



# STRATHFIELD ROTARY NEWS

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



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**Printed By** Selectprint

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Wednesday, August 20 2008

## AUGUST IS MEMBERSHIP AND EXTENSION MONTH

### PRESIDENT ELECTRIC'S LINES

This week we continue with the Olympic Games – are we all square eyed yet?

Didn't the girls from Strathfield Girls High School perform at their peak in last weeks literature extension programme – great work girls and congratulations to the teachers involved and our youth director Peter Van der Sleson.

Continuing with youth I would like to let everyone know a little more about RYDA (Rotary Youth Driver Awareness). The RYDA program is a road safety education program. The program targets 16 to 17 year olds. RYDA is a community-based initiative of Rotary clubs, partnering those organisations in our community that have a responsibility for, or interest in, road safety for our youth. RYDA focuses on attitude and awareness with the aim of helping young adults become better on the road. It is a one day event held at a non school site which co-ordinates the efforts with local road safety experts, driving instructors and police. Subjects covered are stopping distances, hazard perception, safe celebrating and fatigue and policing. I would like to thank Peter Smith for his invaluable assistance at the RYDA program last week.

The board has made a decision for the club to donate to the Unity Walk for Parkinson's which is being held on the 31<sup>st</sup> August at Sydney Olympic Park. It was also decided to sponsor a shelter box and mosquito nets (shelter boxes provide dry shelter and a warm bed – light and heat – clean water – cooking aids and tools for up to ten people in need). These are dropped into remote areas after devastation by floods, earthquake , etc.

Peter Smith has put great effort into organising our Police Awards Night next Wednesday, so lets all be there to support our police.

Our DG Paul Erickson will be here on the 3<sup>rd</sup> September with his "pearls of wisdom" on this year's goals. We should be in attendance to hear our "leader" speak. It will be a beneficial night to all.

This week we welcome Dr Peter Howard (Associate Professor at Australian Catholic University) who will be speaking on tertiary education for the marginally disadvantaged.

Don't forget Daffodil Day – Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> August – buy a daffodil and help cancer research.

Congratulations to Peter Douglas' All Blacks 19-0 victory over the Springboks on Saturday night (but then again it was the Springboks).

*Remember - Fun and fellowship in Rotary*

**President Grahame**

### TONIGHT'S MEETING

**Clemente Australia**

**"Opportunities for the Disadvantaged"**

*Associate Professor Peter Howard*

Introduced by Keith Stockall      Thanked by Tony Lanzafame

### CONGRATULATIONS

#### **Birthdays**

22/08/2008

*Ann McCluskie*

25/08/2008

*Sue Abbott*

*Angelo Franco*

#### **Wedding Anniversaries**

24/08/2008

*Welwyn & Allan Petersen*

#### **Rotary Anniversaries**

21 Aug

*Angelo Franco*

### CONDOLENCES

22 year old, Tom Carr-Boyd, from Wentworth Falls, was killed in an avalanche, about five kilometres from Charlotte Pass in Kosciusko National Park, yesterday afternoon (Sunday, 17 August).

Tom is the son of President Judy Kell, Rotary Club of Central Blue Mountains. Judy is also the Attendance Officer for District 9690 and Secretary for the RYDA Committee.

## LAST MEETING'S GUEST SPEAKERS

Our guest speakers were from the Literature Extension Program at Strathfield Girls High School. They were introduced by Peter Van der Sleen.

Members of the group were accompanied by the School Principal and the 2 teachers who were instrumental in guiding the group.

The chair for the evening was Amanda To. She introduced Rebecca Luong who posed the question 'to read or not to read'. Raisa Tasnim then explained the judging process. Points were awarded for the storyline, the relevance of the characters, the capacity to sustain interest, interesting or unusual plotlines, originality, and style of language.

Amanda then introduced the first reviewer, Ruby Bell, whose book was 'Pharaoh, The boy who conquered the Nile' written by Jackie French. She was followed by Irene Xu who reviewed 'The Ghost's Child' written by Sonya Hartnett. Next was Emma Campbell who reviewed 'Marty's Shadow' by John Heffernan. She was followed by Alexandra Nugent who reviewed 'Love like Water' by Meme McDonald. Next was Evie Kennedy who reviewed 'Black Water' by David Metzthen. Finally Shrijayanti Gurumurthy reviewed 'Leaving Barrumbi' by Leonie Norrington.

Each reviewer spoke about their respective book for around 5 minutes and were refreshingly honest in their opinion of the book. Books were described varyingly as 'a literary achievement', 'a joy to read', 'a book with a hint of mystery', and 'a refreshing and original story'.

Tania Dinh then announced the judge's decision which was that 'Marty's Shadow' was the chosen book of the group.

Certificate were then presented to the participants.

### Last Meeting's Statistics

Attendance: 33

Apologies: 12

Visitors: 59

**LOA:** Silma Ihram, Arjun Jeganathan, Peter Manenti  
Trevor Duxbury, David Croft.

**Exempt Members:** - 3

**Visitors:** - Joseph Kim, Relatives and Friends of  
Strathfield Girls High School

The Sergeant raised \$111.<sup>60</sup>

### Last Meeting's Raffle (*The Raffle raised \$270*)

1<sup>st</sup> Prize Movie Tickets Joseph Kim

2<sup>nd</sup> Prize Angus & Robertson Book Voucher Visitor

3<sup>rd</sup> Prize Golf Kit Andrew Kowalski

(*Donated Back to Club*)

## Hello From Laura Fleurquin

Sorry for not giving news from me more often but here I'm still enjoying my summer holidays so it's quite busy ! I spent 2 weeks on the French Riviera and it was very nice. The weather was beautiful and we went scuba-diving one afternoon. We also went some times to Nice and Monaco so we had a wonderful time. I sent a card for you but I don't know if you got it. Now I'm back home and I'm busy with my driving school, it's only the theory part so I'm studying a bit. My exam is on September 16th so hopefully I'll pass! And then maybe I'll start my driving lessons!

By the way I got the results of the TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) and I've got good news. I had 93/120, so it's about 75.5/100, so I'm quite happy about it because I found the exam quite hard! And I would like to thank you for that because I wouldn't have this level without this experience! I'm going back to school on September 3rd and I hope I would be alright. I'm a bit nervous because all my friends are gonna leave to bigger cities to go to uni and I'm scared to have some difficulties at first but I should be alright after a few weeks!

I still don't have any news from my didgeridoo, I think they lost it and I won't have it back, that's a shame because it was really beautiful and it would have been a great souvenir. It's great to have all those pictures to remember this year in Australia. I miss it so much, I hope I'll come back one day. I still keep in touch with some girls at school and some exchange students so it's good to have news from the people I shared moments during this year.

I'm looking sometimes at the Olympic Games and I hope Australia will have some goods medals and hopefully France will as well. One of my friends came to Australia for World Youth Day and she really enjoyed it. I wish I could have stay a little bit more to go there.

I hope you are all well and your families.

I miss you all

Lots of love

*Laura*

## LAST MEETING'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

### *From President Grahame True*

- Advised members that past president Ron Thurgar has dementia and is living in a nursing home. If members wish to get contact details they should contact Roger Vince.
- District Governor's Newsletter for July 2008 available. Advised of Governor's wishes that members access the Newsletter via the web.
- Announced for the benefit of guests attending for the Literature Extension Program the availability of pamphlets giving an insight into what we do.
- Thanked the caterers for taking the trouble to organize the Olympic theme for the dinner.

### *From Director Peter Van der Sleen*

- Advised members of the auction by Homebush Boys High School of a Wallabies jumper with bids to be placed on the school's web site. Proceeds will go to a HIV support group in Uganda.

### *From Treasurer Charles Pitt*

- Requested that half yearly dues be finalized tonight.

## COMING EVENTS

**27<sup>th</sup> August 2008.**

**Police Officer of the Year Awards**

6:30 for 7:00pm Partners Night

**31<sup>st</sup> August 2008. (Sunday)**

**First Unity Walk for Parkinson's**

At Sydney Olympic Park

**3<sup>rd</sup> September 2008**

**District Governor's Visit**

**25<sup>th</sup> 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.

**22<sup>nd</sup> October 2008**

**Pride of Workmanship Awards,**  
Partners Night

**23<sup>rd</sup> October 2008. (Thursday)**

**District Championship Golf Day**

Strathfield Golf Club

**6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> March 2009.**

**District Conference**

Cypress Lakes Resort, **Hunter Valley**

## FUTURE CLUB MEETINGS

**27<sup>th</sup> 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

**3<sup>rd</sup> September 2008**

**District Governor's Visit**

Introduced by Harley Tarrant

**10<sup>th</sup> September 2008**

**Loyal Staff and Loyal Customers**

***Two Problems with One Solution***

Matt Balogh (McNair Ingenuity)

Introduced by Neil Kennan

Thanked by Raymond McCluskie

**17<sup>th</sup> September 2008**

**Kids, the ultimate community responsibility**

Craig Davis (Youth off the Street) Sydney Swans

Introduced by Peter Smith

Thanked by Bert Houston

**24<sup>th</sup> September 2008**

**Job talks**

**(TBA)**

**1<sup>st</sup> October 2008**

**Operation Atlas, ICAC Wollongong**

Lewis Rangott

*PARTNERS' NIGHT 6:30 for 7:00pm*

Introduced by Neil Kennan

Thanked by Rod McDougall

**8<sup>th</sup> October 2008**

**Careflight**

Don Kemble

Introduced by Trevor Duxbury

Thanked by Bradley Ayres

**15<sup>th</sup> October 2008**

**Ronald McDonald House**

Adrienne Pearson, General Manager,

Ronald McDonald House

Introduced by Keith Byrn

Thanked by Angelo Franco

**22<sup>nd</sup> October 2008**

**Pride of Workmanship Awards,**

*PARTNERS' NIGHT 6:30 for 7:00pm*

*Introduced by Peter Smith*

**29<sup>th</sup> October 2008**

**Performance Improvement, Becoming More  
Productive and Getting Better Results**

Neil Raman

Introduced by --

Thanked by --

## **HUMOUR FROM OUR MEMBERS**

### **Rail Gauge**

From Tony Lanzafame

Does the statement, "We've always done it that way" ring any bells?

The US standard railroad gauge (distance between the rails) is 4 feet, 8.5 inches. That's an exceedingly odd number. Why was that gauge used?

Because that's the way they built them in England, and English expatriates built the US Railroads.

Why did the English build them like that?

Because the first rail lines were built by the same people who built the pre-railroad tramways, and that's the gauge they used. Why did "they" use that gauge then?

Because the people who built the tramways used the same jigs and tools that they used for building wagons, which used that wheel spacing.

Okay! Why did the wagons have that particular odd wheel spacing?

Well, if they tried to use any other spacing, the wagon wheels would break on some of the old, long distance roads in England, because that's the spacing of the wheel ruts.

So who built those old rutted roads?

Imperial Rome built the first long distance roads in Europe (and England) for their legions.

The roads have been used ever since.

And the ruts in the roads?

Roman war chariots formed the initial ruts, which everyone else had to match for fear of destroying their wagon wheels.

Since the chariots were made for Imperial Rome, they were all alike in the matter of wheel spacing.

The United States standard railroad gauge of 4 feet, 8.5 inches is derived from the original specifications for an Imperial Roman war chariot.

And bureaucracies live forever.

So the next time you are handed a specification and wonder what horse's ass came up with it, you may be exactly right, because the Imperial Roman army chariots were made just wide enough to accommodate the back ends of two war horses. Now the twist to the story

When you see a Space Shuttle sitting on its launch pad, there are two big booster rockets attached to the sides of the main fuel tank. These are Solid Rocket Boosters, or SRB's. The SRB's are made by Thiokol at their factory at Utah. The engineers who designed the SRB's would have preferred to make them a bit fatter, but the SRB's had to be shipped by train from the factory to the launch site. The railroad line from the factory happens to run through a tunnel in the mountains. The SRB's had to fit through that tunnel. The tunnel is slightly wider than the railroad track, and the railroad track, as you now know, is about as wide as two horses' behinds.

So, a major Space Shuttle design feature of what is arguably the world's most advanced transportation system was determined over two thousand years ago by the width of a horse's ass.

### **Killer Oysters**

From Peter Smith

Paddy was a youthful and hard working Irishman at a coastal village in Ireland.

Daily he would pole a heavy old punt out to sea then work a heavy iron grapple to bring up the sand oysters which he sold to the local ice works.

He was a man of regular habits he always arrived home each day at a certain time.

Sadly Paddy did not realise the heavy grappling was taking a toll on a faulty heart.

One day he failed to come home, His wife contacted the Police to investigate him missing.

They rowed out and found Paddy dead in the punt.

Beside him a huge grapple full of oysters he'd tried to hoist aboard.

Headlines next day in the Irish Times Newspaper:-

***"OYSTERS KILL PATRICK"***

### **Who's Driving?**

From Shirley Del Prado

After getting all Pope Benedict's luggage loaded into the limo (and he doesn't travel light!), the driver notices that the Pope is still standing on the kerb.

'Excuse me, Your Holiness,' says the driver, 'Would you please take your seat so we can leave?'

'Well, to tell you the truth,' says the Pope, 'they never let me drive at the Vatican, and I'd really like to drive today.'

'I'm sorry but I can't let you do that. I'd lose my job! And what if something should happen?' protests the driver.

'There might be something extra in it for you,' says the Pope.

Reluctantly, the driver gets into the back as the Pope climbs in behind the wheel. The driver's worst fears are swiftly realised: exiting the airport, the Pontiff floors it, accelerating the limo to 165 kph.

'Please slow down, Your Holiness!!!' pleads the worried driver, but the Pope keeps the pedal to the metal until they hear sirens.

'Oh, my lord, I'm gonna lose my licence,' moans the driver.

The Pope pulls over and rolls down the window as the cop approaches. The cop takes one look at him, goes back to his motorcycle, and gets on the radio.

'I need to talk to the Chief,' he says to the dispatcher.

The Chief gets on the radio and the cop tells him that he's stopped a limo going a hundred and sixty-five.

'So bust him,' says the Chief

'I don't think we want to do that, he's really important,' says the cop.

The Chief exclaims, 'All the more reason!'

'No, I mean REALLY important,' says the cop.

The Chief asks, 'Who ya got there, the Mayor?'

Cop: 'Bigger.'

Chief: 'Premier?'

Cop: 'Bigger.'

Chief: 'Well, who is it?'

Cop: 'I think it's God!'

Chief: 'What makes you think it's God?'

Cop: 'He's got the Pope as a chauffeur!'