

Coonabarabran Rotary Bulletin Mon 20 August 2018

Next Meeting

Mon 3 September - Casual Dinner meeting with guests from the Rotary Club of West Pennant Hills Cherrybrook. Four couples and their Brazilian exchange student are coming. Please bring your partners for a friendly and relaxed evening. Bowling club, 6.00 for 6.30pm.

Calendar

Fri 24 August - Trek4Kids lunch. Set up no later than 11am for lunch at noon to 1.30pm

Sat 25 & Sun 26 August - MHERV van in residence. Receptionists - see below

Tues 28 Aug - session to prepare NZ exchange candidates

Sat 1 Sept - Suggested new date for launching picnic shelter in David Bell Park

Thurs 13 Sept - two buses coming to 'help economy'.

14 - 16 Sept - Australia / NZ conference in Hobart

Mon 17 Sept - Guest speaker Nicola Brookhouse to speak about GSE in Uganda. Possible induction of new members

Mon 24 Sept - Toronto Trekkers (15-20 people) visiting to help farmers.

Tues 25 Sept - Childrens Day - BBQ

Sat 29 Sept - AAO Open Day

Mon 15 Oct - potential date for Cluster Public speaking competition

Mon 22 Oct - Coona Race day

Mon 19 Nov - Guest speaker Dr Steven Cuneen

Fri 14 Dec - 'Tree of Joy' project with Belrose Rotary Club (Fred Clancy)

Correspondence

- Candice Brittain - generous donation of \$2,500 from Sunliner Recreational Vehicles
- Term deposits require renewal
- Public school - thanks for Awards night support
- NYSF payment request.

Drought Catch Up Fri 10 August Summary

- There were approx 200 there.
- We gave 62 people \$6,200 in \$100 Visa cards - Two people declined this contribution
- We have a further \$800 on hand (updated to \$3,800 by 20 August) to catch up with others who are recommended to us, or to hold for another drought related purpose.

- We were pleased to see that people were happy to take away the hampers, the bags of toiletries provided by the Catholic ladies, the dog food provided by Joyce and Mark Stewart, and a fair heap of the Sanitarium products.
- The lamb jumpers and other knitted items added a colourful display.
- The music was great (a little loud at times but were happy to turn it down a notch when requested a couple of time).
- BlazeAid in particular gathered a good deal of information.
- Food turned out really well regarding quantities - little left over, and I think people had plenty to eat and drink.
- We had plenty of drink left over. Suppliers are happy to take back what we can't use.



Meeting Notes

- **Trek4 Kids** car rally group will be at Neilson Park at midday. Setting up at 11am. Help will be appreciated since some key people will be absent. We agreed to give them \$200 - \$300.
- **MHERV receptionists** for Saturday and Sunday as follows:
 - Sat 10am to 1pm - Paul Mulally ; Sat 1pm to 4pm - Bob Guichelaar
 - Sun 9am to midday - Jim Pearson ; Sun midday to 3pm - Lindsay Wilkin
- **Sunliner Recreational Vehicles** have donated \$2,500 to our Drought fund. Very generous.
- **West Pennant Hills/Cherrybrook Rotary club will be visiting next meeting on 3 September** - 4 couples and their Brazilian exchange student. They are holding a Trivia Night to raise funds for the Drought fund.
- **New members** proposal form circulated (Robert Noakes, Simon Tighe and Erin Dowse). Great work members!
- A group from Newcastle has delivered a host of goods and money. Thankfully we have not needed to take on any responsibility for these goods.
- Laurie has been working hard through the **BlazeAid** group to access grain etc - very frustrating.
- The **District RAWCS Drought project has been given \$100,000 to disburse**. A difficult task to settle on how to do this. DG Lorraine has sent out a survey asking for farmer feedback regarding needs.
- Arnold spoke to his letter '**Sharing the Pain**' suggesting that Rotary call on the banks to declare a moratorium on farm debt until farms can recover. Members had a chance to comment briefly. Jo agreed to send this message to the Australian District Governors's if our District Governor approves.

- We have been asked to cater (sausage sizzle) at a function launching the **Dark Sky Park**, in the National Park on the evening of 29 September. It was agreed that we could not manage this considering we will be catering all day at the AAO Open day.
- Jess Stokes from the National Parks has asked us to 'shake a bucket' at the **opening of the new Visitors' Centre on Sat 22 September** - we would have the money to use for the Drought fund. We agreed that a donation tin or two would be more agreeable.
- **Several Rotary clubs** have enquired about what we are doing to ease the drought problems - eg Gosford North, Whittlesea.
- **The cluster weekend trip** has been abandoned at this stage - too much happening at present.
- We have 3 students for the **NZ Exchange program**. Next Tuesday at 4pm there will be a session to prepare them for the exchange at John's home.
- It was suggested that we assist Fred Clancy with the '**Tree of Joy**' project with Belrose Rotary Club delivering Xmas gifts from Sydney.
- 15 October is proposed for the **Cluster Public speaking** comp which we will host.
- We will submit an application for a **Foundation District Grant** for the signage and the Little Libraries - by 31 October.

Guest Speaker Matt Dickson

Guest speaker at our meeting this week was Matt Dickson, manager of Woolworths. Matt gave an excellent presentation which one member described as 'warts and all'. In other words, he outlined some of the challenges faced in a rural supermarket in making shopping there the best possible experience.

Into the conversation came references to trolleys with chains, plastic bags, plastic wrapping of fruit and vegetables, the car park, shade for cars, and the prospect of competition (welcomed by Matt on behalf of the community). It was a chance for members to ask questions, and to get to know this relative newcomer to town, to hear about his background in retailing, his family and some of the challenges they faced in moving into Coonabarabran. We thank Matt for his presentation and look forward to seeing him regularly as we all struggle to remember to take our bags when we go shopping!



Catch Up Thank you's

A number of people have sent thank you's for the Drought Catch Up night, expressing gratitude. Heiner & Martha Meier, Angela Timmer, Gail Preston, Maureen Poole, and a number of verbal thanks which I can't recall. This one is a bit special:

Dear President Jo,

Elaine joins me to thank you, the Directors and members of the Rotary Club of Coonabarabran for organizing the Drought Fest event last Friday.

It was good to meet up with friends and neighbours for a chat and enjoy the entertainment and food that was so graciously provided.

Not normally known for being lucky, it was a shock to win 2 out of 2 in the ticket lottery. The wine has been enjoyed and the big box of cosmetics faces a challenge to make Elaine more beautiful. Our thanks to the generous sponsors of the prizes and the pantry supplies. Banjo the kelpie is into his 'Bonny dog biscuits' with gusto.

This drought is such a dilemma, the enormity and cost of feeding livestock with no end date assured is both mind and resource destroying. I am concerned for our community, our livestock and the environment but am almost helpless to help or change the situation in any way.

We greet each new day in the knowledge that rain is one day closer. The generosity of people and organisations towards us is very humbling and we are most grateful to the Rotary Club of Coonabarabran for their consideration.

Most sincerely,

Stephen and Elaine Lill

The Weekly Bulletin of the Rotary Club of Coonabarabran Inc. Club No 17922

President: Jo Wilkin **Secretary:** Bob Guichelaar **Treasurer:** John Sawyer. **Charter 13 May 1949**