



STRATHFIELD ROTARY NEWS

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



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/ Angelo Franco
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Wednesday, August 13 2008

AUGUST IS MEMBERSHIP AND EXTENSION MONTH

PRESIDENT ELECTRIC'S LINES

The Olympic Games have started – lots of gold to be dreamt of – I hope our athlete's dreams come true.

On Friday night I attended the first presidents' meeting of the year. The night went well with the main topics of discussion being membership and publicity. One of the suggestions was to circulate our old RDU magazines to local businesses etc. Not a bad idea – perhaps we could organise this through David Croft.

Our DG Paul Erickson has asked that we all access his monthly newsletter via the web – however should you wish to get a hard copy please let me know and it can be arranged.

Secretary Allen should be well rested following his wonderful holiday. I would like to thank our stand in Secretary Roger for taking the reigns – great work Roger.

With this month being membership, I have left some brochures at the Treasurer's table for you to distribute to friends and business colleagues.

Last week we were fortunate to have our GSE team present us with a snap shot of their experiences in Vermont USA – so much was I impressed by their discussions I sent Penny out to buy a bottle of maple syrup straight away – yum!

This week we can sit back and relax in our virtual library and hear students from Strathfield Girls High School delivering their critiques of recently read novels. It is the third year our club has been privileged to host this event. This will leave us feeling as if we have been on our own read-a-thon. I personally am looking forward to this night.

(Sorry no rugby results this week!!)

Remember - Fun and fellowship in Rotary

President Grahame

TONIGHT'S MEETING

The Literature Extension Program
Gabrielle Corry, Strathfield Girls High School
Introduced by Peter Van der Sleenen

CONGRATULATIONS

Birthdays

14/08/2008 **George Hallworth**
Edith Watkins
Eve Dutton
18/08/2008 **Allan Petersen**

Wedding Anniversaries

16/08/2008 **Trevor & Nanette Duxbury**

Rotary Anniversaries

14th Aug **Harley Tarrant**

LAST MEETING'S GUEST SPEAKERS

Paul Giammarco introduced the outbound Group Study Exchange (GSE) Team that went from our District 9690 to District 7870 New Hampshire/ Vermont in the USA in April – May 2008.



The Team Leader was **David Cook** from the Rotary Club of Lower Blue Mountains. David was born and raised in Sydney and spent most of his career in the Insurance Industry with a short stint as an Administrator at the University of Western Sydney before retirement in 2007. He says that he is now practically a full-time Rotarian. He has served as President and on most board positions within his Rotary Club as well as in positions on District Committees.



Amanda Frost was born in Sydney and currently lives in Glenwood in North Western Sydney with her husband Aaron and her pets. Amanda is a Teacher-Librarian with the NSW Department of Education and is working at a sports high school in western Sydney.



Robyn McKenzie was born in Windsor, Sydney but grew up in Wagga Wagga and now lives near Macquarie University in Sydney. Robyn is a High School History Teacher & Softball Coach currently teaching at a sporting high school in Western Sydney.



Teresa Wilson grew up in Adelaide South Australia and has worked in Canberra and Sydney. Teresa is a Commonwealth Government Director and has worked for the Australian Taxation Office and the Australian Customs Service. Teresa has now decided to seek a more fulfilling career outside the Public Sector

The Team each spoke of their experiences in the USA and the lasting effects the Exchange Program has had on their lives.

Last Meeting's Statistics

Attendance: 43 Apologies: 11 Non-Apologies: 11
LOA: Silma Ithram, Arjun Jeganathan, Allan Petersen
The Sergeant raised \$109.⁷⁵

Last Meeting's Raffle (The Raffle raised \$205)

1 st Prize Picnic Set	Steve Taylor
2 nd Prize Mystery	Brian Johnson
3 rd Prize Red Wine	Umesh Kamkolkar
4 th Prize Dinner Next Week	Paul Giammarco

LAST MEETING'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

From President Grahame True

- Commitment sheet for Police Officer of the Year Awards.
- Announced birth of grandchild for Peter Harries.
- Peter Van der Sleen would like to know if any members can assist with the RYDA day at Penrith on 12 August 2008 for Santa Sabina College.
- Advised members that John Watkins is still having treatment and that his prospects are good.
- Advised members that a card has been received from Allan Petersen regarding his travels.

From Acting Secretary Roger Vince

- Advised members to collect a copy of the new District Directory.
- New list of members details to be checked and any changes advised to Roger Vince or Rod McDougall.

From Director Peter Smith

- Need more members and partners to attend the Police Officer of the Year Awards night on 27 August 2008. The cost is \$40 each with a three course sit down meal provided. (The President advised that friends are also welcome).

From Director Niall King

- Need donations of raffle prizes. (The President suggested approaching local shops for donations of prizes).

From Treasurer Charles Pitt

- Advised that all outstanding half yearly dues should be paid within the next two weeks.

From Joe Campisi

- Letter of thanks received for the donation of \$2,000 made to the Club Foot charity from funds raised on the Golf Day

From Steve Taylor

- Advised members of the First Unity Walk for Parkinson's to be held at Sydney Olympic Park on Sunday 31 August 2008 at 10am. The purpose of the day is to raise funds for research and support services for those with Parkinson's

From Tony Lanzafame

- One person nominated for the National Youth Science Forum has been accepted whilst the second nominee has been placed on the reserve list.

From Bradley Ayres

- Reported on MUNA. Five of the thirty five teams that took part were sponsored by our club. The team from Homebush Boys High were the runners-up. The first Meriden team won the Speakers Award and the second Meriden team won the Peace Prize

From Keith Stockall

- Reported on the recent Social Golf Day. Sixteen members and some guests attended. Thanked Ray Wilson for the time he put into the day and for the gifts that were presented

COMING EVENTS

27th August 2008.

Police Officer of the Year Awards
6:30 for 7:00pm Partners Night

31st August 2008. (Sunday)

First Unity Walk for Parkinson's
At Sydney Olympic Park

3rd September 2008

District Governor's Visit

25th September 2008

Samuel Morris Foundation Race Day and Auction
Hawkesbury Race Course.

The Samuel Morris Foundation is Australia's first and only charity targeting both child drowning prevention and support for children disabled by near drowning and/or other hypoxic brain injuries.

22nd October 2008

Pride of Workmanship Awards,
Partners Night

23rd October 2008. (Thursday)

District Championship Golf Day
Strathfield Golf Club

6th – 8th March 2009.

District Conference
Cypress Lakes Resort, Hunter Valley

DISTRICT 9690 CONFERENCE 2009

Friday 6th to Sunday 8th March

To secure central and comfortable accommodation we have booked 28 rooms at the “*Grand Mercure Hunter Valley*” (formerly known as the *Tallawanta Lodge*) at Pokolbin.

Accommodation in the Pokolbin district is always little expensive. We looked at various alternatives - with the proviso that it had to accommodate us all at the same Resort, be in close proximity to the conference venue at Cypress Lakes and have disabled access etc. The cheapest was \$270 per night (3.5 stars at rear of Pokolbin Village) and the most expensive was Cypress Lakes Resort at \$440 per night.

(The Grand Mercure (4.5 stars) rate is \$314 per night.)

To secure your accommodation you will need to indicate your intention to attend - and to commit to the accommodation cost of \$314⁰⁰ per night.

To simplify payment you are being asked to pay as follows:

- \$157 as soon as possible
- \$157 - by 30 January 2009
- \$314 on arrival at conference

(But why not pay the combined August and January instalments, of \$314, to save the bookwork!).

We have also negotiated an early bird booking concession - for the first 18 to book; the Grande Mercure will give double bookings a complimentary upgrade to their Superior Rooms (which are normally worth an extra \$40 per night. This is subject to availability on receipt of a confirmed room request.

The Grand Mercure Hunter Valley Gardens comprises 72 guestrooms, a selection of 4 1/2 star studio, gardens studio, spa, family rooms and suites designed to allow our guests to enjoy the ambience of relaxed luxury.

Each room is beautifully appointed and opens out to a private balcony or courtyard, taking in the wonderful Valley views and magnificent gardens surrounding the property.

Guests can avail themselves of our tennis courts, resort-style swimming pool, sauna, spa, the Lodge library and many other facilities including the Hunter Valley Gardens Village and the recently launched display gardens.

All rooms have reverse cycle air conditioning, refrigerator, mini bar, tea/coffee making facilities, remote controlled television, in-house videos, iron & ironing board, hair dryer and international direct-dial telephones. Disabled facilities are available in some of our deluxe rooms.

Ted Ingall, District Conference Coordinator

FUTURE CLUB MEETINGS

20th August 2008

Clemente Australia,

“**Opportunities for the Disadvantaged**”

Associate Professor Peter Howard

Introduced by Keith Stockall Thanked by Tony Lanzafame

27th August 2008

Police Officer of the Year Awards

PARTNERS' NIGHT 6:30 for 7:00pm

Detective Superintendent Mark Noakes

MC Joe Saad

Thanked by Peter Smith

3rd September 2008

District Governor's Visit

Introduced by Harley Tarrant

10th September 2008

Loyal Staff and Loyal Customers

Two Problems with One Solution

Matt Balogh

(McNair Ingenuity)

Introduced by Neil Kennan

Thanked by Raymond McCluskie

17th September 2008

Kids, the ultimate community responsibility

Craig Davis

(Youth off the Street) Sydney Swans

Introduced by Peter Smith

Thanked by Bert Houston

24th September 2008

Job talks

(TBA)

1st October 2008

Operation Atlas, ICAC Wollongong

Lewis Rangott

PARTNERS' NIGHT 6:30 for 7:00pm

Introduced by Neil Kennan

Thanked by Rod McDougall

8th October 2008

Careflight

Don Kemble

Introduced by Trevor Duxbury

Thanked by Bradley Ayres

15th October 2008

Ronald McDonald House

Adrienne Pearson, General Manager,

Ronald McDonald House

Introduced by Keith Byrn

Thanked by Angelo Franco

22nd October 2008

Pride of Workmanship Awards,

PARTNERS' NIGHT 6:30 for 7:00pm

Introduced by Peter Smith

29th October 2008

Performance Improvement, Becoming More Productive and Getting Better Results

Neil Raman

Introduced by --

Thanked by --

HUMOUR FROM OUR MEMBERS

Simple Answer??

The following concerns a question in a physics degree exam at the University of Copenhagen:

"Describe how to determine the height of a skyscraper with a barometer."

One student replied: "You tie a long piece of string to the neck of the barometer, then lower the barometer from the roof of the skyscraper to the ground. The length of the string plus the length of the barometer will equal the height of the building."

This highly original answer so incensed the examiner that the student was failed immediately. He appealed on the grounds that his answer was indisputably correct, and the university appointed an independent arbiter to decide the case. The arbiter judged that the answer was indeed correct, but did not display any noticeable knowledge of physics. To resolve the problem it was decided to call the student in and allow him six minutes in which to provide a verbal answer, which showed at least a minimal familiarity with the basic principles of physics.

For five minutes the student sat in silence, forehead creased in thought. The arbiter reminded him that time was running out, to which the student replied that he had several extremely relevant answers, but couldn't make up his mind which to use.

On being advised to hurry up the student replied as follows: "Firstly, you could take the barometer up to the roof of the skyscraper, drop it over the edge, and measure the time it takes to reach the ground. The height of the building can then be worked out from the formula $H=0.5g \times t^2$. But bad luck on the barometer.

"Or if the sun is shining you could measure the height of the barometer, then set it on end and measure the length of its shadow. Then you measure the length of the skyscraper's shadow, and thereafter it is a simple matter of proportional arithmetic to work out the height of the skyscraper.

"But if you wanted to be highly scientific about it, you could tie a short piece of string to the barometer and swing it like a pendulum, first at ground level and then on the roof of the skyscraper. The height is worked out by the difference in the gravitational restoring force $T = 2 \pi \sqrt{l/g}$.

"Or if the skyscraper has an outside emergency staircase, it would be easier to walk up it and mark off the height of the skyscraper in barometer lengths, then add them up.

"If you merely wanted to be boring and orthodox about it, of course, you could use the barometer to measure the air pressure on the roof of the skyscraper and on the ground, and convert the difference in millibars into feet to give the height of the building.

"But since we are constantly being exhorted to exercise independence of mind and apply scientific methods, undoubtedly the best way would be to knock on the janitor's door and say to him 'If you would like a nice new barometer, I will give you this one if you tell me the height of this skyscraper'."

The student was Niels Bohr, the only Dane to win the Nobel Prize for Physics.

The Fairy Story

From Grahame True

A married couple in their early 60^s was celebrating their 35th wedding anniversary in a quiet, romantic little restaurant. Suddenly, a tiny yet beautiful fairy appeared on their table saying, "For being such an exemplary married couple and for being loving to each other for all this time, I will grant you each a wish."

The wife said, "Oh, I want to travel around the world with my darling husband."

The fairy waved her magic wand, and POOF! Two tickets for the Queen Mary II appeared in her hands.

The husband thought for a moment: "Well, this is all very romantic, but an opportunity like this will never come again. I'm sorry my love, but my wish is to have a wife 30 years younger than me."

The wife and the fairy were deeply disappointed, but a wish is a wish.

So the fairy waved her magic wand, and POOF! The husband became 92 years old.

The moral of this story:

Men who are ungrateful bastards should remember fairies are female

The Poor Old Dog

From Angelo Franco

An old, tired-looking dog wandered into my front yard while I was gardening; I could tell from his clean condition and well-fed belly that he had a good home and was well taken care of.

He came over to me with droopy eyes, I gave him a few pats on his head; he then wandered onto my house porch, curled up in the sunny corner and fell fast asleep.

A while later, he wandered off again. The next day he was back again and resumed his spot on the porch and again slept. This continued on and off for days.

Curious I pinned a note to his collar: "I would like to find out who the owner of this wonderful, sweet dog is and ask if you are aware that he continually comes to my house for a nap".

The next day he arrived with a return note on his collar: "He lives in a home with 6 young children - he's trying to catch up on his sleep. Can I please come with him tomorrow?"

Unusual Funeral

From Grahame True

A man was leaving a cafe when he noticed an unusual funeral. A funeral coffin was followed by a second one. Behind the second coffin was a solitary man walking with a black dog. Behind him was a queue of 200 men walking in single line. The man couldn't stand his curiosity. He approached the man walking with the dog, "I am so sorry to disturb you, but I've never seen a funeral like this with so many of you walking in single line. Whose funeral is it?"

The man replied, "That first coffin is for my wife."

"What happened to her?"

"My dog attacked and killed her."

Well, who is in the second coffin? "

"My mother-in-law. She was trying to help my wife when the dog attacked and killed her also."

A thoughtful moment of silence passes between the two men.

Then the first one asks in excitement, "Can I borrow the dog?"

The man replied, "Join the queue."