

The Rotary Club of TAMWORTH FIRST LIGHT bulletin bulletin bulletin bulletin



www.tamworthfirstlight.org.au

27 January 2010 – Meeting #994

Brett's Banter -



Quote of the week

“Diplomacy is the art of saying ‘nice doggie’ until you can find a stick”

Wynn Catlin

It is good to be back home and in a warmer climate, but the family had an awesome experience travelling through 11 countries (a couple we travelled through quickly). I am claiming a makeup at a Rotary Gluhwein stand in Vienna supporting the local Rotaract who were raising money for a Romanian charity. Photos sent to Jane.

Great to see Norm again at our meeting and I was amazed about his internal meccano set keeping his head high. I look forward to Norm being really excited again and am putting aside my 5 cent coins in readiness.

We heard from Nick Erby this morning about some of the current issues being bounced around about the future direction of the festival. I really enjoyed hearing the history of the festival and how non-country music has been a part of the festival since nearly the beginning.

We had Felix and Macaela from Sweden at separate tables, due to the Youth Exchange rules.

We had a visit from the Young Ambassador from Gore NZ, Holly Allen and her mother Susan. Holly gave a short talk about the sister city relationship and country music influence on her life.

We also had the pleasure of Country Music Queen entrant Samantha Crebert and Gordon and Joy Parker who brought Macaela with them from East Maitland. Welcome again to Patrick Mahony another dispenser of blue pills for Tamworth Rotary along with Mr. Ian Viagra.

Lots happening during the Country Music Festival as usual. Celebrity Cricket match, marshalling for commencement of the cavalcade, breathalyser on Sydney Road and Bucket brigade on Australia Day.

Our condolences to Campbell, Naree, Lachlan, Callum and Angus McIntosh and family on the passing of Campbell's mum. Our thoughts are with you during this sad period.

News via Heffo that Doc Trollor has had good results after prostate surgery. Ironic that he has given so much to the Prostate support group and has found himself personally involved.

Have a great festival – back to the nets for cricket practice.
Brett

AND FOR THE NEWS

Papua / New Guinea trip will be early May 2010 for about two weeks – if interested, again contact Vicki Cooper – 0412 802 215

ATTENTION VOCATION AND YOUTH COMMITTEES:

Annette felt too many members away who have since said they would be interested in supporting – looking at May 2010 to hold the RYAG Equine program. Annette Arthur and John Worldon will organise another meeting but would appreciate “volunteers” for the following areas to come forward – catering, group supervision both day and night, letters seeking sponsors and letters to schools seeking students, suggestions for guest speakers. Please contact Annette Arthur – 0418 243 835 or John Worldon – 0412 374 371 to express your interest.

CALENDAR 2009/2010 EVENTS

03 February	Vocational Visit to Oncology Unit
18 - 21 February	GSE visit to Tamworth
19 February	GSE team attending Tamworth Sunrise – speaker – Andrew Stoner
22 – 28 February	Australia-wide Campaign for PolioPlus
06 March	1,000th First Light Meeting CELEBRATIONS – 20 years
06 – 13 March	Bowelscan week
12 – 14 March	District 9650 Conference, Port Macquarie – Book accommodation early
15 – 17 March	Science & Engineering Challenge
28 March	Cricket Match – First Light V Tamworth Sunrise – Picnic Day
1 / 2 May	NSW Cancer Council – Relay for Life
19 May	Career’s Expo - TRECC
19 June	Tamworth First Light Changeover
3 July 2010	District Changeover

A man in Scotland calls his son in London the day before Christmas Eve and says, "I hate to ruin your day but I have to tell you that your mother and I are divorcing; forty-five years of misery is enough."

'Dad, what are you talking about?' the son screams.

"We can't stand the sight of each other any longer" the father says.

"We're sick of each other and I'm sick of talking about this, so you call your sister in Leeds and tell her."

Frantically, the son calls his sister, who explodes on the phone. "Like hell they're getting divorced!" she shouts, "I'll take care of this!"

She calls Scotland immediately, and screams at her father "You are NOT getting divorced. Don't do a single thing until I get there. I'm calling my brother back, and we'll both be there tomorrow. Until then, don't do a thing, DO YOU HEAR ME?" and hangs up.

The old man hangs up his phone and turns to his wife. 'Sorted! They're coming for Christmas - and they're paying their own way.'



Brett White claiming a makeup at a Rotary Gluhwein stand in Vienna supporting the local Rotaract who were raising money for a Romanian charity.



CALL FOR SUGGESTIONS for *DISTRICT GOVERNOR 2012-13* **Closing Time and Date: 4pm Friday 19 February 2010**

In accordance with the requirements of the Rotary International (RI) By-laws Article 13.020 and the Code of Policies of RI District 9650 Inc Article 4.05.2, your District Governor is seeking suggestions from the District Clubs for consideration for the position of District Governor for 2012- 2013. The successful candidate will follow Jo Wilkin (2010-2011) and Barry Hacker (2011-2012) as District Governor of District 9650.

Nominations are to be in the hands of myself, the District Secretary at 9 Marsden Crescent, Port Macquarie 2444 by **4:00pm Friday 19 February 2010**.

When considering suggestions for District Governor, attention is drawn to Rotary International Bylaws Articles 15.070 through to 15.090.

The Nominating Committee for Governor will meet on Thursday 11 March 2010 to consider the selection of a suitable candidate for District Governor Nominee. Laurie Barber, District Secretary.

VOCATIONAL SERVICE

A reminder for Vocational Services chairpersons, Presidents, secretaries, Uncle Tom Cobley and all ...

With the approach of longer breaks and fewer club meetings it's time to start thinking about ***Applications for District Awards*** - of which there are two in Vocational Services which will be awarded at Conference:

District Award to Clubs for outstanding Vocational Services project/s - the PDG Kevin Harges Award – see page 17 of your *Vocational Service Director's KwickStart Manual* - or see the same information on the 'Vocational Service' section of the District web page - follow the link to 'Rotary Awards for Vocational Excellence' which is located above the list of committee members. Applications (on Club letterhead) close no later than Friday January 29th 2010.

Rotary Award for Vocational Excellence - pages 7 - 8 of your *Vocational Service Director's KwickStart Manual* and 'Vocational Service' section of District web site. Nomination form is available on the 'Vocational Service' section of the District web page - follow the link to 'Rotary Awards for Vocational Excellence' which is located above the list of committee members. **Applications close no later than Friday, 29 January 2010.**

Community Service - Bowelscan

The District commends the recent report forwarded to Clubs on the BOWELSCAN project, and wishes to highlight a number of points.

- Rotary District 9650 continues to be the largest distributor of Bowelscan kits. Our District is one of the few Districts which run a District Program and have saved 100s of people over the past 20 years
- Further, D9650 has, with all Rotary Clubs help, contributed over \$250,000 to PhD scholars through Australian Rotary Health and Universities. Our Dollar is matched to increase to \$500,000 of research
- In 2009, 23,000 Bowelscan kits were distributed around the District. Out of the 18,496 returns, 299 were positive (54.8% male and 45.2% female)
- The 2010 campaign commences on 6 March and ends on 31 March. Posters and brochures will be distributed to Clubs at the end of January or early February
- Costs for the kits to the Public will be \$8
- The District strongly endorses the Bowelscan project and the benefits it provides to our communities

For further enquiries, please speak to your Rotary Club Bowelscan Co-ordinator or the District's Bowelscan Committee - Chairman, Kevin Sharp.

Through a suggestion made to it recently, **Australian Rotary Health now has “gift cards”**. You can order this on line or by mail with personalised messages. The minimum amount of each card is \$20 however the amount of the donation is up to the donor. There is a range of cards and the inside message can be changed.

Chief executive officer Joy Gillett said Rotarians and others could see the website www.australianrotaryhealth.org.au and look at “gift cards” on the home page.

SHELTER BOX Bulletin - Posted by Leslie Diefenbach Hall ; With initial assessments estimating more than 30,000 people displaced in Malawi, disaster relief charity Shelterbox was quick to get a team and aid on the ground within hours. 200 Shelterboxes containing tents, blankets, water purification equipment, cook stoves, and other survival equipment arrived on Sunday December 27th. The IFRC (International Federation of Red Cross) estimates that the most recent quake killed two people and injured 171. Eighty-one of these were sent to hospital with serious injuries. Initial assessments indicate that 4,800 households have been affected, although the government is using a figure of 6,000 households in its assessments and planning. This means that at least 36,000 people have been directly affected.

Updates will be posted on www.shelterboxusa.org as they come in.

Note – After all the recent disasters, am sure support in the way of funds will be sorely needed to try to cope with the Haiti disaster – all donations would be appreciated and could be made via Tamworth First Light

Holly Allen - Gore NZ Young Ambassador thanked the Club for the opportunity of attending this morning. Gore was ideally placed for touring the South Island of NZ so please consider - easy day trips to the Milford Sound, Queenstown, Dunedin and quite picturesque in its own way. She and her mother were thoroughly enjoying their time in Tamworth and noted that the Sister City Committee had opened so many doors for her. She used to be very shy and now able to do public speaking thanks to this opportunity - she had attended a variety of functions and concerts and planted a NZ native tree in the Gore section of the Botanic Gardens. She had met with our current Queen and Princess in Gore last year and had really enjoyed their company and they had made her feel very welcome here as well. Looking forward to meeting the new Queen and Princess to be announced this Thursday evening. She has been out to Manilla and enjoyed the views and scenery wherever she had been and finally noted that the Mayor had given her some sound advice. "No matter how tired you feel - you can always sleep next week." Holly was taking that comment seriously.... Thank you for having me here today.



Holly Allen speaking at our breakfast - 20.01.2010

ARTIST'S CORNER

The idea for this section was to find out about “hidden” talents within our Club’s membership and we have had some wonderful insights for the first half of the year..... This week is Neil Lyon’s final contribution – you may remember the Whale photos – this time it is his journalistic talent being exposed....

Being a journalist, my artistic talents supposedly lie in being able to cobble words together in a coherent fashion and take photographs without putting my finger across the lens. Therefore, my contribution to Artist’s Corner is a few snippets from a column I contribute to in The Land under the pseudonym of Oxley (that’s a secret, so don’t tell anybody!). Oxley’s musings are supposedly those of a grumpy old farmer. The frightening thing is that, as the years go by, I find I no longer have to role play to come up with the words – I’m actually starting to think that way!

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OXLEY:

ONE of the great skills that seemingly comes as second nature to most farmers is the ability to reverse trailers and articulated implements with ease and precision. Oxley, who has recently holidayed on the coast, notes that it is not a skill widespread in the caravanning community. Endless hours of entertainment can be had watching holidaymakers try to reverse their vans into a site, extract themselves from a dead-end road or grapple with the confines of a parking lot. Oxley particularly enjoys watching when a spouse takes on the task of directing the driver. There’s always lots of hand waving and verbal instruction - “left-hand down, steady, right-hand down” - which invariably results in yet another jack-knife and the need to “go forward and straighten up”. By the time the couple eventually get the van into position, the relationship has usually turned fractious and they are both in need of a good holiday.

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THIS is almost certainly one of those myths generated late in the evening at the bar of a bush pub, but Oxley was still amused by the questionable story of a new resident in a semi-rural area who called the local council to request the removal of a kangaroo sign on her road. The reason: “Too many kangaroos are being hit by cars out here! I don't think this is a good place for them to be crossing anymore.”

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FORGET the focus on breeding, genetics, pasture improvement and supplementary feeding, its country music that holds the key to lifting milk production in the nation’s dairy herds. Oxley hears that dairy farmers on the North Coast are finding that country music played in the bails at milking time relaxes their cows and encourages them to give more milk. Why country music in particular remains a mystery. Perhaps the cows relate to the sounds of the Australian bush or are moved by wistful tales of droving and cattle musters. Apparently pop, rock, hip hop and rap just don’t cut it for them. Oxley reckons that dairy farmers should steer away from playing heavy metal or some of today’s foul-mouthed grunge music - the milk might curdle.

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STILL on dairying, a report from the United Kingdom has found that cows given names, such as Daisy, Molly and Mabel, produce more milk than cows that spend their days anonymously within a herd. Presumably farmers who name their cows are more likely to treat them like pets and give them a higher level of attention. That may be okay in places where herds are small, but in Australia where the average milking herd is close to 300 the personal approach is a little more difficult. It reminds Oxley of the valley in which he grew up where one of the local dairy farmers had the politically incorrect, but nonetheless amusing, habit of naming his cows after the women of the district – according to temperament.

Nick Erby thanked for the opportunity to be here today and hoped he might solve some of the rumours and conjecture that the Tamworth County Music Festival was in trouble – we need perspective. The success of the Festival over the years is because we have had a benevolent “dictator” which has made it so successful – no one person or group is actually in control.

All those years ago when it began – Radio 2TM staked it at the start and it was a commercial decision. 2TM needed to add to their programs – January was the worst month for revenue raising and August was the second – hence the Country Music Festival and Ag-Quip. The January long weekend was also the only vacant long weekend during the year so it was utilised.

For the first 2 – 5 years it was felt that we should get people involved so Buttercup etc evolved – the concerts were free but 2TM raised extra revenue and so Capital News was born and the Rodeo which was originally held at the same time was quickly moved to the first weekend. The Festival moves organically – Tamworth itself does not carry Festival risk – each area covers its own insurance costs.

By 1992 the Higginbotham’s knew their time was over and the CMAA took over the Awards. Wests etc established what worked for them and implemented and so others followed. During the early 80’s Wests held a rock n roll concert at midnight every night.... There has always been alternate music since the very beginning of the Festival... Entrepreneurs who wish to bring artists such as Guy Sebastian to Tamworth can do so – if it is successful the artist will return, if not well they don’t come back. It is up to the individual to decide what they wish to spend their dollars on – if they want to listen to a number of artists who don’t appeal to them just to hear a person sing two songs – that is the individual’s decision.

Sadly, Council spoke without thinking – the average age of attendees has always been over 40. It is this age group that also goes along to concerts such as Starmaker and Telstra Road to Tamworth to see, listen and enjoy the up and coming youngsters – it is not the younger generation – they come to “party” and they do but as time passes so they start paying to go to concerts and in no time they are the “over 40’s” who love country music.

Slim Dusty in 1953 had a consistent audience everywhere he went who were the “over 40’s” – in 1993 his audience was still the “over 40’s”. This Festival is really unique so if people without the overall knowledge decide to fiddle with the Festival it will not work. However if change is made through knowledge then the Festival will continue to grow and evolve.

Q What happened at TREC?

A Council bought in an outside organisation to advised Council to take back its venue. The operator set up at TREC when no one else was interested or wished to be involved – it was very poorly handled by Council. The outside organisation brought in had only ever organised “gated” events and did not understand the history of the Festival and how it has evolved.

Q Difficult to find out what events are happening now – everything seems to be on the internet?

A Basically everything goes on the website – not easy for people who do not utilise the internet – the volunteers are very useful and you can book via the website or by telephone.

Q Lots of the young go to the hotels but not keen on paying for shows?

A Once we had three types of attendees – now we have two – Country Music fans and Party people. The party people or youth go to places like the Impy and Central and enjoy themselves and slowly become fans. Once Tamworthians left town, now they go to shows during the Festival – big change. The fans go to the shows of the artists they enjoy and family groups come and go over the years.

Q Why don't the locals support good shows when they come to Tamworth such as Glen Campbell and the John Cash tribute – only some 600 at each?

A Tamworth is not a country music town except in January.

Introduced by Neil Lyon and thanked by Peter Hyde



Nick Erby being thanked by Peter Hyde

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

trobenson@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	27.01 – Terry Robinson
Partners Birthdays	Nil
Anniversaries	29.01.77 – Jim & Carmel Raymond - 33 yrs 31.01.87 – Peter & Kim Hinchcliffe – 23 yrs
Inductions	Nil
Vocational Profile	Holly Allen – Gore Young Ambassador

Attendance 77%

Make Ups Michael Smith – Tamworth West
Visitors Rotarians Gordon Parker & Joy – East Maitland
Visitors Patrick Mahony, Holly Allen, Susan Murphy – Gore, NZ; Samantha Crebert QCMQ entrant, Felix Frankenberg YEP Sweden, Macaela Bogin YEP – East Maitland

Heads & Tails Barry Biffen
Raffle Skinner

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
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- 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

	27 January 2010	3 February 2010
Guest Speaker	John Muller OAM	Oncology Unit Tam Base
Meeter & Greeter	Tim Coates	
Door Team	Dennis Johnson & Maureen Thornton	Robert Clifton & David Baddams
Welcome	Dick Davison	
President Assist	Max May	
Visitor Assist	Brian Thompson	
Corporal Assist	Steve Massey	
Introduction	Michael O'Connor	
Vote of Thanks	David Baddams	

CORPORALS FOR COMING MONTHS

January Narelle Langfield and Ross Lobsey
February Stephen Mitchell and Brodie Shields
March Brian Yeo and John Fogarty

.....**Strange Job Interview behaviours.....**

“... said he was so well qualified that if he didn't get the job, it would prove that the company's management was incompetent.”