

# Coffs City Rotary



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to the world

ABN 92 963 118 216 District 9650

Secretary – Bill on 6648-7680 - PO Box 570, Coffs Harbour 2450 NSW

Club President – Scott Stacey District Governor – Maurie Stack RI President – K R Ravindran

Meeting Place – Cex Coffs Harbour

Monday Lunchtime

12.30 - 1.45 pm

Apologies – FWO – 6650 7000 by 10.30 am Monday

## *COFFS CITY CHATROOM*

May 23, 2016

**TODAY: President Scott** is on holidays in Japan, **President Elect Terry** is packing his bag for departure on Wednesday for Canada so the gong was handed to **Past President Geoff** to control the meeting.

Geoff got things underway by introducing **our guests, Rob and Julie Avery and Mike Brown**, part of the Coffs Rotary group who visited Kiribati early in the year.

Thanks Giving was presented by **Bob Carle** and the Toast to the Queen and Australia was proposed by **Jay Clowes**.

**Despite my plea in the last bulletin and the email sent by Geoff Pollack during the week for a special effort to turn up the numbers today were pathetic. No doubt there were some genuine reasons why some of you could not attend however only having 11 members present for this meeting was embarrassing. We need to make an effort and do much better.**

### REPORTS:

**Brian Leiper** advised that the opening night for the **Bald Archy Prize Exhibition** was a great success with 70 odd people attending. **However, again, the response for our members was an embarrassment.** Only two of our members came along apart from those members who are board members of the Gallery.

**A reminder that the exhibition runs from 14 May to 11 June so make an effort, be rewarded and go along.**

In addition Brian advised that the very popular show, **The Stomping Ivories**, are to return to the Bunker Gallery in August. Keep your eye out for the dates for this event.

**George Cecato** gave some preliminary results for **Saturday's Wine & Beer Event**. We had some 325 people attend which is the second highest in the history of the event. We grossed some \$13.3K and should net around \$9K. These are only preliminary figures and will be confirmed in due course. **George** thanked those members who came along to give a hand and gave special thanks to **Dom Hawke and his daughter London** for the massive effort they put into to making the Silent Auction a success. **Mike Blewitt** endorsed George's comment regarding the input by Dom and London.

**Jay Clowes** advised members that he and **Mike Blewitt** used the club's **FaceBook** to get the message out regarding the **Wine Event**. They had 2,500 hits on the page as a result. A sign of the times. He advised that we will do the same with the B.I.G. golf Day.

**Ian McAllister** again reminded members regarding the **Careers Day to be held at the Coffs Harbour Race Course on Thursday, 26 May** being organised by Bob Prater. So far we have four of our members who are helping out. If you can spare a couple of hours please give Ian a call and come along. Don't forget if you don't have your Working with Children Check in order you are prohibited from helping out.

**Peter Wardman** gave a report on his recent travel to Brisbane with the new airline, **Fly Corporate**. Peter advised that the service could not be better particularly if you only need to go the Brisbane for the day.

He advised that the service allowed him to get into Brisbane CBD by 9.00 am and leave at 4.30 pm and the cost was reasonable. Much better than battling the highway and facing the possibility of delays etc. and a much longer day / trip.

He also mentioned that the council are to make a decision on Thursday regarding the ongoing operation of the **Deep See Fishing Club**. The current operators are seeking a ten year lease so they have some certainty regarding their investment. However the council want to adopt a public tender process. If this happens it is very likely that the current operators will walk and the club will go into liquidation.

**Bob Carle** advised that the **Fellowship Evening** which was to be held this week would be postponed until next month. Watch this space.

**Past President Geoff** introduced our guest speakers to tell us about their recent experience in Kiribati and in particular on the island of Terawa. The group from Coffs Harbour Rotary comprised, Rob Avery, Mike Brown, Paul Moran, Graham Crouch and Ray Smith. Rob's wife Julie, who is not a member of Rotary was also part of the team. Kiribati is an island group north west of Fiji. The group is part of the Gilbert Islands archipelago, the area is 500 square kilometers and has a population of 56K. The highest elevation is 3 meters, barely about the high water mark. The republic of Kiribati is the least developed nation in the Pacific Islands.

While Coffs Club had agreed to assist with a donation to \$6.5K Rob realised that they would need much more than that to make a difference. Over many months he was able to amass \$60K plus, made up from District Grants \$20K, RI \$27.25K, an individual donor from Sydney \$8K plus the funds from the Coffs club. The project undertaken by the Coffs club was to install 120 LifeStraw water purification units in 19 schools, 11 health clinics and 2 hospitals. The current water supply to the population is very poor due to very poor sanitation, coral dust, rodents, other animals and insects getting into water tanks. In addition hygiene is very poor amongst most of the population. The LifeStraw units were imported from China

direct to Terawa. Initially the team had some difficulty in putting the first unit together however with that experience the task became second nature. The installation also included training local people in how to use and maintain the units as well as basic advice on personal hygiene.

The efforts of the group was greatly appreciated by those they met and the school children composed songs to reinforce the message from the group regarding the use of the water purifications units and basic hygiene requirements.

This project is a great example of what Rotary is all about and the group involved who travelled to Terawa and those who helped put the project together back in Coffs deserve great accolades.

At the end of the presentation **Bob Carle** thanked the group, apologised for the lack of numbers on our club's part and called on those present to show their appreciation in the usual manner.

**NEXT MEETING: Next Monday, 30 May at the usual venue.**

**SERGEANTS SESSION: Ian McAllister, assisted by Algy,** did not have many members to pick on however Ian raised some funds to go into the pot. Thanks to Ian & Algy.

**Pick the Joker** was won by **George Cecato**. However George had to leave early and the pack of cards quickly disappeared. **The Pot remains at \$115.00.**

#### CLUB NOTICES

26 May – Careers Day at Coffs Race Course

13 – 14 August – Coffs Cycle Challenge

6 November – B.I.G. Charity Golf Day

#### DISTRICT NOTICES

May – Bowel Scan month

22 May District Assembly at Port Macquarie

27 – 29 May – MUNA at Kempsey



#### BIRTHDAYS

26 May – Melissa Bell

30 May – Therese Murray - Prior

1 June – Misty Chau

3 June – Bronwyn McMahon

15 June – Bruce Robertson



#### ANNIVERSARIES

No more until July