Toowoomba Meeting 14/10/2019

Members Present 25
Apologies 10
Absent 4
Raffle Winner Callum Brownie (2 weeks in a row)

Sergeant Alan Twidale

Meeting opened at 6.00pm with The Four-Way Test – Read by Sergeant and members toast to “Rotary International”.

Welcome by President David Snow.
Welcome Guests: Jen Shaw.

President Notices:
- Board meeting held prior to meeting 14/10.

Directors Reports:
Nigel Beaman - Membership:
- Membership brochures provided to each member present – help promote to potential members.
Roger Stark – Youth Services:
- Mitsukido outbound – 2 applications held. Bring forward closing date to 21 October for any further applications.
- Youth protection officer required – looking for volunteer (Mark Coorey accepted).
- NYSF applications open annually March/May – please consider potential applicants.

Secretary’s announcements:
- Reminder St Ursula’s combined Interact assembly - Friday 25 October.
- Partners badges to be ordered
- Blue card register to be updated – please provide detail to secretary.

Next meeting Monday 21 October Burke & Wills

Sergeant’s Session:
- Notable fines: Clive and Conchita 54th wedding anniversary.

Guest Speaker – Jen Shaw Emerge Cafe.
Emerge Cafe is a major beneficiary of RTR 2 - $15,000 + GST.
Emerge is a youth drop in service and donation will fund the operation for 6 months.
Offers meet up groups for homeless youth – along with fitness and boxing.

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Semi independent assisted rental accommodation and the Cafe which has been in operation for 4 years – Station street Toowoomba Cafe is the major fund raising arm of the enterprise but also provides employment opportunities as part of their earn & learn strategy. The Cafe was started with $85,000 from crowd funding. Is run from donation and Cafe profits – no government assistance.

Emerge was a project of Jen Shaw and her husband and they have contributed a lot of time and money to get established. Jen is passionate given she left home aged 13 and had children from a young age.

Local census data puts youth homelessness in Toowoomba at 130 – however considered to be much higher. Only 11 beds are available in Toowoomba for homeless youth. The is a joint venture with Yellowbridge – the Lighthouse project that long-term is looking to provide drop in crisis housing for youth in Toowoomba.

There are 35 organisations in Toowoomba providing some form of support for youth – however Emerge is a service with youth as the primary focus while other organisations provide assistance to wider groups.

President closed meeting at 7.30pm with singing of the National Anthem.