. Rotary built the first two buildings – basic but with windows that opened – donations continue to happen through Rotary.

Gemma commenced with three students in 2002 – currently 1,200 students and will increase again next year. There are two campuses. St Judes has 22 buses that pick up the students each day – the longest trip means that the children are collected at 4:00 am and arrive at school for 9:00 am and same when going home. One student missed the bus and walked the 12 klms so he would not miss his first day at school – he arrived a week early but was given a lift home at the end of the day.....

Gemma was never keen about creating a boarding school but has been forced into this as so few students have appropriate home environments to learn / study in. This is very definitely a new challenge for

Gemma and has happened due to constant pressure from parents now has students from Year 3 to Year 7 boarding currently. In the boarding house breakfast is 7:00 am and straight into studies. However much students love their sport – school work comes first.

Funds from Washington DC put up the new school and new library – architect designed, computers (more than Inverell High School has) – even the new playground is better than anything he had at school...

Class size averages at 23 whereas government schools can have 90 plus in their classes. Teachers are constantly learning new teaching techniques and are actually paid at St Judes – government schools frequently have teacher shortages as they are often unpaid for weeks at a time.

Sponsorship is made easy for sponsors – they are kept up to date with what is happening, particularly if sponsoring a student – the kids will respond to letters and fully appreciate the opportunity they have been offered. Also sponsors are able to visit the school and receive their student's school reports and progress up-dates. Currently the oldest class is Class 7 but sponsors can continue sponsorship through University or Teachers College.

There is a seven (7) stage process to decide which students will be included in the next intake. Always held on a Friday afternoon and up to 4,000 students go through in an afternoon. They have to bring their own pencil; they are separated from their parents. Best age is 6 / 7 year olds who are achieving in government schools and will accept up to 20 pre-schoolers.

1. Reading test in local language
2. Written test – if successful given a green card
3. Come back next day for further interviews – only 48 will be chosen
4. Saturday – interviews with children then parents then parent's home is checked
5. Check with neighbours to ensure that the parents and child actually do live in that house
6. Probation – child has two weeks at the school
7. If passed then the home is checked again and the parents are checked by parents with children already at St Judes
8. Child accepted – maximum of 130 will get through to ensure class sizes remain at about 23.

Simon is actually a PE teacher but not as important as learning English, Maths, Science etc however a very rewarding experience.

Q Is it possible to sponsor a child from Year 1 through to University or whatever the future holds?

A Yes as above.

Introduced by Rob Clifton and thanked by David Hinwood



12.08.2009 - Dave Hinwood thanks our
Guest speaker - Simon Hall
for his talk on his time at
The School of St Jude Tanzania

VOCATIONAL PROFILE – Michael Smith

- Been an accountant for 24 years
- Joined just before the advent of Capital Gains Tax
- Accountants basically add up numbers (in theory good with figures)
- Advise clients re GST, Capital Gains Tax and advising structure of business or assisting clients with major financial decisions
- Once told “Boring job being an accountant” – it hurt at the time
- Currently one of three partners with 13 staff (the latter is a challenge in itself)....

A very precise profile – thank you....

CALENDAR 2009/2010 Events

8 – 9 August	Rugby on Saturday afternoon / Cycling for weekend
22 August	Walcha Road Pub – train up / coach back
20 September	Pedal the Peel Charity Bike Ride
23 – 25 October	Nelsons Bay – Golfing Weekend
24 October	RI Club of Tamworth Sunrise Charter Dinner – Please diarise now
19 November	Inter-Club Great Debate – Tamworth Tennis Club, Treloar Park
28 November	Christmas Party – Rugby Club – diarise now
26 January	Combined Rotary Clubs involved all day Bicentennial Park
22 – 28 February	Australia-wide Campaign for PolioPlus
12 – 14 March	District 9650 Conference, Port Macquarie – Book accommodation early
April / May 2010	1,000 th Meeting / 20 years – <i>watch this space</i>
19 June 2010	Tamworth First Light Changeover – note in diaries now
29 June 2010	Tamworth Club’s Changeover

Brett and members,

It is with very mixed feelings that I inform you that I will be resigning from Tamworth Rotary First Light as I have been successful in my application for the position of General Manager, Learning & Development for the NSW Department of Education & Training commencing immediately.

As you know I have been relieving in this position for the past six months. So they've got no excuse – they know what they are getting.

I do hope to attend one last meeting in the near future but can you please pass on to the members how much I will miss their friendship and fellowship. The great people who make up this wonderful organisation certainly made my stay in Tamworth, away from my family as it was, so much more enjoyable.

I am so impressed by the great work that often goes unheralded at First Light. You are all really making such a difference to other people's worlds and your great humour and insanity is certainly missed. From the moment I stepped into the club, I was made to feel most welcome and the Wednesday morning 'get-ups' made my week.

I know that I now have many lifetime friends in Tamworth and will have trouble appreciating a new club in Sydney, as I am sure it is impossible to meet such high standards set by First Light.

I am currently in the process of finding more permanent accommodation among the rat race and will let members know of my whereabouts as soon as I settle. The upside is that I am so much closer to home. I would love to catch up with people coming to Sydney for work or recreation and will have a spare room, if needed. My mobile number remains the same.

I will be visiting Tamworth briefly on Wednesday evening, 12th August - coming in on the last plane at 8.30pm or so. My first port of call will be the Tamworth Hotel for a nightcap if anyone would like to join me. Otherwise I will try to arrange a visit during this term where I can be in town for a breakfast meeting.

All the very best to all the champions at First Light.

Des Gorman
General Manager, Learning and Development
NSW Department of Education and Training
Level 2, 35 Bridge Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000
PH: 02 9561 8919
FX: 02 9561 1026

ARTIST'S CORNER

*A "special" thank you to Greg Birtles - what great talent we have in this Club....
Just a gentle reminder to **Ross Lobsey** for next week....*

During my time in the Police there were many humorous incidents, but the following is just one.

In the early 80s I was stationed at Wee Waa and resided in the single man's barracks with three other young single Police officers. These premises, which were a part of the Police station complex, were the scene of many parties, and in the time I lived there, I never did find a key to lock the front door.

Once a month there was a regular court day, where Police from all over the district would attend. There was generally a party at the end of the day with many visiting police staying overnight in the barracks.

On one particular court day I was rostered on for the evening shift, which annoyed me somewhat as I knew I would miss out on the regular party. However duty called.

I did not finish work till well after 3am, then I walked back to the barracks to go to bed. Upon entering the barracks I saw the remains of the party that I had missed, with empty beer cans strewn all over the place and drunken bodies lying asleep throughout the various rooms.

Not deterred, as this was not an unusual scene, I went upstairs to my bedroom.

I still recall my horror when I opened the bedroom door and saw a male, with only his underpants on asleep on my bed.

Rather annoyed that my flat mates had allowed this to happen, and fearing that the drunken town rogue was now in my bed, I withdrew my trusty baton and struck the person once across the knee.

As this area of the knee is very tender and sensitive to police baton strikes, the male immediately awoke and asked me what was wrong. Using a selection of four letter words and in a rather hostile tone, I quickly told him that he was in my bed, to get out, and go down stairs and sleep with the rest of the drunks. The male, then picked up his clothes and left.

The next morning I was awoken early by the sounds of the visitors getting ready for work, as they gathered outside my bedroom door waiting to use the only bathroom in the premises. I heard one of them say, "Did you enjoy your sleep last night, sir". "No" came the reply, "Apparently I went to sleep in the young Constable's bed, and he wasn't happy when he came home."

I still recall the panic that overcame me at this particular time as I lay in bed wondering who this person was that I found in my bed, who was now being addressed as "Sir".

Some hours past and I managed to crawl out of bed and find the courage to enquire of my roommates, who was this person they placed in my bed?

To my horror they replied, "Oh no one important, just the visiting magistrate".

What happened then, you might wonder, did the magistrate complain or did he seek his revenge? Fortunately no, and the matter was never ever mentioned again.

Greg Birtles

AUGUST IS MEMBERSHIP & EXTENSION MONTH

R.I.P (ONE ROTARIAN)

Most of us have made a will or at least planned to spend our inheritance before the kids get it ... but what about Rotary? Now before you stop reading or "bin" this article . let me throw you a few facts.....

- If you are a dedicated Rotarian and attend most meetings and a few service projects .. you will clock up some 78 hours per year enjoying the friendship of your mates at Rotary.
- Let us assume you have a 10 year enjoyment of Rotary then you will spend a total of **32 FULL days** or approximately **1 MONTH FULL TIME** being a Rotarian.
- That is a lot of time from your life!!!
- You are important to Rotary in a similar way to your family and work.
- Not irreplaceable but important.
- Rotary will get along without you individually ... **BUT if we all do not plan to replace ourselves the Rotary species will not survive.**
- Personally, I am not prepared to invest this time in Rotary and not plan to replace myself.
- **August is Membership month. - NOW again** ... before you think ... Here is the rub ... think again!
- Membership month is about looking after your mates. In other words making sure the Rotarian friends we all enjoy at Rotary are happy in the time they spend in Rotary. In other words looking after the Rotarians we already have.
- If you and your mates are enjoying Rotary ... then ask someone else you know to come and share a meeting or two or come on a service project.
- Perhaps this way you will find a replacement for yourself when your time at Rotary is over.
- Membership Month is designed to help us focus on the **Survival of the Species ... the Rotarian Species** ... see you when the Gong rings next meeting.....

Brian Beesley - the Gloucester Rotary Club



O5.08.2009 Barry Murphy
thanked
**Jim Raymond for providing us
with a most entertaining and
informative Life Profile**

Apologies for not having this in last week
– ran out of space.....

Club Website

President – **Brett White**
 Secretary – **Terry Robinson**
 Treasurer – **Michael Smith**
 Bulletin Editor – **Jane Bradford**
 Board of Directors

www.tamworthfirstlight.org.au

brett.white@freemans.com.au

trobinson@eversol.com.au

michael@mmsmail.com.au

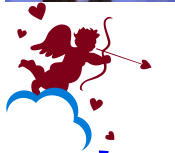
jbmail@monelu.com

board@tamworthfirstlight.org.au

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2009 - 2010

Club Service – Louise Matthews
Community Service – Brian Logan
International Service – Vicki Cooper
Vocational Service – John Worldon
Youth Centre – Annette Arthur

Birthdays, Anniversaries & Inductions



Birthdays	25.08	Peter Hyde
Partners Birthdays	21.08	Margaret Lyon
Anniversaries	Nil	
Inductions	Nil	
Vocational Profile		Louise Matthews - Membership

Attendance	94%
Make Ups	Nil
Visitors Rotarians	Nil
Visitors	Michael Hall, Quynh Lam
Heads & Tails	Helen Tickle
Raffle	Barry Murphy

PRESIDENT ASSIST

To ensure members who are rostered for the duties of, Meeter and Greeter, Door, Visitor Assist, Welcome to our Members & Guests, Introduction of the Guest Speaker(s) and Vote of Thanks are present and if they are not to find a replacement and ensure those people's names are updated on the President's Running Sheet. Select the Table Order (after the head table).

Need to be in attendance by 6.30 am

DOOR TEAM

To record the attendance of our members and guests, collect meeting dues, and if possible balance the cash float i.e. monies paid = money received.

Need to be in attendance at 6.30 am

MEETER & GREETER

To meet & greet our members & welcome guests to our Club at the top of the stairs and to hand name badges to members. Also ensure any guests of members or visiting Rotarians are introduced to the Visitor Assist to ensure they are made feel welcome.

Need to be in attendance at 6.30 am

VISITOR ASSIST

To ensure any visitors to the Club are felt welcome by introducing yourself to them and other members and guests of our Club. To also include them in fellowship before and if necessary make sure they are included with several members for breakfast and are not left on their own.

Need to be in attendance from 6.30 am

WELCOME

To publicly welcome our Members & Guests (following the introduction) to our meeting when called upon by the President or his/her substitute.

Need to be in attendance by 6.50 am (or earlier)

INTRODUCTION

To make yourself known to our Guest Speaker/s, assist them to the head table and sit with them. During breakfast find out some information about the guest speaker which will assist you in your introduction.

VOTE OF THANKS

To move a vote of thanks to our guest speaker, and present a little thank you gift (ensure you have it before the meeting commences and take notes during their presentation to ensure your thank you is informed).

CORPORALS

To assist the Sergeant by putting out all Club Property and putting away at the conclusion of the meeting. Need to be in attendance by 6:30 am.

CORPORAL ASSIST

To assist the Sergeant, by putting away all Club Property at the conclusion of the meeting if the Corporals are unable to do so.

MEETING ROSTER

- When rostered on and you can't make it – **PLEASE** find another member to fill in for you
- Make sure that you let both the President and President Assist know before the start of the meeting
- If the above not organised the **Sergeant will love you**
- The starting time for the **DOOR team and MEETER & GREETER IS 6:30 AM**
- **Leave of Absence** - If members are going to be away for an extended period (holidays etc) please remember that a notification (letter) be sent to the Club Secretary noting date of departure and date of return and requesting "Leave of Absence" from the Club.
- **If you know you are going to be away for an extended period (holidays etc)** – **PLEASE** advice **Bruce Hemmett** by email at bruce.013@decorama.com.au
- **Please give at least TWO week's notice so the roster can be amended**
- **PLEASE** advice **Terry Burgess** – Attendance Officer by email at ssegrub@westnet.com.au

	19 August 2009	26 August 2009
Guest Speaker	Pierre Steyn - BAE	
Meeter & Greeter	Ron Allen	Neil Lyon
Door Team	Max Cathcart & Graham Dooley	Max May & Bill Moss
Welcome	Andrew Hawkins	Maureen Thornton
President Assist	Alan Coates	Michael O'Connor
Visitor Assist	Mark O'Connor	Peter Bell
Corporal Assist	Ian Howle	Simon Chamberlain
Introduction	Laurence Hearne	Carmen Campbell
Vote of Thanks	Phil Heffernan	John Glynn

CORPORALS FOR COMING MONTHS

August Maureen Thornton and Mark O'Connor
September John Glynn and Jim Raymond
October Annette Arthur and Graham Dooley
November Laurence Hearne and Barry Biffin
December Bill Moss and David Baddams

When Insults Had Class

*"I feel so miserable without you;
it's almost like having you here."*

Stephen Bishop