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Wednesday, 5 February 2014

APOLOGIES OR GUESTS: Phone: 9746 0397 (Eric Khu)
(Before 4pm Tues): Email: brontin@bigpond.com
6.15 p.m. for 6.30 p.m.

February - World Understanding Month

emphasising Rotary's goal of world understanding and peace.

Tonight's Meeting

Club Assembly -
What Rotarians get out of Rotary depends largely on what they put into it.



A Note from the President

The new Rotary year has begun and I commit to working diligently to bring together a number of aims and projects which I have been working on, in the final twenty one weeks of my Presidential year.

I hope to gain the support of all members in raising the activity level of committees to work towards growing our membership, building our community connections and raising some much needed funds, to all us to support the Strathfield community.

We have finally realised through the hard work of Peter Smith the results of a grant, which is intended to increase our service through the Graffiti Removal Project.

And only just this week we have had a positive meeting with a possible venue for the

establishment of a Strathfield Music Festival, and we will keep you up-to-date on this.

FUTURE ACTIVITIES

The Graffiti Removal requires a commitment from a team of Rotarians as the project will operate every three weeks throughout this year and if members could volunteer their time on alternate teams – then we could conquer the graffiti removal and only have to be involved once every six weeks.

And what about barbeques – these can raise substantial funds and increase our presence in the streets of Strathfield BUT we also need some time commitment – maybe this could also be a six weekly roster for some other members.

I would also sincerely appreciate some support with the fundraising committee, as we look for achievable ideas that utilise our skills but also acknowledge our limitations. Please speak to me directly.

Membership is a crucial part of our aims for 2014 and we would highly appreciate your willingness to invite your contacts, colleagues and other community business people to join us at meetings to meet the members.

RAFFLE PRIZES

Maybe over Christmas you received or purchased gifts which are still at home, not

being used. Why not consider donating these to our weekly raffle organiser Peter Revelos, as this is one of our few fund raisers at present.

We are a great club and together we can make a difference.

-

Suzanne

Last Week

Alan Mclean -

“Splice the Mainbrace”

Last week Alan Maclean presented an extremely entertaining history of rum. We heard about the basic distilling from sugar cane by fermentation and the ageing in (usually) oak barrels and that the majority of the world's early rum production occurred in the Caribbean and Latin America.

While rum is now also produced in many other countries, rum plays a part in the culture of most islands of the West Indies but it is through piracy and the Royal Navy [where it was mixed with water or beer to make grog], that rum became famous.

Rum's association with piracy began with the British privateers trading on the valuable commodity. It then developed into a popular medium of economic exchange to help fund enterprises such as slavery, organised crime and military insurgencies (Like the American Revolution and Australia's Rum Rebellion).

The association of rum and the Royal Navy began in 1655, when the British captured Jamaica. With the availability of domestically produced rum, the British changed the daily ration of liquor given to seamen from French brandy to rum.

While originally given neat, or mixed with (the politically selected) lime juice, the practice of watering down the rum began around 1740 to help minimise the effect of the alcohol on sailors.

Today, a tot of rum is still issued on special occasions, using an order to "splice the mainbrace". Alan touched on many other truths and legends from Horatio Nelson, to the New Zealand Navy being the last navy to give a free daily tot of rum and why rum was mixed with gunpowder to test if it was diluted or not and determining whether it is under or overproof.

This was an excellent talk enjoyed with a tot of the historical liquid.



President Suzanne and Alan Mclean

Announcements Last Week:

From PP Angelo Franco

STRATHFIELD YOUTH ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS 2014

Strathfield Council and the Rotary Club of Strathfield are again sponsoring The Youth Achievement Awards for 2014. The awards are open to all people aged 12-25 who live, attend school or study, train or work in the Strathfield Municipality.

Teachers, coaches and business owners are encouraged to nominate young people or to recommend to young people to submit an application in a relevant category.

Awards are being presented in the following categories:

- **Strathfield Arts and Culture Award**
- **Strathfield Business Award**
- **Strathfield Community Service Award**

- **Strathfield Environment, Science and Technology Award**
- **Strathfield Individual Sports Award (Senior and Junior)**
- **Strathfield Team Sports Award**

Winners of awards will be presented with a plaque and prize. The winners will be announced at the annual Youth Achievement Awards Night presentation ceremony to be held at the Strathfield Rotary Meeting on Wednesday 21 May 2014 at Strathfield Golf Club.

Nominations close 5pm on Friday 11 April 2014.

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

Member happenings

(Compiled by PP Steve Taylor)

Peter Manenti is having a hip replacement in the next few weeks.

Keith Stockall is slowly improving from his recent lung infection.

Steve Taylor's radio control models are progressing with the recent rebuild of the 800 mm long radio controlled PT 109 being completed.

Trevor Duxbury has also recently completed a classic English pleasure cruiser that is also radio controlled and former member Alan Taylor is also into this hobby, building a huge RC tug boat.

The Kamkolkars are off OS for the next four months.

Alan Petersen is looking at new cars, having recently checked out Steve Taylor's new Golf. President Suzanne took her "beading class at Denise and Lynda's "Banjo's Bead House" in early Jan, and very competently made herself a lovely new necklace.

David Croft is really enjoying his new computer (an Apple of course) and his new smart phone.

Maree McDougall received both a new smartphone and a tablet for Xmas (very generous Rod).

Peter van der Sleen's new home in Croydon is progressing steadily.

Good work President Elect Allan for bringing a prospective member along last week.

Arthur Crossan, who hasn't been the best of late, has begun painting again. Thanks for the update Janelle.

MEETING STATISTICS	29 January 2014
Members present	30
Partners	1
Guests	2
Leaves of Absence	0
Apologies	8
No apologies	10
Make-Ups	0
Raffle	\$205.00
Sergeant-at-Arms	\$87.35

Congratulations to those who have birthdays and anniversaries during the next week:

Birthdays

11 February Welwyn Petersen

Wedding Anniversaries

8 February Anne & Raymond McCluskie
9 February Andrew & Maria Kowalski

Rotary Anniversaries

11 February Allan Petersen

FUTURE CLUB MEETINGS

Date	Topic
12/2/2014	WestConnex What does it all mean to Strathfield? - Faye Woodward
19/2/2014	All about the Australian Museum -Lynne Cairncross
26/2/2014	TBA
5/03/2014	Disability, where we are today & why – Betty Stampoulis-Lyttle
12/3/2014	W.C. Wentworth - Andrew Tink
21/5/2014	Strathfield Youth Achievement Awards 2014

FUTURE CLUB EVENTS

Date	Event
1/3/2014	District Conference - Homebush
1 – 4 June 2014	Rotary International Convention



SHIFT2014

new thinking | new technologies | new opportunities

District 9675 Conference

Sydney Olympic Park, 1 March 2014 will be a POWERHOUSE of business advice and tools that can be implemented immediately - in your projects and your business all for \$325.00.

AUSTRALIA DAY IN THE BUSH

Past President of Strathfield Rotary, Brian Johnson, and his wife Janet were hosts to Australia Day celebrations on their property near Orange this year.

The Johnsons, Lawrensons, Trues and McDougalls have been celebrating Australia Day together for many years – dating back to when all four families lived in Strathfield.

Brian, Kevin, Grahame and Rod are all past presidents of our club. Kevin and Lyn moved to

Leura some years ago. Brian and Janet chose their new life style not too long afterwards.

Kevin is an active member of Katoomba Rotary (now in its seventieth year!). Brian is a member of the Rotary Club of Orange.

The Johnsons and the Lawrensons send their regards and best wishes – but have little interest in returning to the big smoke!

Photo shows Brian, Grahame, Maree, Kevin and Rod at rear, and Penny, Janet and Lyn.

