

HUMOUR FROM OUR MEMBERS

There is an old Hotel/Pub in Marble Arch, London, which used to have a gallows adjacent to it. Prisoners were taken to the gallows, to be hung. The horse drawn dray, carting the prisoner, was accompanied by an armed guard, who would stop the dray outside the pub and ask the prisoner if he would like "ONE LAST DRINK". If he said YES, it was referred to as "ONE FOR THE ROAD". If he declined, that prisoner was "ON THE WAGON"

They used to use urine to tan animal skins, so families used to all pee in a pot & then once a day it was taken & sold to the tannery. If you had to do this to survive you were, "Piss Poor", but worse than that, were the really poor folk, who couldn't even afford to buy a pot, they "Didn't have a pot to piss in" & were the lowest of the low.

Most people got married in June, because they took their yearly bath in May and they still smelled pretty good by June. However, since they were starting to smell, brides carried a bouquet of flowers, to hide the body odour. Hence the custom today of carrying a bouquet when getting married.

Baths consisted of a big tub filled with hot water. The man of the house had the privilege of the nice clean water, then all the other sons and men, then the women and finally the children. Last of all the babies. By then the water was so dirty you could actually lose someone in it. Hence the saying, "Don't throw the baby out with the Bath water!"

Houses had thatched roofs, thick straw piled high, with no wood underneath. It was the only place for animals to get warm, so all the cats and other small animals (mice, bugs) lived in the roof. When it rained it became slippery and sometimes the animals would slip and fall off the roof. Hence the saying "It's raining cats and dogs."

There was nothing to stop things from falling into the house. This posed a real problem in the bedroom, where bugs and other droppings could mess up your nice clean bed. Hence, a bed with big posts and a sheet hung over the top, afforded some protection. That's how canopy beds came into existence.

The floor was dirt. Only the wealthy had something other than dirt. Hence the saying, "Dirt Poor." The wealthy had slate floors, that would get slippery in the winter when wet, so they spread thresh (straw) on floor to help keep their footing. As the winter wore on, they added more thresh, until, when you opened the door, it would all start slipping outside. A piece of wood was placed in the entrance-way. Hence: a *thresh hold*.

In those old days, they cooked in the kitchen with a big kettle that always hung over the fire. Every day, they lit the fire and added things to the pot. They ate mostly vegetables and did not get much meat. They would eat the stew for dinner, leaving leftovers in the pot to get cold overnight, and then start over the next day. Sometimes stew had food in it that had been there for quite a while. Hence the rhyme: "Peas porridge hot, peas' porridge cold, pea's porridge in the pot, nine days old". Sometimes they could obtain pork, which made them feel quite special. When visitors came over, they

would hang up their bacon, to show off. It was a sign of wealth that a man could, "Bring home the Bacon." They would cut off a little, to share with guests and would all sit around talking and "Chew the fat".

Those with money had plates made of pewter. Food with high acid content caused some of the lead to leach onto the food, causing lead poisoning & death. This happened most often with tomatoes, so for the next 400 years or so, tomatoes were considered poisonous.

Bread was divided, according to status. Workers got the burnt bottom of the loaf, the family got the middle, and guests got the top, or "The Upper Crust".

Lead cups were used to drink ale or whisky. The combination would sometimes knock the imbibers out for a couple of days. Someone walking along the road, would take them for dead and prepare them for burial. They were laid out on the kitchen table for a couple of days and the family would gather around and eat and drink and wait and see if they would wake up. Hence the custom of "Holding a Wake".

England is old and small and the local folks started running out of places to bury people. So, they would dig up coffins and would take the bones to a bone-house and reuse the grave. When reopening these coffins, 1 out of 25 coffins were found to have scratch marks on the inside and they realised they had been burying people alive. So they would tie a string on the wrist of the corpse, thread it through the coffin and up through the ground and tie it to a bell. Someone would have to sit out in the graveyard all night, (the graveyard shift) to listen for the bell; thus, someone could be, "Saved by the Bell" or was considered a "Dead Ringer".

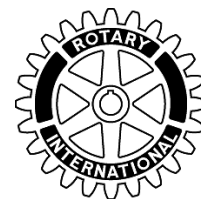
Paddy and Murphy

Paddy and Murphy were talking one afternoon when Paddy tells Murphy, "Ya know, I reckon I'm 'bout ready for a vacation. Only this year I'm gonna do it a little different. The last few years, I took your advice about where to go. Three years ago you said to go to Hawaii. I went to Hawaii and Molly got pregnant. Then two years ago, you told me to go to the Bahamas and Molly got pregnant again. Last year you suggested Tahiti and darn me, if Molly didn't get pregnant again." Murphy asks Paddy, "So, what you gonna do this year that's different?" Paddy says, "This year I'm taking Molly with me."



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STRATHFIELD ROTARY NEWS

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



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Janelle Watson/Ian Johnson/Rod McDougall
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AUGUST IS MEMBERSHIP AND EXTENSION MONTH

TONIGHT'S MEETING

LITERATURE EXTENSION PROGRAM

"Strathfield Girls High School"

Partners Night

Introduced by Paul White

Thanked by Janelle Watson

The President's Column

Last week's Guest Speaker: At last week's meeting we had the pleasure of hearing from another David Martin who as the Branch Manager of Westpac at Strathfield, gave us a great insight into the changing world of local banking. As a banker in a previous life, I can well remember the good old days when your local bank manager had the authority to approve (or decline!) most borrowings. The banks lost their way about 15-20 years ago and took the authority out of the branches and left a local cash handling centre. So it was great to hear that Westpac at least have reinstated some real authority back into the local community – and have thought outside the square and employed young dynamic retailers like David Martin.

Last week we were also pleased to welcome Sue McDonald from the Strathfield Chamber of Commerce. Sue, in consultation with David Martin, agreed (later in the night) that the Chamber of Commerce will be one of the \$250 sponsors of our forthcoming Police Officer of the Year Awards night.

Assistant District Governor Sharon Bond was also with us and gave a short talk about the relationship between the clubs and the DG and the district organisation. Sharon is a PP of Padstow and is now a founding member of Revesby-Wirrimbirra.

Dinner Fees/Apologies: Our caterer is facing increased operating costs and recently sought to increase our dinner fees. While we have negotiated a deferment, the reality is that we could face an increase later in the year. One of the difficulties being experienced by the caterer is in not knowing from week-to-week how many members are going to turn up on the night. We regularly get 7-8 apologies per week for genuine reasons but there are many, many more Rotarians who for whatever reason do not bother to make the 30 second phone call to Eric Khu. Allowing for LOA's and the Rule of 85ers we have perhaps 10-15 members who could, but don't make that phone call.

I am sure that if the caterer had a better idea of numbers he could budget more economically – and perhaps avoid that dreaded price increase. So guys, how about that quick phone call if you find you are unable to attend?

Partners' Nights: We have a couple of wonderful partners nights coming up – the Police Officer of the Year Award's on the **18 August** which looks like being a great night – Commission Andrew Scipione will again be in attendance to present the awards and to be our guest speaker. PP Doug Potter and his committee have worked hard to ensure the night runs smoothly. All they need are good numbers on the night.

The following week, **25 August**, we leave the comfort of the golf club to travel to Ryde TAFE College for a Vocational and fellowship evening. The Ryde kitchens have recently been upgraded and are now a state-of-the-art facility - including the full working restaurant Le Cordon Bleu. Ryde TAFE now has the largest training kitchens in Australia. It should be a great night – and helps the students gain the training, experience and confidence to enter the hospitality workforce.

President Pete

CONGRATULATIONS

Birthdays

12/08/2010 Sal Tosto
14/08/2010 George Hallworth
Eve Dutton
18/08/2010 Allan Petersen

Wedding Anniversaries

16/08/2010 Trevor & Nanette Duxbury

Rotary Anniversaries

Tarrant, Harley 14 Aug

LAST MEETING'S GUEST SPEAKER

Our guest speaker was David Martin. David is the manager of the Strathfield branch of Westpac and he spoke about "Westpac- Back to Basics". David was introduced by PP Kevin Freund.

David told us that he had started working in supermarkets when he was 15 years old. After 13 years in supermarkets he was a store manager and relieving area manager. He found himself working long hours, sometimes seven days a week, and decided it was time for a change. He moved into finance and hasn't looked back.

David told us a bit about the history of Westpac. It is 193 years old. 1992 was a low point in the bank's history with \$1.6 billion written off. 2000 was a high point with the bank's involvement with the Sydney Olympic Games. A recent major development has been the acquisition of the St George Bank with which Westpac still "competes". David advised us that the bank's CEO Gail Kelly is customer centric and is bringing back the "local bank manager" of old. David has embraced this change and is actively engaging with the local community. The bank is spending a lot of money on staff training and branch renovations to develop this new philosophy. It is also closing down "silos", self contained sections of the bank which do not fit within this new approach.

Each branch will run as if it is a separate business paying close attention to its income, expenses and pricing. Local branch staff will be encouraged to "own" their customers and be empowered to make decisions affecting them so far as possible.

David advised us that Westpac can assist customers with their insurance requirements whether it is for house insurance or income protection insurance. David encourages people to start planning for their retirement from an early age. David tells his staff every customer interaction is a gift and every such interaction should be a positive experience for the customer.



David Martin was thanked by David Martin.

REPORTING BY IAN JOHNSON

Windmills Increase Income for Salt Harvesters

By Peter Schmidtke. Rotary International News - 4 August 2010

Five families who harvest salt from the desert in western India have Rotarians to thank for windmills that will double their income. The Rotary Club of Wadhwan City, India, and the Rotary E-Club of the Southwest, Arizona, USA, received a Rotary Foundation Matching Grant and used club and District 5510 (Arizona) contributions to purchase 10 windmills. The windmills pump underground, salt-laden water into shallow ponds, where the salt can be separated through evaporation.

The families - who are among the 10,000 families who migrate annually to the Little Rann of Kutch salt marsh in Gujarat to collect up to 800 tons of salt apiece - previously relied on diesel engines to draw water to the desert's surface.

Five windmills were installed by the manufacturer in February with the help of Rotarians and the recipients. Club members expect the other five to be in use by October, the start of the six-month salt-harvesting season. Deepak Agrawal, governor-elect of District 3060, visited the families in March and says they each saved about \$100 in fuel and engine repair costs over a month long period. "The project allowed them to buy basic amenities -- a glass to drink water from, books for their children, a light bulb," Agrawal says. "We would be interested in expanding the project to serve many more families if the results are positive after the first full season."



Sakuji Tanaka

President-Nominee (1/10/10) – Rotary International 2012-2013

Sakuji Tanaka, a member of the Rotary Club of Yashio, Saitama, Japan, is the selection of the Nominating Committee for President of Rotary International in 2012-13. Tanaka will become the president-nominee on 1 October if there are no challenging candidates.

For 32 years, Tanaka was president of Tanaka Company Ltd., a wholesale firm that went public in 1995 and later merged with other leading wholesalers in Japan. Currently, he serves as vice president of the Yashio City Chamber of Commerce.

Currently a trustee of The Rotary Foundation, Tanaka chaired the 2009 Birmingham Convention Committee. His other service to Rotary includes RI director, regional Rotary Foundation coordinator, district governor, and member of the Polio Eradication Advocacy Task Force, the Permanent Fund Committee for Japan, and the Future Vision Committee.

Tanaka established an endowed Rotary Peace Fellowship, and he and his wife, Kyoko, are Paul Harris Fellows, Benefactors of the Permanent Fund, and Major Donors.

He is a recipient of RI's Service Above Self Award and The Rotary Foundation's Distinguished Service Award.

Tanaka and Kyoko have three children and five grandchildren.

LAST MEETING'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

From President Peter Smith

- Burwood Rotary have issued an invitation for a club exchange night on 8 November to hear their special guest speaker – John Lees. They say that he is a great after dinner speaker and the author of 11 books. It is of course a partners night

From Ian Johnson (International Service)

- SHELTERBOX – Attended Shelterbox Launch from Tom Henderson (Founder)
- Saw a video on Quality Testing of Tents.
- Shelterbox helped 1 million people in 2009
- VILLIAGE AID PROGRAMME – Fund raiser at Regatta Centre 28/8/10

From Roger Vince (Secretary)

- Congratulations to Interact for the Mural they painted for Chalmers Road School
- The Interact Club has funds for 3 Shelterboxes
- Visited Narellan Rotary Club for the Induction of past member Peter Douglas

From Darrell Slater (Club Service)

- **RYDE RESTAURANT NIGHT** – 6.30pm for 7.00pm at Ambassador Restaurant (RYDE TAFE) 250 Blaxland Road, RYDE, Enter off Parkes Street. Drive through to the top and take the life to level 4. A Map and details to be emailed

From Rod McDougall

- Approaching merchants in local area for donations for Raffles. If you know someone, please approach them and then see Rod who will make up the Certificates

From ADG Sharon Bond

- Provided her CV to the club and then outlined the Roles of an AG, i.e. To assist the DG with the administration of the District

From Sue McDonald (SCOC)

- Strathfield Spring Fair on 24/10/10. The Chamber of Commerce is putting together bags and all members are invited to submit information about their businesses. Please contact the Chamber

Sergeant: \$134.45
Raffle: \$230.00

Raffle Winners:

Peter Smith, Rod McDougall & David (Westpac) Martin

Commitment Sheets

(Darrell Slater) - Ryde TAFE Restaurant Night
(Roger Vince) - RYPEN Drivers
(Doug Potter) - Police Officer of the Year

FUTURE CLUB MEETINGS

18th August 2010

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

25th August 2010 TRANSFER MEETING
Visit to the Ryde TAFE Food School
6.30pm for 7.00pm at Ambassador Restaurant (RYDE TAFE) 250 Blaxland Road, RYDE, Enter off Parkes Street

1st September 2010,
District Governor's Visit

8th September 2010,
Boosting Your Brain - Dr. Helen Popovic

COMING EVENTS

15th August 2010 Sunday

Theatre party: 20th Century Fox, special screening of Matching Jack at 10.30 is at Cinema 7, Event Cinemas 505 525 George Street Sydney.
Contact Keith Roffey 0419 046 688

21st -22nd August 2010

"Towards a Stronger Australian Rotary".
In Canberra. Registration \$100 pp. Keynote speaker **RI President Ray Klingensmith**

25th August 2010

Visit to the Ryde TAFE Food School

25th August 2010

Golf Day at Strathfield Golf Club

31st August 2010, Saturday

Meriden Mural Painting at Chalmers Road School

10th September 2010, Friday

Transport to Blue Gum Lodge for RYPEN

26th October 2010

District Golf Championships at Strathfield Golf Club



18th to 20th March 2011

District 9690 Conference at BATHURST