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Wednesday, 5 March 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.

March is Literacy month - emphasising Rotary's ongoing commitment to promoting literacy and numeracy.

Tonight's Meeting



Betty Stampoulis-Lyttle -
"Disability, where we are today & why"

Betty's experience in the Community Sector spans over 20 years - working with a variety of organisations (in Australia, UK, and USA) including over 15 years' experience in the development and delivery of educational workshops & programs for people with disability & families, and staff & volunteers. Prior to joining ACWA/CCWT in 2013, Betty worked in a variety of Disability Specific Services (for people aged 0 – 65 years old). She is passionate about empowerment and

independence for people with a disability and the upcoming changes in the Disability Sector, in regards to the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) or DisabilityCare excite her!

Betty is a member of the Institute for Learning Practitioners, holds a BA (major in Psychology) and is accredited in Certificate IV Assessment & Workplace Training. Betty grew up in a Culturally & Linguistically Diverse (CALD) home, and particularly enjoys connecting with people, exploring diversity and celebrating difference!

Betty will be introduced by Andrew Kowalski and thanked by Kevin Freund

National Youth Science Forum (NYSF) - a report on the 2014 forum from our nominated attendee – Jenny Xu

The **National Youth Science Forum (NYSF)** is a prestigious Australian program dedicated to exposing year eleven students who are heading into year twelve and are thinking about a career in science, engineering and related disciplines to major scientific institutions and researchers, so that they may make informed choices for their future endeavours. They are also given training in time management, interview skills and public speaking.

A message from the President

The Rotary International theme for March is listed as being LITERACY MONTH. I believe that this fits comfortably with my initial intention to support "Education – Literacy and Numeracy" in our community.

BUT now is the time to put this into action. We know that we have many schools in our area – both for the large youth population and also those in other areas who choose the high standards of schooling, for their children's education. And so it is with this in mind that I hope the first "Strathfield Music Festival" will both bring our young musicians together and provide additional funds to improve one important area in the education curriculum – Mental Health and Well Being.

Rotarians bring to their Rotary careers their knowledge, skills and passion. My area of expertise is Mental Health and Suicide Intervention – both as a private consultant and in my work as a trainer with Lifeline. So it is a natural extension that I would like my legacy as a President that local schools will consider their current level of activities and resources in their individual schools to enhance our young population's well-being.

Please consider this project seriously. And think how you are going to be involved in the next few months in both finding out the current projects within the schools and also supporting the Music Festival – so that we widen our horizons – to capture a picture of the future needs in our schools.

For those with contacts within our schools I invite you to speak with our Youth Director or myself, so that we can synchronise the process of exploring the details of current programs and seeking their involvement in providing additional ones.

In coming weeks we will highlight particular roles – including promotion, sponsorship, the possible need for donations of raffle prizes and a commitment to be in attendance on the day – on the weekend of the 24th May 2014.

Please note it in your calendar and think about who else you may be able to invite to the festival – our major fund raiser for this year. But also the Festival has the potential to be an annual event – small this year but with the

potential to be a drawcard to youth and their music in future years.

You joined Rotary to support the Strathfield Community – so surely a project for our Youth is aiming to do just that!

Suzanne

Last Week –

The Ambassador Training Restaurant



The Northern Sydney Institute -Ryde Campus

Last week 40 people made up of members, partners, past members and friends attended the "Ambassador" for a most enjoyable evening.

2nd year trainee chefs prepared our meals and we were waited on by some very new hospitality students, in fact they had only 3 weeks classroom training and then Strathfield Rotary group were the students first experience at serving "real customers",

It was also an opportunity for the "real customers" to catch up for a chat.



Welwyn Petersen and Mary Ingall



Niall King and PP Ray Wilson

And below is a selection of meals served on the night;



Entree



Main

The Ambassador training restaurant at the Ryde campus has an international reputation as a leader in education and training for hospitality staff.



Main



Dessert

Hospitality students practice and develop their skills in the restaurant, creating memorable meals and service in a modern setting.



PP Kevin Freund with President Suzanne



President Suzanne Freund

- The Catholic University has agreed to hold the Strathfield Rotary Music on their premises on 24th May 2014. Further details soon!!

Secretary Allan

- There are only three months and two weeks to go before the International Rotary Convention commences on June 1st. With this thought in mind we are being asked to consider action as Volunteers at places such as Sydney Airport, Railway Stations; and the Olympic Park venues. With our living proximity to the Olympic Park venue it is the intention of the Club Board to strongly encourage members where possible to make themselves available to assist. CAN YOU?

Peter Smith

- The next Graffiti Removal project will be at Homebush Shopping Centre 16/2/2014 and later a possible project at Strathfield Railway Station.
- On Sunday, the 16th March, **Strathfield Croquet Club, at 50 Redmyre Road, Strathfield**, will hold a session called 'Twilight Croquet for Seniors'. This fun event starts at 3.30pm and finishes at 6.00pm. As it has proven popular over the years, bookings are essential. Phone Ruth Bridger (Publicity Officer)

on 9736 3410.

It will start with afternoon tea, and then move on to the Lawns. Croquet Club Members will briefly demonstrate the mallet/ball skills that will be required in a game called 'Golf Croquet'. All participants will have a chance to familiarize themselves with these skills, before playing a game. The Game Rules will be clarified during the game. Then, just before heading home, we may have some fun activities that further hone your skills.

All playing equipment provided, wear casual clothes, flat shoes (sneakers). Dress to the weather.

Tony Lanzafame

- Strathfield Youth Achievement Award Nominations are now open; Nominations close 5pm on Friday 11 April 2014.

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

Birthdays

5 March	Maria Revelos
6 March	Maria Kowalski
7 March	Chris Virgona
8 March	Kate Teale

Wedding Anniversaries

10 March	Bradley and Cheryl Ayres
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Rotary Anniversaries

9 March	Umesh and Anuradha Kamkolkar
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FUTURE CLUB MEETINGS

Date	Topic
12/3/2014	W.C. Wentworth – Andrew Tink
19/3/2014	Partner Talk – Jan Barrett
26/3/2014	"Is it all just dots to you" Di Stevens and Yhanni Anthis

2/4/2014	Your local Federal MP – Craig Laundry
9/4/2014	Lady Convicts – 1800's- Suzanne Voytas
16/4/2014	The Strathfield Report – Charles Casuscelli RFD MP
23/4/2014	TBA
30/4/2014	Engineers Without Borders – Patrick Austin
7/5/2014	Meriden Interact – Sharna Kerr & Students
14/5/2014	TBA
21/5/2014	Strathfield Youth Achievement Awards 2014
28/5/2014	TBA
3/6/2014 (Tuesday)	Hospitality Evening for International Rotarians



Sydney will host Rotary International's 105th annual convention 1-4 June 2014, which is expected to attract more than 18,000 Rotary club members from over 150 countries. The always-colorful Rotary convention will transform the Sydney Olympic Park into a kaleidoscope of energy, color and excitement as Rotary brings together its global network of volunteer leaders will engage in a full agenda of plenary sessions, workshops and a lineup of world class keynote speakers.

HOW DO I REGISTER?

Register online at www.riconvention.org.

FUTURE CLUB EVENTS

Date	Event
16/3/2014	Graffiti Removal Day
25/4/2014	ANZAC Day
29/3/2014	The Big Ride – Sydney Olympic Park
10/5/2014	Strathfield Chamber of Commerce Fun Fair
24/5/2014	Strathfield Music Festival - Australian Catholic University
25/5/2014	Salvation Army Red Shield Appeal – Strathfield
1 – 4 June 2014	Rotary International Convention





In Pakistan, polio vaccinators earn community trust in spite of danger

No polio vaccinator had ever set foot in Killi Baksho, near Pakistan's rugged northwest border with Afghanistan. Most people there have long opposed immunization, believing the polio vaccine causes infertility or AIDS. The combination of that public mistrust and intimidation from militant groups has been nothing short of deadly. In 2013, 20 polio vaccinators and nine police officers assigned to guard them were killed in Pakistan. With that memory fresh in their minds, a team from a Rotary-supported polio resource center went to the village to promote acceptance of the vaccine. They expected an uphill, potentially life-threatening battle. It took the team a month just to persuade village elders and religious leaders to meet with them. But their persistence paid off. Immunizations were allowed to begin. Rotary members have established seven polio resource centers in Pakistan to build community trust in areas that are at high risk of the disease. The centers, along with individual Rotary clubs, sponsor health camps that offer immunization against polio, measles, and other diseases, as well as free checkups, medicine, vitamin A supplements, and eyeglasses. They also advocate for immunization of children in schools, and help to provide it. These efforts are reaching children who would otherwise be missed, and help to change the minds of parents who once refused to let their children be vaccinated. Success in one community "has a ripple effect on adjoining communities," says Ali.



Helping people with disabilities make their own music



Instructor Danuta Warzachowska (left) talks with her student Marcin Miazgowski before a recital by students of the Music School for Children with Disabilities in Honor of Paul Harris. The recital was held in May 2012 at the school in Lublin, Poland.

Music has been an important part of leading an ordinary life for students at the Music School for Children with Disabilities in Honor of Paul Harris in Lublin, Poland. Founded by Rotary members, the school serves 20 students with various disabilities, including Down syndrome, autism, and visual impairments. The Rotary Club of Lublin-Centrum-Maria Curie-Sklodowska has provided funding with help from Rotary Foundation Matching Grants and the Henryk Wieniawski Musical Society, which houses the school.

After their son Mateusz was born with underdeveloped eyes, Mariusz and Joanna Kania looked for ways to help him be active. When he showed an aptitude for music, they looked for a teacher and were thrilled to find the Paul Harris music school.

"A school like this helps children like Mateusz widen their perspectives, see the world a bit differently, and meet new people," his father says. "If it weren't for this school, there wouldn't be a place in Lublin for disabled children who want to develop musically."

By Susie Ma

Adapted from a story in the September 2013 issue of [The Rotarian](#)

Here's a lovely list of Australia's attributes from a visiting American.

Stick it on your fridge so you can read it every time you think we're going to pot!!

'Value what you have and don't give it away.'

There's a lot to admire about Australia, especially if you're a visiting American, says David Mason.

More often than you might expect, Australian friends - patiently listening to me enthuse about their country have said, "We need outsiders like you to remind us what we have." So here it is - a small presumptuous list of what one foreigner admires in Oz.

1. Health care.

I know the controversies, but basic national health care is a gift.
In America, medical expenses are a leading cause of bankruptcy.
The drug companies dominate politics and advertising.
Obama is being crucified for taking halting baby steps towards sanity.
You can't turn on the telly without hours of drug advertisements - something I have never yet seen here.
And your emphasis on prevention - making cigarettes less accessible, for one - is a model.

2. Food.

Yes, we have great food in America too, especially in the big cities.
But your bread is less sweet, your lamb is cheaper, and your supermarket vegetables and fruits are fresher than ours.
Too often in my country an apple is a ball of pulp as big as your face.
The dainty Pink Lady apples of Oz are the juiciest I've had.
And don't get me started on coffee.
In American small towns it tastes like water flavoured with burnt dirt, but the smallest shop in the smallest town in Oz can make a first-rate latte.
I love your ubiquitous bakeries, your hot-cross buns. Shall I go on?

3. Language.

How do you do it?
The rhyming slang and Aboriginal place names like magic spells.
Words that seem vaguely English yet also resemble an argot from another planet.
I love the way institutional names get turned into diminutives - Vinnie's and Salvos - and absolutely nothing's sacred.
Everything's an opportunity for word games and everyone's a nickname.
Lingo makes the world go round.
It's the spontaneous wit of the people that tickles me most.
Late one night at a Barbie my new mate Suds remarked, "Nothing's the same since 24-7."
Amen.

4. Free-to-air TV.

In Oz, you buy a TV, plug it in and watch some of the best programming I've ever seen - uncensored.
In America, you can't get diddly-squat without paying a cable or satellite company heavy fees.
In Oz a few channels make it hard to choose.
In America, you've got 400 channels and nothing to watch.

5. Small shops.

Outside the big cities in America corporations have nearly erased them.
Identical malls with identical restaurants serving inferior food.
Except for geography, it's hard to tell one American town from another.
The "take-away" culture here is wonderful.
Human encounters are real - stirring happens, stories get told.
The curries are to die for. And you don't have to tip!

6. Free camping.

We used to have this too, and I guess it's still free when you backpack miles away from the roads.
But I love the fact that in Oz everyone owns the shore and in many places you can pull up a camper van and stare at the sea for weeks.
I love the "primitive" and independent campgrounds, the life out of doors.

The few idiots who leave their stubbies and rubbish behind in these pristine places ought to be transported in chains.

7. Religion.

In America, it's everywhere - especially where it's not supposed to be, like politics. I imagine you have your Pharisees too, making a big public show of devotion, but I have yet to meet one here.

8. Roads.

Peak hour aside, I've found travel on your roads pure heaven. My country's "freeways" are crowded, crumbling, insanely knotted with looping overpasses - it's like racing homicidal maniacs on fraying spaghetti. I've taken the Hume without stress, and I love the Princes Highway when it's two lanes. Ninety minutes south of Batemans Bay I was sorry to see one billboard for a McDonald's. It's blocking a lovely paddock view. Someone should remove it.

9. Real multiculturalism.

I know there are tensions, just like anywhere else, but I love the distinctiveness of your communities and the way you publicly acknowledge the Aboriginal past. Recently, too, I spent quality time with Melbourne Greeks, and was gratified both by their devotion to their own great language and culture and their openness to an Afghan lunch.

10. Fewer guns.

You had Port Arthur in 1996 and got real in response. America replicates such massacres several times a year and nothing changes. Why? Our religion of individual rights makes the good of the community an impossible dream. Instead of mateship we have "It's mine and nobody else's". We talk a great game about freedom, but too often live in fear. There's more to say - your kaleidoscopic birds, your perfumed bush in springtime, and your vast beaches.

These are just a few blessings that make Australia a rarity.

Of course, it's not paradise - nowhere is - but I love it here.

No need to wave flags like Americans and add to the world's windiness.

Just value what you have, pray for it, work hard for it and don't give it away.

David Mason is a US writer and professor, and poet laureate of Colorado.