



STRATHFIELD ROTARY NEWS

The Weekly Bulletin of the Rotary Club of Strathfield Inc.
District 9675, New South Wales, Australia



President	Allan Petersen	Secretary	Peter van der Sleenen
President Elect	Stephen Taylor	Treasurer	Rod McDougall
Immediate Past President	Allan Teale	Community Service	Peter Smith
New Generations	Usha Garg	Bulletin Editor	Andrew Kowalski
International Services	Bradley Ayres	Bulletin Printer	Selectprint
Vocational Services	Keith Byrn	Web	www.strathfieldrotary.org.au
Club Services	Arie Pappas	Apologies	Gulian Vaccari 0409 838784

“Whatever Rotary may mean to us, to the world it will be known by the results it achieves.” Paul P. Harris

30 September 2015

PRESIDENT PETERSEN’S PAGE

One of the beneficiaries of the \$25 000 funds from Strathfield Rotary will be to the team that is developing technical initiatives-app and website- for Australians to have access to the clinical trials for their cancer. Concord Hospital in our Rotary District 9675 will benefit from this outstanding of community effort from sponsors, Donors, Rotarians volunteering both time, expertise and funds. Due to the work of the researchers it makes it easier for LYMPHOMA AUSTRALIA Staff to connect patients with their treatments of which they know nothing formerly.

Below please find a photograph of the presentation of the cheque for \$25 000 held recently at the Sydney Opera House. It shows Daniel Geale former World Boxing Champion, whose mother is managing a lymphoma related sickness with the cheque.



CLUB PROGRAM FOR OCTOBER 2015

Sunday Oct 4:

Daylight Saving begins at 2am
NRL Grand Final

Monday Oct 5:

Labour Day Public Holiday

Tuesday Oct 6:

NSW and Qld Term 4 School begins

Wednesday Oct 7:

Leanne Qian club funded recipient
Student Medical Exchange to India

CLUB ASSEMBLY:

“Is it fair to ALL concerned?”

Results of a S.W.O.T. Analysis
discussion paper

Wednesday Oct 14:

The Nepal Earthquakes
Mother Nature at Work

Friday Oct 16:

Chalmers Road School “Comedy for a
Cause” at Club Burwood

Sunday Oct 18: ROTARY

GRAFFITI REMOVAL DAY:

Community members invited to assist

Wednesday Oct 21:

The Making of Gelato with
Joe Di Mara of Pure Gelato

MONTHLY BOARD MEETING

Wednesday Oct 28:

Policeman of the Year Awards:
Flemington and Burwood Local Area
Commands, Deputy Commissioner
N. Kaldas Guest Speaker

Friday Oct 30:

Club assisting Homebush West
Primary School with BBQ at school
function

Saturday Oct 31: Hallowe'en

ANNIVERSARIES THIS MONTH:

October 2: Wedding Anniversary:

Chris and Toni Virgona

October 4: Birthday: Fiona Johnson

Athena Pappas

October 5: Birthday: Grahame True

Wedding: Ted & Mary Ingall



***Paul and Patricia Giammarco
attended the Rotary NSW
Emergency Services Community
Awards at Darling Harbour on
Friday 28th August earlier this
year.***

Paul states in his report that: “The
emergency services and Rotary
are really intertwined Within a
community spirit”.

The evening commenced with all
the nominees being baggiped into
the venue in the presence of
District Governor, Graham Wilson.
He made the announcement that a
Rotary Health PhD Scholarship
Research into Post Traumatic
Disorder in Emergency Service

Personnel would be awarded. Both the NSW Governor, and Premier were in Attendance.

Awards were made in each of the categories (see the advertisement below) for both an unpaid person and a paid person, led by the Commissioner of each service.

The DG Elect of District 9675, Stephen Humphries mentioned that:

“It is so humbling to be in the presence of such extraordinary people that just go to work, support their families and then go and care for the community in such an outstanding way. All of the one hundred nominees deserve our thanks and praise”.

The Minister for Emergency Services Dve Elliott also spoke and offered a vote of thanks.

Dot Hennessey the District Vocational Service Director was praised for her efforts in mounting this inaugural event with the support of her Illawarra Club of 14 members.

For more highlights

<https://www.facebook.com/RotaryESCawards>.



OUTCOME OF DECISIONS TAKEN AT THE CLUB BOARD MEETING: 23rd SEPTEMBER 2015

Apologies received from Rotarian Peter van der Sleen and Director Usha Garg

Minute Secretary: Ed Campbell (Apologies for identifying Ed differently previously)

- That the monthly use of the Club Chocolate Wheel in place of a raffle continue
- Strathfield Council request for Graffiti Removal at Arnott's no longer required
- Director Pappas arranging for a Club rep to book accommodation in the Nelson Bay/Shoal Bay area for District Conference (March 4-6/2016)
- PE Stephen to investigate the procurement of interest of Canada Bay residents
In an ANZAC Day Ceremony with Strathfield Rotary Club
- Director Ayres to advise the Board on the situation of future of District YEP
- Nominated Club members to pursue the formation of Club Rotoract membership
- Response to mother of Madison King (RYPEN attendee) to be assisted with the financing of Madison as a 2016 NYSF candidate to a maximum of \$300
- Advice that Homebush Bendigo Bank will contribute \$250 to each of the Policeman of the Year Awards and Pride of Workmanship Program this year

- Sumal Jassal seeking further funds for Cancer Council initiatives. An amount Of \$250 to be allocated
- Director Smith to allocate member responsibilities for Carols in the Park (Dec 12)
- For BBQ sales and Monster Raffle to include prizes and ticket sellers
- Treasurer McDougall reported that current Uncommitted Funds amount to \$11 916.31 as at 22nd September, 2015

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**Date of next Board meeting:
WEDNESDAY 21st OCTOBER
2015**

- Rotarians should contact a Director with any Agenda Items needing to be included FOR DISCUSSION

Why mentors matter

From the **October 2015** issue of *The Rotarian*

We Americans like to think of ourselves as “rugged individualists” – in the image of the lone cowboy riding toward the setting sun, opening the frontier. But at least as accurate a symbol of our national story is the wagon train, with its mutual aid among a community of pioneers. Throughout our history, a pendulum has slowly swung between the poles of individualism and community, both in our public philosophy and

in our daily lives. In the past half century we have witnessed, for better or worse, a giant swing toward the individualist pole in our culture, society, and politics. At the same time, researchers have steadily piled up evidence of how important social context, social institutions, and social networks – in short, our communities – remain for our well-being and our kids’ opportunities.

Social scientists often use the term **social capital** to describe social connectedness – that is, informal ties to family, friends, neighbors, and acquaintances; involvement in civic associations, religious institutions, athletic teams, volunteer activities; and so on. Social capital has repeatedly been shown to be a strong predictor of well-being both for individuals and for communities. Community bonds and social networks have powerful effects on health, happiness, educational success, economic success, public safety, and (especially) child welfare. However, like financial capital and human capital, social capital is distributed unevenly, and differences in social connections contribute to the youth opportunity gap.



Many studies have shown that better-educated Americans have wider and deeper social networks, both within their closest circle of family and friends and in the wider society. By contrast, less-educated Americans have sparser, more redundant social networks, concentrated within their own family. (By “redundant,” I mean that their friends tend to know the same people they do, so they lack the “friend of a friend” reach available to upper-class Americans.) In short, college-educated parents have both more close friends and more nodding acquaintances than less-educated parents.

Class matters for the density of “close” friendship – the sort of “strong ties” that can provide socioemotional and (in a pinch) material support. Holding race constant, parents in the top fifth of the socioeconomic hierarchy report about 20-25 percent more close friends than parents in the bottom fifth.

Perhaps more important, more-educated Americans also have many more “weak ties,” that is, connections to wider, more diverse networks. The reach and diversity of these social ties are especially valuable for social mobility and educational and economic advancement, because such ties allow educated, affluent parents and their children to tap a wealth of expertise and support that is simply inaccessible to parents and children who are less well-off.

College-educated parents are more likely to “know” all sorts of people. This weak-tie advantage is especially great when it comes to occupations that are most valuable for their kids’ advancement – professors, teachers, lawyers, medical personnel, business leaders – but it is visible even among more traditional working-class connections, like police officers and neighbours.

On the contrary, lower-class parents’ social ties are disproportionately concentrated within their own extended family (and perhaps a high school friend and a neighbor or two), who, because of their own location in the social hierarchy, are unlikely to expand the reach of the parents. Though more-

educated, affluent parents have a quantitative edge in the size of their personal networks, even more important is their qualitative edge, in terms of what their friends and acquaintances can do for them and their kids.

Upper-class parents also enable their kids to form weak ties by exposing them more often to organized activities, professionals, and other adults. Working-class children, on the other hand, are more likely to interact regularly only with kin and neighborhood children, which limits their formation of valuable weak ties. When adjusting to college, choosing college majors, and making career plans, kids from more affluent, educated homes engage a wider array of informal advisers – family members, faculty, and outsiders – whereas kids from poor families typically consult one or two members of their immediate family, few if any of whom have any college experience at all. In short, the social networks of more affluent, educated families amplify their other assets in helping to ensure that their kids have richer opportunities.

Connections are important not merely for getting into top schools and top jobs. At least as

important as the pipeline from a prized internship to a corner-office job are the ways in which social capital can protect privileged kids from the ordinary risks of adolescence. Studies during the past 40 years have consistently shown that, if anything, drug usage and binge drinking are more common among privileged teenagers than among their less affluent peers. What is different, however, are the family and community “air bags” that deploy to minimize the negative consequences of drugs and other misadventures.

Mentors and “savvy” adults outside the family often play a critical role in helping a child develop his or her full potential. Careful, independent evaluations have shown that formal mentoring can help at-risk kids to develop healthy relations with adults (including parents), and in turn to achieve significant gains in academic and psychosocial outcomes – school attendance, school performance, self-worth, and reduced substance abuse, for example – even with careful controls for potentially confounding variables. These measurable effects are strongest when the mentoring relationship is long-term, and strongest for at-risk kids. (Upper-class kids already have informal mentors in

their lives, so adding a formal mentor does not add so much to their achievement.) Measurably, mentoring matters.

Formal mentoring is much less common and less enduring than informal mentoring. In 2013, a nationwide survey of young people asked about both formal and informal mentoring. Sixty-two percent of kids of all ages reported some sort of informal (or “natural”) mentoring, compared to 15 percent who reported any formal mentoring. Moreover, informal mentoring relationships lasted about 30 months on average, compared to roughly 18 months for formal mentoring.

Those national averages, however, obscure substantial class differences in access to mentoring. Informal mentoring is much more common among upper- and upper-middle-class kids than among lower-class kids.

For virtually all categories of informal mentors outside the family – teachers, family friends, religious and youth leaders, coaches – kids from affluent families are two to three times more likely to have such a mentor. Privileged children and their less-privileged peers are

equally likely to report mentoring by a member of their extended family, but family members of privileged kids tend to have more valuable expertise, so family mentors tend to have more impact on the educational achievements of the privileged kids. In short, affluent kids get substantially more and better informal mentoring.

The informal mentoring gap is substantial in elementary school and steadily increases as children age through middle school and into high school. As things stand now, formal mentoring barely begins to close the gap. In fact, the modest compensation from formal mentoring is concentrated in primary and middle school and disappears as kids age. In high school, there is no difference at all in the incidence of formal mentoring between rich kids and poor kids. Thus, the total class gap in mentoring (informal plus formal) begins in elementary school and balloons just as the kids most need help outside their families.

In sum, nearly two-thirds of affluent kids have some mentoring beyond their extended family, while nearly two-thirds of poor kids do not. This stunning gap exists not because the poor

kids don't want mentoring; in fact, they are nearly twice as likely as rich kids to say that at some point in their lives they wanted a mentor, but didn't have one.

One consequence of the mentoring gap is to exacerbate the **savvy gap** – kids from more privileged backgrounds are savvier about how to climb the ladder of opportunity. [Interviews showed that] disadvantaged 18- and 19-year-olds across the country are baffled about school practices, two- and four-year colleges, financial affairs, occupational opportunities, and even programs (both public and private) specifically designed to assist kids like them, such as educational loans. Their less-educated parents' limited skills and experience explain part of this, but equally important is the fact that these kids lack the dense networks of informal mentors that surround their upper-class counterparts. One poignant example from our fieldwork arose when a working-class dad asked if he could bring along a younger daughter to our interview with his son, just so she could meet an actual college graduate. Any serious program to address the opportunity gap must address the savvy gap and therefore the mentoring gap.

Can your club help?

Several Rotary programs focus on mentoring youth. Here's how to get started.

INTERACT is Rotary's service club for young people ages 12-18. Learn how to sponsor a new school-or community-based club. <https://www.rotary.org/myrotary/en/take-action/empower-leaders/sponsor-interact-club>

RYLA stands for Rotary Youth Leadership Awards. Typically, RYLA is designed for secondary school students, but it can be developed for young people of any age. <https://www.rotary.org/myrotary/en/take-action/empower-leaders/organize-ryla-event>

Learn more about Rotary's programs for youth, including scholarships and cultural exchanges.

<https://www.rotary.org/myrotary/en/take-action/empower-leaders>

By Robert D. Putnam
