

Presidents Report – 9th to 15th

October

Thank you to the Club members for your support of the Christmas Raffle at the Lifeline book fair. As you know we sold just under \$2,000.00 of tickets. I enjoyed the comradeship at the launch. . Not everyone likes to sell raffle tickets and that is understandable. Just having fellow Rotarians support filling out raffle tickets was appreciated.

It was great to have that fantastic support from one of our recipients for the Christmas Raffle, acoustic target shooting for the blind. The support from Geoff Hunt was also appreciated.

Talk about support, well done to Norm Miller for filling in as acting treasure whilst Elaine De Vries absence, thank you Norm. I also give a thank you to those who turn up earlier before our meeting to setup and put away after the meeting, well done fellow Rotarians, for service above oneself.

I attended the Australia Day committee meeting at Wollongong Library. The different stake holders presented their needs for the day. The first week in January there will be a launch for Australia Day. This launch is normally undertaken down at the harbour.

Each year we have our photos taken and if we are lucky a 3 second pan on win news as well. If any Rotarians are available during this first week of January, Brian would be grateful for your assistance.

Bernie has done a terrific job of managing the Race Day while Elaine was away, thank you Bernie.

Our guest speaker John Montagner shared his experiences of walking a section of the Camino De Santiago. The Camino trail has been an important Christian pilgrimage route for over 1000 years. John told us 'there are many routes to Santiago de Compostela, starting from a variety of points, from as far away as Belgium to as close as 100km from Santiago'.

The most popular route is the Camino Frances. The Camino Frances or French way starts on the other side of the Pyrenees in St Jean Pied de Port in France. This route is approximately 800km long and passes along the top of north- western Spain passing through large cities and ancient villages and hamlets with a wide variety of scenery along the route.

Some walk the whole route and some just part of it, the first or last 100km or the middle section. As well as walking you can cycle and some even ride a horse or donkey! For those with less time you can take a train or bus across some sections.

John said 'a huge variety of people walk the Camino'. From over 130 different countries, the religious, the non- religious, those interested in its ancient pagan past, the young, the old, the fit, the unfit, the seasoned

hiker, the sports lover, those on a personal spiritual journey or those wanting to get away from the hustle and bustle of modern life and those who simply want an adventure walking through a foreign county for a few weeks.

John was very interesting to listen to and had a lot more to tell us, so we will invite him back again as a guest speaker. Thank you John for sharing your adventure with us.