



# DON ARGUS



## Don Argus AC

In November 2013 The Australian Financial Review in an article titled "Leaders, builders, pioneers & stirrers, 1963-2013" Mr Don Argus was recognised as "One of 50 figures who shaped the nation's business landscape over the past half century."

Born in Queensland Don's first job was at the National Bank and he stayed on for 40 plus years, rising to the role of CEO. He also had a number of other public company directorships and soon found himself as Chairman of BHP and oversaw its merger with Billiton. More recently he undertook one of the most extensive reviews of Australian cricket.

## TALKS ABOUT BUSINESS LEADERSHIP

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The Palladium Ballroom was filled with 220 well-wishers of Project BEAP, the acronym for The Batticaloa Emergency & Accident Project, where DON ARGUS, former Chairman of the National Australia Bank, BHP and the Review Panel for Cricket Australia, was chief guest.

Mr Argus spoke about Leadership in Business and Sports and emphasized the importance of the inclusion of management and staff at all levels in securing corporate goals; an area he felt had been neglected in the quest for growth and profit. He urged future leaders to be more inclusive and trusting of their team members and to let people take ownership for their actions. He suggested that in the future workers will be rewarded for their innovation, creativity, and productive output rather than merely doing their job. Don touched on the change that took the Australian test team from the average position of 5<sup>th</sup> on world rankings to the top of the league and attributed the achievement to a culture change from top down. He also felt that women bring a good balance to the Board room tables and community life and more work should be done to increase their involvement.

The President and visionary of the Foundation Supporting a National Trauma Service in Sri Lanka (Project BEAP), Dr David A Young, a man who has visited Sri Lanka multiple times over the past 25 years, spoke passionately of his love for Sri Lanka, cricket and the disadvantaged folk in regional Sri Lanka who need modern emergency and accident treatment facilities. Following his impassioned speech nearly \$80,000 was raised from auctions of sporting memorabilia, valuable goods and services and donations from some of the patrons.

The Rotary Club of Strathmore, who has adopted this project as their International Charity, was responsible for the entire organisation and the patrons applauded their outstanding contribution.

You can donate to Project BEAP by visiting their website [www.projectbeap.org](http://www.projectbeap.org) or call their CEO, Nihal de Run on +61419382142 to express your interest in joining the Foundation. There are no joining fees or annual subscriptions.