



The weekly Bulletin of the Rotary Club of Strathfield Inc

District 9690, NSW Australia

Strathfield Rotary News



Website: www.strathfieldrotary.org.au

Executive 2010/11

President - Peter Smith
Secretary - Roger Vince
Treasurer - Keith Stockall

December
is
Family of Rotary Month

Wednesday,
December 8th, 2010

President's Column

Last week, prior to our AGM, we had the great pleasure of meeting Ramesh Ferris and of hearing his inspirational presentation on how he survived childhood polio and how he came to establish "Cycle to Walk". Please see Ian Johnson's report on page 2 for full details of Ramesh's talk.

AGM - I would like to thank PDG David Croft for chairing our 2010 Annual General Meeting - and to congratulate Bradley Ayres, PP Kevin Freund, Ian Johnson, David Martin, PP Grahame True and Ray Wilson on being elected Directors on President Elect Trevor Duxbury's Board for 2011-2012.

Congratulations to Ray Wilson on his election as our President for 2012-2013. Well done Ray
PP Rod McDougall will be Secretary, Peter Smith Treasurer and PP Peter Foss will be Sergeant for the year 2011-2012.

The sad news reached us on Thursday morning of the passing of Shirley Del Prado. Members will be aware that Shirley's funeral was held on Tuesday morning at Rookwood and was well attended by Rotarians, family and friends. Kevin Beltrame spoke on behalf of Strathfield Rotary in a most eloquent speech which encapsulated perfectly what Shirley meant to Rotary - and what Rotary meant to Shirley. Connie Galletta generously not only made her home available for the Wake but provided a wonderful



morning tea spread/feast. Thank you to everyone who contributed, in many ways, to ensure that Shirley had a dignified farewell. RIP.

Tonight is a night to relax and enjoy fellowship with members and partners at our Christmas Party meeting. And to add to the night's festivities we have three delightful young ladies who have agreed to sing some Christmas songs and carols for us:

Stephanie Britten who is the daughter of Stephen Britten -the President of Breakfast Point Rotary (and who will be joining us for dinner.)

Priscilla and Evitta Issa - from the Neta Maughan Music Studio. The girls' mother, Mrs Daad Issa, will also be our guest for dinner.

Next week, December 15, Connie Galletta has again organised a great night for the littlies at the Childrens Christmas Party with lots of entertainment, music, food and Santa for the young - and not so young.

I would like to take this opportunity of wishing you and your families a safe and happy Christmas. May the New Year bring you good health and happiness.

President Pete

Cowboy logic "Go after life as if it's something that's go to be roped in a hurry before it gets away"

Last Week's Presentation

Recorded by Ian Johnson

Cycle to Walk

Our guest speaker was Ramesh Ferris who spoke to us about "Cycle to Walk". Ramesh was introduced by PP Doug Potter. Ramesh is a polio survivor and has spoken at the Montreal RI Convention and at the UN. We were very fortunate to have Ramesh as a guest speaker.

Ramesh commenced by reminding us that there was a time when communities throughout the world lived in fear of being infected by the polio virus. Public pools, parks and schools were often closed down due to the fear of infection.

People who caught polio and survived often needed leg braces and to use an iron lung to assist with breathing.

On 12 April 1955 Dr Jonas Salk's polio vaccine was first used. His birth date being 24 October is the date on which World Polio Day is celebrated.

Ramesh was born in India in 1980 and was infected by the polio virus at the age of six months. His legs were paralysed for life. His mother placed him for adoption to give him a chance at a better life.

Ramesh was adopted by a family from the Yukon in Canada. The family had to battle the government of the day who determined to deny access on the basis that Ramesh's condition would lead to an excessive demand on health and social services.

Ramesh had corrective surgery at the Vancouver's Children's Hospital and received rehabilitation support. He is now able to get around using one leg brace and one crutch. After completing school

Ramesh obtained a diploma in social work.

At the age of 22 Ramesh returned to India to meet his birth mother and to visit the orphanage where he had been placed as a young child. He saw what his life might have been. He saw polio victims who had no access to surgery and services getting around with bits of old tyres on their knees and sandals on their hands. Ramesh resolved to do all he could to help.

Ramesh was aware of the Rotary Polio Plus Program and the great work it was doing in vaccinating children in affected countries around the world. Ramesh decided he would hand-cycle across Canada with the slogan "Cycle to Walk" to raise funds for polio eradication, education and rehabilitation and to raise public awareness. Ramesh cycled 7,140 Kilometres and raised \$300,000. Ramesh stresses that we should not become complacent and that we must continue in our efforts diligently until the world is officially declared to be polio free.

In conclusion Ramesh advised us that he plans to do a "Cycle to Walk" ride in Australia in 2012 with the same aims as his Canadian ride. Ramesh has recently published a book titled "Better than a Cure: One Man's Journey to Free the World of Polio" (which is available on amazon.com). Ramesh was thanked by PP Peter Foss.



Ramesh Ferris with Anuradha and Umesh Kamkolkar, President Peter and Naveed Chaudhry



Last Week's Statistics

Members Present:	38
Visitors:	7 Ramesh Ferris, Bryan Wishart, Paul Sarks (Burwood), Lloyd Roever (Burwood), Phillip McCarthy (Concord)
Apologies:	5 (Paul White, Peter van der Sleses, Ted Ingall, Peter Manenti, Shirley Del Prado)
Silent:	Too many
L.O.A.:	3 (Warren Abbott, George Helou, Darrell Slater)
Raffle: \$325.00	Sergeant: \$75.10 Total: \$400.10

Pride of Workmanship Awards 2011

The Pride of Workmanship Award night is to be held on Wednesday 2nd March 2011. The closing date for nominations is the 11th February. If you know of deserving people who take pride in what they do then have them acknowledged by Rotary.

A nomination form it is available on our [webpage](#).

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

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

Meetings

15th December (Wednesday)
Rotary Children's Christmas Party
 This is the last meeting for 2010

12th January (Wednesday)
ASIC

22nd December (Wednesday)
No Meeting

14th January (Friday)
Croquet Night

Rosters

Meeting Date	Attendance	Fellowship	Introduce Guest Speaker	Thank Guest Speaker
8th December	Chris Virgona	Raymond McCluskie		
15th December	Chris Virgona			
12th January	Bradley Ayres	Allan Teale	Charles Pitt	Rod McDougall
14th January		Tony Lanzafame		
19th January	Bradley Ayres	Peter Manenti	Trevor Duxbury	Terry Rohan

Calendar

Date	Event	For Information
11/12/2010	Carols in the Park	Bradley Ayres
15/12/2010	Rotary Children's Christmas Party	Connie Galletta
14/01/2011	Croquet Night	Tony Lanzafame
02/03/2011	Pride of Workmanship Awards	Doug Potter
18/03/2011	District Conference	Ted Ingall
13/04/2011	Youth Achievement Awards	Rod McDougall
06/05/2011	40 th Anniversary Celebrations	Harley Tarrant
01/07/2011	Changeover	Trevor Duxbury/Peter Smith

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

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays	Anniversaries	Rotary Anniversaries
15 th December, John Leftwich	8 th December, Rod and Maree McDougall	18 th December, Bradley Ayres
19 th December, Anne Wilson	8 th December, Godfrey and Linda Isouard	
28 th December, Doug Potter	16 th December, Steve and Denise Taylor	
30 th December, Catherine Hallworth	24 th December, Guru and Pam Singh	
31 st December, Niall King		

Commitment Sheets

Carols in the Park,
 11 December, Bradley Ayres

Children's Christmas Party,
 15 December, Connie Galletta

Fellowship, Croquet Night,
 14 January, Tony Lanzafame

District Conference, Bathurst,
 18-20 March 2011, Ted Ingall

Rotary Grace

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

Things to do



Carols by Candlelight

Saturday 11 December from 6.30pm
Strathfield Park, Homebush Road, Strathfield

Come along and enjoy a night of festive fun, Christmas carols and a spectacular fireworks display at the end of the night.

Strathfield Rotary will be selling raffle tickets as well as food and drinks to support local charities.

For more information contact Council on 9748 9999 or visit www.strathfield.nsw.gov.au





This year Rotarian Bradley Ayres is coordinating the Strathfield RC component of this year's Carols by Candlelight. If you can help please see Bradley.

Things to do

The Cape Cabarita community is holding a Carols evening, featuring the 'Sydney West Singers' (from Strathfield) on Sunday 19th December at 7.00pm on the Village Green at Cape Cabarita (Off Rosemeadow Drive, Cabarita). **All Strathfield Rotarians and their families are welcome to attend**, but if you are coming please bring a present for a child to put under "the giving tree". These presents will be distributed by President Peter on Christmas Day to underprivileged indigenous kids in Redfern. Please bring something to drink, something to nibble on, a blanket or deck chair, and of course your "Christmas spirit".

Merry Christmas

PP Steve Taylor

Christmas comes, but once a year is enough.

Anon

A Time to Reflect

Australia 1910

As this is the last Newsletter for 2010 it is timely to look back 100 years to the Australia of 1910.

Monarch – King Edward VII (until 6 May), then King George V

Governor-General – William Ward, 2nd Earl of Dudley

Prime Minister – Alfred Deakin (until 29 April), then Andrew Fisher

21 March – Harry Houdini achieves one of the first powered flights in Australia.

13 April – A referendum is held into alteration of the Australian Constitution regarding state debt and surplus revenue. The state debt question was carried, the surplus revenue question was not.

6 May – King Edward VII dies, his son George V becomes King of the United Kingdom and the British Dominions.

16 September – The Australian Treasury is given authority to issue currency, replacing the use of the

British Pound.

17 September – The 1910 NSWRL season culminates in a grand final between South Sydney and Newtown which is drawn 4 – 4. Newtown are crowned premiers by virtue of being minor premiers

8 November - Comedy King wins the Melbourne Cup

16 November – The Northern Territory Acceptance Act 1910 receives Royal Assent from the Governor-General, transferring the Northern Territory from the control of South Australia to the Commonwealth.

19 November – A cyclone strikes the town of Broome, Western Australia, killing 40 people and destroying 20 houses.

25 November – The Royal Australian Navy is created with the passing of the Australian Naval Defence Act by the Federal Parliament. The destroyers HMAS Parramatta and HMAS Yarra arrive in Australia.

8 December – Geelong, Victoria is declared a city.

.... and

Henry Handel Richardson's novel *The Getting of Wisdom* was published.

President Peter

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