



ROTARY CLUB OF BOX HILL



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A Message from the President

The new Rotary year has got off to a flying start with our first meeting last Tuesday following a busy first week for the Club with the Art Show. Past President Carol ably filled the role of Sergeant for the first time and extracted quite a large sum of money from our members as well as providing an entertaining Sergeant's session. Well done Carol on your initiation.

At the first Board meeting which followed the regular Club meeting it was agreed to hold the first Club Assembly on August 25 where plans and programs for the ensuing year will be presented. All committees are requested to have their reports ready and submitted by the time of the next Board meeting on August 11. Committee meetings will need to be held during the intervening weeks to finalise plans. When doing so keep in mind the results of our recent Club survey. We have been advised that District Governor David will visit us on October 20.

Last week I attended the first meeting for this Rotary year of the "Shine On Awards" committee. This year the awards will be hosted by the Whitehorse Cluster Clubs. "Shine On Awards" recognise outstanding community service by people with disabilities who by their actions serve as "Shining Examples" to the community. We should make every endeavour this year to nominate a suitable person for an award. There are two categories of awards and they are for people between the ages of 15-20 years and from 21 years onward, both in any field of disability. More details will be provided later in the year as organising progresses. There is no cost to the club to nominate a person for an award and no cost to attend the presentation ceremonies. These awards afford a great honour to those selected for presentation and a humbling experience for those who attend the ceremony. I never cease to admire those who participate.

The Group Study Exchange will be to District 2420 Istanbul, Turkey, during April to May 2010. Applications are being called for Team Leader to prepare and manage the selected team to Istanbul. Applications close on August 14, 2009. Applications are also being sought for Team Members and these close on September 24, 2009.

I encourage all members to start seeking out young professionals between the ages of 25 years to 40 years who could be suitable candidates for team membership. Please ask our Foundation Chairman, Bruce McKenzie, or myself for further information.

The Future Of Rotary Is In Your Hands.

Yours in Rotary

Tom Thorpe

President

LAST WEEK'S MEETING

In opening this week's meeting, new President Tom welcomed Peter Braithwaith (Visiting from Mount Gambier Rotary Club) and guest speaker Gordon Baddeley (Bionic Ear Institute ambassador). Tom also said that he had received a letter from District Governor David Forster, in which he thanked the Box Hill Club for the hospitality that was given to his wife and himself at the Art Show, and also praising the quality of the Art Show.

Tom handed the conduct of the meeting to Chairman George McLean, who firstly asked for reports.

Secretary Tim Lynn reported that apologies were received from David Tolstrup, Vincent Lee, Peter Cummins and Ray Rhiem, and that Robert Leach and Rae Wilson were on leave of absence. Tim also said that he had received a thank you letter from Interplast for the donation they received. He also reminded Board Members of the meeting to be held that night.

Geoff Swain reported that Art Show attendances were down by about 25 % from last year, but that there was still opportunity to make up the shortfall in revenue by way of good raffle ticket sales. The raffle tickets were on sale for three more weeks.

Clem Joyce reported that there was a vacancy on the Opportunity Shop roster for Saturday morning. Greg Paine offered to fill the vacancy.

Colin Johnson thanked the Farmers Market volunteers for their efforts the previous Saturday.

Fines Session

Sargeant Carol extracted fines from Tim Lynn for pole dancing, Ray McLeod Dryden for fiscal difficulties at the desk, Geoff Isles for not using the spell check on the web site, multiple fines to Greg Paine for retirement, unemployment and receiving the Paul Harris Fellow, Trevor Donegan for being the incoming treasurer, Geoff Weekes for running a 20km sort of marathon, and for purchasing the McCubbin Award painting, fines to all St Kilda and Collingwood supporters,. Cross fines were to Carol Pawsey for son Jack's 21st birthday, and for mixing up footy teams, to Tim Lynn for selling paintings under false pretences and to Tom Thorpe for losing his glass lens and for his Presidency.

Guest Speaker – Gordon Baddeley

Gordon Baddeley (Bionic Ear Institute ambassador and himself a recipient of a bionic ear) gave a very interesting and informative talk on the work of the Bionic Ear Institute, and in particular how this wonderful invention had personally changed his life.

Gordon had perfect hearing until he joined the Royal Australian Navy in World War II. In fact perfect hearing was a prerequisite for his role as a submarine detector. This role involved listening through head phones

to high frequency sonar beams which traveled in water at five times the speed in air, in order to detect bounce back from submarines. At the rate of one very loud 'ping' every five seconds, Gordon calculated that over a 2.5 year period his ears were battered by about 1 million 'pings', at the end of which time his hearing had deteriorated so badly that he was discharged from the Navy on medical grounds, the year being 1944.

By 1960 Gordon had complete loss of hearing in the left ear, and by the late 1990's the hearing in the right ear was also completely lost. Gordon had to rely on pen and paper for communication,

After two years in total silence, which he found very difficult, he was pointed in the direction of the Bionic Ear Institute.

The first step was testing of his suitability for a bionic ear. The bionic ear would only work if the hearing nerve to the brain was still active. Fortunately this was the case. In 2000 Gordon received his cochlear implant in a 3 hour operation performed by surgeon Robert Bridge. The external speech processor and headset (of which an example was passed around at the meeting and would cost \$ 8,000) was fitted two weeks later after the wound had healed.

Initially the sounds heard were barely distinguishable as speech. However, over a 12 week period it was fine tuned with the training and patience of audiologists, to achieve good results. Gordon said that unless you had experienced it yourself, you would have no idea how wonderful it was to hear again, after being in total silence for two years.

Research for the Bionic Ear was started by Professor Graeme Clark in the 1960s. At the start Graeme would rattle tins in the street to raise money so his research could continue. The Bionic Ear Institute was formed in 1986, and works closely in

conjunction with the Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Institute (which contains the Cochlear Implant Clinic).

The first recipient of a bionic ear was Rob Saunders in 1978. Since then over 120,000 people world wide have had a bionic ear implant - What a great Australian invention. The oldest recipient was 92 years old and the youngest was 6 months old.

In 2003 Professor Clark was awarded an Honorary Fellowship of Medicine in London (Previous recipients of this distinguished award included Sigmund Freud and Charles Darwin).

The Bionic Ear Institute is a non-profit organization and relies on donations from the general public. It is a very worthy cause.

Fund Raising

New Fundraising Chairman Joe Mardjetko conducted the raffle. After many tries at drawing out a winner, Greg Paine eventually came out winner.

Attendance

22 members and partners
1 visiting Rotarian
Guest speaker



**Rotary Club of Box Hill
CLUB PROGRAMME
July / August 2009**



Date	Topic	Speaker	Chair
July			
21 st	Illicit Drug Manufacture Clandestine laboratories	Detective Senior Constable Nick Svarnias	Ray McLeod-Dryden
28 th	Crime Prevention	Senior Constable Biljana Luccio	Ray McLeod-Dryden
August			
4 th	Art Show Raffle	Sponsor Aqualink	Geoff Swain

**** PLEASE NOTE: If you are unable to fulfil the chair duty on your nominated evening, it would be greatly appreciated if you could arrange a suitable substitute. ****

CLUB DUTY ROSTER

Date	Desk	Greeter	Grace / Toast
July			
21 st	Geoff Weeks / Clive Nicholson	Ray McLeod-Dryden	David D'Silva
28 th	Bruce McKenzie/ Rob Leach	Ray Riehm	Rob Fenton
August			
4 th	Vincent Li/Clem Joyce	Lloyd Cranwell	Rob Bishop

**** PLEASE NOTE: If you are unable to fulfill the allocated duty on the occasion, it would be helpful if you could arrange a "swap" with another person listed.**

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Date	Member	Event
July		
23 rd	Vincent Li	Members Birthday
26 th	Greg Paine	Members Birthday
27 th	Colin Johnson	Induction Anniversary

