



PRESIDENT DEB WITH OUR THREE NEW MEMBERS

INNER WHEEL OF PLIMMERTON AUGUST 2013



BITS AND BOBS

President's Snippet

Hello everyone.

Our first Club meeting got off to a good start albeit a chilly one as the college had a power cut that day and as it was also school holidays the library hadn't been heated for a few days. Those that were there kept their coats on and their sense of humour intact! I know a lot of you were AWOL with grandparent duties so I will run through a few of the things that were discussed.

The results from the "which night?" survey were very close but **Tuesday** night is the winner.

Janet and Adrienne are keen to run another Wild Food Café in December. I know you will support this again with salads and attendance.

Velma suggested a Frock Swap evening. However this hasn't been well received so we are thinking of another fashion event. Funds for this initiative are to go to care packs for foster children.

Congratulations were given to Christine Blick for receiving a Rotary Paul Harris pin. As she was also absent I would like to congratulate her again here.

At District Change Over I met with the incoming president of Tawa Inner Wheel. She has invited us to their club meeting in February where we will be challenged to a game of lawn bowls!

It was lovely to welcome and induct three new members to the club:

Anne Jackson,
Pauline Mout
Yvonne Thomson.

I hope you have all kept safe with the recent earthquakes and that not too many belongings have ended up on the floor. Take care and I look forward to seeing you all at the next Club night.

Yours in friendship,

Deb

Did you know the history of the Rose of Friendship?

Deb researched this for us and told us that the rose was white originally, then became a black rose and now a red rose of friendship. Usually our roses are kindly given by Dianne McGavin from her Rose Gardens. However at this time of year Deb sourced some artificial roses.



Plimmerton Rotary Website

Inner Wheel has not been forgotten and there is already an article about Deb taking over as President this year and inviting people to visit and join our club. The website is: <http://plimmertonrotary.org.nz>



Keen to join Plimmerton Rotary at the **Planting Day? Ration Point and Nursery Saturday 24 August at 9.30.**

Subs Please: They are now due. Everyone should have received their invoice.

Report from Hubli, India

by Pauline Lowe

On arriving at our Hotel in Hubli we were immediately contacted by Dr Rita Handa who is the President of Hubli Inner Wheel. This chapter of Inner Wheel has just celebrated its first year and at the hand over meeting that I attended on Monday night Rita became the Past President. She is a pretty extraordinary woman – but it turns out most of the women are pretty amazing!

Dr Rita Handa comes from a very wealthy family and runs her own companies. She uses these companies to support philanthropic projects. One is supplying prosthetics to disabled people, others are focused around orphan children.

Rita arranged to meet us early the morning after we arrived and when she turned up she bought another couple with her. It turns out they are all Christians and as the only Christian in her family Rita has experienced a lot of difficulties and has been treated quite badly by her husband and sons. The couple with her were a really delightful couple Shyam and Minnie Anthony. Shyam is a Minister and he and Minnie pastor a local church. Minnie was left as a baby in a hospital by her parents when she was born because someone said she was born under an unlucky star. She was bought up in the family of the matron from the hospital but sadly when that lady died her sons put a very young Minnie to work as a slave in their hotel. She slept only three hours a night and was in a terrible state. Someone gave her a Bible which she started to read. This gave her courage to change her life so she ran away and joined a Christian group – Youth with a Mission (YWAM). She was able to change her life completely and through some pretty amazing situations she met and married Shyam. They have been married over 20 years and have two sons. It was always Minnie's vision to start an Orphanage but her husband was focused on their church. However when a couple in their church separated neither wanted their children so Minnie and Shyam took the children in and this started their orphanage. Today they have 22 children but have had up to 35. Steve went to visit their orphanage with Dr Rita when I was ill and then they went to another project run by another young guy and this includes a facility for children with HIV/Aids (38 children), a group of elderly men and women (20) who have been turned out their families and an orphanage of 45

As you can imagine Steve was pretty amazed at all of this. According to these people they estimate that there are 12,000 orphan children in the wider Hubli area. Phew!

Dr Rita arranged for Minnie and me to go to the Inner Wheel meeting on Monday night. We were warmly welcomed and watched as the whole Changeover meeting unfolded. It was really interesting as so much was the same but also so much quite different. They have a chalice with oil and wicks which are lit when each person is inducted into their new role. It is a sort of passing the flame on, etc.

Rita gave a run-down of her year which looked to include some pretty fun events but also some sobering ones - like the candlelight march they all did to the office of the Police Commissioner to protest at the gang rape of a young girl earlier in the year. This was very interesting as it turned out their guest speaker was another Indian woman who also has a Dr as her title. (In Rita's case her Doctorate is an honorary one). The speech she gave was wide ranging and pretty impressive but it was to stir the women up to do as much as they can to change society's attitude toward women. It challenged them in regard to the way they bring up their male children. They should teach their girls karate and judo so they can defend themselves. They should not allow their daughters out alone late at night and they should write to their local politicians to demand that advertising of any sort showing scantily clad women should be removed from all public places. She had some quite direct remarks to make about the Bollywood industry in the way it promotes women.

Her speech really highlighted the pretty troubling state of women and their lack of protection, either by their families or by society in general. It was also interesting to me as we have a woman who works with the Share and Care Ministry who is quite badly abused by her husband and the police offer her no protection whatsoever. In fact it seems that their intervention just makes things horribly worse. It made me ponder how fortunate we are in NZ that there are some very good resources in place for abused woman as well as a more impartial and involved judicial process. While we do have



abuse of women we also provide education and opportunities to change things.

The women were so friendly and engaging that I felt very comfortable with them all. I made a small speech and presented the banner – which you can see in the photo. Sadly I had to leave before the evening was officially over as we had to go to the airport. But with Rita's very strong personality we were delayed until the last moment then she and a group of ladies came to the airport to say goodbye! Lots of them are keen to come to NZ! I have contact details of their ISO lady and we are both very keen to pursue contact and share news during the year!

So there we have it! We are now, of course, in Thailand and enjoying some time out after a very hectic few days in India!

Pauline

NEXT MEETINGS

August 20 6pm (Tuesday)

Adrienne and guest speaker Pearl Freemantle will give a presentation

"Every Child has a right to Play"

And in September:

The meeting will be a WOW affair so you need to get thinking about your creations.

Yours in friendship

Adrienne