

Ballymoney Rotary Club



Ballymoney Rotary Club President Neil Robinson wishing Ryan Moore from Ballyboyland, Ballymoney Bon Voyage as he sets off for an 18 month university degree course in Australia.

While the world hopes for peace, Rotary works to make it a reality. Ryan Moore of Ballymoney has been named as one of 60 Rotary World Peace Fellows to study peace and conflict resolution at the master's degree level. The program was created as part of Rotary's ongoing effort to promote greater tolerance and cooperation among people worldwide.

Ryan left for the University of Queensland in Brisbane, Australia, one of six Rotary Centers for International Studies in peace and conflict resolution last Friday. He will obtain a master's-level degree in international relations, with a focus on the roots of conflict and successful solutions to the world's problems and commit to a career devoted to international cooperation and cross-cultural understanding.

The 27 year old has been working for over three years as Good Relations Officer with Moyle District Council, as well as a period living and working in South Africa. On hearing the good news, Ryan said, "I am delighted to receive this reward and owe a lot to the Rotary organisation and in particular to District 1160 and the Club of Ballymoney who have supported me along the way."

The first four classes of Rotary World Peace Fellows have graduated, and are now working in high-level positions at prestigious organizations such as the United Nations, the European Parliament, Interpol, USAid, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, and the Organization of American States. While war, famine, poverty and disease are rampant worldwide, the Rotary Centers have given fellows the knowledge and tools to combat these challenges.

Rotary Club of Navan



The proceeds of the recent Rotary Club of Navan's Annual Variety Concert was presented to Active Retirement Clubs in Beauparc, Dunshaughlin, Bohernmeen, Slane, Kilmessan, Oldcastle who each received €100 and €500 each presented to Navan Active Retirement and Navan Friendship Club.

Pictured front l to r: Tom Fitzsimons (Chairman Navan Active Retirement Assoc.) Eugene Craughan (Pres. Navan Rotary who presented the cheques) Sylvia Murray (Navan Friendship Club) Back l to r: Richard Farrelly (Chairman Navan Rotary Concert Committee) and Robin Byrne (Navan Rotary Concert Comm.,)

Rotary International Aids Rombo



Monaghan Rotary Club present a cheque for the Rombo project in Kenya.

Pictured from left to right are:- David Drum (Monaghan Rotary Club) Elaine Bannon (Rombo), Ray Wilkinson (President Monaghan Rotary Club), David Finan (Rotary International Services), Garth Arnold (President Donaghadee Rotary Club).

President Garth Arnold opened this week's meeting (6.3.08.) of Donaghadee Rotary Club by welcoming the guests: - Matt Porter District Regional Coordinator for Rotary International, Past President David Finan District Chair for Rotary International, Elaine Bannon Paul Harris Fellow, Pres Ray Wilkinson Rotary Club of Monaghan and Sec David Drum Rotary Club of Monaghan.

Past Pres David Finan thanked Donaghadee Rotary Club for hosting the evening; He said it was a pleasure to be in a lively and vibrant club. He added that only Matt and Elaine could do justice to Project Rombo.

Matt Porter thanked the club for giving him the opportunity to talk about Project Rombo. Matt then played a video, which gave a sense of the work Rotary is sponsoring in Rombo. He then gave some facts about Rombo. Rombo in Kenya covers an area of 300 sq mts, it is home to 10,000 families. It is 5km from the nearest town. There has been no rain for over a year so the crops have failed. There is water but it is 30 meters below ground. Rotary is providing help with Education, Clean water and Health Care. Matt added that each Rotary club has been asked to donate £10 per member.

Elaine in her address informed the members that she had visited Kenya on holiday but felt that she had to return and help the local Massi people staying for only a year. That was 5 years ago and she is still there working in the bush at Rombo. Elaine pointed out that contrary to public opinion in the UK Africans are not lazy. They go to work in the fields at 6am and plant and cultivate their crops by hand. They work until 8pm. They then return to the fields at nightfall to keep the elephants away from the crops. Elaine then went on to describe in detail how the money donated by Rotary is helping to improve the way of life for so many in Rombo.

Matt Porter pointed out that the richer countries were not helping Africa in the way that they should. He stated that if 22 of the richest countries were to give 0.7% of their GDP as promised, they would eradicate poverty by 2012 but that only 5 were giving this amount and America the largest giver was only giving 0.17%.

Past President Mark Brooks thanked Elaine and Matt and also his boss David for their presentation. He said that if Elaine could visit each Rotary Club in the District with her passion and devotion then contributions would surely be increased.

President Ray Wilkinson thanked Donaghadee for its welcome, fun and fellowship. He pointed out that Monaghan in celebrating its 40th birthday was supporting Rombo and presented Elaine with a cheque and wished her all the best for Rombo.

President Garth thanked Elaine and Matt for a very moving talk.