



STRATHFIELD ROTARY NEWS

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



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Bert Houston / Angelo Franco
Printed By Selectprint

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Wednesday, December 3 2008

DECEMBER IS FAMILY MONTH

PRESIDENT ELECTRIC'S LINES

Our fellow Rotarian Silma Ihram as guest speaker last week enlightened us on the Muslim culture, an interesting and informative overview.

What an excellent night we all had last Friday, the trivia night. My thanks go out to our very own 'Tony Barber' (Bert) for organising such a well run evening (unfortunately my table came in second; this must have been due to poor judging!!!!) Bert and his team of merry men deserve a big pat on the back. Thanks also to the Rotarians who so generously donated prizes for the evening. The Chalmers Rd School bus will keep operating. Our congratulations go to Margery Foss who has been elected President of the Breakfast Point Rotary Club 09/10 – she will do a wonderful job nurturing our off spring! Tonight we are conducting the AGM 09/10 and I wish Kevin the best for the election of his board. If he has the fun and co-operation that I am having with my board then we can look forward to a good year.

The club has been invited to Several Presentation Day Assemblies to present the Citizenship Awards. I will be attending the Chalmers Rd School; Janelle will be attending Homebush West Primary. We have been invited to:-

- *Strathfield South – Tuesday 9th December 9.15am*
- *Strathfield Girls High – Friday 12th December 12pm*

If you would like to represent the club at either of these prize givings please contact me.

Don't forget to see Tony Lanzafame for job allocations for 'Carols in the Park' - 13th December.

Thanks to everyone who has helped with the literacy packs- having them filled, strap attached and returned by our Christmas Party on the 10th December would be great.

Niall and his crew are starting to gather items for the monster raffle, proceeds going towards the Trish Golf Day in February – this being the time of year for giving, see what you can do , contact Niall.

The Wallabies have blotted their copy book, don't worry they will be back.

Remember - Fun and Fellowship in Rotary

President Grahame

TONIGHT'S MEETING

AGM and Elections

THIS IS THE LAST BULLETIN FOR 2008
MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR TO
ALL MEMBERS FROM THE BULLETIN TEAM



CONGRATULATIONS

BIRTHDAYS

15/12/2008	<i>John Leftwich</i>
16/12/2008	<i>Baheej Ihram</i>
19/12/2008	<i>Anne Wilson</i>
28/12/2008	<i>Doug Potter</i>
31/12/2008	<i>Niall King</i>
9/01/2009	<i>Linda Isouard</i>
10/01/2009	<i>Neil Kennan</i>
	<i>Marlene Smith</i>
11/01/2009	<i>Cheryl Driver</i>
16/01/2009	<i>Chang Soo Yoon</i>
18/01/2009	<i>Carole King</i>
20/01/2009	<i>Connie Lanzafame</i>
23/01/2009	<i>KW Son Yoon</i>

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

16/12/2008	<i>Steve & Denise Taylor</i>
19/12/2008	<i>Les & Rhonda Hockley</i>
24/12/2008	<i>Guru & Pam Singh</i>
30/12/2008	<i>Catherine Hallworth</i>
4/01/2009	<i>Stephanie & Terry Rohan</i>
12/01/2009	<i>Peter & Margery Foss</i>
14/01/2009	<i>Grahame & Penny True</i>
	<i>Harley & Megan Tarrant</i>

ROTARY ANNIVERSARIES

20 Jan	<i>Stephen Taylor</i>
24-Jan	<i>Paul White</i>

LAST MEETING'S GUEST SPEAKER

Our guest speaker was Club member Silma Ihram. Silma was introduced by Rod McDougall. Silma is a political activist, teacher and sought after commentator. Silma is a practising Muslim and titled her talk "Muslim Culture and Australian Integration"

Silma started her talk by listing elements of the Abrahamic faiths that are common. These include:

- *Prophets and Books of God.*
- *Faith in one God.*
- *Judgement Day.*

Silma pointed out that Muslims have a rich history and that Islam flowered in the period 800 to 1600. There were great advances in astronomy, medicine, mathematics and chemistry. For example a mathematician named Al Khwarizmi invented algebra. There were also great developments in ceramics, painting and literature. Many Muslims feel that their once great culture has waned today.

Silma informed us of significant aspects of the practice of Islam which include:

- *Prayer- This occurs about five times each day and takes about five minutes.*
- *Wudu- This is a ritual washing which is carried out before prayer.*
- *Friday Prayer- This usually takes 30 minutes to an hour.*
- *Ramadan Fasting- During this period nothing passes the lips between dawn and sunset.*
- *Eid Celebrations- These are held at the end of Ramadan.*

Another significant aspect is the Hajj which is the pilgrimage to Mecca which every adult Muslim should do once during their life. An understanding of these religious practices will greatly assist the integration of Muslims into the community.

Other practices of Muslims include:

- *Halal Food- This relates to the way in which animals are slaughtered. No pork is allowed.*
- *Alcohol- The consumption of alcohol is not allowed. Silma told us of her family's surprise when she produced her raffle prize from her first Rotary meeting- a bottle of wine!*
- *Visiting Muslims- When visiting a house Muslims remove their shoes.*

Silma advised us that the Australian practice of shaking hands with men and women alike may cause discomfort for Muslim women. Their culture is conservative and it is normal for a woman to preserve a personal space. Silma suggested that it is better to wait for the woman to offer her hand to avoid any offence to either person. Silma advised us that the wearing of the Hijab was done for spiritual reasons and was not a sign of oppression. Silma also mentioned the need to train Imams coming to Australia from another country and the importance of gender discourse which she identified as an issue for all cultures.

In conclusion Silma stressed the importance of the Muslim community finding effective voices which were also accountable. After answering member's questions with insight and candour Silma was thanked by Kevin Freund.

LAST MEETING'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

From President Grahame True

- A Member needed at Santa Sabina presentation of Rotary Citizenship Award Fri @ 8:45am
- More Qantas pillow-slips for Children in Mongolia.
- Carols in Strathfield Park on 13th Dec.
- Email from Laura Fleurquin
- Email from Brian Johnson resigning from our Club to join Orange Club

From Secretary Allan Petersen

- Invitation from the Principal at Meriden to present Rotary Citizenship Award.
- Rotary Citizenship Awards of \$100 given to Homebush West PS, Strathfield South PS, Strathfield Girls HS
- Nomination forms available for nominations for Board & President-Elect
- Update of names & addresses for next week's membership list issue
- Strathfield Council seeking nominations for the Citizen of the Year and Young Citizen of the Year for presentation on Australia Day 2009

From Bert Houston

- 19 tables for the Trivia Night & 7 helpers

From Ray Wilson

- Reminder of Xmas Lunch & Golf

From Roger Vince

- Roger will chair the AGM next week
- Proposing to ask Past Presidents to outline the highlight of their year.

From Doug Potter

- Proposing a "Sergeant's Dinner" on 18th March 2009; with a military theme.

Last Club Meeting's Statistics

Visitors: - Darrell Slater (Campbelltown Club),
7 partners.

Attendance: 36 **Apol:** 14 **Non-Apol:** 14
Exempt Members: - 5

The Sergeant raised \$128⁰⁰

Last Club Meeting's Raffle (The raffle raised \$255⁰⁰)

1 st Prize	Leather Bag	Richard Horwood
2 nd Prize	Picture Frame	Janice Vince
3 rd Prize	Red & White Wine	Ray Wilson
4 th Prize	Dinner Next Week	Steve Taylor

FUTURE CLUB MEETINGS

- 10th December 2008
Christmas Party (Rotarians)
- 17th December 2008
Christmas Party (Children)
- 24th December 2008
NO MEETING
- 31st December 2008
NO MEETING
- 7th January 2009
Restaurant Social Evening (Venue TBA)
- 14th January 2009
Bowls Social Evening
South Strathfield Bowling Club, Augusta Street, Strathfield
- 21st January 2009
Club Assembly
- 28th January 2009
Bushcare and Other Community Environmental Issues
Jeanie Muspratt, Environmental Projects Officer, Strathfield Council
- 4th February 2009
Men's Shed
Peter Sergeant

MEMBERS WHO ARE PAST PRESIDENTS OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF STRATHFIELD

<u>Past President</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Rotary Theme</u>
BYRN, Keith	2004-2005	Celebrate Rotary 100 Years
CROFT David	1982-1983	Mankind is One Honor Rotary with Faith and Enthusiasm
DRIVER, Brian	1990-1991	Enthusiasm
FOSS, Peter	1978-1979	Reach Out
FRANCO, Angelo	1998-1999	Follow your Rotary Dream
HALLWORTH, George	2005-2006	Service above Self
HOUSTON, Bert	1991-1992	Look beyond Yourself Build the Future with Action and Vision
MANENTI, Peter	1996-1997	Vision
MCCLUSKIE, Raymond	2000-2001	Create Awareness; Take Action
MCDUGALL, Rod	2006-2007	Lead the Way Real Happiness is Helping Others
POTTER, Doug	1992-1993	Others
ROHAN, Terry	1986-1987	Rotary brings Hope Act with Integrity, Serve with Love, Work for Peace
SAAD, Joe	1995-1996	Love, Work for Peace
STOCKALL, Keith	2003-2004	Lend a Hand
TARRANT, Harley	1984-1985	Discover a New World of Service
TAYLOR, Stephen	2002-2003	Sow the Seeds of Love
VINCE, Roger	2001-2002	Mankind is Our Business

COMING EVENTS

- 4th December 2008. (Thursday)
Xmas Golf Day & Lunch. 12:30pm
Strathfield Golf Club. 9 holes of golf after lunch
- 10th December 2008. (Wednesday)
Charity Children's Christmas Party
Sydney Showgrounds, Olympic Park, Halls 3 & 4,
Volunteers needed on Mon, Tues & Weds
- 11th February 2009. (Wednesday)
Rotary Foundation Alumni Dinner
Panthers World of Entertainment. Mulgoa Road, Penrith.
Welcome the GSE Team from D4710 Brazil, & farewell the team going to Brazil Cost: \$30.00 per head. E-mail your RSVP by 30 January 2009 to: events@penrithvalleyrotary.org
- 14th February 2009.
Dining at the Duxbury's
- 19th February 2009. (Thursday)
Trish Charity Golf Day & Dinner
Strathfield Golf Club
- 6th – 8th March 2009.
District Conference
Cypress Lakes Resort, **Hunter Valley**
- 18th March 2009.
"Sergeant's Dinner"
Dinner with a military theme

- 17th May 2009.
District 9690 Family of Rotary Picnic Day
"Casuarina" Picnic Ground. Nurragingy Reserve,
Doonside. 10:30am-3:30pm. Contact Marilyn Mercer,
hawkesbury@rotarnet.com.au

STRATHFIELD ROTARY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 3RD DEC 2008

STRATHFIELD GOLF CLUB ***MEETING STARTS @ 6:30PM***

AGENDA

1. Confirmation of minutes of previous AGM 5/12/07
2. Matters arising
3. Presentation of Financial Report till 30th June, 2008
4. Election of Officers to 2009-2010 Board
5. Nomination for and election of Vice-President (President-Elect) 2010-2011
6. General Business
 - i. Nomination of Secretary, Treasurer & Sergeant-at-Arms
 - ii. Nomination of Auditor for Financial Year Ending 30th June, 2010
 - iii. Nomination of Public Officer
 - iv. Any other matters.

HUMOUR FROM OUR MEMBERS

The Goldberg Brothers

From Peter Smith

The 3 Goldberg brothers, Norman, Hiram, and Max, invented and developed the first automobile air-conditioner. On July 17, 1946, the temperature in Detroit was 97 degrees. The 3 brothers walked into old man Henry Ford's office and sweet-talked his secretary into telling him that 3 gentlemen were therewith the most exciting innovation in the auto industry since the electric starter.

Henry was curious and invited them into his office.

They refused and instead asked that he come out to the parking lot to their car. They persuaded him to get into the car which was about 130degrees - turned on the air conditioner and cooled the car off immediately.

The old man got very excited and invited them back to the office, where he offered them \$3 million for the patent. The brothers refused, saying they would settle for \$2 million, but they wanted the recognition by having a label, "The Goldberg Air-Conditioner," on the dashboard of each car that it was installed in.

Now old man Ford was more than just a little anti-Semitic, and there was no way he was going to put the Goldberg's name on 2 million Fords. They haggled back and forth for about 2 hours and finally agreed on \$4 million, and that just their first names would be shown.

And so to this day, all Ford air conditioners show **Norm, Hi** and **Max** on the controls.

Christmas in Scotland

From Peter Smith

A man in Scotland calls his son in London the day before Christmas Eve and says, "I hate to ruin your day, but I have to tell you that your mother and I are divorcing; forty-five years of misery is enough."

'Dad, what are you talking about?' the son screams.

We can't stand the sight of each other any longer,' the father says.

'We're sick of each other, and I'm sick of talking about this, so you call your sister in Leeds and tell her.'

Frantic, the son calls his sister, who explodes on the phone. 'Like hell they're getting divorced,' she shouts, 'I'll take care of this'

She calls Scotland immediately, and screams at her father, 'You are NOT getting divorced. Don't do a single thing until I get there. I'm calling my brother back, and we'll both be there tomorrow.

Until then, don't do a thing, DO YOU HEAR ME?' and hangs up.

The old man hangs up his phone and turns to his wife. 'Okay,' he says, 'they're coming for Christmas - and they're paying their own way.'

For the Lexophiles

From Paul White

1. A bicycle can't stand alone; it is two tired.
2. A will is a dead giveaway.
3. Time flies like an arrow; fruit flies like a banana.
4. A backward poet writes inverse.
5. In a democracy it's your vote that counts; in feudalism, it's your count that votes.
6. A chicken crossing the road: poultry in motion.
7. If you don't pay your exorcist you can get repossessed.
8. With her marriage, she got a new name and a dress.
9. Show me a piano falling down a mine shaft and I'll show you A-flat miner.
10. When a clock is hungry it goes back four seconds.
11. The guy who fell onto an upholstery machine was fully recovered.
12. A grenade fell onto a kitchen floor in France and resulted in linoleum blown-apart.
13. You are stuck with your debt if you can't budge it.
14. Local Area Network in Australia: The LAN down under.
15. He broke into song because he couldn't find the key.
16. A calendar's days are numbered.
17. A lot of money is tainted: 'Taint yours, and 'taint mine.
18. A boiled egg is hard to beat.
19. He had a photographic memory which was never developed.
20. A plateau is a high form of flattery.
21. The short fortune-teller who escaped from prison: a small medium at large!
22. Those who get too big for their britches will be exposed in the end.
23. When you've seen one shopping centre you've seen a mall.
24. If you jump off a Paris bridge, you are in Seine.
25. When she saw her first strands of grey hair, she thought she'd dye.
26. Bakers trade bread recipes on a knead to know basis.
27. Santa's helpers are subordinate clauses.
28. Acupuncture:-a jab well done.
29. Marathon runners with bad shoes suffer the agony of de feet.

Employment in Retirement

From Angelo Franco

I've often been asked, "What do you do now that you're retired?"

"Well, I'm fortunate to have a few friends who have chemical engineering backgrounds, and we convert chemicals from one type to another."

NO; we don't play with chemistry sets!

We turn beer, wine, bourbon, and martinis into urine - and, we're pretty damn good at it too!!'