

Rotary Club of Howrah



Bulletin Chartered 5th June, 1976

President: Peter Lowery
A/ Secretary: Robyn Harrison

A switched on club working for our community.

Thursday 25th July 2019

Social Meeting —- Partners Welcome

Foreshore Tavern, Lauderdale

Ensure Helen knows you are coming

Guests Cathy Booth (Rotarian Bundaberg Club, Qld ~ 8years, **Guest Speaker**) pictured Stephanie Templeton (offered to accompany guest speaker around the State for her "Rotary talks", is a Rotarian from Ulverstone West Club) and Annette Emmett.

Sergeant-in-training Graham got proceedings under-way ~ Gayle did the opening prayer & Reg and Narender bumbled through the toast. This week the National Anthem was sung with gusto!

This was *El Presidenté Pete's* Last meeting for a while as he was successfully operated on 12 hours later at Hobart Private. We wish Pete a quick recovery and noted Dr Greg Harvey a steady hand.

Good fine session despite very small numbers

Gale thanked all those who have paid their dues so far ~ come on the rest!!! The Phantom Raffle: The Club will find a red and white to present to our winners in a fortnight's time

The White: Dave Mitchell / The Red: Richard Wyatt.

The meeting closed a little later than normal but no one minded.



LAST MEETING REPORT

John Anderson, our Chairman, introduced Cathy our guest speaker, after consulting Google to find out about The Umoja Orphanage in Kenya. (*Umoja is a Swahili word for unity/togetherness*)

Cathy is a teacher, a shearer's daughter, knew all about poverty and this shaped her life ~ held in good stead for her work in Kenya. Had a few health problems with her own children and this experience held her resolve to tackle 'her' Kenya project with the help of many volunteers, RAWCS and the locals. The Orphanage is close to the Tanzanian border.

Whilst on a holiday to Kenya in 2010, Cathy came across a little girl who tugged at her heart, sparking a passion. After several visits to Kenya she tried to figure out what works best with an idea that was still an idea. The idea began to take shape ~ she raised money (\$US40 000) to buy land to start her ambitious project. Negotiations with the Moslem Chief did not start well and still are a little tense today.

Rotarians, with the help of many volunteers, helped establish the area in a very short time. In subsequent years, more volunteers went to teach the locals how to subsist. Problems we wouldn't think about like the inferior quality of barbed wire was an issue but resolved. By 2017, a playground had been built along with a cow holding yard ~ all this helping the community freely.

Stephanie's grandson went over as a 16yo volunteer to teach how to make chicken coops.

Water was sourced with an efficient well and buildings started going up ~ not in usual dormitory style but as family units to build "*umoja*".

Grants were sourced too (wherever they were available including the Australian Government), to help the establishment of the building program. Getting electricity connected was a nightmare ~ took 18 months and \$US7000 to get power. The villagers had to be compensated too but that's another long story . . .

A Rotary architect and a Kenyan architect designed the building, which was finally opened in 2017. In 2018 all slowed down a little but the project is getting there! The Charity has been registered for 5 years now.

Base Titanium Mining, down the road, have been a great support.

The project also offers free health care when able, having treated 1500people with basic skills ~ glasses, creams to treat wounds and whatever can be sourced is obtained to help them.

Training the community was a HUGE task in permaculture and sustainability. Along with sales, the Project Safari Program doing well as the Safaris are a really good fundraiser, raising funds for sustainability. Adding dairy/beef cattle, goats, chickens for eggs along with shade clothed crops, especially kale, all helps. Eggs and kale go to the mining kitchen in a barter program.

Care of the children is the number one priority! Those abandoned and vulnerable ~ a big effort rehabilitate them. Children show a remarkable ability, resilience and intelligence despite life prior to being picked up by the orphanage ~ good English speakers among them and some, as they get older, want to give back.

There are good stories but bad brought on by droughts, floods, loss of crops, high cost of everything, death of livestock, some because of mambo snake bites ~ tribal and cultural issues but slowly, slowly working through this. Hydroponics experiment was one answer as it also helped cut costs for chicken feed. Trained people started to look after the 'greenhouses'.

THE UGLY ~ many, many orphans ~ vulnerable, sexually abused, extracted from children trafficking and phantom children (ignored or abandoned without care and don't belong anywhere through death of parents or family on drugs ~ stealing to survive).

Cathy is a determined lady who is persistent ~ for her a problem is a solution waiting to be found. Lots to be done, lack of money, as always, is the main issue even for many basics we take for granted BUT things are getting done. Huge issue and cost is getting things from Port to Project.

Cathy outlined how people can help with brochures on the table. She has a great staff, both volunteers and locals who do the best they can with limited resources they have ~ they are achieving the extraordinary with so little. Most local workers are from different tribes so there are many cultural issues that get in the way but Cathy is a patient lady.

The GOOD outweighs the BAD & the UGLY!!!

Questions reflected the interest by members. (One interesting snippet was that Kenya's greatest export is flowers)

A most inspiring talk by a passionately driven lady! ~ Thank you Cathy.

HERE AND THERE

Cathy asked to pass onto the Club that it was a pleasure to speak to a most welcoming and easy-going Club.

Pres Peter is doing well expects to be in hospital for a few more days.

Glen is going well—he has to be. June has an arm in a sling for a minor problem and Toby the dog is sporting an Elizabethan Collar.

Two projects to keep in mind.

Creating my Career Day - Fri Aug 9 Warrane TAFE ~ Anyone else to help? Can be short stints ~

RYDA Volunteers needed 26 August to 13 September. The task is to accompany groups of students moving from one activity to the next.

A Polish immigrant went to the DMV to apply for a driver's license.

First, of course, he had to take an eye sight test. The optician showed him a card with the letters

'C Z W I X N O S T A C Z.'

'Can you read this?' the optician asked.

'Read it?' the Polish guy replied, 'I know the guy

**The difference between in-laws and outlaws?
Outlaws are wanted.**

**Alcohol is a perfect solvent:
It dissolves marriages, families and careers.**

**A fine is a tax for doing wrong.
A tax is a fine for doing well.**

**There are two kinds of people who don't say much:
Those who are quiet and those who talk a lot.**

COMING EVENTS

JULY

Thurs. 25th Foreshore Tavern - Academy unavailable.

AUGUST

Thurs. 1st Club Assembly and Board Meeting

Thurs. 8th Leo Watkins - Dad's Without Partners

Thurs. 15th Clarence High School - Cambodia/Laos team.

Thurs. 22nd Graham Freeman - NZ PDE report.

Thurs. 29th Gina Porter and Ian - Dept. of Justice

SEPTEMBER

Thurs. 5th Bob Hardy - Galapagos Islands

Thurs. 12th Club Assembly and Board Meeting

Nov 10 Gov House Open Day **Nov 23** Fashion Parade

	DUTY	ROSTER	
Date	Chair	Registration	Duty
AUG 1	Peter L	Helen Susie	John Basil
AUG 8	Bob	Kumar Roger	David L Ray
Aug 15	Reg	Shirin Gloria	Peter David H

ATTENDANCE PROTOCOL

Members who are unable to attend Thursday meetings should **contact**

ROBYN before lunchtime on Tuesdays. Also advise if partners attending or you don't require a meal.

Contact Robyn on 0419 882 876 or rdmharrison@bigpond.com