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Meeting Apology

Please use the club web-site **before 3 pm** on meeting day to apologise or add a guest, or you will be required to reimburse the club for your meal cost.

<http://www.kuringgairotary.org.au>

This Week

RAN

Last Week

EaglesRAPS

Wally Forbes



It is with regret I advise that Wally Forbes has tendered his resignation from the Club.

He and Pam are moving house to the Northern Beaches area and he will find it too difficult to make the trip each week for the meetings. Wally has been an active member for almost 23 years, during which he has made a substantial contribution to the club's activities in many ways including the Sunday morning chore of putting out the Gordon Market signs.

We will miss Wally's contribution to our club in many areas His sense of humour was unique and will also be missed.

Neringa Work Bee

Neringa Work Bee Saturday 22 June: Ross Lambert will email members shortly to ask for volunteers to assist to knock down a brick wall and fill a skip bin. Jack hammers and other tools will be used.

Changeover

Changeover: Monday 24 June, 6.30 for 7.00 pm at Avondale Golf Club. Dress: semi-formal, black tie, or suit. Please RSVP to Roger. The DG and a rep from

Bo Hospital

Bo Hospital: a letter of appreciation was received in thanks for the donation of \$41,000 from the BHCC. The funds will help reduce the children death rate which is one of the highest in the world.

Our Board

Our 2013-14 Board membership is 90% complete, but we need a President Elect and an admin person. Please volunteer.

Membership:

Michael Tyler reminded members the next RAN is Monday 17 June. A number of local business people will be attending & members and their partners are encouraged to attend – AND to submit project ideas. Graham Timms is preparing a presentation.

Clarke Road Special School

Emyr Evans reported that he attended the school on invitation during the week and was asked to perform in front of the whole school (57 students). He explored sound, played various instruments including the piano. Apparently it was a hit – he was invited to attend again! Well done Emyr.

Extract from Clarke Road

"A wonderful part of our school community is the Rotary Club of Ku-ring-gai. On Friday the 17th a team of 9 people came in for the day and worked and worked and worked. There was so much to do yet no task was too menial or dirty for them. At the beginning of the day the school still looked like a building site and the job seemed impossible, by 3pm it looked like a school. The humble generosity of this team, who even brought in frypans and cooked the lunch we were putting on for them and the staff, was impacting. And the team was a lot of fun too. Thank you to the Rotary Club of Ku-ring-gai, we are very grateful for your support, we are fortunate indeed to have you on our side."

EaglesRAPS

Presentation by Martin Wynd, Eagle Raps

Martin was introduced by Greg who said that many young people do not have an example of a family member who goes to work. Our club provided computers some years ago and more recently a bus.

Martin: Firstly a BIG thank you for the bus – we use it for excursions to a number of places. The only disadvantage with it is that there is no screen behind the driver to drown out the noise from excited kids!

It started about 10 years ago through his interest in local sporting teams. There were a few youth suicides locally and he noticed that there were very few groups who would interact with the kids in the streets and actually help them. Youth suicide prevention is the overall aim.

We started with just \$58.15 in the bank and created a Youth Drop-in Centre – a place to just 'hang out'. Initially we rented a disused shop. Then one boy whose parents had died, asked us to help him finish Year 10 at school, as other schools would not touch him. He is now the accountant for our Association!

Then it grew to 80, and now we have put about 170-180 kids through to the HSC – all via the TAFE system. We have an 80% success rate. ALL of our youth do not "fit" into mainstream schools.

Eagle Raps is one of the best known youth organisations in the Western Suburbs. Many kids know of us and know they are free to ask for help if needed. Eagle Raps get a lot of referrals from other kids. Kids just turn up and say "*I want to go to your school*".

The Commonwealth Dept of Education previously gave us three years funding, but when the Government changed we lost it. Funding is now given to a different organisation (Marist Youth), who fortunately recognise our skills and sub-contract us. However their funding barely covers costs – and the arrangement is for 12 months only, until the next change of Government. We do it tough and struggle to find sufficient funding, but we enjoy it and see the rewards. We like to share the Eagle Raps message with anyone who may be able to assist.

Martin introduced to 'clients' who bravely told their stories:

Cassie & Stephanie, who two years ago I would never have said 'Yes' to give a speech, anywhere.

TEXT of two speeches TYPED UP AND SUPPLIED BY JOY NEWLING

Wish List. In answer to a question, Martin listed two issues on his wish list in addition to funding:

- Restoring their rat infested old kitchen
- Recover the pool tables and buy 'real' cues to replace the broomsticks

Graham Timms gave a vote of thanks, mentioned that Granville Police speak very highly of Eagle Raps and congratulated Cassie & Stephanie for their moving speeches.

EaglesRAPS



EaglesRAPS bright young girls



Cassandra Gamble

Good evening, my name's Cassandra but I prefer Cassie.

Last week Sally told me that she wanted volunteers to give a speech at Ku-ring-gai Rotary Club. Two years ago I never would have said yes. I cringed at the idea of speaking in front of class mates let alone an entire Rotary Club. As you can tell, that's changed.

I was your stereotypical bad teen. I had some problems at school with friends and I'd had enough of it happening over and over again, so I left. I fell into the wrong crowd, started doing the wrong things, didn't listen to my family and I had no idea where my life was going, nor did I care.

I was on the verge of breaking point when a friend told me about a youth centre for teens who needed a second chance. I wanted to complete my HSC so I went to an interview. I wasn't keen at all but I thought it would at least be worth a shot.

When I got there my first thought was I'm not going to get along with the kids here and I didn't think I'd last very long. My interview was with Scott and he told me about their no bullying policy, that we got to work individually and at our own pace. He made me a promise that he would do everything he could to make sure that I would enjoy my time at Erycs, while completing my HSC.

At the time I never would have thought it was possible. I thought I wouldn't last a month before leaving and I'd never get my HSC, but he had convinced me to try. A month later and I had watched how much time and effort Sally and Scott had put into the place. They sacrificed so much of their personal time, just to help us.

I watched them give second chances to the kids who thought nothing of themselves, and they taught the ones who thought they knew everything that there is so much more to learn.

They've provided a safe learning environment for kids who work better independently rather than in a class. School isn't for everyone and Eagles is an amazing alternative.

EaglesRAPS bright young girls

As for me, my experience with Eagles RAPS had been amazing. Scott kept his promise and I have enjoyed myself and here I am today. A year and five months later and I've grown so much. Instead of being the troublesome teen I was, I now have my priorities straight. They haven't just helped me with my education, they've helped me in life.

I have now a bright future, my head screwed on properly and I may have a long way to go but I can say with certainty that I never would have gotten this far without them. My biggest goal now is to make them proud and I would wish for anyone to have the same experience I had.

Cassie.

(Note: "Erycs" is the name of the social club part of Eagles RAPS)

Stephanie George

Good evening. My name's Stephanie and I'll be talking to you about why Eagles RAPS has made an amazing impact on my life and what led me to join this program.

I absolutely hate public speaking, even in a room where I know every person, but when Sally mentioned this speech to my class, I had to do something for Eagles in return.

Since when I could remember in mainstream school I've been bullied, either verbally or over the internet, even sometimes prank phone calls which led to me being diagnosed with depression and anxiety.

It all became too much, in 2011 was my last year of mainstream school, and it wasn't really my choice to drop out. My family and I were getting harassed and wherever I went I felt unsafe and had my family worrying about me, I even left unsafe leaving the house at times, we thought we had no choice but for me to leave school and stay at home. From leaving school at the very start of year 12 I got a job 2 months later. Time went on and I missed learning, I missed the environment of seeing my friends and getting an education, so my best friend who also left school not long after I did decided to find somewhere to study. We entered a service called Marist Youth Centre, helping kids finding jobs and an education which suited their needs.

With this service we found out about Eagles RAPS, we had our interview at the end of year 2012, everything went well, I met Sally and Scott who seemed like really amazing people and they gave my friend and I a second chance at an education, and we started at the end of January 2013.

On the first day at Eagles RAPS I was so nervous, I've never been in this kind of environment and I haven't met the people who would be my peers, and in such little time I made friends, and I realised when Sally told me (over)

EaglesRAPS bright young girls

everyone was like one big family I came to see she was right. The people at Eagles don't judge, they help you. Both Sally and Scott are amazing teachers, offering help with work and even help with anything else even it is doesn't involve the school work.

Everyone here gets along fine, I've made amazing friends and have learned new things and I'm finally learning and getting an education. Walking into Eagles RAPS every morning makes you feel welcome, as everyone greets you and you feel like you actually belong, everyone here is accepted for who they are.

Because of Eagles RAPS in September this year a friend and I are going on a life changing experience, we are being sponsored to go on the Kokoda Trail in Papua New Guinea. I do believe this experience will be an eye opener and it's a once in a lifetime opportunity.

Before I came to Eagles RAPS I had nothing to look forward to, my depression was getting ahead of me and I wasn't doing good for myself, I felt like a nobody and like no one cared about me. Even though I had a job and was gaining responsibility and working for my money, I still felt like a waste. Coming to Eagles it has opened my eyes, Sally and Scott do so much for me and the other kids that attend this program, they do everything they absolutely can for every single teenager here, even through the bad times and the frustrating ones. They have literally helped me become a better person and see the world around me so clearly, and because of Sally and Scott I have the chance to not only make myself proud but to hopefully to make them proud as well as my family. Each day I come to Eagles is a good day, I go in with a smile and go out with a bigger one, they have given me a second chance to make a better life for myself and get ahead in the world.

Eagles RAPS I would recommend as the first and only place to anyone who asks, just because I know it'll change their life for the better.

Stephanie.

EaglesRAPS bright young girls

One Can Grow

My name is Gina and I represent a not-for-profit organisation called One Can Grow, an educational organisation dedicated to empowering young people in Sydney through the education of Social Innovation and Social Entrepreneurship.

I am currently in the process of becoming a Rotary member of the Bondi Junction club - and have been grateful for their support of our organisation. Russell Paine, as well as other members from Bondi Junction, have recommended that I speak to you in regards to possibly becoming a guest speaker during one of your Rotary Club of Ku-ring-gai meetings at West Pymble Bowling Club.

In addition, Phillip Whyte - the previous District Governor of Rotary District 9750 - was one of our 5 main 'Judges' for our NSW Young Social Entrepreneurs Program last year (2012) and it was an honour to have him attend and adjudicate the Final Competition in which 60 students from 3 Sydney high schools competed. The program last year was a great success and we look very forward to implementing the program again this year.

I would love to discuss the possibility of becoming a guest speaker at your meeting sometime, and to let you know more about our organisation and our activities in educating the youth of Sydney. Our educational program - The NSW Young Social Entrepreneurs Program for 2013 commences in July this year (running until December 2013), and would appreciate giving your members from Ku-ring-gai Rotary Club the opportunity of hearing about our program and the fantastic, aspiring young students throughout different Sydney High Schools who are hoping to participate in our program, if given the chance. Unfortunately, many young teenagers who have and will continue to apply for our program will be unable to participate unless generous donors and sponsors, such as kind members from the community and clubs such as Rotary, provide them the rare opportunity to do so.

Please let me know when would be a good time to chat, otherwise please don't hesitate to ask me any further questions. I look forward to hearing from you.

Regards,

Gina May Diana | CEO and Founder

Katuuso.

We went to the opening April 18th, and it was great, about 500 people attending – 30 from Australia. While it was called the official opening, it was really just the opening of their third classroom block. Unfortunately the solar was not quite finished on that day, but just two days later 20th it was complete and switched on. It is working magnificently, and they are all very excited about it. They even have a freezer working now. It is a huge difference to have electricity.

We took lots of photos and I will send some to you separately. And I think there is a good video on their website www.schoolforlife.org.au

Thanks again for your great support with this project.

Best regards

Tony Castley

This is one of my E-club members, Dr Grace Maano, standing in the solar control room, beside the battery stack. It is quite an impressive control room, locked off separately.

Grace has just spent 3 months working (volunteer) at eleven different clinics throughout East Africa. She is an amazing lady. In the photo she is dressed in the Ugandan typical cultural dress.



Meeting Schedule

| <u>2012/13</u> | Calendar | |
|----------------|----------|--|
| June | 17 | Rotary Awareness Night |
| | 24 | Changeover Night |
| | Sat 22 | Stage One Neringah Hospital removal of two brick walls and refrigeration unit. |
| July | Sat 06 | Completion of Stage One and make good and paint prep. |
| | | Two further dates will be set aside for painting, plumbing, floor coverings and light fitting. |
| Oct | 14 | Hat Day in support of Mental Health - Australian Rotary Health |

What is Hat Day?

Hat Day is Australian Rotary Health's community action and awareness day. In recent years we have received hundreds of grant applicants looking to research mental health issues; however, a lack of funding has seen only 5% of these receive funding.

By taking part in Hat Day you will be helping the four million Australians affected by mental illnesses. By donating to mental health research you are helping us fund research aimed at finding treatments and cures for mental illnesses such as depression, anxiety and schizophrenia.

We are supporting Hat Day on Monday 14th October, 2013 and would like to suggest a donation of \$5 however for those who don't wear a hat they might like to contribute \$10.