



STRATHFIELD ROTARY NEWS

The Weekly Bulletin of the Rotary Club of Strathfield Inc
District 9690, New South Wales, Australia



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Wednesday 6th December 2006

DECEMBER IS FAMILY OF ROTARY MONTH

PRESIDENT'S VIEW

Once again, the annual meeting is upon us. A little sadly for me, as it marks the midpoint of my year as president. Good luck to all candidates for next year's board and the position of 2008-2009 president.

A very sincere welcome to our two newest members, inducted last week. Best wishes to Trevor Duxbury and his wife Nanette, and to Neil Kennan and his wife Mary Anne for a long and rewarding association with Rotary.

Thanks to those club members (including DG Harley Tarrant) who have been visiting the many schools in the local community that we support.

Strathfield Girls High have now completed their Australian Business Week project with our members acting as mentors and judges and presenting awards.

School speech nights are now underway. This year the club has presented book prizes to 16 schools in the area and we will be present at many of the speech nights.

Joe Campisi advises that planning for Carols By Candlelight is well advanced. A reminder that all funds raised will go towards our Christmas drought relief appeal. If you have not seen the commitment sheet please contact Joe as soon as possible and offer your support.

Brian Johnson has organised what promises to be an excellent Christmas party next week – once again with all proceeds to go to our drought relief fund. Please support the night by attending and bringing your friends and family.

Mr Alacazam will feature at the Children's party, to be held the following week.

This week's raffle comes to us courtesy of the efforts of Tony Lanzafame. My thanks to Tony for assisting at short notice.

Enjoy Rotary ... **by getting involved!**

President Rod

TO-NIGHT

Rotary Club of Strathfield, Inc
Annual General Meeting
Election of Board 2007-2008

CONGRATULATIONS

New Members

Trevor Duxbury Nanette
Classification – Microbiology
Neil Kennan Mary Anne
Classification – Town Planning

Birthdays

6/12/2006 Peter Harries
6/12/2006 Keith Stockall

Wedding Anniversaries

8/12/2006 Rod & Maree McDougall
12/12/2006 Arjun & Neela Jeganathan

Rotary Anniversaries

Nil

Carols by Candlelight
Come along and sing your favourite carols and be dazzled by the spectacular fireworks at the end of the night.

Saturday 9 December 2006 @ 6.30pm
Strathfield Park

A Sausage Sizzle and Glow Sticks will be available for sale. The Rotary Club of Strathfield will also be holding a raffle with all proceeds going to Rotary NSW Drought Relief Fund.

Organised by: STRATHFIELD COUNCIL

Sponsored by: DEVINE REAL ESTATE

For more information contact Councils Events Coordinator Nicole Andray on 9748 9999 or visit Councils website www.strathfield.nsw.gov.au

LAST WEEK'S MEETING

Our Guest speaker was Mrs Barbara Stone, AM, Principal of MLC, Burwood. She was introduced by Allan Petersen.

MLC is a member of the Association of Independent Schools and was founded in 1886 and previously known as the Methodist Ladies College. The school has 1200 students from K1 to year 12 and offers 2 paths to matriculation, NSW HSC and the International Baccalaureate Diploma.

The school motto is – *Ut filiae lucis ambulate* – “Walk as daughters of the light”

The subject of Mrs Stone's address was S.O.S. – ‘Saving our Schools’

In identifying what needs to be done to prepare our schools for the 21st century she commented on the inherent problems of lack of continuity through being faced by four Federal Education and six State Education Ministers during her sixteen years as Principal, and made the following points:-

Parents should be encouraged to participate in the education process.

People have lost the plot in the education procedure.

Politically there is a lot that can be done to address student needs.

Academic achievements are only part of education. Learning should be a joy and students should be encouraged to be part of the community

She disagrees with the proposed A to E method of grading students. Parents should talk directly to teachers to establish the strengths and weaknesses in individual students.

We live in a very different world. Students of the 21st century are growing up in a ‘digital’ world where children in kindergarten are computer literate and technology is making a substantial difference in education.

We should be raising a generation who cares, and we should tell politicians that education needs to teach pupils what really matters.

Mrs Stone was thanked by Peter Foss.

Youth Exchange Program

Joanna Iskandar, together with her mother were welcomed as guests at our meeting last Wednesday.

Joanna has been selected to represent our Club and District in next year's YEP and will be spending 12 months in France, leaving in January. Born in Indonesia, Joanna was 10 years old when she migrated to Australia with her

parents and brother. She lives in Cabramatta and attended Cabramatta High School.

Joanna has been involved in several ad hoc committees at school including a recent Sydney Peace Prize, has been a part of the school debating team and participated in the school literacy tutoring program. Sporting interests include swimming, soccer and touch football.

When she returns home she plans to attend University to study International Law

International Director Paolo Giammarco presented her with her YEP blazer and the club wished her bon voyage.

Peter van der Sleen has been appointed her Strathfield Rotary Club Counsellor.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

☛ **Drought Relief.** Capt. Cheryl Barclay of the Salvation Army has spoken to President Elect Brian Johnson about the effects of the drought in the mid western area of NSW, in towns such as Forbes, Parkes, Eugowra and Condobolin. They are desperately short of financial resources to assist many families in need, especially with Christmas just around the corner.

Our Club has dedicated the proceeds of our Xmas Dinner evening on 13 December to this cause. Please invite your family and friends to attend and offer support. An auction (3 items) and a raffle will be held to raise funds, and donations will also be sought.

MEMBERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Rick Collins, Richard Horwood Arjun Jeganathan, Anuradha Kamkolkar, Ted Ingall, Terry Rohan, John Watkins

FUTURE CLUB MEETINGS

13th December 2006

Strathfield Rotary Club Christmas Party

20th December 2006

Children's Christmas Party

Featuring Mr Alakazam



COMING EVENTS

Carols by Candlelight

Strathfield Park on Saturday 9th December

Our Club will be organising the BBQ and a raffle. Members have been asked to bring along items to fill hampers for the raffle

Trish MS Foundation Golf Day

Thursday 15th February 2007

Strathfield Golf Club. 12 midday followed by Evening Dinner & Presentations.

The Rotary trailer has been refurbished and Ray Wilson and Niall King have begun filling it.

This will be the major raffle to be drawn on 15 February 2007 for the Trish MS Foundation.

Whilst Ray & Niall have undertaken to sell tickets at many sites in the district, support by our members would be appreciated. *Donations of GOODS &/ or MONEY to fill this major raffle are sought.*

District 9690 Conference

Hosted by the Rotary Club of Strathfield
16-18 March 2007 at Newcastle City Hall.

Remember this is our Conference and an opportunity to support District Governor Harley and Megan and ensure that it will be a Conference to remember

ROTARY INFORMATION

December is Family Month

It is often said that children are the future of the world. Healthy and happy children are the key to Rotary's goal of building understanding and peace in the world. There is no better place to nourish a young mind than in a family whose basic needs have been met and who can spend time together.

The R.I.Board has adopted the following statement on family:

The Board, recognizing that –

- The family, which is the basic unit of society in the community, is struggling with a host of complex social and economic problems that are attacking its structure;
- In many parts of the world, this breakdown of the traditional structure is, in turn, threatening the fabric of community life;
- Rotary's longtime commitment to Community Service makes it imperative for Rotarians to actively address the crisis in the family today;
- Encourages Rotarians, Rotary clubs and districts worldwide to:
 - a) bring their power to bear through existing programs on the most formidable problems facing families today, including but not limited to domestic violence, child abuse and neglect, homelessness, drug and alcohol abuse, gang activities, child care needs, and underemployment;
 - b) instill the importance of universal human values in the homes, schools and communities of the world;
 - c) continue current projects and undertake new ones that strengthen the family structure and make it a secure anchor for the larger community;
 - d) demonstrate their commitment to family and community through activities, and events in celebration of "Family Month" each year.

HUMOUR

Wise Words

"It's hard to make a comeback when you haven't been anywhere." *Written on the back of a bus!*

"Make love, not war. –Hell, do both, get married" *Women's restroom*

"At the feast of ego everyone leaves hungry." *Bentley's House of Coffee & Tea*

"Personally, I have always looked upon cricket as organised loafing" *William Temple*

"They have paid to see Dr Grace bat, not to see you bowl" *Anonymous*

"Golf is a good walk spoiled" *Mark Twain*

Father: pride

"The fundamental defect of fathers is that they want their children to be a credit to them."

Bertrand Russell.