



ABCD (Art Building Children's Dreams)

Ken Wall came to tell us all about the four children our club has recently adopted at the Nasavusavu Special Education School in Fiji. Our hearts were torn at seeing the conditions they live and learn in but it also spurred us on to do more. By the end of the evening a fifth child had been adopted with the prospect of two more!. Well done FTG!



Rotary's early emblem was a simple wagon wheel (in motion with dust). It was designed in 1905 by Montague M. Bear, a member of the Rotary Club of Chicago who was an engraver. He designed the emblem to represent both civilization and movement. Most of the early Rotary clubs adopted the wheel in one form or another.

The present emblem, 24 cogs and six spokes, was adopted in 1924. A keyway was added to signify usefulness. An official description of the emblem was adopted at the 1929 International Convention.

Rotary Club of Fern Tree Gully Inc.

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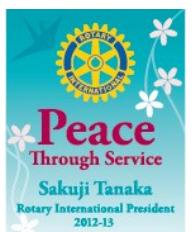
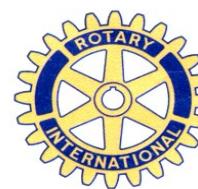
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WEEKLY BULLETIN

ROTARY CLUB OF FERN TREE GULLY
50TH ANNIVERSARY
2013

President, Rotary International - SAKUJI TANAKA & Kyoko,
Rotary Club of Yashio, Saitama, Japan
District Governor, Dist. 9810 – BRIAN MARTIN & Sue,
Rotary Club of Box Hill Central

President, Rotary Club of Fern Tree Gully – GRAEME ASPINALL
Benefactor, Rotary Club of Fern Tree Gully – IVAN GIGOVIC, Vale: August 2003

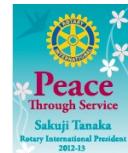




THE ROTARY CLUB OF FERN TREE GULLY INC., 2012-2013

The Board

PRESIDENT	-	Graeme Aspinall
PRESIDENT ELECT	-	Phil Walters
SECRETARY	-	John Flemming
TREASURER	-	Enid Hughes
PAST PRESIDENT	-	Enid Hughes
COMMUNITY	-	Julie Goodchild
VOCATIONAL	-	Phil Walters
INTERNATIONAL	-	Paul McAlooney
NEW GENERATIONS	-	Greg Downes



Office Bearers

FOUNDATION	-	Robert Dawson
MEMBERSHIP & MARKETING	-	Graeme Aspinall
FELLOWSHIP	-	Fran Mandergeddes
PROGRAM	-	Mike Spark
BULLETIN EDITOR	-	Enid Hughes
Aus. Rotary Health	-	Graham Faulkner

THE FOUR-WAY TEST

Of the things we think, say or do :-

- Is it the **TRUTH**?
- Is it **FAIR** to all concerned?
- Will it build **GOODWILL** and **BETTER FRIENDSHIPS**?
- Will it be **BENEFICIAL** to all concerned?



while, once you have progressed a little with the language and made some connections with people and start doing things with people after school and on the weekend, time flies at the speed of light.

A- Active. Being active is essential to having a great exchange year. I was always with friends doing something after school or on the weekends, going places and seeing things. A year isn't a lot of time at all and the more days you waste during the year the



more regret you'll have about your year. Even if I had to take a bus for an hour to see a friend for half an hour, I would do it. Always doing things is worth it because you get more out of the year, rather than sitting at home watching TV.

N- Nations around the world became a little less mysterious. I learnt so much just from talking to people from different countries about their home lands. I went to eight different countries while I was on my exchange and I saw and experienced a little bit of the culture of each one. Seeing the different cultures first hand is really an eye opening experience on so many levels.

D- Dedication is a big thing on exchange. You have to remain dedicated to toughing it through the hard times, dedicated to learning the language and dedicated to make the most out of the year and learning as much as you can. Exchange students who are not dedicated to their exchange usually don't last very long, it is a very important attribute to have as an exchange student.

I- Independence is something I think every exchange student learns. Not having your real parents around the do whatever they do for you forces the exchange students to learn to take care of themselves and organise things for themselves. I also think that inde-

pendence is one thing that the parents notice in the exchange students once they are back home, it's quite a huge change.

N- Nervousness isn't something that I experience very often anymore. I am so much more confident now that I don't really feel like I get nervous anymore. I've stood up and talked in front of groups of people who I have never met or had anything to do with before without any trouble. Before my exchange year I probably could have done that but I think I would have been extremely nervous.

G- Goals for the future become clearer, the path that has to be taken to reach those goals reveals itself. Exchange students learn to see the bigger picture after their year, they see more than other kids and I feel like I know what I want to do with my life and I know how to reach my goals.

I didn't come home after a year on Rotary Youth Exchange the same boy who went away. A lot changes in a year and especially when it's a year away from friends and family, and being in a totally new land with totally new experiences. I think I have grown enormously as a person. I've come back a more confident person and I feel I can do almost anything if I put my mind to it. In my case I can honestly say that the aim of Rotary Youth Exchange has been achieved, through meeting so many other Youth Exchange students from many countries around the world, each and every one of them being different in so many ways, but also being exactly the same. I know that I now have a much better understanding of the world and the people who live in it – all thanks to Rotary!

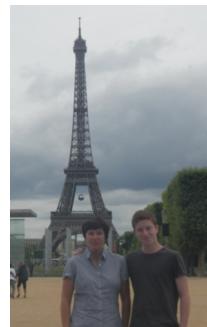


ciation for our home lands and we would all share the good things about our countries with whoever we talked to.



D- Destinations around the world don't seem so far away now. In the last year my perception of the world makes it seem like the world has shrunk from being this giant, almost infinite space of land and unknown, to being something which is at my fingertips, something I can go out and experience. There are places around the world which I now really want to go to, to visit the friends made on Youth Exchange, as well as the places and things that I have heard about from the other Exchange Students.

E- Euro tour could hardly go unmentioned whilst talking about my year away. Euro tour was easily one of the many highlights of my year and is something that I will never forget for the rest of my days. There were 56 exchange students all packed into a bus traveling around the major cities of seven European countries. Not only were we visiting some of the most incredible places in the world, but the whole experience was shared with the most amazing people I know. The connections formed with the people I spent the 19 days with in a bus will last forever. By the end of the trip I was best friends with the majority of the



group. Euro tour is something that I often look back upon, which stirs up some longing to go back to my second home.

R- Rotary is an incredible organisation, there are no words to thank Rotary for not only the work it does with Youth Exchange around the world, but also in helping millions of people around the globe and making the community a better place. If there were more people with the values of Rotarians, the world would most definitely be a much better place. I want to thank Rotary for giving me an incredible year in Germany and opening such a wide range of doors for me, and presenting me with so many amazing opportunities.

S- Struggles were around every corner. Although my exchange year was the best thing that I have ever done, it was also the hardest. People always ask me if it was hard being away from friends and family for a year, and some people might view that as being one of the major struggles whilst being on exchange, I can tell you it's not. At many points during my exchange I felt totally lost, with the language, with the people and even with the food. In my year, struggling because of friends or family back home wasn't an often occurring thing; even so one of the worst things I experienced whilst in Germany was some bad things that happened with my friends back home. I felt so useless being in Germany because I couldn't be there to support my friends. Struggles don't stop after you're back home though, in my opinion it's more of a struggle coming home than it is being away.

T- Time during the year abroad means everything; time with the people you care about means everything. One more second, one more day, one more week and everything would be perfect. At the start of exchange time moves at snail's pace, when you are feeling lost and alone, not knowing the language and not having any real friends, time seems to move backwards. But after a

UPCOMING MEETING RESPONSIBILITIES

Date & Time:	Monday 1st April	Monday 8th April	Monday 15th April [6.30 for 7:00]	Monday 22nd April [6:30 for 7:00]
Venue:		Knox Tavern	Knox Tavern	Knox Tavern
Program:	EASTER	Committee Meeting	A Decision to Discriminate	Cambodia Today
Speaker:	MONDAY	N/A	Alex Adam	King Gan
Committee Subject		TBA	N/A	N/A
Chairman:		Phil W	Bob H	Virginia R
Cashiers:	NO	Julie G & Bob H	Mike S & Paul W	Paul McA & Rob D
Grace & Toast:	MEETING	Graeme A	John F	Enid H
Rotary Knowledge		Julie G - MU-NA		Paul Wilson The Four Way Test
Sergeant-At-Arms:		Paul W	Phil W	Phil W
Scribe:		Angela L	Paul McA	Bob H



Birthdays:	8th –Fran Mandergeddes
Wedding Anniversaries:	8th—Anne & John Flemming
Induction to R.C. of F.T.G	None

MINUTES OF MEETING: Monday, 25th March, 2013

The meeting opened at 7.00 p.m. with President Graeme welcoming all members, guests

Ken Wall _ Guest Speaker)

Ken Sharpe

Les Bailey

He welcomed back Bob Hurst.

President Graeme announced:

that the Relay for Life event had been very successful and growing. They raised approximately \$56,000. Our club BBQ was also successful making a profit around \$600.00. \$200 of which was donated to RFL.

Chairman : Fran Mandergeddes

Called for reports.

Acting Secretary: Enid Hughes

- Distributed incoming mail—Letter from Alan Tudge re volunteer grants program—up to \$5,000. President Graeme asked for suggestions.

Apologies: Fred Mason, John Flemming, Rahul Mediratta, Virginia Rutledge, Rob Dawson

Make-Ups: None

Treasurer: Enid Hughes

No financial report

Vocational: Phil Walters

No report

Community: Julie Goodchild

No report

International: Paul McAloney

Advised Peter Malden of Boronia RC will be attending our club meeting on 8th April to explain their project in Fiji.

New Generations: Greg Downes

No report

Club Service: Phil Walters

Advised positions were open for next year and asked members to see him if they were interested.

Fellowship: Fran Mandergeddes

- Advised Cass is leaving for Jakarta on 26th March
- Fellowship Dinners—asked for hosts—Fran, Phil and Julie offered. Paul W



and learning yet another language, I dreamt about forming a friendship group so incredible that I would never be bored, or have no one to talk to. Those dreams became a reality on exchange. A year abroad also helps form dreams for the future, such as what you want to do career wise and also things you want to see and do.

O- Orientations were the Exchange Student weekends we had every three or so months. At these weekends some of the strongest connections with other Exchange Students from all over the world were made. There would always be around 50 exchange students all together for the weekend of socialising and different activities. By the end of just one weekend together, the Exchange Students would all be really good friends.

R- Relationships formed with Exchange Students and people of your host country don't just last the year you are away, they will last for many years to come. Friendships formed whilst I was in Germany were, and are still very strong. One of the hardest things about Youth Exchange is not leaving your family and friends in your homeland because that is just for a year, but leaving your new friends and family in your host country.

L- Learning was one of the major highlights in my exchange year. Not only did I learn to

speak the German language, but I also learnt about the German culture. I learnt an incredible amount about myself and who I am. I learnt how to take care of myself with little or no help, I learnt how to talk to almost anyone from almost anywhere and I learnt what sort of person I want to be and what I want to do in the future.

D- Dreams are formed and lived whilst on exchange. I dreamt about seeing some of the amazing countries in Europe and learning yet another language, I dreamt about forming a friendship group so incredible that I would never be bored, or have no one to talk to. Those dreams became a reality on exchange. A year abroad also helps form dreams for the future, such as what you want to do career wise and also things you want to see and do.

U- Utilising everything you are given to its fullest. No matter what cards you are dealt on exchange, you learn to make the most of everything. Although I wasn't given the same opportunities for participating in language courses as some of the other Exchange Students, I was able to use my German group of friends to assist me by asking them to correct my spoken German whenever I was wrong, and to help me with words I didn't know. No matter what situation you're put in during the year you are away, it's essential to try and make a bad situation as good as you possibly can.



N- National pride was stirred up inside me as soon as I was away from Australia; this was the same with all the other Exchange Students I've met. When the Exchange Students were together we would always have our national flags with us, ready for photos or just supporting our country by wearing the flag. Being away from our home countries, we all had an unbelievable amount of appre-

My Rotary Youth Exchange Experience in 2012/13

by Damien Croke



In my year abroad in Flensburg, Germany district 1890, I learnt an incredible amount. I learnt a language, I learnt a lot about other countries and cultures and most of all I learnt about myself. Youth exchange was easily the biggest learning experience of my life.

Rotary Exchange isn't just about sending a kid to another country for a holiday or to just go to school.



Rotary Youth Exchange is all

about world understanding. Rotary sends kids all around the world in a hope that people's understanding of other countries and people grows at a rapid rate, and to also create lasting connections with people from totally different countries and cultures.

I will use the letters making up these two simple words 'World Understanding' to express my thoughts and experiences whilst on Youth Exchange in 2012-13.

W- World connections. During my year away I met people not only from Germany and surrounding countries, but also other Exchange Students from all around the world. I now have friends from all four corners of the globe. I plan to go and visit many of them once I am finished high school and I have saved some money. These world connections gained from Youth Exchange opens so many doors and gives you so many opportunities to

see and experience the world in the future.

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said he would check with his wife first.

- New Melbourne Jaz Band—12th April, 1-4 p.m. contact Mike spark if interested.
- May be possible to do a sausage sizzle at Safeway—Greg Downes to follow up and report back. (or self destruct if he doesn't)

Enid advised that Kingston Links had been booked for our 50th Anniversary Celebrations and the deposit made. Committee had agreed to a cost of \$60.00 per head. Old photos were requested. Hard copy photos can be scanned and returned to their owners. Advertisement has been posted on the home page of the club website.

Sergeant-At-Arms: Paul Wilson

Did the Homer Simpson or George Bush as to "who said" again. We still got it wrong.

Skill: Bob Hurst drew 8 Spades

PROGRAM: ABCD (Art Building Children's Dreams—Ken Wall

- Thanked RC FTG for taking on the program for 4 children attending the Nasavusavu School for Special Education, for physically and mentally disabled children.
- Average family income is \$1500 (Fiji) per year. Our club's support is A\$250 per child.
- An essential part of the program is that the children are selected by the school, based on need.
- Money is spent by the host Rotary Club (Savusavu). No funds are given to the parents or the school.
- Flyers were given to club members showing more detail.
- Nasavusavu school has 38 students aged 3-22 of which 20 children are in need of support.
- RC Nasavusavu has 17 members and is very proactive. Some of their projects are :
 - Bus Shelters (+ RC in Canada)
 - Hospital
 - ABCD
 - Women's Health Clinic

"Our" children's names are:

- Salote Rua—10 years old, wants to be a singer & dancer
- Tazmin Bi—14 years old, hearing impaired, wants to work in an office
- Janati Baleimacuata—8 years old, wants to be a doctor
- Kiti Tuwai—11 years old, wants to be a taxi driver

Meeting closed at 8.45 p.m.

Scribe: Julie Goodchild



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Our guest speaker last Monday—Ken Wall—gave our club an excellent presentation in both words and pictures on ABC Dreams, an international project our club has adopted. Our involvement at this stage is the sponsorship of four special needs children attending the Nasavusau School for Special Education, done as a joint effort with the Rotary Club of Savusavu in Fiji.

Following Ken's presentation a number of our members discussed with Ken how, personally, they might take up the opportunity to increase the number of children sponsored. Already one additional child has been added and a donation to the School's general fund has been made through the generosity of two of our members. It has been really gratifying to see the interest taken by some of our club members.

Youth Exchange Award:

Each year the District's Exchange Students, on their return to Australia, are asked to write a summary of their year's experience. An award is made for the best submission. This year our own Damien Croke will be the winner of the award, to be presented by the Healesville Rotary Club in the next couple of weeks. The award is named after Colin Couper, a Healesville Rotarian dedicated to Youth Exchange. FTG club members are able to read Damien's story on pages 8-11 of this bulletin. Take the time to read it—it's well worth the effort!

Red Shield Appeal:

At our next meeting I will be seeking support for the upcoming Red Shield Appeal intersection collection on Saturday, 25th and Sunday 26th May. I'll be circulating the usual roster sheet for people to add their names. Please consider your availability to support this Appeal.

Volunteer Grants Program:

We have been advised that applications for the Volunteer Grants Program 2013 have now opened. This is a program for non-profit organisations to purchase small, practical equipment items up to the value of \$5,000. I've already received a submission from our Treasurer but would also like to hear suggestions from other members.

Bulletin:

Enid tells me there will be a bulletin issued next week even though we don't have a meeting on Monday. Have to put on my thinking cap for next week's President report!

That's all for this week. See you on 8th April.

Graeme Aspinall
President

INVITATION

THE ROTARY CLUB OF FERN TREE GULLY



TAKES GREAT PLEASURE IN INVITING
ALL WHO MIGHT BE INTERESTED
TO JOIN US IN CELEBRATING

OUR 50th ANNIVERSARY

SATURDAY,
25th MAY, 2013

Chartered in 1963 we're having a



60's NIGHT

Time to delve into the wardrobe and unearth those mini skirts, flared pants, platform shoes, hippy outfits and "dig" the flower-power!!

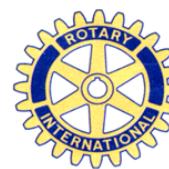
(No LSD, or "pot" allowed)

Cost: \$60.00 per head

Venue: Kingston Links Golf Course
Corporate Avenue
Rowville, Vic 3178

Time: 6.30 for 7.00 p.m.

Dinner—Dancing—Fun—Entertainment



RSVP: Enid Hughes
9758 0760 or 0417 055 742
BEFORE Friday, 10th May, 2013
Payment before the event will be appreciated as
cashier facilities will not be available on the night

