



District 9820

R I President: Ron D. Burton
District Governor: Tim Moore
Assistant Governor: Brian Mellady

ROTARY CLUB OF FRANKSTON NORTH INC
Chartered 7 May 1973

Web: www.rotaryfrankstonnorth.org/

President: Don MacDonald
President Elect: Maureen Gillham
Past President: Judi McKee
Secretary: Mark Sammut
Treasurer: Russell Cock
Sergeant at Arms: Con Demopoulos
Directors:
Bill Fowler Vocational
Eric Neill Membership
Tony Spring Foundation
John Tame Services
Linda Tinney Public Relations

Club Meetings:

Every Wednesday at the International Motel,
389 Nepean Hwy, Frankston - 6.00pm for 6.30pm.

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THE FOUR-WAY TEST

Of all the things we think, say or do . . .

1. Is it the TRUTH?
2. Is it FAIR to all concerned?
3. Will it build GOODWILL & BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
4. Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

FROM PRESIDENT DON



Carla Spring and Past District Governor (PDG) Tony presented on their visit to India to complete the PDG Partner's project. The presentation we enjoyed described both cultural and practical aspects of the visit and further demonstrated how the "informal multiplier effect" can work on worthwhile projects: where "X" was purchased and through the engagement of the suppliers "X+N" was delivered. An important part of giving is the impact it has on those who supply, the engagement brings to mind the real need and it is served additionally by the supplier - where "three apparatus were purchased, nine were delivered"... The supply of physiotherapeutic apparatus through Carla's initiative to this community is an exemplary International project. Further though was a need identified by Tony during the visit to establish a " Polio Immunisation Day project" for next Rotary year and he invited FNR to consider being part of it - this activity would of course be a Foundation project. Well done Carla and Tony for completing a wonderful project..

THIS WEEK'S PROGRAM

6:00 pm for 6:30

David Hanlon

The Person in Rotary — "Learning"

Chairman: Don MacDonald

MILESTONES



ROTARY ANNIVERSARY:

David Cahill— 8 February 1966



WEDDING ANNIVERSARY:

Con & Loula Demopoulos—10 February 1961

Bill & June Fowler — 2 February 1965



BIRTHDAYS:

Carla Spring — 6 February

Robert Pill — 11 February

LAST WEEK'S PROGRAM

Chairman: Peter Newman
Apologies: Michael Shanks, Wayne Peterson , Maree Hutchins, Rob Pill, Geoff Magor, Maureen Gillham, Colin Price.
Leave of Absence: Bob Edgar

Secretary Mark:

- ✓ There are still outstanding payments for the Rotary Christmas Cakes, Puddings and Shortbreads. Could those still owing please settle up as soon as possible.
- ✓ Friend of our Club, Beverley Unitt, is running a free seminar called “**Rockstar Entrepreneurs**” for Business Owners, Managers and aspirational Professionals who want to expand their business results. It will take place on **Saturday, 1st March** at **Quest Frankston on The Bay** Registrations must be made via www.rockstarentrepreneur.biz, and as there are only 60 places available you need to act quickly if you want to improve your business skills.

Treasurer Russell:

Russell reminds Club Members that the half yearly dues of \$120 are now due.

Announcements:

Eric Neill:

Following recent problems in the Automotive Industry, of which Yazaki are a major supplier, Yazaki have withdrawn their intention of becoming a Corporate Member of our Club. However, they are willing to offer their facility for further functions we may wish to hold there. On that note the Membership Committee will be embarking on another Community Engagement Night, probably at Yazaki.

SERGEANT CON'S Fact of the Week:

They may look benign, but plants are much more intelligent than we think. New Australian research has shown that plants are capable of learning new tricks. The *Mimosa pudica*, known as the ‘sleepy plant’ or ‘touch-me-not’, showed adaption to new experiences scientist presented it with. Previous research had always assumed that plants could respond only in ways that were already encoded in their DNA, largely because they have no brain to retain memory.

Scientists chose the *Mimosa pudica* fern, which closes its leaves when touched to protect itself from predators, for their research. Under controlled conditions, they dropped the plant from a height to cause to the plant to feel threatened. The impact forced the fern to respond protectively and close its leaves. “We basically tried to scare the plant,” the researcher said. “the first time, it worked but the plant quickly worked out that nothing bad would happen to it, and it stopped closing its leaves.”

Varying the light levels, the researchers established that plants learn quickest under demanding conditions (low light), just as animals do. “The ability to memorise , learn and respond may not be as centralised as we previously thought.”

It is thought that if plants can learn and remember as shown, then this would provide an additional layer of potential behavioural responses that they could draw on to cope with environmental changes.

The researchers plan to investigate further to find out if plants are also capable of higher levels of learning. “Deep down, we may not be so different from animals, but we may not be that different from plants either.” they say.

Tony Spring:

India has been Polio Free for the past 3 years but needs to continue its immunisation program to keep on top of it. On that basis, Tony is considering forming a team to conduct further immunisations in India around January 2015. Possible volunteers are invited to register their interest with Tony.

Brian Capon:

Colin Price is about to have a knee arthroscopy operation and it will be several weeks before he can negotiate the stairs of our Meeting venue. Get well soon Colin, and we look forward to seeing you back so we can give the knee a kick.

Guest Speakers: Tony & Carla Spring "TRIP TO INDIA"

PDG Tony and Carla visited India (again), starting in Trivandrum on the SW tip of India and moving to Tamil Nadu and then Kerala via unique Indian houseboat along canals and rivers and backwaters.

The Waterways in this area are used for transport of goods and people by all sorts of strange craft. Even local domestic laundry is done in the same waterways.

They travelled by road through SW India from Trivandrum to Saleem in the middle of SW India for 12 days, fortunately with a local driver who seemed to be comfortable with the total lack of any road rules. From there on they were accommodated and shown around by Rotarians. They visited a Coir Matting and Rope Making factory where there was no power connected so everything is done by hand. They attended a



News Eve function at The Coconut Lagoon Resort from 5pm till midnight where Tony admitted to giving his liver a good belting. They saw large Chinese fishing nets pulling hundreds of fish off the beach at Fort Cochin which was littered with rubbish, which was depressing. Tony & Carla then spent a whole day at the GV Special School in Chidambaram, which is the school for disabled children that was the focus of Carla's DG Partner's Project in the last Rotary Year. This Project raised \$24,500 to purchase physiotherapy equipment to the school through donations by Rotary Clubs, mainly in our District. The money was spent at 3 companies to supply the equipment. These companies joined in the spirit of giving to charity by delivering everything free of charge and throwing in a lot of extras. They were shown the new equipment in operation. A paper cup making machine



Tony & Carla with Staff and students at GV Special School in Chidambaram

NEXT WEEK

12 February 2014
Winging it with Wayne

KEY DATES

7 Feb - Paul Harris District Dinner
 15-16 Feb - Multi District P.E.T.S.
 14-16 Mar - District Conference Bendigo

Australians all let us rejoice
 For we are young and free
 We've golden soil and wealth for toil,
 Our home is girt by sea:
 Our land abounds in nature's gifts
 Of beauty rich and rare,
 In history's page let every stage
 Advance Australia fair,
 In joyful strains then let us sing
 Advance Australia fair.

THE INVOCATION
 "For good food, good fellowship and the opportunity to serve through Rotary, we give thanks"
THE LOYAL TOAST
 "To The Queen, and the People of Australia"

had not yet arrived. This machine allows the older students to make money by making and selling paper cups. Part of the visit was taken up with a dedication ceremony at which Carla and Tony were presented with ceremonial Shawls and Lais. Carla was able to hand over an additional cheque of \$1100 which was received after the project appeal had closed. A permanent plaque (see opposite) was installed in the school to mark the occasion.

Note the title of Anne for Carla. This is a throwback to the early days of Rotary when the wives of Rotarians (men only, of course) were called Rotary Annes, and India still used this title.

Part of the day was taken up with television and newspaper interviews.

There was so much equipment purchased and donated, that the school will build an extension to house it all.



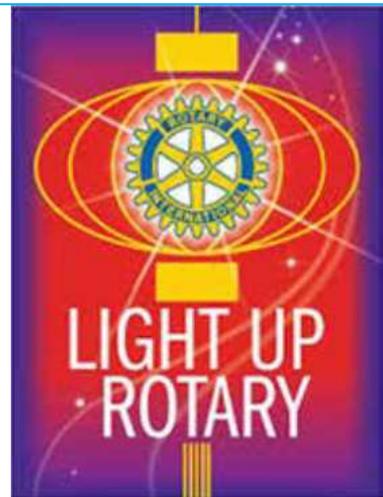
Plaque commemorating Carla's DG Partners Project displayed at GV Special School in Chidambaram

"LIGHT UP ROTARY"

RI President-elect Gary C.K. Huang chose *'Light Up Rotary'* as his theme for 2014-15. Huang was inspired by the teachings of Chinese philosopher Confucius who said: "It is better to light a single candle, than to sit and curse the darkness."

"There are so many problems in the world, so many people who need help. Many people say, 'There's nothing I can do.' So they sit there doing nothing. Meanwhile everything stays dark," Huang told the 537 district governors and their spouses and partners who are attending the 2014 International Assembly in San Diego, California.

"The Rotary way is the Confucius way. The Rotary way is to light a candle. I light one, you light one, 1.2 million Rotarians light one. Together, we light up the world," said Huang, who is a member of the **Rotary Club of Taipei** in Taiwan.



RI President Ron D. Burton's January 2014 Message

We often talk about Rotary as an extended family, with all of its branches and generations. We value our youth program participants and alumni as important members of the Rotary family, and we place a special emphasis on service to children and families. We do this because we know that for any family, the youngest generation is the future. That is absolutely true for us in Rotary.

We know that it is essential for us to bring in a new generation of younger Rotary members. We've spent a lot of time talking about how to attract young professionals to Rotary – but perhaps we haven't talked enough about why they don't stay.

There are plenty of young people, some of them youth program alumni, who do join Rotary. But when they begin families of their own, many of them leave. It isn't hard to see why: These are young professionals who are already spending more time than they want to away from their families. No matter how much they love and value Rotary, they are not going to prioritize their Rotary service over their spouses and children.

When you welcome families into Rotary, you're saying: Your family is not an obstacle to your Rotary service. They're not something that has to be scheduled around. Instead of mom or dad going out to Rotary and leaving everyone else at home, Rotary goes on the family calendar. The family of Rotary is real. Those children are going to grow up seeing their parents involved in community service, and being involved in service themselves. Not only is that a great thing for the family – it's a great thing for the Rotary club, which will be helping to nurture a new generation of active, service-minded young members.

Rotary has something for all of us – a way to let us do more, give more, and be more. Rotary is big enough for us all.

