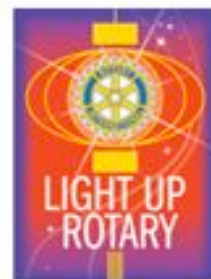




# Bulletin Gloucester



Vol. 65 No 6 Rotary Club of Gloucester Inc. 12<sup>th</sup> August, 2014.  
Club 17925, District 9650 Chartered 17<sup>th</sup> May, 1950.

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District Governor Greg Moran, Rotary Club of Inverell  
RI President 20114 -15: Gary C. K. Huang Rotary Club of Taipei. Taiwan

Ring or email Megan deWitte for apologies and to include guests  
Imelda's Shoes phone 6558 2790 or email [imeldasshoes@bigpond.com](mailto:imeldasshoes@bigpond.com)  
Before 10 am Tuesday's.

## Coming Meetings

12 <sup>th</sup> August	Transfer meeting to Saturday 16 <sup>th</sup> at the Old Dairy Factory. DG's visit. See invitation attached.
16 <sup>th</sup> August Saturday  Bees 60 <sup>th</sup> Birthday  	District Governors visit. Venue Old Dairy Factory. Cost \$25 per head. 6.30 For 7 pm for Partners night.  Entertainment the Bowden Brothers. Invite plenty of friends. Let's dance!!! BYOG & Chair. There will be heating and an auction of wine. So please bring a bottle to auction. Bees will provide the brown paper bag to cover the wine.  Numbers to Bees or Megan by Monday, 10th
19 <sup>th</sup> August	Denver Webb talking about Cathy and his experience on the Canning Stock Route adventure. He told me it will be very interesting. BOARD MEETING AT 8PM. 6pm for 6.30
26 <sup>th</sup> August	Off site visit this is a BINGO NIGHT AT THE RSL. I bet not many of you have played bingo? More details later as Valda and me will sort out the details. Food and cost etc.
2 <sup>nd</sup> September	TBA Sam looking for a speaker.
9 <sup>th</sup> September	Rotary Celebration of Education. All school teachers will be invited. Facilitated by Rotary.
16 <sup>th</sup> September	The one you have all been waiting for. A visit to Krumbach. Kings Creek Retreat on Kings Creek Road. This is Nigel and Carla Hickman's home and they will cook pizzas, open fire and fun. Bring drinks and a chair maybe. They have a delightful place to relax and have a party. \$20 per head. There is a great meeting room.

## Previous Meeting 5<sup>th</sup> August

About 55 people attended the annual fundraiser for St Joseph's School. A 3 course meal of soup followed by a roast beef or pork dinner and desserts of sticky date pudding or trifle continued the high standard of food provided in the past.

Phil Bowden welcomed parishioners, staff, Rotarians and partners. Father Peter Malone paid tribute to the traditional owners and said Grace. President Brian described these nights as wonderful - to see Phil in a dinner suit, Barb Mansfield's continuing support, and thanked everyone for being part of the evening. The raffle prize was a bottle of Drayton's Wine "Little Prick" and a pillow.



St Joseph's helpers



The crowd saying 'goodbye to Polio'



Oliver Slack - a future recruit?



Bernie and Madge Bowden

### Directors reports:

#### Sam (Youth).

- Helena, our German student is arriving this week. Her councilor is Sharee Abeysekera. Her first 3 hosts are non Rotary Members. The last host is free in case someone wishes to host.
- Linda Beesley is off to Germany next January. Her councilor is Li Wong
- Laura Bignall is going to the National Science Forum in December, in Canberra.

#### Valda (International Service)

- This year's focus for fundraising will be Interplast. Valda plans to have a travelling wine tasting followed by a BBQ to raise lots of money for Interplast. Also we will adopt a school.

## Ash

- The Bingo Night on 26th August is 6.30 at the RSL Club. A baked dinner and bingo is included in the \$20 cost. Numbers are needed so inform Ash ASAP.

## President Bees

- Introduced St Joseph's Deputy Principal, Lee Sullivan. He said that there are 40 kids at the school, who are the best behaved and all have a very close bond. Lee lives in Forster and when people say it is a long way to come for work he responds by saying you should see where I work, then you would understand.



- 9th September is the celebration of Education and all the school teachers in the area will be invited to our Rotary meeting and receive a gift.
- 16th August is our District Governors visit and Bees' 60th Birthday [really the 19th] at the old dairy factory, Hume street entrance. \$25 per head. All profits go to community service in Gloucester. Please bring special bottle of wine to raffle. **Numbers to Don McLeod by this Monday.**

Raja Chris Pritchard conducted the fines and raffle session with Bernie as the corporal.

## Guest speaker Father Peter Malone

**This is a transcript of his story, prepared by Ashleigh.**

Quote "I suppose I should apologise here as this talk is to a rotary group and I know that in Rotary everyone is welcome, non denominational and quite likely the non Catholics are starting to squirm at the prospect of a priest giving a eulogy about another deceased priest. Well I beg you, stay with me please. I promise not do any Bible Bashing or proselytising.

Some Catholic priests are very down to earth.

There's the yarn about a punter called Joe at the races.

Joe happened to see Father Ambrose bless one of the horses led out to the starting line. Thought Joe, I'll put a bet on that horse to see how it goes. Well the horse came easy first. Joe now kept Father Ambrose under surveillance and hey presto the same thing happened in the 2nd race, a win. And this happened 5 times and Joe was making a small fortune. When Father Ambrose blessed one of the horses in the 6th race Joe was utterly convinced that he could do no better than put all his winnings, about \$1000 on the horse that Father Ambrose blessed. And guess what the horse limped home last. Joe was beside himself with grief and went to Fr. Ambrose and said "what happened"? You blessed all the others and they won. And Fr. Ambrose said "Well wouldn't you know it. Your Protestants are all the same, you can't tell the difference between a prayer of blessing and a prayer of the Last Rites"

Laughter!!!!!!

I first met Leo Donnelly in 1959 ---- I had to go down to Ballarat in Victoria to St.Pat's a boarding school. I had been working 2 years after doing the Leaving Certificate in Sydney [railways] when I got the bug to be a priest. In those days a student had to know Latin and they sent me all the way down to



Ballarat to study Latin, Leo was a day student as his family lived in Ballarat. Leo and I palled up, mostly because he too was intending to be a priest. We were both destined to join the Columban Fathers an order that does missionary work overseas. As an aside here, could mention that in that same year, there was a little boy in junior grade called George Pell.

Well the years in Seminary passed [7] and we were ordained in 1957. For Columban priests the ordination hurdle was almost over shadowed by the letter from the General Superior, to acquaint us with the news of our destination as missionaries. Leo got Peru. I got Fiji. So our ways parted. But we kept in touch by letter and phone calls.

[I was 19 years in Fiji – but that is another story].

And in regard to the Latin language, you just might say that it was waste of time and effort, simply because in 1964 the Church language of Latin was relegated to the dust bin when they allowed the vernacular back into the Church liturgy and about time too. I could say though that a few years back when that graphic film hit the screen “the Passion of the Christ” my Latin knowledge came in handy. The whole film was mostly in Christ’s language Aramaic and double dutch to us all but we coped because of the sub-titles. But when the Roman’s spoke I understood Pontius Pilate’s brusque put-down to the Jews in regard to changing the written words on the cross “King of the Jews” is a famous Latin quote. “Quod scripsi” What I have written I have written. But I digress.

Father Leo Donnelly spent his whole life in Peru, He would have spent more years in Peru than he had in Australia before he left our shores. In his latter years he reached retirement age and lived in a cheap rental flat in Lima, helping out weekends for local parish Masses. He had always been interested in Art. [Even in the seminary he dabbled in all kinds of arty stuff] so no surprise there. He took under his wing a local lad who showed a lot of talent and who is now on the leading artists in Lima.

Leo lived for others. But he was a slightly damaged man. How is that? Well let me explain. Leo was Parish Priest of a huge mountainous region in the North West part of the Andes of South America. His parish was headquartered in the little village of Husa Wasi. Political turmoil was all the go in Peru in those days. [as in most of the south American nations] And a ruthless band of marauders with socialist and communist leaning rampage all over the country areas [not the cities] imposing their philosophies with the point of a gun, and they would murder anybody opposed to their desperate intentions.

Now before I continue on with Leo’s story I have to introduce another Australian called Irene McCormack. Irene grew up on a farm in WA outside Perth and was taught by the Sisters of St Joseph in the local parish [The Mary Mac Killop sisters]. The beautiful young girl responded to that call from Jesus to follow the sisters into the order of St Joseph, so she followed through and taught in some schools before she felt another call from Jesus to do missionary work in Peru South America. From all accounts, Irene McCormack was a woman of Great Spirit, and when she ended up in Husa Wasi the parish priest was Father Leo. Sister Irene became fully involved with the people of the parish, and the native hill people of the area loved her with the fullest love. She shared the woman’s troubles, and set up a Christian drop in centre providing food and clothing [2nd hand clothing from Australia] big plastic bags the size of a fridge, very difficult to move. I know because we used to get them in Fiji as well. The centre was something like our op shops, selling stuff for a song 2 shillings for a shirt, that kind of thing. And very popular with the poor people of Husa Wasi and therein was the reason for the subsequent dramas about to unfold.

It was an ordinary peaceful afternoon in the village – school was over and the sisters were back in the convent. Father Leo was in the presbytery nearby. Both school convent and presbytery were about 2 blocks from the centre of the village, which was a large open square surrounded by shop fronts, some of the shops were closing and most people were preparing to return to their homes. When afternoon prayers were over in the convent, Sister Irene said to the other 2 nuns “I think I will head back to the op shop. I promised some ladies to help with the sorting and marking of cloths. I will be back before tea”. But Irene never made it back.

The motley band of guerrillas suddenly arrived in town. The Shining Path guerrillas they called themselves. They had heard of the work of the nuns in H.W. and they determined to make a call. They were jealous of the way the sisters were winning over the hearts of the people. They wanted the backing of the people for the political ends they had for Peru. They planned to take over the countryside first of all. The cities could wait. A dread fear settled over the village of H.W. because other villages had been targeted before and they all knew that lives were now in danger, lives were cheap in South America.

At gun point the town's people were rounded up and some guerrillas did a round of nearby houses to bolster the crowd. Irene and the woman workers were dragged from the op shop, and other leading figures such as mayor and council workers were huddled into a group before the assembled villagers.

The guerrillas were angry, very angry and their leader made a long speech in the native tongue, and a situation arose to be clear to all apparent that a kangaroo court was in process. The accused group of about 12 [I forgot the exact figure] were finally made to lie down in a row on the ground and here comes the satanical element, to my mind another woman from the crowd was made under threat of death, to take a gun and shoot the prone prisoners through the head as they lay helpless on the ground. Sister Irene was one of the 12 killed, and the blood of the victims flowed onto the village square.

The Guerrillas then left town as they were warned by a scout posted outside the village that the Peruvian Army Detachment was heading down the hillside.

The 2 nuns in the convent and Fr. Leo in the presbytery never heard a thing. It is even alleged that Fr. Leo didn't have his hearing aids in place because he was resting. The 2 nuns were the first to hear the news from a traumatised woman who had witnessed the whole event. The sisters ran to knock up Fr. Leo to bring his holy oils and administer the Last Sacrament to Irene and her fellow victims. This in itself must have been a dreadful experience for Leo who was always a man of peace and love. How do you get over an event like that? May 1991.

The news of the terrible event soon went viral all around the world. I don't know if you remember? I remember it quite well, as for me there was the added shock of knowing the people involved. There was anger and disgust from all people of good will and amazingly the spin off marked the beginning of the end to the Shining Path Guerrillas. They never fully recovered from the negativity that swelled in Peruvian society and they eventually fizzled out and disappeared from the scene. Perhaps an example of the fruition of the blood of martyrs it worked in early Roman times and it still works in our own times.

We Aussies know all about the price of blood – our ANZACS shed buckets of blood and Australia is now a beacon of peace to the rest of the sorry world of today. But it is still a high price to pay.

And we now have words to describe mental trauma. Our more modern wars, Vietnam, Afghanistan have given us a relatively newly understood mental wound of the soul called PTSD Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.

Think of Fr. Leo the priest who had to do 12 funerals. Maybe not quite 12 as some would have been combined, but a lot of funerals, none the less. Sr. Irene's funeral was attended by Church and State Dignitaries from all over the world. Her grave is still there in H.W. as her fellow sister realised that the local people would have demanded this. Irene belonged to them. We know that Mary Mac Killop the foundress of the St Josephite Sisters was canonised a saint after a couple of miracles were verified as attributed to her intercession but Irene McCormack will be a saint by merit of martyrdom.

Father Leo was damaged by all these events, his superiors moved him back to Lima where he eventually retired and lived in a simple barrio or poor suburb. I mentioned that he died earlier this year with no great fanfare as that which accompanied Irene's death but he was a true man of God.

I am so grateful to all you members of Rotary that I have had an opportunity to pay public tribute to a man who equally gave his life to the work of spreading the Gospel of Service and Love – The Gospel of Jesus.

I thank you". End quote.

## **Other important dates.**

**22nd and 23rd August Opera in the Church.** Invite your friends and family to experience this yearly event. Uniting Church. Tickets on sale at Webb's or Gloucester Health Foods. 28<sup>th</sup> July. Cost \$35 per ticket. Supper during interval.

**November 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Visiting Friendship Exchange from Poland will be visiting Gloucester. Arriving from Sydney by train 4.22 pm. 6 couples. Host families needed.** There will be more details as time gets closer. Ashleigh is part of District 9650 going to Poland in June 2015.

**Platypus Festival 6<sup>th</sup> September** we are supposed to cook in conjunction with Lions. We do the breakfast cook up of egg and bacon rolls. This project did not get a lot of support.

### Rotary meetings – Set up and Put away

August	Sharee Abeysekera, Bernie Tresidder, Ashleigh Hickman, Valda 26 <sup>th</sup> for Ash.
September	Denver Webb, Chris Pritchard, Ash 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 9 <sup>th</sup> & 16 for Valda Barron back 23 <sup>rd</sup> & 30 <sup>th</sup> .
October	Grahame Stelzer, Ray Martin, Bruce Montgomerie

### Important Dates for August.

**Birthdays:** Grahame Stelzer 1<sup>st</sup>, Vicki Coombes 3<sup>rd</sup>, Ernie Abeysekera 4<sup>th</sup>, Brian Beesley 19<sup>th</sup>, Jim DeSilva 25<sup>th</sup>, Andy Deleyanage 31<sup>st</sup>.



**Anniversaries:** Ernie and Sharee Abeysekera, Brian and Heather Beesley 30<sup>th</sup>.

### Our Executive 2014.-.2015

<b>President:</b>	<b>PDG</b>	Brian Beesley	65581429
<b>President Elect:</b>		Sharee Abeysekera	65588158
<b>Immediate Past President:</b>		Ray Martin	65581455
<b>Communications</b>	<b>PP</b>	Don McLeod	6558 4297
<b>Treasurer:</b>		Bruce Montgomerie	65589113
<b>Club Service</b>	<b>PP</b>	Ashleigh Hickman	65582031
<b>Youth Services</b>	<b>PP</b>	Sam De Witte	65581734
<b>Community Service</b>		John Faull	65581722
<b>Vocational Service</b>		John Read	6558 1064
<b>International Service</b>		Valda Barron	6558 2992
<b>Public Officer</b>	<b>PP</b>	Don McLeod	6558 4297

Bulletin by Vicki with help from Ashleigh. Many thanks to Ashleigh for doing the bulletin while was away.  
Sergeant: - Raja Chris Pritchard.

Public Officer: - PP Don McLeod & the holder of the Child Protection Forms [internet version with your number]

Email any messages or contributions for the bulletin to [vcoombes54@gmail.com](mailto:vcoombes54@gmail.com)

### Four Way Test

Of all the things we say and do:  
Is it the truth?  
Is it fair to all concerned?  
Will it build goodwill and friendship?  
Will it be beneficial to all concerned?