



# Strathfield Rotary News

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

Website: [www.strathfieldrotary.org.au](http://www.strathfieldrotary.org.au)



**President - Peter Smith**

**July is New Rotary Officers' Month**

**President's Column**

**Wednesday, July 7, 2010**

Our guest speaker last week, David Ryan, from China Heart International, proved to be a genuine and passionate humanitarian. While we all appreciate the huge size and population of China it is probably overlooked that there are now about 15 million abandoned and orphaned children in China today. The work that David Ryan and his small group of unpaid volunteers do in China, and all without government support and without the resources of the other major aid organisations, can only be admired.

On July 14 we will be having the first of the club assemblies for 2010-2011. It is hoped that as many members as possible will be able to attend and perhaps more importantly participate. The club Directors will of course outline their hopes and aspirations for the year – and we will have a draft strategic plan for discussion – and I hope a lot of great ideas from the floor!

The recent RI Council on Legislation, in Chicago in April 2010, considered over 200 pieces of legislation – some of which may have an impact on our club. Among those items approved was the provision for an immediate past president to be a member of a club board, changes to calculating attendance records, amended rules for transferring and former Rotarians, amended termination provisions etc – details will of course be available for discussion at the Club Assembly.

Declining attendance at club meetings is a concern – last week's attendance, at about 28, was disappointing. Maybe, because it was the 30<sup>th</sup> June, or the cold weather – (or the new President?) were all contributing factors.

I believe that being present at club meetings is one of the basic obligations you accept when you join a Rotary club. It is accepted that Rotary is a participatory organisation that highly

## This Week's Meeting

### *Rotarian Revelations*

**Darrell Slater**

values regular attendance. When a member is absent the entire club loses the personal association with that member, and the member loses touch with the activities of the club. Attendance is the "glue" that holds the club together and provides the basic framework for service. It is a vital part of the operation and success of a Rotary club. Another topic for discussion on the 14<sup>th</sup> July?

I was sorry to see two good Rotarians leave the club last month – Peter Douglas is a transferring member and will not be lost to Rotary. And hopefully, after some travelling, Les Hockley will return to the club at some future time. We wish both Peter and Les all the best – and thank them for the great contribution they both made while members of Strathfield Rotary.

The first Board meeting for the year was held last night (6<sup>th</sup> July) and we had a full agenda - and I am confident that we are on track for great year.

*President Pete*

## Last Week's Presentation

*Recorded by Ian Johnson*

### **China Heart International**

Our guest speaker was David Ryan who spoke to us about China Heart International (CHI). David was introduced by PP Raymond McCluskie.

David first travelled to China about 15 years ago. On that trip he was with a group that "saw the people – not the cities". At that time he saw the need for humanitarian aid. He now visits China about five times each year and is there for about 14 weeks of the year. He takes teams to China to give assistance where needed. David told us that most team members are women. He said men often had problems dealing with the situations encountered on such trips. For example sick babies are often

placed in "dying rooms" where they are not fed. The official position is that "if a child is not going to make it, why waste valuable resources on that child". David said that he has had to face such situations too many times on his trips to China.

David advised us that China's population is 1.36 billion compared to Australia's 20 million. However Australia's per capita income is \$36,000 compared to China's \$5,300. David also informed us that social security benefits basically don't exist in China.

David then told us of the many ways CHI provides assistance:

- ◆ Child sponsorship.
- ◆ Doves Wings foster home.
- ◆ Training centre for children with intellectual and physical disabilities. David advised that parents were reluctant to take their disabled

children out in public as they "lose face".

- ◆ Doctor's school. CHI has provided ongoing assistance to the school including providing tables and chairs.
- ◆ Medical aid.
- ◆ Earthquake aid. Providing clothing to those in need and assistance in reconstructing roads.
- ◆ Volunteers.

David told us of a child found in a box at a rubbish dump. The child was found by a lady who collected recyclables from the dump. The lady became the child's foster mother. David said that CHI provides regular support to a number of foster carers.

In conclusion David noted that through the work of CHI lives are being saved and lives are being changed for the better. David was thanked by PP Angelo Franco.

## Last Week's Proceedings

### From Roger Vince Secretary

Letter received from Rev Bill Crews CEO of the Exodus Foundation thanking the Club for the donation of food left over from our ANZAC breakfast held at Cape Cabarita this year. PDG David Croft and Margaret, who organised the memorable event, took a large amount of food to Ashfield on the day.

A cheque for \$22.80 was received from the New Tang Dynasty Television for the promised commission on Strathfield RC member's ticket sales to the Shun Yun performance on 9<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> May.

Invitation received for members to attend the Rotary Foundation Dinner and Expo on 7<sup>th</sup> August at Parramatta

Leagues Club 6pm for 7pm. The guest speaker for the evening is Past Rotary International President for 2006 – 2007 Bill Boyd who will be accompanied by Lorna. Bill is an outstanding speaker and well worth listening too.

Thankyou letter received from Parkinson's NSW for our donation last year of \$250.

### Council on Legislation

The Council on Legislation is the legislative body of RI, which has the authority to amend RI constitutional documents. The resolutions passed are then encapsulated in a new Manual of Procedure. The Council meets every three years and this year they met between 25<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> April in Chicago to debate over 200 proposed enactments and resolutions with over 500

representatives from every District around the Rotary World.

Membership of the Council is one representative from each District who must be an ex RI officer or, in special circumstances, the current DG or DG elect. The selection takes place 2 years prior to the Council meeting and PDG Phil Lacey was chosen to represent D9690 at the Council in April 2010.

PDG Phil has provided a very detailed report of the proceedings and the final resolutions passed by the Council on Legislation. These are available to any Rotarian interested in reading the 42-page report. Some of the resolutions may have a direct impact on the way each Club operates and these will need to be discussed by our own Board.

The web site of Rotary International is [www.rotary.org/col](http://www.rotary.org/col).

## Have a Laugh

### Changing a Light Bulb, Doggy Style

**Golden Retriever:** The sun is shining, the day is young, we've got our whole lives ahead of us, and you're inside worrying about a stupid burned out bulb!

**Border Collie:** Just one, then I'll replace any wiring that's not up to code.

**Dachsund:** You know I can't reach that stupid lamp.

**Rottweiler:** Make me.

**Boxer:** Who cares? I can still play with my squeaky toys in the dark.

**Labrador:** Oh, me, me!!!! Pleeeeeeeeeeze let me change the light bulb! Can I? Can I? Huh? Huh? Huh? Can I? Pleeeeeeeeeeze, please, please, please.

**German Shepherd:** I'll change it as soon as I've led these people from the dark, checked to make sure I haven't missed any, and made just one more patrol of the perimeter to see that no one has tried to take advantage of the situation.

**Jack Russell Terrier:** I'll just pop it in while I'm bouncing off the walls and furniture.

**Old English Sheep Dog:** Light bulb? I'm sorry, I don't see a light bulb.

**Cocker Spaniel:** Why change it? I can still pee on the carpet in the dark.

**Chihuahua:** Yo quiero Taco Bulb.

**Pointer:** I see it, there it is, there it is, right there.

**Greyhound:** It isn't moving. Who cares?

**Australian Shepherd:** First, I'll put all the light bulbs in a little circle...

**Poodle:** I'll just blow in the Border Collie's ear and he'll do it. By the time he finishes rewiring the house, my nails will be dry.

**The cats answer:** Dogs do not change light bulbs. People change light bulbs. So, the real question is, how long will it be before I can expect some light, some dinner, and a massage?

## Food for Thought

### Positions Vacant

#### POSITION:

Mom, Mommy, Mama, Ma  
Dad, Daddy, Dada, Pa, Pop

#### JOB DESCRIPTION:

Long term, team players needed, for challenging, permanent work in an often chaotic environment. Candidates must possess excellent communication and organizational skills and be willing to work variable hours, which will include evenings and weekends and frequent 24 hour shifts on call.

Some overnight travel required, including trips to primitive camping sites on rainy weekends and endless sports tournaments in far away cities! Travel expenses not reimbursed.

Extensive courier duties also required.

#### RESPONSIBILITIES:

The rest of your life. Must be willing to be hated, at least temporarily, until someone needs \$5.

Must be willing to bite tongue repeatedly.

Also, must possess the physical stamina of a pack mule and be able to go from zero to 60 mph in three seconds flat in case, this time, the screams from the backyard are not someone just crying wolf.

Must be willing to face stimulating technical challenges, such as small gadget repair, mysteriously sluggish toilets and stuck zippers.

Must screen phone calls, maintain calendars and coordinate production of multiple homework projects.

Must have ability to plan and organize social gatherings for clients of all ages and mental outlooks.

Must be willing to be indispensable one

minute, an embarrassment the next.

Must handle assembly and product safety testing of a half million cheap, plastic toys, and battery operated devices.

Must always hope for the best but be prepared for the worst.

Must assume final, complete accountability for the quality of the end product.

Responsibilities also include floor maintenance and janitorial work throughout the facility.

### POSSIBILITY FOR ADVANCEMENT AND PROMOTION:

None. Your job is to remain in the same position for years, without complaining, constantly retraining and updating your skills, so that those in your charge can ultimately surpass you.

### PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE:

None required unfortunately. On-the-job training offered on a continually exhausting basis.

### WAGES AND COMPENSATION:

Get this! You pay them! Offering frequent raises and bonuses. A balloon payment is due when they turn 18 because of the assumption that college will help them become financially independent.

When you die, you give them whatever is left.

The oddest thing about this reverse-salary scheme is that you actually enjoy it and wish you could only do more.

### BENEFITS:

While no health or dental insurance, no pension, no tuition reimbursement, no paid holidays and no stock options are offered; this job supplies limitless opportunities for personal growth, unconditional love, and free hugs and kisses for life if you play your cards right.

### RETIREMENT:

There is none - ever!!!

## Dates for Your Diary

For catering purposes, please remember to send apologies or details of extra attendees by  
4.00pm Tuesdays to Eric Khu 9746 0397

email: [brontin@bigpond.com](mailto:brontin@bigpond.com)

Late apologies by 5.00pm Wednesdays to Kevin Freund 0412 494 125

14<sup>th</sup> July (Wednesday)

*Club Assembly*

18<sup>th</sup> August (Wednesday) ► Partners Night ◀

*Police Officer of the Year Awards*

21<sup>st</sup> July (Wednesday)

*TBA*  
Jan Barrett

1<sup>st</sup> September (Wednesday) ► Partners Night ◀

*District Governor Visit*

28<sup>th</sup> July (Wednesday) ► Partners Night ◀

*Leaving of Liverpool*  
John Williams

24<sup>th</sup> October (Sunday)

*Spring Fair*

27<sup>th</sup> October (Wednesday) ► Partners Night ◀

*Pride of Workmanship Awards*

11<sup>th</sup> August (Wednesday) ► Partners Night ◀

*Literature Extension Programme*  
Strathfield Girls High School

4<sup>th</sup> December (Saturday)

*Carols by Candlelight*

The Rotary Club of Strathfield meets every Wednesday evening at Strathfield Golf Club, Centenary Drive, Strathfield.  
Visitors welcome

### News of Rotarians

Beltrame racing to look at page 4!



A picture taken recently at Eastern Creek  
by a friend of Kevin.

### Conference News



**Rock Rotary to its  
Foundations**

**Strathfield Rotarians  
put this date in your diary**

District Conference  
Bathurst  
18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> March, 2011  
First class accommodation at *Citigate*,  
Mount Panorama.  
Excellent rates have been negotiated.

For further information contact  
PP Ted Ingall or Trevor Duxbury.

### The Last Laugh

**Mistaken Identity**

*From Raymond McCluskie*

The owner of a large factory decided to make a surprise visit and check up on his staff. Walking through the plant, he noticed a young man leaning lazily against a post. "Just how much are you being paid a week?" said the owner angrily. "Three hundred bucks," replied the young man. Taking out a fold of bills from his wallet, the owner counted out \$300, slapped the money into the boy's hands, and said "Here's a week's pay -- now get out and don't come back!" Turning to one of the supervisors, he said "How long has that lazy bum been working here anyway?" "He doesn't work here," said the supervisor. "He was just here to deliver a pizza!"

Eagles may soar, but weasels do not get sucked into jet engines.

How many of you believe in psychokinesis? Raise my hand.

I thought about how mothers feed their babies with tiny spoons and forks, so I wondered what Chinese mothers use. Toothpicks?

### Last Week's Statistics

**Attendance:** 28 Rotarians

**Visitors:** David Ryan Guest Speaker  
Chris Virgona

**L.O.A.:** Warren Abbott  
George Helou  
Connie Galletta

**Raffle raised \$180.00**

**Winners**

Raymond McCluskie  
Chris Virgona  
Ray Wilson  
David Martin

**The Sergeant Raised \$112.00**

If corn oil is made from corn, and vegetable oil is made from vegetables, then what is baby oil made from?

Why do the Alphabet Song and Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star have the same tune?

### Congratulations

**Birthdays**

None

**Anniversaries**

None

**Rotary Anniversaries**

None

### Rotary Grace

O, Lord and giver of all good,  
We thank you for our daily food,  
May Rotary friends and Rotary ways  
Help us to serve you all our days.



# Changing Over @

Photography by Bradley Ayres unless indicated otherwise.

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