

The Brunswick Rotary Club Inc.
PO Box 152 Brunswick VIC 3056
Charter No. 906 District 9800
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SERVICE Above Self

BACK TO SCHOOL!

After a wild month of surf, sun, sand and Sleep, most members dutifully trooped back to Abruzzo on Thursday. Even President Doug who has not been sighted since Christmas. Doug says that he has spent the month working very hard in Western Australia.

SERIOUS BUSINESS

Our first meeting was well attended with about 16 members and 2 visitors and we did not spend it just messing around but got straight onto organizing business for the year.

- Lauri wants to know NOW anybody who wants to make a last minute booking for the Conference.
- Doug is still trying to get a gig in the Commonwealth Games cleaning detail. Apparently there have been an enormous number of proposals from various Rotary Clubs.
- Board Meeting was confirmed for Tuesday February 14th at 5.30PM at Brunswick Industries.
- Cheryl has booked the band and venue for Dance into Autumn.
- Doug has negotiated a 42inch plasma TV and some other goodies from Harvey Norman for our raffle.
- We discussed our current venue because of concern about certain members having difficulty getting upstairs. Some suggestions were made for prospective venues to be investigated and any other suitable suggestions will be considered.

BY LAWS AND CONSTITUTION

The following notes are relevant for all of us and we should bear in mind the comments as we move forward.

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

The club adopted a Constitution and By-Laws at the Annual General Meeting in November 2004.

There appear to be some anomalies in The Constitution that need to be explained, investigated or rectified and at least one ruling by R.I. that has not been clearly adopted by our club.

Honorary Membership There has been some mention at Board level that Honorary Membership is for one year only. That needs to be discussed further. If it is an R.I ruling where is it? Why is it not in our Constitution (Section 6)? If it is not an R.I. ruling it does not matter as the By-Laws can accommodate our needs!

Annual Meeting There must be a ruling somewhere that the Annual General meeting be before the end of November as we seemed anxious to hold ours by that date, but our constitution states that it should be by at the end of December!

Membership Our Constitution states and is accord with The R.I. 2001 Council on Legislation that there are now only two forms of membership namely Active Membership and Honorary Membership. Terms such as Senior Active no longer apply and we should replace them wheresoever they may occur, e.g. the club directory.

That the club may now have no more than five members from one classification is interesting but will not worry us.

I would like to discuss at the next Board meeting that these matters and any others raised by members be clarified or rectified and a motion to amend the Constitution if necessary be put before the next Club Assembly or a Special General Meeting if necessary.

By-Laws

It has worried me that for some time a Board will introduce a worthy matter or way of doing things, which is not known about by subsequent Boards but could have been helpful in maintaining continuity.

If we used the By-Laws effectively it might give a useful continuity, accepting that the Board or the Club can change things as they wish.

There are also those special Brunswick ways of doing things or getting things done, perhaps they could be stated:

1. To my knowledge we have always appointed a President Elect who becomes the President and nominates his/her own Board. Having been trusted to do a job that person is then left he/she to do the best they can for us. We might need to change the election procedure, or rather, so things are clear we should perhaps state our current operating methods in the By-Laws
2. We need to clarify the fees and dues section so that which we decided on the Board this year becomes more clearly defined and on-going.
3. Each Section could more clearly define our purpose.

Once the Constitution is refined it would be desirable to restate the By-Laws. Rules and regulations can end up being a lot of nonsense, but a couple of simply defined methods of operating (which can always be changed any way) would make it easier for new office bearers.

Mal Dubock 25.1.2006