

DINNER MEETING ON JANUARY 22, 2014.

The meeting started with Tony in the chair.

APOLOGIES: Kumar J Shah, Saroj, Kumar, Peter Harding, Brendan Heenan, Matt, Steven and Janet Brown.



VISITORS (pictured, from left): Guy Price, Sarah Wyatt from NZ, Johnathon Diamond and Audra Fletcher.

TREASURER: Denise reported about the boy we're sponsoring through Plan. We were told he'd dropped out of school although we thought our financial contribution was to keep him at school. Members voiced disappointment that he was not going to school. Plan told us that although the sponsorship was in the boy's name, and they are disappointed that he's dropped out, but our money had actually gone to the village generally, aiding its educational facilities, water, infrastructure and so on. The exchange raised the question how much of Plan's budget is spent on explaining to donors why their money is spent purposes they were unaware of. The treasurer advised we would be provided with more detail on our sponsored student and where our money was going. Response will take time.

PRESIDENT Fran enters stage left. Applause. Tony vacates the throne.

We still don't have our payment from the Mbantua Festival. A member suggested Minister Nigel Scullion may not have signed off on a further request for a Federal grant to the organisers, this time for \$350,000, having already received \$1.3m. **STOP PRESS:** Nigel has not. He is due to make a decision soon. I am following this up (again) as a journo. Read all about it soon in the Alice Springs News Online.

COMMUNITY SERVICE: Morgan suggested that following the rains, we may resume our occasional lawn cutting at the Women's Centre. We will look into it. The portfolio was handed over to Paul Della.

SECRETARY Kim handed the job over to John Isgar. He had a very full large plain brown envelope before him on the table. He asserts he was pressganged into the position.

VOCATIONAL: Paul Hinkly hinted that he would have news about the portfolio "in the next few months" and then made us a green with envy, giving an account about staying with former local Rotarians, Mr and Mrs Serrone, in their new mansion near a golf club in the Gold Coast hinterland at Mudgeeraba. Wow.

INTERNATIONAL: The IGA quiz was again generously sponsored by store boss Kumar who will go overseas following which he will talk about his Nepalese project.

STEFFI, initially overlooked by President Fran, insisted to have a say, adding that she had nothing to report. But then she suggested a progressive dinner with three or four venues. **STOP PRESS:** Enid says we can borrow the Prisoner Fellowship's bus, from about 5pm Saturday, return Sunday morning. If we decide to do it we'd need to buy the fuel and I suggest we'd also make a donation to the Fellowship. I'm happy to drive and be Sober Bob.

Next week: HOT night – **BRAINSTORMING.**

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