



STRATHFIELD ROTARY NEWS

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



President Trevor Duxbury
Secretary Rod McDougall
Treasurer Peter Smith
Editor Angelo Franco
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Web: www.strathfieldrotary.org.au

APOLOGIES OR GUESTS: Phone: 9746 0397 (Eric Khu)
 (Before 4pm Tues): Email: brontin@bigpond.com

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December is Family Month

TREV'S TIDINGS

"The Law of Triviality". Briefly stated, it means that the time spent on any item of the agenda will be in inverse proportion to the sum involved'.

C. Northcote Parkinson, 'High Finance', Parkinson's Law, 1957

This week we have our Annual General Meeting, at which we will be approving a new Constitution and By-laws, as well as determining who will be on PE Ray's team for the next Rotary year. This year a ballot is needed as there are more candidates for the directorships than positions to be filled. Even so, there is still time for you to be nominated for a position.

This week will see the last edition of the bulletin before Christmas. Make sure that you have already pencilled in your diaries the activities that are planned. We have a restaurant night, a croquet night and, of course, our HMAS Sydney event. Our first normal format Wednesday meeting will be on 25 January, when we will hear about "Debunking Economics" from Steve Keen of the University of Western Sydney. Thank you PP Angelo for keeping us both informed and amused each week. In the meantime, our website will be regularly updated to bring you the latest news from our club, our district, and Rotary International, thanks to the outstanding efforts of PP Raymond McCluskie.

Last week, PDG John Wakefield told us about several issues of which we must be aware when interacting with students. I also received some new Prohibited Employment Declaration forms that need to be completed only by those of our members who have not completed one before. Peter van der Sleses, our Child Protection Officer, will make contact with our newer members in the next few weeks so that our register, and that of D9690, can be brought up to date. We also heard from Andrew Kowalski. Thank you, Andrew, for revealing some of your remarkable family history and telling us about some of your professional experiences. Next week is our Christmas party. It will start at 6.30pm and will be a slightly different format from that of previous years. We will be entertained on the night by the choir from St Christopher's School at Panania, followed by a visit from Santa. If you have been unable to attend any, or many, meetings this year, make sure you come to this one. The week after is the Rotary Children's Christmas Party being organised by Connie Galletta. It promises to be a great night with lots of entertainment, party music, party food and, of course, a visit from Santa. A commitment sheet is circulating but, if you don't get to fill it in, contact Connie to make sure your family doesn't miss out on a wonderful night for kids and grown-ups alike.

At this time I would like to thank everyone in the club who has supported my presidency for the first half of the year. I still hope that we can persuade more of our members to actively participate in the club's activities. Nanette and I would also like to wish everyone a very merry Christmas and a safe and happy New Year.

Remember

Reach Within to Embrace Humanity

TONIGHT'S MEETING

Annual General Meeting

Chaired by PDG David Croft

CONGRATULATIONS

BIRTHDAYS

15 Dec	John Leftwich
19 Dec	Anne Wilson
28 Dec	Doug Potter
30 Dec	Catherine Hallworth
31 Dec	Niall King
9 Jan	Linda Isouard
10 Jan	Marlene Smith
16 Jan	Chang Soo Yoon
18 Jan	Carole King
20 Jan	Connie Lanzafame
23 Jan	KW Son Yoon

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

8 Dec	Rod and Maree McDougall Godfrey and Linda Isouard
16 Dec	Steve and Denise Taylor
24 Dec	Guru and Pam Singh
4 Jan	Stephanie and Terry Rohan
12 Jan	Peter and Margery Foss Grahame and Penny True Harley and Megan Tarrant

ROTARY ANNIVERSARIES

18 Dec	Bradley Ayres
20 Jan	Stephen Taylor
24	Jan Paul White

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRESIDENT Trevor Duxbury

- The Board has accepted resignations for David Martin (Westpac Bank) and Eve Dutton. David has found work commitments prevent him attending Strathfield Rotary and Eve has moved to Queensland for health and family reasons



**MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND
HAPPY NEW YEAR
FROM STRATHFIELD
ROTARY NEWS**

Until 25th January 2012

FUTURE CLUB MEETINGS

DATE	PRESENTATION
14/12/2011	Club Christmas Party
21/12/2011	Children's' Christmas Party
28/12/2011	No Meeting (Christmas/New Year Break)
4/01/2012	No Meeting (Christmas/New Year Break)
11/01/2012	Restaurant Night (Venue to Be Advised)
18/01/2012	Croquet Evening (Strathfield Croquet Club)
25/01/2012	Debunking Economics Steve Keen (University of Western Sydney)
1/02/2012	Club Assembly

CLUB STATISTICS from .30/11/2011

Attendance:-	28 members
Partners:-	1 (Margaret Croft)
Apologies:-	10
Non-Apologies:-	14
85'ers	3
LOA:-	2
Guests:-	1 (John Wakefield)
Raffle	\$220.00
Sergeant	\$84.15

STRATHFIELD CALLING FOR CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

Strathfield Council is calling for nominations for the 2012 Citizen of the Year awards for local citizens/groups who have made outstanding contributions to the community. This is your chance to nominate a member of your community group, school or club who deserves recognition for their hard work and achievements.

Nominations are being sought in two categories and all nominees must be Australian citizens and residents of the Strathfield Council area at the time of nomination.

Young Citizen of the Year is open to nominees aged 16 to 25 on 26 January 2012. All other nominees, including those nominated for Young Citizen will then be considered for the Citizen of the Year Award. Nominees will be judged on a number of criteria, including whether the contribution was outstanding, voluntary, beneficial to the community and/or of significant personal effort. A number of other criteria will also apply. The awards will be presented at Strathfield Council's Australia Day celebrations.

If you know someone who you think has made a significant contribution to the Strathfield community or who has been recognised for an achievement this year – please nominate them.

Nominations close at 5pm Thursday 22 December 2011. To nominate, complete a [Strathfield Citizen of the Year Nomination Form](#) and return to Strathfield Council via email council@strathfield.nsw.gov.au, fax 9764 1034 or mail by Thursday 22 December.

For more information about the Strathfield Citizen of the Year awards, or to have a nomination form mailed to you, please contact Strathfield Council on 9748 9999.

FUTURE EVENTS

10/12/2011 SATURDAY	Carols In Strathfield Park Strathfield Park from 5:00pm.
18/12/2011 SUNDAY	Cape Cabarita Carols Evening Village Green , with entertainment by the "Sydney West Singers". 6.30pm for 7.00pm
11/01/2012	Restaurant Night
14/01/12 - 21/01/12	RYLA Camp at Blue Gum Lodge Applications close 14/10/2011
18/01/2012	BBQ at Strathfield Croquet Club
3/02/2012 FRIDAY	Sunset on the deck of HMAS Sydney from 5:30pm to 8:30pm. \$100pp
23/03/2012	2012 District Conference Penrith Panthers. Including Rotary Expo with over 30 stalls. www.rotaryd9690conference.org.au

HUMOUR FROM OUR MEMBERS

Facts about the 1500's.

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.

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."

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 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.

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 realized they had been burying people alive. So they would tie a string on the wrist of the corpse, lead 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.