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THE MIDTOWNER

BULLETIN OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF CALCUTTA MIDTOWN - DISTRICT 3291

President: Rtn. Udayendu Dass (David) Secretary: Rtn. Ravi Dhawan Editor: Rtn. Rohit Gupta

TODAY

RWM on Sunday 26th July 2015 at Narendrapur Ramakrishna Mission blind boys academy at 10.30 am

Next

Next RWM meeting on Thursday 30th July, 2015 at 6.30 PM Saturday Club

AUSTRALIAN STUDENTS TAKE OPPORTUNITY BY THE HORNS

The rules of the Shaftesbury Rodeo Academy are simple: no school, no rodeo. It's a message that teenagers who attend school at Bisley Farm, most of whom have never attended any school regularly, take seriously. Because come Friday night, these aspiring rodeo heroes want to join their friends to ride bulls for a heart-stopping eight seconds, if they last that long.

The school in rural Queensland, Australia, also teaches the boys, who are of the Wakka Wakka Aboriginal people, basic academics and farming skills, including how to care for crops and livestock. It's a fairly common form of schooling in Australia, an alternative education for students with troubled backgrounds. For many of them, Bisley Farm is the best chance for them to improve their lives.

But rules are rules. In order to participate in the school's weekly Friday night rodeo, students must attend class Monday through Thursday and do all their work, including helping to manage a herd of beef cattle. Perhaps not surprisingly, student attendance and performance have shot up.

"These are really tough kids," says Kristian Wale, director of the Shaftesbury Centre, which sponsors Bisley Farm, and a member of the Rotary Club of New Farm, Brisbane. According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics, Indigenous peoples make up 3 percent of the country's population. But they make up 50 percent of the juvenile detention and 27 percent of the adult prison populations.

"A majority of the kids [who come to us] can't read, even if they have been to school," says Wale. "We teach basic education and social skills and prepare our students for jobs."

And none of it would exist without Rotary.

POWERFUL GRANTS

George Grant wanted to do something for the Aboriginal teenagers after attending a Rotary grants seminar in 2010. He was president of the Rotary Club of Bribie Island when he met Wale at the conference. The two began to formulate an idea for a cattle operation near Cherbourg, sponsored by the Shaftesbury Centre.

"When I first took the idea to the club, it seemed too far out in left field. Some members came along easily but others were very noisy in opposition," says Grant. "They couldn't see how a club with fewer than 30 members could raise the money required to get something like that off the ground."

At first, the naysayers seemed right, Grant says, particularly when the scope of the problem began being mapped out. They would have to buy cattle, trailers, fencing, and a school building. Then what would they do with the beef? If the operation was to be sustainable, they would have to figure out a way to get the beef to market.

So they started small: six head of cattle, a trailer, and some fencing. They soon started applying for money through Rotary, more than US\$120,000.

Supported by fundraisers from surrounding clubs, the Bribie Island club managed to donate thousands of dollars toward the project.

Undoubtedly, though, many of potential supporters and new club members are drawn to Grant's enthusiasm for the school his club built from the ground up. "I just love to skite (brag) about it."



Minutes of the 1912th Regular Weekly meeting held on Thursday 16th July at The Saturday Club at 6.30 PM, Kolkata-16.



- This was the 1st Regular weekly Meeting of the Newly Elected Board and the President Rtn Udayewndu Dass declared the meeting open..
- National Anthem was sung by all led by Hon Rtn. Rajni Khumbani .
- President welcomed all Anns & Midtowners & Guests to the Club meeting.
- Minutes of last meeting 1911 , Dt 2nd July '15 were confirmed by PDG Kamal Seth and other members .The President thanked all who had attended and assisted at the 41st Club Installation programme which was a grand success.
- President Rtn Udayendu appraised the Club regarding the progress of the Global Grand application. A meeting with RVC RLI & PP of RC Central Calcutta Rtn Binod Khaitan has been fixed for Sat . 18th July at 11.am for better understanding. IPP Rtn Bhupesh Kapoor & Our Club Global Grant Coordinator Rtn .Rakesh Sahni to accompany for the meeting.
- President informed that the Rotaract Club of Calcutta Midtown Installation date will be announced at their Rotaract meeting on 19th July 15. Other local matters regarding the Rotaract Club was discussed and Rtn Debojit Halder is to submit a brief during our next meeting.
- 7. Annual visit to the Ramakrishna Mission Blind Boys Academy- Narendrapur for the Vocational & Scholarship programme is fixed for the 26th of July 2015 at 10.30 am . As in the past Individual donations towards the Scholarship financial assistance from individual at Rs 3000/- upwards is being sought. The programme would include a Quiz Programme for the RKM Blind Boy Academy students held for the First Time conducted by Our Midtown Rotaract Club .A Rolling Trophy is to be instituted . There will be also a Tree Plantation event (If the Weather God allows) followed by a sit down Bengali cuisine lunch to end the days event. As in the past Inner Wheel Club of Calcutta Midtown would be also participating in the activities and sponsorship . All are to confirm their attendance well in advance.
- President informed that Rtn.Nitesh Agarwal due his immediate professional and personal commitments cannot hold the position as the Club's Fellowship Chairperson which is being accepted and to replace the post 2 very dedicated Rotarians , very much young at mind and spirit and also at the Club level Rtn . Suman Sarawgi and Rtn Archana Malhotra and ably guided by Rtn Samirr Doshi have been entrusted to take up this exciting responsibility. We now look forward for fun filled fellowships throughout the year.
- President Rtn Udayendu announced that he had received a communication from the desk of IPDG Rtn Pinaki Ghosh and The Council of Governors of District 3291 wherein at it's meeting held on 8th June 2015 at Calcutta Club decided to form a Committee of the following 7 members to finalise Re-organisation of the Clubs on a proposal of District 3291 Bifurcation into 2 new districts as per RI rules and guidelines. Further to this The District Bifurcation Committee held a meeting on Wednesday 10.06.2015 at 3.30 p.m. at the Calcutta Club. District where Bifurcation matter was discussed at length. Every member expressed their suggestion. Considering all suggestions, proposed bifurcation list has been finalized as Group 'A' and Group 'B' .Rotary Club of Calcutta Midtown has been grouped in A Group.
- As no clarity or any minutes of the meeting was made available to our Club to understand the premise for this District Bifurcation , the club voted unanimously with a NO vote and signed on the consent form for further submission at the IPDG'S office.
- The President announced that the work for the 2nd Car Rally for the Blind has commenced and a marketing brochure is being prepared by Rtn Nitesh Agarwal and his committee members for further presentation to last year's Main Sponsor Exide Industries Ltd by the end of July.
- President made aware that the "Porishkar Kolkata " Projects payments from SAIL are awaited further to the Club's submission of Bills raised and certain matters arising thereof to be resolved internally.
- President announced the invitation extended to all members from The President Anne Soniya Agarwal - Inner Wheel Club of Calcutta Midtown for their 's 36th Installation Programme to be held on the 21st of July 2015 at 4.pm at her residence. 12.The President declared that as the Club would be meeting on the 26th July at RKM Blind Boys Academy for the Scholarship Project , there will be no meeting as usual on the 23rd July 2015. The next meeting will be held on the 26th July at 10.30 am at RKM Blind Boys Academy –Nartendrapur.
- Sunshine collection was Nil over and above from the usual.
- Attendance : Present 16 , Percentage 38% . Members 56 , S/A -7 , Hon -7
- President Rtn Udayendu thanked all present and declared the meeting closed at 8. 15p.m

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY -

None

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS -

Vikash Choudhary	-	16th July
Samirr Doshi	-	16th July
Hardeep Singh	-	18th July
Ms. Priya Sitaraman	-	24th July



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THE FOUR-WAY TEST

Of the things we say and do:

1. Is it the truth ?
2. Is it fair to all concerned ?
3. Will it build goodwill and better friendship ?
4. Will it be beneficial to all concerned ?