

From the desk



Rotary  Club of Tamworth
First Light **Bulletin**



Rotary   Be a gift
to the world

Wednesday, 15 July, 2015

Meeting # 1267

Quote of the Week

*I alone cannot change the world
But I can cast a stone across the waters
To create many ripples.
Mother Teresa*

From The Desk

Dear Members

I shared my vision and now together with the board and all of you its action time. I look forward to the challenge of building on the foundation that has been laid since the club was founded. The solid foundation means that whatever we build from now on can and must only be good.

For the next six (6) weeks I will be enjoying the wonders of Africa together with Past President David Hinwood and fellow Rotarians from my old club in Invercargill Paul and Shirley Palmer. I will from time to time try and get a message back to home base in Tamworth. You will be in the safe hands of past President John Treloar and a great board during my absence. See you all on the 26 August.

Kind regards
Graeme Kruger

Graeme opened his presentation by outlining the International Theme and how it relates to our Bulletin front cover. As our Club is celebrating 25 years he provided the following thoughts and ideas for our Club's next 25 years with the support of his Board and us, the members – he built a very bright future

Where are we now?

• Strengths

- Vibrant
- Financial
- Membership
- Community conscious
- Programmes
- Diversity

• Weaknesses

- Ageing membership
- Strategic
- Weekly venue
- Relevance
- Social
- Vision



- **Opportunities**

- Current members
- Younger members
- Youth initiative
- Community relevance
- Current programmes

- **Challenges**

- Busy lives
- Changing world
- Apathy
- Our attitudes
- New membership



Followed by - **Where do “We” want to be.....?**

Our Future

- More new members with the right fit
- Improving on what we already do
- Better integration with youth
- Staying relevant in our community
- Celebrate what we do well
- Local Focus with global thinking
- International project



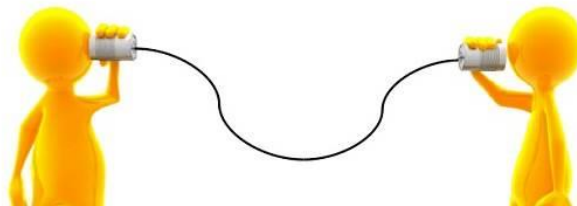
How do we get there?

- **Vision with intent**
 - To be a vibrant Rotary Club that continues to be relevant in the Tamworth community by contributing to identified needs through appropriate service.
- **Strategic Priorities**
 - Great Meetings
 - Golf Trips
 - Pedal The Peel
 - Youth - RYLA & YEP
 - International Programme
 - Club Social Events
 - Regular Fundraising Activities
 - Pub Raffle
 - Rugby Club
 - Fines and Other



Communication

- Club Meetings
- Club Bulletin
- Board Meetings
- Good Governance
- Mutual Respect
- Accountability
- Social Media - Facebook



Graeme ended with the following story which fits Rotary's International theme for the year perfectly.....

The Story Of Teddy Stoddard



I would like to share a story that was first told in 1976. Some of you might have heard it before and trust that you will still be warmed by it. It is more than likely not a true story, but I think that it sets the tone for the year ahead from my own perspective and also appropriately supports the Rotary International Theme selected by the RI President Ravi Ravindran – Be A Gift To The World.

Mrs. Thompson an elementary teacher stood in front of her fifth grade class on the very first day of school, and told the children a white lie?

Like most teachers, she looked at her students and said that she loved them all the same. But that was impossible, because there in the front row, slumped in his seat, was a little boy named Teddy Stoddard.

Mrs. Thompson had watched Teddy the year before and noticed that he didn't play well with the other children, that his clothes were messy and that he constantly needed a bath. And Teddy could be unpleasant. It got to the point where Mrs. Thompson would actually take delight in marking his papers with a broad red pen, making bold X's and then putting a big "F" at the top of his papers.

At the school where Mrs Thompson taught, she was required to review each child's past records and she put Teddy's off until last. However, when she reviewed his file, she was in for a surprise. Teddy's first grade Teacher wrote, "Teddy is a bright child with a ready laugh. He does his work neatly and has good manners...he is a joy to be around."

His second grade teacher wrote, "Teddy is an excellent student, well-liked by his classmates, but he is troubled because his mother has a terminal illness and life at home must be a struggle."

His third grade teacher wrote, "His mother's death has been hard on him. He tries to do his best but his father doesn't show much interest and his home life will soon affect him if some steps aren't taken."

Teddy's fourth grade teacher wrote, "Teddy is withdrawn and doesn't show much interest in school. He doesn't have many friends and sometimes sleeps in class."

By now, Mrs. Thompson realized the problem and she was ashamed of herself. She felt even worse when her students brought her Christmas presents, wrapped in beautiful ribbons and bright paper, except for Teddy's. His present was clumsily wrapped in the heavy, brown paper that he got from a grocery bag.

Mrs. Thompson took pains to open it in the middle of the other presents. Some of the children started to laugh when she found a rhinestone bracelet with some of the stones missing and a bottle that was one quarter full of perfume. But she stifled the children's laughter when she exclaimed, how pretty the bracelet was. She put it on and dabbed some of the perfume on her wrist.

Teddy Stoddard stayed after school that day just long enough to say, "Mrs. Thompson, today you smelled just like my Mom used to." After the children left she cried for at least an hour. On that very day, she quit teaching reading, writing, and arithmetic. Instead, she began to teach children.

Mrs. Thompson paid particular attention to Teddy. As she worked with him, his mind seemed to come alive. The more she encouraged him, the faster he responded. By the end of the year, Teddy had become one of the smartest children in the class and, despite her lie that she would love all the children the same, Teddy became one of her "pets."

A year later, she found a note under her door, from Teddy, telling her that she was still the best teacher he ever had in his whole life. Six years went by before she got another note from Teddy. He then wrote that he had finished high school, third in his class, and she was still the best teacher he ever had in his whole life.

Four years after that, she got another letter, saying that while things had been tough at times, he stayed in school, had stuck with it, and would soon graduate from college with the highest of honors. He assured Mrs. Thompson that she was still the best and favourite teacher he ever had in his whole life.

Then four more years passed and yet another letter came. This time he explained that after he got his bachelor's degree, he decided to go a little further. The letter explained that she was still the best and favourite teacher he ever had. But now his name was a little longer.

The letter was signed, Theodore F. Stoddard, MD.

The story doesn't end there. You see, there was yet another letter that spring. Teddy said he'd met this girl and was going to be married. He explained that his father had died a couple of years ago and he was wondering if Mrs. Thompson might agree to sit in the place at the wedding that was usually reserved for the mother of the groom.

Of course, Mrs. Thompson did. And guess what? She wore that bracelet, the one with several rhinestones missing. And she made sure she was wearing the perfume that Teddy remembered his mother wearing on their last Christmas together.

They hugged each other, and Dr Stoddard whispered in Mrs. Thompson's ear, "Thank you, Mrs. Thompson, for believing in me. Thank you so much for making me feel important and showing me that I could make a difference." Mrs. Thompson, with tears in her eyes, whispered back. She said, "Teddy, you have it all wrong. You were the one who taught me that I could make a difference. I didn't know how to teach until I met you."

How can you be a gift within your world?

Congratulations Graeme for the best President's presentation I have heard from any President or District Governor in District 9650 in all my years in Rotary, including my own year as President and later as District Governor – PDG Jane Bradford (Mrs)

NOTES

Reminder about "Membership" – Laurie Hearne reminded us that this is "Club" month which means "Membership" and reminded us that prospective members bring new ideas into a Club and he would be delighted to receive some new names from our current membership....

ROSTER:

If for any reason you cannot fulfil your rostered obligations it is your responsibility to find a replacement. If you are going on leave then you can advise the bulletin editor in advance who will mark you away on future rosters (You will need to give at least **2 week's notice** though). **Please note that once your name has been published it is then your responsibility to find your replacement**

Quiz answers next Wednesday's meeting.....



Be a gift
to the world

DATES TO REMEMBER **IN YOUR DIARIES**



2015

Wednesday, 8 July - Club Assembly – Graeme’s Vision

Tuesday 28 July to Sunday 2 August - Tamworth Children’s Adventure Playground Build Dates

Sunday, 2 – Friday, 7 August - celebrating 25 years - Gold Coast Golf Classic

Wednesday, 2 September – DG Maurie & De Stack’s visit

Monday, 5 October – Public Holiday

Wednesday, 7 October – Australian Rotary Health **Hat Day**

Saturday, 10 October – Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service Altitude 40 – see Helen Tickle

Sunday, 11 October - **Pedal the Peel – volunteers needed, see Terry Robinson.**

Weekend 17 / 18 October – Rotary Muster

2016

Saturday, 18 June First Light Changeover

Weekend, 15 – 17 April – District Conference

Never underestimate a mother’s cunning!

Mrs. Ravioli comes to visit her son Anthony for dinner.

He lives with a female roommate, Maria. During the course of the meal, his mother couldn't help but notice how pretty Anthony's roommate is.



Over the course of the evening, while watching the two interact, she started to wonder if there was more between Anthony and his roommate than met the eye.

Reading his mom's thoughts, Anthony volunteered, "I know what you must be thinking, but I assure you, Maria and I are just roommates."

About a week later, Maria came to Anthony saying, "Ever since your mother came to dinner, I've been unable to find the silver sugar bowl. You don't suppose she took it, do you?"

"Well, I doubt it, but I'll email her, just to be sure. So he sat down and wrote an email:

Dear MaMa,

I'm not saying that you "did" take the sugar bowl from my house; I'm not saying that you "did not" take it but the fact remains that it has been missing ever since you were here for dinner.

Your Loving Son - Anthony

Several days later, Anthony received a response email from his MaMa which read:

Dear son,

I'm not saying that you "do" sleep with Maria, and I'm not saying that you "do not" sleep with her.

But the fact remains that if she was sleeping in her OWN bed, she would have found the sugar bowl by now.

Your Loving MaMa

GROUP STUDY EXCHANGE 2015 / 2016 WITH DISTRICT 1890 NORTH GERMANY

TIME FRAME Inbound Team will arrive 02.04.2016 and depart 30.04.2016
Outbound team will depart 19.05.2016 and return 17.06.2016

THE TEAM consists of a Rotarian Team Leader and four (4) team members (more about the team members later)

WHERE – D1890 North Germany – the District runs from Hamburg north up to the border of Denmark with the North Sea on the west and the Baltic Sea on the east covering the provinces of Schleswig-Holstein, Hamburg and part of Lower Saxony to the south.

PURPOSE – a unique cultural and vocational exchange for young business and professional people at the start of their professional lives and covers a period of four (4) weeks staying with Rotarians where possible.

Team Leader Criteria as follows:

- Must be an experienced Rotarian
- Not be a current District Governor, immediate past DG or DG Elect
- Remain with the team for the duration of the Exchange
- Be willing and able, physically and mentally, to keep up to the pace of a GSE
- Not be accompanied on the exchange by a spouse, companion, or other relatives or dependents.

The ideal Team Leader – we offer the following suggestions

- Possess outstanding communication skills
- Makes an effort to have a few pertinent phrase of greeting and similar in order to communicate in the major language of the host District in this case – German
- Have presentation and public speaking skills and is able to help the team prepare for presentations at Rotary Clubs
- Has the ability to imbue a team with a sense of mission
- Understands that this is not a holiday but an experience or a lifetime.

Team Leader Applicants will be required to give both a written and ten (10) minute verbal outline on how they will prepare the team they will be leading.

Cost – The Rotary Foundation no longer supports this program. Depending on airfares and other essentials the full team will be required to pay Aus\$1,500 and the relevant Club an additional \$500 approx for economy airfares. This does not include out of pocket expenses whilst away.

For further information - please speak initially to either PDG Jane Bradford or AG Phil Lyon

Application for Team Leader forms can be found on site www.rotary9650.org.au.

Please forward to
D96540 GSE Chairman
Alan St Clair
443 Toms Gully Road
BLACK MOUNTAIN NSW 2365

(third time)

ROTARY HAS A “CHALLENGE” FOR EACH MONTH – THIS IS “CLUB” MONTH

Our President felt we should look at different aspects of our Club’s “Policy and Practice” Manual as a reminder to longer standing members and ensuring that newer members are aware of this Manual. One of the most important items for any Club is “**MANAGEMENT**” so this will be our second article:

- **SECRETARY TO BOOK OFFICIAL GUESTS FOR NEXT YEAR**

It is the practice of this Club that immediately following the completion of the annual changeover dinner the Secretary shall write to all official Guests (District Governor, Politicians, Mayor, Other Clubs etc) with an invitation to the following years Changeover thereby nominating the date.

- **SERGEANTS MESS**

The incoming sergeant shall, within 2 weeks of taking office, arrange a dinner for all past sergeants. The purpose of such dinner is to pass on to the new office holder the collective wisdom of this wise group of people.

- **BULLETINS**

Bulletins shall be mailed, delivered or electronically distributed to each Member weekly. The Bulletin Editor is required to keep the following copies of the weekly Club Bulletin:-

- i) An electronic copy
- ii) One hard copy
- iii) Forwarding of an electronic copy to the Club Historian

Each year a copy of the past years Bulletins are bound (green with gold lettering on spine and front cover) and a copy presented to the President of that year together with the Bulletin Editor and Club Historian if they wish to have a copy.

To achieve the desired binding of the years bulletins the Club uses the services of:-

Mr Varne Freund

4 Av Green Street

ARMIDALE NSW 2350

Phone 02 6772 1117

Cost of binding in 2011 was \$40.00 per book.

- **EXCHANGE STUDENT – FAREWELL GIFT**

The cost of the ‘farewell gift’ will be at the discretion of the Board.

- **LIONS CLUBS – CHRISTMAS CAKES**

This Club will not compete with the local Lions Clubs in the sale of Christmas Cakes.

- **CLUB ASSEMBLY MINUTES**

Minutes of each Club Assembly shall be recorded and an overview printed in the Weekly Bulletin following that meeting.

This is to allow valuable information to reach ALL Members whilst maintaining the Club Assembly as a platform for Members to voice their suggestions, complaints or grievances.

- **DIGNITARIANS/ROTARIANS**

The President shall have the discretion to invite Dignitaries or other Rotarians as guest of this Club without the need for Board or Club approval.

- **COMBINED BOARD MEETINGS**

A combined meeting of the *Outgoing* and *Incoming* Boards shall be held in May or June of each year.

The aim of the meeting shall be to hand over projects and Club affairs, and ensure arrangements for the Changeover are to the satisfaction of both the Outgoing and Incoming Presidents.

- **BOARD MINUTES**

Minutes shall be kept of all Board meetings and a copy forwarded to the Club Historian.

- **MEMBERS FAMILY LOSS**

When a Member has a loss of a family member then the following applies:-

If a non-immediate family member then an appropriate card is sent

If an immediate family member then at the discretion of the President what is sent.

A VISIT TO GRANDMA – THIS SHOULD MAKE US THINK!



Is this really what the future holds for people who do not wish to become involved with Ipads, Tablets, Computers, Ipods, Mobiles, Facebook etc???

Meeting Roster	Wednesday, 15 July	Wednesday, 22 July	
Guest Speaker	Chris Impey	Bryan Singh	
Topic	Tamworth Adventure Playground	“Nioka”	
Door Team	Les Jacob Rob Clifton	Jim Raymond Maureen Thornton	
Meeter & Greeter	John Worldon	John Toulmin	
Welcome	Sue O’Connor	David Baddams MBE	
President Assist	Bruce Hemmett	Deb Barnes	
Visitor Assist	Brian Logan	Graham Dooley	
Corporal Assist	David Rogerson	Phil Heffernan	
Introduction	Brett White	Terry Burgess	
Vote of Thanks	Steven Hawkins	Peter Hyde	
Post Office Raffle Roster			
17 July	24 July	31 July	7 August
John Glynn Michael O’Connor	Michael O’Connor Helen Tickle	Helen Tickle Phil Penman	Phil Penman Brian Thompson
14 August	21 August	28 August	4 September
Brian Thompson Sue O’Connor	Sue O’Connor Peter Pulley	Peter Pulley David Hinwood	David Hinwood Maureen Thornton
Corporals for July		Corporals for August	
Steve Massey and Peter Ryan		Terry Robinson and Brett White	
Birthdays, Anniversaries and Inductions			
Members Birthdays	Michael Smith (15/07)		
Partners Birthdays	Kerry Johnson & Sue Robinson (15/07), Philip Hood (22/07)		
Anniversaries	Steve & Sarah Massey (21/07) 31 years		
Club Induction	Nil		
Stats for last meeting			
Attendance	62%		
Make-Ups	Nil		
Visiting Rotarians	Nil		
Visitors	Nil		
Heads & Tails	Skinner		
Raffle	Skinner		

The Object of Rotary

The Object of Rotary is to encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise and, in particular, to encourage and foster:

- **FIRST.** The development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service;
- **SECOND.** High ethical standards in business and professions; the recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations; and the dignifying of each Rotarian's occupation as an opportunity to serve society;
- **THIRD.** The application of the ideal of service in each Rotarian's personal, business, and community life;
- **FOURTH.** The advancement of international understanding, goodwill, and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional persons united in the ideal of service.

Rotary Grace

O Lord and giver of all good
We thank Thee for our daily food
May Rotary Friends and Rotary ways
Help us to serve Thee all our days

The Four-Way Test

Of the things we think, say or do

1. Is it the **TRUTH**?
2. Is it **FAIR** to all concerned?
3. Will it build **GOODWILL** and **BETTER FRIENDSHIPS**?
4. Will it be **BENEFICIAL** to all concerned?

Tamworth—First Light

Meets Wednesday morning,
6:30 for 7:00 am at
Frog & Toad Function Centre
236 Goonoo Goonoo Rd
TAMWORTH NSW 2340
Phone: 6765 7022

Club Officers and contact details

President—Graeme Kruger

president@tamworthfirstlight.org.au

Secretary—Brodie Shields

secretary@tamworthfirstlight.org.au

Other Clubs meet:

Monday
Tuesday
Wednesday
Friday

Tamworth West, West Tamworth Bowling Club, 6:30pm
Tamworth Rotary Club, Service Club, 6:15pm
Tamworth on Peel – (Calala Rotary), Calala Inn, 6:30pm
Tamworth Sunrise, Sanctuary Inn, 7:am