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Bulletin Editor Keith Stockall
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Wednesday, 7 May 2014

APOLOGIES OR GUESTS: Phone: 0416 163 090
(Rod McDougall) (Before 4pm Tues):
Email: attendance@strathfieldrotary.org.au

Meeting Tonight 6.15 for 6.30 pm

MAY - INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION MONTH

Tonight's Meeting



**Meriden Interact –
Meriden Staff Member, Sharna Kerr
& Students**

Interact Clubs

Interact Clubs are Rotary International's service club for young people ages 12 to 18. Interact clubs are sponsored by individual Rotary clubs, which provide support and guidance, but they are self-governing and self-supporting. Club membership varies greatly. Clubs can be single gender or mixed, large or small. They can draw from the student body of a single school

or from two or more schools in the same community.

Each year, Interact clubs complete a community service project which furthers international understanding and goodwill. Through these efforts, Interactors develop a network of friendships and learn the importance of

- Developing leadership skills and personal integrity
- Demonstrating helpfulness and respect for others
- Understanding the value of individual responsibility and hard work
- Advancing international understanding and goodwill

Last Week –

Engineers Without Borders – Patrick Austin

Patrick is a 23 year old undergraduate of Sydney University who has been studying a Bachelor of Civil Engineering and Commerce.

During a semester last year Patrick along with some of his student colleagues participated in an "Engineers Without Borders" program, to design a water filtration system for a sheep / cattle station in remote western Queensland sufficient to sustain the development of the location as an eco-tourism destination.

Patrick provided an excellent professional presentation and described the process and design outcomes of the project.

Patrick was introduced by Paolo Giammarco and thanked on behalf of the club by Peter van der Sleen.



(L to R) Paolo Giammarco, Patrick Austin, Peter van der Sleen



SPECIAL NOTE:

After many years Bronte Industries will no longer be accepting apology/guest advices.

For apologies in future, see above for new contact details.

President Suzanne Freund

The Strathfield Rotary Music Festival "Horizon Festival" will be held at the Australian Catholic University, Strathfield on 24th May 2014 Between 11.00 a.m. and 3.00 p.m.

Strathfield is a unique community with a broad multicultural population and a large number of school age students. In recognition of this, Strathfield Rotary club is organising "the Horizons Music Festival" aimed at showcasing young musicians "on The Horizon and presenting varied musical genres and styles – inviting the community to enjoy a unique local experience – and "Broaden Their Horizon" on what constitutes enjoyable music.

We hope that this event is the first of what might become an annual Rotary event bringing the community together in a relaxed environment at the Australian Catholic University, as it expands each year. In this first year it will be a daytime event, and funds raised will support a variety of Rotary projects including the donation of resources aimed at highlighting Youth Mental Health and Well Being in local schools

We will highlight our exceptional local talent, introduce a line-up of musicians who will present a varied program of musical styles and give everyone a chance to experience a true community event. Bring a blanket or buy some food – free admission – and great entertainment.

Commitment by members to this event is required to assist make it successful.

2014 BowelCare Program:

- **Saturday 26 April to 24 May 2014**
Pharmacy Sales (official dates):
- **Saturday 7 June 2014**
- *Last pharmacy pathology collection*

- **Friday 20 and Saturday 21 June 2014**
Return stock to Murray Farm Primary School

This year the Guaiac Kit is being used again and the price remains at \$10.00 per kit.

Call for Volunteers



Rotary Club of Concord need help with Marshals for the 3K Polio walk/run on Saturday morning 31st May. Concord has 4/5 people but it will require about 20 Please circulate your members.

End Polio Now – Make History Today
3K Walk during the Rotary Convention in Sydney on Saturday, 31 May. This is your chance to walk down the historic Olympic boulevard, experience the beautiful parks surrounding Sydney Olympic Park and start and finish the walk at the Olympic Flame Cauldron, all while raising awareness about the fight to end polio. Rotary International President Ron Burton will kick off the walk with a few words of inspiration.

Bring your family and friends, and help kick off the convention with this exciting event!

DETAILS

Date: Saturday, 31 May 2014

Place: Cathy Freeman Park

Start Time: 10.00 am

Entry Price: A\$30 per person

Secretary Allan Petersen

Distributed 10 raffle tickets (\$5.00 each) to all members present to sell. More tickets are available as required.

First Prize



Weekend at Umina Beach in a recently renovated 3 bedroom 2 bathroom top floor apartment, plus a \$250.00 petrol voucher. Total value \$750.00.

The apartment has a large living/lounge room area with expansive windows opening onto to a large balcony with views over Umina Beach and beyond to Lion Island and Pittwater. Accommodates 6-7 comfortably.

Second Prize



Rydges North Sydney, Sailing Package for two people. Value \$289.00.

The ultimate Sydney Harbour experience for two –dinner cruise under the stars and accommodation by the Bridge with delicious buffet breakfast.

Treat someone to a Sydney accommodation experience most people can only dream of.

Check into the Rydges North Sydney, before making your way to Darling Harbour to board a Captain Cook Dinner Cruise on Sydney Harbour!

Enjoy a sumptuous full buffet breakfast at 50four Restaurant.

Third Prize



Mixed dozen Australian wines. Value \$165.00

Peter Smith

A Commitment sheet for the Red Shield Appeal on Sunday 25th May 2014 was circulated.

Tony Lanzafame

Applications for RYPEN received from 2 Meriden Students and 2 Homebush Boys High Students.

Kevin Freund

A Commitment sheet for the BBQ at Ashfield Infants Home on Saturday 3rd May 2014 was circulated.

Grahame True

A Commitment sheet for the Hospitality Night on Tuesday 3rd June 2014 as part of the International Convention was circulated.

Raymond McCluskie

Whilst Allan Teale has been in hospital work and planning for the “House of Friendship” display of indigenous art and craft during the International Convention. Allan has been doing a great deal of work and we will have 100 square metres of floor space which will make it one of the largest display areas.

David Croft

Thanked the club for their support at the Cape Cabarita ANZAC Day service. Over 90 people attended including Cape Cabarita residents and Rotary Club members.

Whilst the morning was not intended to be a fund raiser we had a surplus of \$740.00. This was largely due to the generosity of George Helou and Peter Manenti.

There was an excess of eggs and sausages which were delivered and donated to the Exodus Foundation at Ashfield.

Peter Revelos

Thanked members who have donated raffle prizes which have been appreciated. Unfortunately response from non-attending members was disappointing.

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

Birthdays

11 May

Mary Ingall

Wedding Anniversaries

Nil

Rotary Anniversaries

9 May

Suzanne Freund

FUTURE CLUB MEETINGS

| Date | Topic |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| 14/5/2014 | Ice In My Veins - Belinda Noonan |
| 21/5/2014 (Partner's night) | Strathfield Youth Achievement Awards 2014 |
| 28/5/2014 | NO MEETING |
| 3/6/2014 (Partners' Night) | Hospitality Evening - International Rotarians |
| 4/6/2014 | NO MEETING |
| 11/6/2014 | History, making, & playing the didgeridoo – Peter Kirkwood |
| 18/6/2014 | TBA |
| 25/6/2014 | The Baggy Green Cap - Michael Fahey |
| 27/6/2014 | Changeover Night |

NOTE: Partners are always welcome every week.

FUTURE CLUB EVENTS

| Date | Event |
|--------------|---|
| 10/5/2014 | Strathfield Chamber of Commerce Fun Fair |
| 23/5/2014 | Meriden Interact School Dance |
| 24/5/2014 | Pat Drummond / Strathfield Rotary Music Festival - Australian Catholic University |
| 25/5/2014 | Salvation Army Red Shield Appeal – Strathfield |
| 1 – 4/6/2014 | Rotary International Convention |



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. Register online at www.riconvention.org

Rotary Strengthens Plenary Speakers Roster

This year's convention has quite diverse and exciting groups of speakers. And the names keep rolling in. Mwila Chigaga and Ramkumar Raju committed last week to speak at the convention, joining a roster that already includes a former Australian cricket star and the founder of the World Toilet Organization, among others.

Chigaga is a former Rotary Peace Fellow and senior regional gender specialist for the African region of the United Nations International Labour Organization. She helps create programs for women to facilitate equal access to opportunities. In an interview, Chigaga breaks down these programs, and how her life's work "fits in perfectly" with who she is as a person.

Also check out with Chigaga where she opens up more broadly about Africa and the effects of the recent global financial crisis.

Meanwhile, Raju is a Rotaract representative from Rotary District 3230 in India and a member of the Rotaract Club of Madras Central, Tamil Nadu. Raju helped form a team last year that gathered 10,000 Rotaractors for the Presidential New Generations Conference held in Chennai. He writes about the experience for Rotary Voices.

New speakers are committing to the convention each week, so make sure to check back often for the latest updates.



Rotary special to a father in failing health



Ann Patchett is the author of nine books, including "Bel Canto," "State of Wonder," and most recently, "This Is the Story of a Happy Marriage." She has won the PEN/Faulkner Award, England's Orange Prize, and the Book Sense Book of the Year. She was named one of Time magazine's 100 Most Influential People in the World.

Dave Mars owned a commercial printing company in Los Angeles. He was the one who asked my father to join the Wilshire Rotary club in 1982.

"How did you know Dave Mars?" I ask.

My father mulls over this for a while but doesn't come up with anything. My stepmother, Jerri, goes back to the filing cabinets in the office off their bedroom and miraculously returns with a handful of small Rotary pamphlets, actual facebooks, each one containing about 30 pages of black and white photographs of the men in the club, along with their names and their jobs. We look through 1982 and, sure enough, there's Dave Mars. In 1982, my father was a captain in the Los Angeles Police Department. "I had to be in some sort of service club," he tells me.

"Required." The idea was that knowing people in the community was a good way of finding out where the problems in that community were. It was also a good way to meet the people who might be helpful in solving the problems you were dealing with as a police officer in Los Angeles. My father and I have talked about the riots in L.A. We've talked about the famous homicide cases he worked on – Sharon Tate, Bobby Kennedy. I think it would be nice to talk about something he actually liked for a change. "So, that first time you went to Rotary," I say. "Did you like it?"

He gives his head a small shake. "It was like going to a fraternity house, and I wasn't a member of the fraternity."

My father was 50 the year he joined the Wilshire Rotary Club of Los Angeles. I was a sophomore in college. He did 100 pull-ups every morning, 100 push-ups; more sit-ups than there are stars in the sky. He logged hours on his NordicTrack and stationary bike. I'm 50 now, and my father is 82. He is in a wheelchair, the outcome of a neurological disease called progressive supranuclear palsy. It's like Parkinson's, but its worse. His voice, along with everything else, has grown weak. To hear him, one needs to turn off all other distractions, sit close, listen.

"Rotary got better," he says. It wasn't long before he made friends – Russ Johnson and

Mike Reed, Al Woodill and Ake Sandler. There wasn't as much time for friendship in those days. Being a captain in the Los Angeles Police Department was no small thing. My father wore two service revolvers under his suit jacket. He had a terrific wife, a nice house, and two daughters in college. The unexpected benefit of the service club requirement was that once a week he got to go to the Ambassador Hotel and have a nice lunch with a group of guys he liked. He became a member of the fraternity. I start flipping through the other years of Wilshire Rotary pamphlets on the kitchen table. I find Frank Patchett. I notice that year after year it was a group of guys, only guys. I mention this. "A woman could come to a meeting as a guest," my father remembers. "If she went up to a table and said, 'May I sit here?' half the time the answer was no. If she didn't ask first, if she just sat down, the guys would stand up and go to another table."

In Los Angeles? In the 1980s?

"Late '80s," my father says. "We didn't get our first woman member until 1989." In 1992, he became president of Wilshire Rotary. One of the club members said to him, "If you let another woman become a member, I'll turn in my resignation." My father asked for his resignation. While he was president, the club accepted two more female members.

"He was thinking of the two of you," Jerri says, referring to me and my sister. She reaches over to pat my hand, something my father can no longer do.

My father wanted my sister and me to live in a world where women were safer than they had been before, where women were promoted fairly in their jobs, and where women could sit down to lunch at a service club without having the men at the table get up and move. All in all, I think he did a remarkably good job. My sister, Heather, joined Rotary in 1992 in Mankato, Minn. She said her daughter Lauren was the first baby born to the club. When she moved to South Carolina, she joined Rotary again, and

when she moved to east Tennessee, she joined the Rotary Club of Greeneville.

By 1999, my father and stepmother had retired from their jobs in Los Angeles. They moved to Fallbrook, Calif., an agricultural community two hours south of the city. The only people they knew when they moved there were Mike and Beth Reed, who had retired to Fallbrook before them. Mike and my father had been friends through Wilshire Rotary.

"I remember they invited us to their Christmas party," Jerri says. "It was our first invitation to anything in Fallbrook. We were so happy to go. We didn't know a soul there." Soon after that, Mike invited Dad to be a member of the Rotary Club of Fallbrook.

I ask my father about the difference between the two clubs. "I don't remember doing service projects in Wilshire," he says. I remind him that in Los Angeles in 1982, that club was made up of men like him, and that no one had the time to paint the houses of low-income families or pick up trash on the side of the road, things that the Fallbrook Rotary club, with a healthy contingent of retired members, has made a priority. Once a year, the members host a giant lobster supper fundraiser to make sure there's money to meet project needs in their community.

Rotary, which back in Los Angeles had met my father's professional obligations at the busiest point in his life, now meets his needs in a much more basic way. Every Thursday, Jerri drives him to the Grand Tradition in Fallbrook, a fancy event and garden center with a good restaurant. Members at every table flag him over to join them as Jerri pushes his wheelchair through the room. Dad's friend Connie Fish, who was one of the first women to join the Fallbrook club, stands in line to get him his lunch. She'll feed him his lunch too, unless someone else asks to do it.

In January of this year, my sister's husband, Bill, died unexpectedly. It was, for all of us who loved him, a nearly unbearable loss. Because

traveling across the country wasn't possible for my father, he and Jerri stayed in California, their hearts broken for my sister and for themselves, being so far away from her. But that week they went to Rotary, and when they told their friends what had happened, their friends prayed. The week after that they prayed for Bill and for my sister, and the week after that they prayed again. Rotary members sent cards. They sent donations to the charity my sister had chosen. They stood by my father and Jerri.

I was with my sister in Tennessee and stood by her in the receiving line after the funeral, where again and again strangers shook my hand and offered me their condolences. "I know your sister from Rotary," they said.

I am thrilled that Rotary International is making such progress in its fight against polio, but it must be said that Rotary is also providing a service too ineffable for campaign slogans. It has been a source of friendship, and when something deeper than even friendship is called for, it has been family. The global effort and the Thursday lunch exist side by side, the shared information of businesspeople and the plate brought to the table. It seems to me that this is the most extraordinary accomplishment of all. This story originally appeared in the May 2014 issue of The Rotarian.



Paralympian Dennis Ogbe defying paralysis



For Paralympian Dennis Ogbe, upper-body strength means everything after losing use of his left leg because of Polio.

Dennis Ogbe grips the discus in his right hand. He swings his arm and twists at the waist as far to the right as he can. With one move he snaps back, letting the saucer fly. Upper-body strength is important for any discus thrower, but for Ogbe, a Paralympian, it's everything. At age three, Ogbe contracted malaria, and while receiving treatment at a clinic near his home in rural Nigeria, he became infected with the poliovirus. Paralyzed from the waist down, he was sent home in the arms of his mother. He credits his physical rehabilitation to a harsh form of therapy – the taunts of the other children in his village. After taking his crutches away, kids would dare him to take several steps forward before they would allow Ogbe to join in a game of soccer with them. Eventually, his right leg became stronger and he could walk without a wheelchair or crutches, but his left leg remained paralyzed.

Ogbe, now a U.S. citizen, has made a name for himself in the international Paralympic community and holds the American records for discus and shot put. While competing, he earned a bachelor's degree and an MBA from Bellarmine University in Louisville, Ky. Today he serves as an advocate for polio eradication and as an ambassador for the United Nations Foundation's Shot@Life campaign to promote childhood immunizations. He spoke at Rotary's World Polio Day: Making History event on 24 October in Chicago, which is where we caught up with him.

"Whatever I do in this life, I hope and pray that it is going to inspire people," he says. "I hope it challenges them: 'If Dennis can do it, I can do it.'"