



# STRATHFIELD ROTARY NEWS

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



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**Secretary** Roger Vince  
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**Printed By** Selectprint

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**Wednesday, August 04 2010**

## AUGUST IS MEMBERSHIP AND EXTENSION MONTH

### PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Our guest speaker last week, John Williams, spoke eloquently of his life experiences commencing with a difficult and dysfunctional early family life in war time England - then his emigration to Australia in 1947 as a Barnardos boy - and culminating in a successful real estate/property business - and a happy family life. John, who has been a member of Liverpool Rotary for 22 years, is a past president and a PHF. He has given over 50 year's community service through Rotary, Lions and Apex - not bad for a **POM!**

We were pleased also to welcome Chris Virgona and Naveed Chaudhry as visitors on the night - both potential Rotarians!

**Theatre party:** 20<sup>th</sup> Century Fox, in recognition of the Rotary's Polio Plus Challenge have made available 200 free tickets to a special screening of Matching Jack on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> August at 10.30am at Cinema 7, Event Cinemas 505-525 George Street Sydney. The film features Jacinda Barrett, James Nesbit & Richard Roxburgh - and is not for general release until August 19. I will have 20 of the 200 tickets available for distribution on 4 August - for use by Rotarians, family and friends. The remaining 180 tickets are being distributed by Keith Roffey to other clubs in the district - so it will be a predominately Rotarian audience,

The big drawback is the early start (10.30am!). However, it does provide a great opportunity for us to then adjourn to Chinatown for some fellowship and Yum Cha!

**District golf day:** It is a little way off yet but please put Tuesday October 26 in your diary. Ray Wilson and Niall King put a lot of time and effort in ensuring that Strathfield can host this annual event - and it would be great if we could have a strong contingent from our club in attendance. Invitations are being issued to all clubs within District 9690 - and there is already a flyer and nomination form on the District website:

**Membership Conference:** It is not too late if members would like to attend the "Towards a Stronger Australian Rotary" in Canberra on August 21-22 - registration is only \$100 pp. **RI President Ray Klinginsmith** and RI Director Stuart Heal will be keynote speakers. Registration can be made on line at: [rotarydownunder.com.au/australianrotaryconference](http://rotarydownunder.com.au/australianrotaryconference).

**Our guest speaker this evening** is David Martin - who is the Manager at Westpac Strathfield. David is a relatively newcomer to banking and comes from a retail background. With Westpac's increased emphasis on "community and service" David will be able to give us a great insight in to the changing culture of Australia's first bank. Please make David welcome (another potential member?)

*President Pete*

### TONIGHT'S MEETING

#### **Westpac - Back to Basics**

*David Martin*

Introduced by Kevin Freund    Thanked by David Martin

### CONGRATULATIONS

#### **Birthdays**

12/08/2010    Sal Tosto

#### **Wedding Anniversaries**

*NIL*

#### **Rotary Anniversaries**

Tarrant, Harley                    14 Aug

### LAST MEETING'S GUEST SPEAKER



*John Williams*

Our guest speaker was John Williams who titled his talk the "Leaving of Liverpool". John was introduced by Allan Teale.

John advised us that he was a Barnardo's boy. He lived in a Barnardo's home from age 5 to age 15. At age 12 John was sent to Australia.

Whilst John's parents were married, it was not to each other and John lays claim to being the original "**Pommy Bastard**".

John told us of his tough life as a young child before being taken into a Barnardo's home. As a child, during the war in England, John was evacuated to the country. He remembers being looked after by the yanks who were stationed nearby. John told us that his six week trip to Australia by ship were full of fun although he was apprehensive about travelling to the other side of the world. Upon arrival in Australia he was impressed

by the bright colours of the scenery and people's clothes and that everyone was smiling. There was little grey, a colour he associated with England.

John was placed in a farm school at Picton. He developed a keen interest in sport which he has maintained throughout his life. Upon leaving school at 15 he was given a job by a lady who owned a chook farm. John was forever grateful and now looks after this lady who is now elderly. John did two years of National Service training and told us that he earned two stripes by being good at soccer.

John told us that he did find his birth mother in England and visited her. However his appearance was quite distressing for her family who were not aware of his existence.

Some years later John's sister initiated contact with him. She came to Australia at age 80 and had a wonderful time getting to see Australia from the air in a small plane.

In conclusion John told us that his life was a sad life made happy. He said that whilst there are some bad stories about mistreatment in institutions which get prominent coverage in the media there are a great many good stories that we don't hear about. John was thanked by Allan Petersen.

#### **LAST MEETING'S STATISTICS**

Attendance	30
Apologies	8
Visitors	6
Attendance	54%

#### **Raffle**                      **\$180.00**

##### **Raffle Winners**

Anuradha Kamkolkar, Allan Teale, Sal Tosto

#### **Sergeant**                      **\$99.60**

#### **Commitment Sheets**

(Darrell Slater) - Ryde TAFE Restaurant Night

(Kevin Beltrame) - RYPEN Drivers

(Doug Potter) - Police Officer of the Year

## **LAST MEETING'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### ***From President Peter Smith***

- Alana Wilson, from District 9690, has been elected the inaugural President of Rotaract Australia. Alana has served as District Rotaract Representative in District 9690 and has been instrumental in raising the profile of Rotaract within our district. Alana has recently returned from Montreal where she attended the International RYLA and the RI Convention.

### ***From Kevin Beltrame (Youth Service)***

- Meridan Interact are painting a Mural at Chalmers Road School on Saturday 31/7/10

### ***From Janelle Watson***

- Copies of DG's Newsletter available
- Catalogue of Rotary Products for 2010 now available

### ***From Paul Giammarco***

- Presented Banner from Rotary Club of Sulmina, Italy.
- Two GSE Team Leaders for 2011 Exchange with Philippines & Taiwan have been selected
- Taiwan and the Philippines Applications for team members close on 13 August 2010.
- Inbound Teams will present at our Club on a date to be selected
- Hosts needed for Inbound Teams for one week in April 2011
- Paul is on the District Committee for Shelterbox Australia. Boxes are now \$1,000 each. Shelterbox in Australia is to launch on Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> July 2010 at Dundas.

### ***From Ted Ingall***

- District 9690 Conference at Bathurst 18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> March 2011. Contact Trevor Duxbury or Ted Ingall for further details.

## ***AUSTRALIAN ROTARIANS SEND AID TO CHILE***

By Ryan Hyland - Rotary International News -- 21 May 2010



### **District 9750 (Australia) Rotarians load relief supplies for Chile.**

Australian Rotarians have been pitching in to help communities in Chile devastated by the February earthquake that killed hundreds and caused an estimated US\$30 billion in damages.

A 40-foot cargo container arrived in the country last week at a port in San Antonio, filled with medical and school supplies, including 63 hospital beds, two humidifier cribs for premature infants, dozens of boxes of clothes and school uniforms, and student desks. The Rotary Club of Bondi Junction, New South Wales loaded and shipped the container.

"We used every inch to pack as many supplies as we could," says Russell Paine, club president-elect and project coordinator. "Good things were going into that container -- lifesaving equipment."

The club paid \$5,000 to secure the shipping container from Maersk Line. The supplies were contributed by Australian Rotarians through the Donations In Kind (DIK) program, a project of Rotary Australia World Community Service Eastern Region. Clubs in District 9750 helped load the container. Paine reached out to Blas Martino, past governor of District 4320 (Chile), shortly after the earthquake to ask what Australian clubs could do to help.

"They contacted me immediately to offer their assistance," says Martino, whose district has worked with Bondi Junction Rotarians and other Australian clubs on past projects. "The truth is, we need all the help we can get to assist all the people who are now homeless because of the earthquake."

Cristina Gutierrez, a native of Chile and a member of the Rotary Club of Maroubra, New South Wales, worked on projects with Martino in 2006 and says it was important for her to get involved in helping quake victims.

"It has been heart wrenching to see my fellow Chileans enduring such devastation," she says. "As a result of our previous projects in Chile, we have developed a good working relationship between Rotarians in Chile and ourselves." Martino, who is coordinating the distribution of the supplies, says his district has allocated an initial \$10,000 to recovery efforts. Bondi Junction club members aim to raise another \$10,000 to help in the end-to-end delivery of this shipment. "I felt very emotional after seeing the magnitude of the devastation," says Paine. "We needed to help them as our brothers and sisters, not as people who are begging for our help."

The Rotary Foundation has established a Chile Disaster Recovery Fund to help those affected by the quake.

## **FUTURE CLUB MEETINGS**

**11<sup>th</sup> August 2010**

**Literature Extension Program**  
**"Strathfield Girls High School"**

**Partners Welcome**

Introduced by Paul White

Thanked by Peter Smith

**18<sup>th</sup> August 2010**

**Police Officer of the Year Awards**  
**PARTNERS' NIGHT 6:30 for 7:00pm**

**25<sup>th</sup> August 2010 TRANSFER MEETING**

**Visit to the Ryde TAFE Food School**

**1<sup>st</sup> September 2010,**

**District Governor's Visit**

**8<sup>th</sup> September 2010,**

**Boosting Your Brain - Dr. Helen Popovic**

Introduced by Peter Smith

Thanked by

## **COMING EVENTS**

**15<sup>th</sup> August 2010 Sunday**

**Theatre party:** 20<sup>th</sup> Century Fox, special screening of Matching Jack at 10.30am at Cinema 7, Event Cinemas 505-525 George Street Sydney.

Contact Keith Roffey 0419 046 688

**21<sup>st</sup> -22<sup>nd</sup> August 2010**

**"Towards a Stronger Australian Rotary".**

In Canberra. Registration \$100 pp. Keynote speaker **RI President Ray Klingensmith**

**25<sup>th</sup> August 2010**

**Visit to the Ryde TAFE Food School**

**25<sup>th</sup> August 2010**

**Golf Day at Strathfield Golf Club**

**31<sup>st</sup> August 2010, Saturday**

**Meriden Mural Painting at**  
**Chalmers Road School**

**10<sup>th</sup> September 2010, Friday**

**Transport to Blue Gum Lodge for RYPEN**

**26<sup>th</sup> October 2010**

**District Golf Championships at Strathfield**  
**Golf Club**

**18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> March 2011**

**District 9690 Conference at BATHURST**

✚ **Excellent Accommodation at**  
**"CITIGATE" Mount Panorama**  
**overlooking the Raceway.**

✚ **\$124 per night for a Studio Apartment**  
**with Kitchenette.**

✚ **\$145 per night for a DELUX Studio**  
**Apartment with Kitchenette.**

## HUMOUR FROM OUR MEMBERS



### Excerpts from a Dog's Diary...

8:00 am - Dog food! My favourite thing!  
9:30 am - A car ride! My favourite thing!  
9:40 am - A walk in the park! My favourite thing!  
10:30 am - Got rubbed and petted! My favourite thing!  
12:00 PM - Lunch! My favourite thing!  
1:00 PM - Played in the yard! My favourite thing!  
3:00 PM - Wagged my tail! My favourite thing!  
5:00 PM - Milk bones! My favourite thing!  
7:00 PM - Got to play ball! My favourite thing!  
8:00 PM - Wow! Watched TV with the people! My favourite thing!  
11:00 PM - Sleeping on the bed! My favourite thing!

### The Power of a Badge.

Law enforcement officers are not always right in their judgment!! A DEA officer stops at a ranch in Texas, and talks with an old rancher. He tells the rancher, "I need to inspect your ranch for illegally grown drugs."

The rancher says, "Okay, but do not go in that field over there," as he points out the location.

The DEA officer verbally explodes, saying, "Mister, I have the authority of the Federal Government with me." Reaching into his rear pants pocket, he removes his badge and proudly displays it to the rancher. "See this badge? This badge means I am allowed to go wherever I wish. On any land. No questions asked or answers given. Have I made myself clear? Do you understand? "

The rancher nods politely, apologizes, and goes about his chores.

A short time later, the old rancher hears loud screams and sees the DEA officer running for his life chased by the rancher's big Santa Gertrudis bull.

With every step the bull is gaining ground on the officer, and it seems likely that he'll get gored before he reaches safety. The officer is clearly terrified. The rancher throws down his tools, runs to the fence and yells at the top of his lungs, "Your badge; Show him your BADGE!"



### Excerpts from a Cat's Diary...

#### *Day 983 of my captivity.*

My captors continue to taunt me with bizarre little dangling objects.

They dine lavishly on fresh meat, while the other inmates and I are fed hash or some sort of dry nuggets. Although I make my contempt for the rations perfectly clear, I nevertheless must eat something in order to keep up my strength.

The only thing that keeps me going is my dream of escape. In an attempt to disgust them, I once again vomit on the carpet.

Today I decapitated a mouse and dropped its headless body at their feet. I had hoped this would strike fear into their hearts, since it clearly demonstrates what I am capable of. However, they merely made condescending comments about what a 'good little hunter' I am;

#### **BASTARDS.**

There was some sort of assembly of their accomplices tonight. I was placed in solitary confinement for the duration of the event. However, I could hear the noises and smell the food. I overheard that my confinement was due to the power of 'allergies.' I must learn what this means and how to use it to my advantage.

Today I was almost successful in an attempt to assassinate one of my tormentors by weaving around his feet as he was walking. I must try this again tomorrow - - but at the top of the stairs.

I am convinced that the other prisoners here are flunkies and snitches. The dog receives special privileges. He is regularly released - and seems to be more than willing to return. He is obviously retarded.

The bird has got to be an informant. I observe him communicating with the guards regularly. I am certain that he reports my every move. My captors have arranged protective custody for him in an elevated cell, so he is safe.

For now.....