



Volume 58, Issue38

27<sup>th</sup> March 2007

Club No7523

District 9650

## What's On Tonight?

Board meeting plus a report on the District Conference at Port Macquarie. Candice Scifleet will also tell us what she learned at RYAQUA recently.

## Dates to remember.

**2<sup>nd</sup> April Monday** - Transfer meeting with Dungog Rotary Club at the Stroud pub. There will be no meeting on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April.

**8<sup>th</sup> April** - The Great Duck Races. A winner for Easter Sunday.

**10<sup>th</sup> April** - To be advised

**17<sup>th</sup> April** - A touch of magic with Grahame Holstein. He will attempt to rejoin Bob Mason's tie he mutilated a few years ago

**1<sup>st</sup>- 2<sup>nd</sup> June** - Opera in the Church. Book now and make it a **sell out** performance

<b>Rosters</b>	<b>Tonight</b>	<b>Next Meeting</b>	
Introduce Guest Speaker	John Walton	Not required	If you are unable to carry out this task please organise another member to stand in for you on the night.
Thank Guest Speaker	Rick B-T	Not required	

**Don't forget if you cannot make a meeting ring Pam at Webbs, 65581507, with your apology.**

## Last week's meeting,

Was a joint meeting with Wingham Club held in the Krambach Hall. It was a dreadfully hot humid night which "dampened" the spirits a little, however this was overcome with the dinner supplied by the friends of the school, which was up to its usual standard. Towards the end of the evening a cheque was presented for \$2,143.00 which caused much jubilation among the ladies of the school.



The first picture is for the benefit of Charlotte's parents who we know read this bulletin. It shows that she is being a good girl, drinking lemon cordial and Coca Cola. The second picture is of Hoppy accepting the raffle prize. In typical Wingham style they bungled the drawing of this raffle, and we were pleased to see it go to a Gloucester Rotary member

## The GSE Team from Minnesota.

Last Wednesday we had the pleasure of entertaining team leader of the GSE team John Knutson and the four team members, Dawn, Stacey, Leslie and Lisa to a BBQ lunch in Billabong Park on their way to Great Lakes. They are a delightful group and John is very happy looking after 4 young ladies. He is well qualified as he has 8 sisters and 3 brothers, is married with 2 daughters and owns a female dog.

## Karen Blok.

Last week I mentioned the sad passing of Don and Lorraine's daughter Karen, and recently asked them if we at Rotary could do anything to assist them in their grieving process. Lorraine asked if the members would please plant sweetpeas in their garden in memory of Karen as she loved sweetpeas.

## Guess who turned 18 on the 26<sup>th</sup> March?

You can see the love of cake started at an early age for Charlotte, as she is seen pondering whether to eat some more or not. Happy Birthday Charlotte!



## Why would you go to a Rotary Conference?

After 38 years in Rotary I often ask myself this question, and after some, have vowed to never go again. However times have changed, as I found out last weekend, and am so pleased that Lynn and I were able to attend some of the sessions, so let me tell you about it.

Saturday morning there were three excellent keynote speakers. Tom Henderson the founder of Shelter Box told us how he got the idea in the year 2000, and asked his



Rotary Club, Helston-Lizard in Cornwall, England, to help him. This they did and in no time the idea blossomed into what it is today, a world-wide organisation. He had watched a TV report on a disaster, showing food and supplies being thrown to a scrambling mob, not handed to them, which he felt undermined the people's dignity. He felt there was a gap in the system and what was needed was **shelter, warmth and dignity**. After much thought, he came up with "ShelterBox" which provides immediate shelter after a natural or other disaster.

Since February 2001 "ShelterBox" has raised more than A\$30million providing accommodation and assistance to more than 460,000 people in 30 countries, the latest being tsunami affected areas, the earthquakes in Pakistan and Kashmir, and more recently an earthquake in Java. One shelter box contains enough items for 10 people and costs A\$1,200. So far our club has bought 2, and will buy another 2 before the end of the Rotary year. Donations of less than the cost of a complete box are welcomed, and are used to purchase individual items

Tom now manages on a full time basis the ShelterBox Trust, which is a registered UK charity. It is a Rotary International project that is administered in Australia by the Rotary Club of Endeavour Hills, Victoria. A key point is that it works with Rotary Clubs in the disaster areas, not through any other Aid agency, so they know exactly where the boxes are going.

I suggest the online members have a look at the following web sites,

[www.shelterbox.org](http://www.shelterbox.org)

[www.shelterboxaustralia.com.au](http://www.shelterboxaustralia.com.au)

For those too lazy to get on line you will have to miss out.

**John B Fairfax** spoke on the power of the press, and gave us many examples of this abuse of power, and how eventually the offending person was brought down, usually by their own arrogance.

After leaving school in 1960 he worked for the Fairfax organisation as a cadet reporter before being transferred to London as a correspondent. He returned to Australia in 1967, then in 1976 was appointed as Manager of The Federal Capital Press, was publisher of the Canberra Times, and was made a director of John Fairfax Ltd, then Deputy Chairman in '85. Naturally he resigned all these positions after Warwick Fairfax's debacle in '87.

With other members of the family he formed Marinya Media P/L, holding 53% of the ordinary voting shares in Rural Press Ltd, which publishes about 200 newspapers in Australia and New Zealand.

**Pamela Fayle** was a Rotary Exchange student to Japan sponsored by Tamworth in 1972. This experience gave her the urge to travel and to meet people. She is a graduate of the ANU in economics and Asian studies, after which she worked in the Treasury, Industry, Trade and Foreign Affairs, mostly focusing on trade and economic issues.

Three years ago she was appointed as Australia's Ambassador to Germany and Switzerland, and said champagne and lavish parties did not constitute a large part of her work. Trade and Tourism were two major items, and gave us examples of how some people try to get the Australian Government to pay for their fare home. Apparently the German Government was very interested to learn how we have been able to have a balanced budget here for the past 10 years, keeping in mind its negative budget in this period. Another item was the HAAC scheme and how it operates, and it is keeping a close eye on the new Work Place Relations laws, as they would like to do the same.

**With speakers of this calibre why miss a Conference?**



President Pete at the morning tea break. PP Ploddy enjoying the Conference

A chicken and an egg are lying in bed. The chicken is leaning against the headboard smoking a cigarette, with a satisfied smile on its face. The egg, looking a bit disgusted, grabs the sheet, rolls over, and says, "Well, I guess we finally answered THAT question"