



# STRATHFIELD ROTARY NEWS

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



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Wednesday, February 8, 2012

## February is World Understanding Month

### TREV'S TIDINGS

*"Women hate revolutions and revolutionists. They like men who are docile, and well-regarded at the bank, and never late for meals."*

H.L. Mencken. *Prejudices, Fourth Series, 1924*

This week, the after-dinner presentation is by one of our own, PDG Harley Tarrant, talking about "Australia's Revolution". In addition, there will be a short presentation by the Principal of Chalmers Road School, Wendy Milburn, and some of her staff. Chalmers Road School is one of the institutions that we support every year and we will be presenting a cheque to Wendy, being the proceeds of the Carols in the Park raffle.

Last week was our third Club Assembly for the year. I hope that my progress report showed that we are still an active club and that the second half of my year should be as enjoyable as the first. During the discussion of our main items, Recruitment and Participation, many members put forward a variety of suggestions. As with all ideas and constructive criticisms, the Board will consider whether to take them further when it next meets. Chairman of the Membership Committee, Chris Virgona, was happy to hear suggestions as to how this year's membership night might be structured. However, it still comes down to current members inviting potential new ones. I thank PP Rod McDougall for doing such a great job of recording such a busy meeting and the Minutes have been circulated to all members. One of the lengthier contributions was that of Paolo Giammarco. As usual he had plenty to say about the state of the club and what he thinks could be done to improve it. A transcript of his material has also been sent to all members for their consideration.

What a super night we had on Friday! On arrival at the ship we were warmly welcomed by the crew of HMAS Sydney and then had a great night of conversation, some speeches, tours of the ship (which everyone raved about) and, of course, the Rotary raffle, which raised nearly \$3000. Towards the end of the night, several caps from HMAS Sydney were put up for auction, even though an auction was not initially envisaged, which also raised a considerable amount of money. All in all, it was a very successful event, both socially and financially. In the end we managed to raise nearly \$17,000! As I mentioned last week, DG David Cook sends out his Cookie's Communique to all clubs. In it this week he said that Sunset on the Sydney was one of the most enjoyable events that he and Carolyn had attended. Well done PP Peter Manenti, PP Rod McDougall, PP Steve Taylor, PP Peter Smith, and of course, Nanette, for putting it all together. Next week our after dinner speaker will be Robyn Hawes, who will urge us to visit Rookwood Cemetery, "The Place to See BEFORE You Die". This is another partners night and should be a fascinating insight into a very significant piece of local Sydney real estate.

**Remember**

**Reach Within to Embrace Humanity**

*President Trevor*

### TONIGHT'S MEETING

#### *Australia's Revolution*

Harley Tarrant

### CONGRATULATIONS

#### BIRTHDAYS

11 Feb Welwyn Petersen

#### WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

9 Feb Andrew and Maria Kowalski

#### ROTARY ANNIVERSARIES

11 Feb Allan Petersen

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### **President Trevor Duxbury**

- The Breakfast Point Rotary Club is holding a Presentation by Helen Glad, Granddaughter of Rose and Norman Lindsay, about Norman & Rose Lindsay and the Gallery at Faulconbridge. 7PM on the 16th February at the Breakfast Point Country Club, 72 Village Drive, Breakfast Point. The cost is \$25 per head including a light meal. Phone: 0414 734 388  
 Email: [breakfastpointrotary@gmail.com](mailto:breakfastpointrotary@gmail.com)

#### **Secretary Rod McDougall**

- Our third club assembly for this Rotary year was held last Wednesday. President Trevor delivered a mid-term progress report and a summary of plans for the rest of the year. A discussion on club member participation and on membership followed during which remarks were made by several members. Notes from the meeting are included in this bulletin.

#### SUNSET ON THE DECK OF HMAS SYDNEY

Last Friday's "Sunset on the Sydney" was attended by 120 Rotarians and guests who were treated to a wonderful event and were able to contribute to our fundraising for The Ashfield Infants' Home. The cocktail party was held on the deck of HMAS Sydney and guests were hosted by the Captain, officers and crew. Food was prepared below decks and served on the deck (under a large tarpaulin) by the crew. Guests then had a tour of what is one of our most modernised warships - albeit she is 30 years old, and partook in the traditional lowering of the colours at sunset. The compulsory Rotary raffle was a bit of fun with Mike Bailey adding some extras in auctioning the captain's cap for \$550. President Trevor has an update of the funds raised in "Trev's Tidings".

## FUTURE EVENTS

16/02.2012	<b>Presentation by Helen Glad</b> , about the Norman & Rose Lindsay Gallery at Faulconbridge. 7PM at the <b>Breakfast Point Country Club</b> , 72 Village Drive, Breakfast Point. \$25 per head
23/02/2012	<b>Polio-Plus pins at Burwood Westfield</b>
18/03/2012	<b>BBQ at Henson Park Marrickville for the ReLink Australia Games for the Disadvantaged</b>
23/03/2012	<b>2012 District Conference Penrith Panthers.</b> <b>Including Rotary Expo with over 30 stalls.</b> <a href="http://www.rotaryd9690conference.org.au">www.rotaryd9690conference.org.au</a>

## CLUB STATISTICS (from Club Assembly 01/02/2012)

<b>Attendance:</b> -	<b>29members</b>
<b>Apologies:</b> -	<b>6</b>
<b>Non-Apologies:</b> -	<b>14</b>
<b>Guests:-</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>85'ers</b>	<b>42</b>
<b>LOA:-</b>	<b>2</b> (Kevin & Suzanne Freund until 18 Feb)
<b>Raffle</b>	<b>\$195.00</b>
<b>Sergeant</b>	<b>\$ 79.55</b>

## FUTURE CLUB MEETINGS

DATE	PRESENTATION
15/02/2012	<b>Rookwood, "The Place to See BEFORE You Die"</b> <b>Robyn Hawes Partners' Night</b>
22/02/2012	<b>Adventures on the New Guinea Goldfields</b> <b>Michael Waterhouse</b>

## CLUB ASSEMBLY MEETING 1 FEBRUARY 2012

### **Introduction by President Trevor Duxbury**

- Opened the assembly and welcomed members.
- Provided a progress report on club initiatives to date and gave a summary view of plans for the remainder of 2011-12.
- Invited general discussion on Membership and Participation.

### **General Discussion**

- TAFE Restaurant Night.  
**David Croft** queried whether another night was planned. **Trevor Duxbury** advised that the next evening would be in **Ray Wilson's** year.

### **Membership Evening.**

- **Chris Virgona** advised that an evening was planned for May 2012.
- **Grahame True** commented that if all members could bring just one guest then the chances of a small proportion, but significant number, deciding to take up membership should be high.
- **Rod McDougall** commented on optional formats for the evening, summarising those that had been used in recent years. He felt that although the "Rotarians talking about Rotary" approach had historically been successful it could be time to once again adopt the approach involving a special guest speaker.
- **Peter Manenti** felt that a guest speaker approach should be adopted for the next evening and this was generally supported.

- **Allan Teale** felt that the success of PolioPlus and other initiatives provided excellent visibility of Rotary in the community and should be used in promoting the evening to prospective members.
- **Bradley Ayres** suggested that Kate Bracks should be invited (through **Roger Vince**) or perhaps even a paid guest speaker.
- **Paolo Giammarco** felt that inviting a special guest speaker risked not being able to adequately cover "what Rotary does".

### **General Membership and Participation Discussion**

- **Paolo Giammarco** reiterated his earlier suggestion that a simpler meeting format should be considered, one which did not always involve the serving of a full meal. This would generally increase the appeal of the club by: lowering costs (making Rotary more affordable); encouraging more discussion about Rotary and club activities; facilitating more fellowship. He felt that when the club met at Strathfield Bowling Club, communication and interaction about Rotary matters was more forthcoming, when members met after meetings around the bar. He felt that too much emphasis was being placed on the quality of guest speakers in the drive to attract new members. He suggested that a parallel club should be sponsored, with an emphasis on attracting younger members interested in community service. Gave emergency services volunteers, as an example of those likely to be interested. Offered to serve on membership committee.
- **Janelle Watson** commented that she supported the idea of supporting emergency services volunteers. Cited ambulance and fire service workers in particular. Felt that the club should consider an "emergency services" award.
- **Allan Teale** commented that he was not in favour of changing the meeting format. More generally, he felt that changing the way Rotary operates, in the pursuit of new members, risked compromising the essence of Rotary. He felt that meal costs were not a significant issue. Added that the quality of guest speakers was important and encouraged recent initiatives.
- **Tony Lanzafame** spoke in general support of **Allan Teale's** comments. He added that ensuring that new members understood the commitment required for Rotary was essential. He referred to his own introduction to Rotary by **Euan Watson**.
- **Peter Smith** commented on the excellent result achieved by members in attracting guests to the Sunset on The Sydney event. He felt it likely that there were many candidates for Rotary amongst the guests. He spoke in support of **Allan Teale's** comments about Rotary needing to be seen to be active in the community and more widely.
- **Peter Smith** went on to discuss the graffiti removal project and the need for member participation and commitment. He reported that a formal submission had been submitted to Strathfield Council requesting \$10,000 in startup funding. He indicated that a minimum team of sixteen would be required. He commented that the Turramurra Rotary experience (on which our approach could be modelled) had resulted in excellent community exposure and PR.
- **Trevor Duxbury** called for a show of hands on those willing to participate and there was a very strong showing, in excess of sixteen of those present.
- **Bradley Ayres** cautioned that simple awareness of Rotary doing good work in the community would not automatically translate into prospective member interest. A broader approach was needed.

**President Trevor Duxbury** thanked members for their contributions and said that the matters raised would be considered by the board.