



# STRATHFIELD ROTARY NEWS

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



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**Wednesday, June 10 2009**

## JUNE IS ROTARY FELLOWSHIP MONTH

### PRESIDENT ELECTRIC'S LINES

We were privileged to have *Tina McKenzie* from Wheelchair Sport NSW, as guest speaker last week. This organisation is both a sporting body and a charity. At the moment they are trying to raise funds to send a junior team to the Melbourne Paralympic Youth Games in October – a breeding ground for future Paralympians. Tina stressed how ‘Wheelchair Sports’ has helped with her personal goals.

It was my pleasure to induct our newest Rotarian last Wednesday, *David Martin*. David is under the Community Service portfolio and I am sure he will be an asset to our club. Congratulations David.

It was pleasing to receive written acknowledgment from Erkan and David the boys from Homebush High who attended RYPEN. An account of their time spent at Springwood was interesting to read, yet another very worthwhile Rotary programme.

This week a cheque to Shelter Box will be presented to Phil Smith. This donation has been arranged through Paolo Giammarco and the Association of Abruzzesi NSW. We thank them for their generosity.

I received an invitation from the Rotary Club of Burwood this week inviting us to attend the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of its charter. Burwood is our ‘parent club’ and if you would like to attend the evening on the 12<sup>th</sup> December please contact Ron Lucas, 9894 2167.

Football everywhere; the State of Origin last Wednesday, everybody hurrying home to catch it on the box. The ‘round ball’ game in Qatar saw the Socceroos secure a spot in the 2010 World Cup, most importantly P.P. Brian Johnson and I saw the Wallabies victorious Saturday night.

It is always good to catch up with Brian and the goings on of the Orange Rotary Club. Brian’s latest venture at the ‘Biggest Morning Tea’ in aid of the Cancer Council saw him pipped at the post in a scone bake-off. This competition was judged by the C.W.A. Brian believed there was favouritism afoot as the mayor of Orange was the ultimate winner. The C.W.A. spokeswomen declared Brian’s scones to be doughy in the middle. Perhaps Strathfield Rotary could include this as a fund raiser next year!!

Browsing the RDU website it was nice to see an article on our major fund raiser – MS golf day and dinner (picture of three smiling golfers – Niall, Les and Ray) – nice work P.D.G. David – great press. Our eighth year working towards supporting MS Research with over \$200,000 raised by us. Our guest speaker Gunilla Denton Cook’s topic this week is ‘Lost Words’ I am looking forward to this.

**Remember - Fun and Fellowship in Rotary**

**President Grahame**

### TONIGHT'S GUEST SPEAKER

#### **Lost Words**

Gunilla Denton Cook

Introduced by Steve Taylor

Thanked by Roger Vince

### CONGRATULATIONS

**CONGRATULATIONS TO DAVID MARTIN WHO WAS INDUCTED INTO OUR CLUB LAST WEDNESDAY EVENING. DAVID WAS INTRODUCED TO THE CLUB BY RAY WILSON.**

**CONGRATULATIONS TO ROTARIAN PETER KILKEARY FOR RECEIVING AN ORDER OF AUSTRALIA MEDAL (OAM) GENERAL DIVISION FROM THE QUEEN’S BIRTHDAY HONOURS LIST FOR SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY AND TO THE STRATHFIELD/HOMBUSH BAPTIST CHURCH. PETER IS A PAST PRESIDENT OF OUR CLUB.**

**CONGRATULATIONS TO ROTARIAN DAVID BAMFORD FOR RECEIVING AN ORDER OF AUSTRALIA MEDAL (OAM) GENERAL DIVISION FROM THE QUEEN’S BIRTHDAY HONOURS LIST FOR SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY OF BLACKTOWN AND TO ROTARY INTERNATIONAL.**

**CONGRATULATIONS TO ROTARIAN BRUCE RUSTON FOR RECEIVING AN ORDER OF AUSTRALIA MEDAL (OAM) GENERAL DIVISION FROM THE QUEEN’S BIRTHDAY HONOURS LIST FOR SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY, PARTICULARLY THROUGH ROTARY INTERNATIONAL, AND TO THE SIGN WRITING INDUSTRY**

#### **BIRTHDAYS**

13/06/2009

*Afaf Helou*

#### **WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES**

10/06/2009

*Johanna & Domenic Alvaro*

#### **ROTARY ANNIVERSARIES**

*NIL*

### LAST WEEK'S GUEST SPEAKER

Our guest speaker was Tina McKenzie, the Captain of the Australian Women’s Wheelchair Basketball Team. Tina was introduced by PP Raymond McCluskie.

Tina is a Paralympian and is currently captain of the Women’s Wheelchair Basketball Team known as the ‘Gliders’.

In February 2009 they won the World Championship in Osaka by defeating host nation Japan. Along the way they defeated Beijing Olympic Champions the USA.

Tina began by outlining what happened in the dramatic event that led to her becoming a paraplegic. In 1995 she was sitting on a wall when she slipped and fell 10 metres. She immediately knew something was wrong and was later told by her doctor that she would never walk again. Tina spent the next 6 months learning to live in a wheelchair and within 8 months was back at work again where she supervised a chain of hair salons. She had to learn to cook, to clothe herself and most importantly to learn to drive her specially adapted motor vehicle. Tina commented that being able to drive herself around was most important as the availability of public transport for the disabled is somewhat mixed.

Prior to her accident Tina had partaken in Hockey, Netball and Indoor Cricket and after her accident she was asked to partake in Wheelchair Tennis. While she admitted that her performance was a great challenge and she was not particularly great it showed her that she could still be part of the sporting society.

Tina also went on a 16 day sailing holiday in the WhitSundays where she participated in Paraflying and undertook a flight in an Ultralight. She has also water skied.

Wheelchair Tennis brought her into the wider area of wheelchair sport and in 1998 she joined the Victorian Wheelchair Basketball squad. Although not successful in becoming a member of the 2000 Paralympic team she was successful in becoming a member of the 2004 Athens team where they won the Silver Medal and again in 2008 where the team won Bronze in Beijing. Tina commented that sport has allowed her to get on with her life.

On a personal level Tina hopes to go snow skiing and ride a horse.

One cannot but admire Tina who has overcome the adversity of a major life changing accident to maintain a position in society where she can inspire others with similar disabilities to enjoy life to the full.

In response to one question Tina commented that there are 14 sports on the Paralympic calendar for wheelchair bound people.

It should also be noted that Wheelchair Basketball was one of the foundation sports on the 2000 Rome Paralympics.

Tina was thanked by President Elect Kevin Freund.

## **Last Club Meeting's Statistics**

**GUESTS:** - Dave Martin, Patrick Cameron

Attendance: 32      Apol: 17      Non-Apol: 6

**LOA:**                      4

**Keith Byrn:**                      till 06 June, 2009

**Bill Carney**                      till 06 June, 2009

**George Hallworth**                      till 20 June 2009

**Peter Manenti**                      till 24 June, 2009

The Sergeant raised \$129.<sup>60</sup>

## **Last Meeting's Raffle**

**(The raffle raised \$155.<sup>00</sup>)**

1<sup>st</sup> Prize      Wine                      Terry Rohan

2<sup>nd</sup> Prize      Sparkling Wine                      David Martin

3<sup>rd</sup> Prize      Book on Gallipolli                      Niall King

4<sup>th</sup> Prize      Dinner next week                      Les Hockley

## **LAST MEETING'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### ***From President Grahame True***

- Commitment Sheets for:-
  - 2010 District Conference
  - Club Changeover Dinner
- Met with Strathfield Council to discuss new plaques and past president names to be mounted at Rotary Grove in Edwards Park. Niall King is liaising with Council
- Thank you to Steve Taylor for Restaurant Night at Cabarita
- Thank you to Kevin Freund, Trevor Duxbury & Peter Smith for attending RYDA last Friday at Penrith.
- Our Change-Over Dinner will be an optional 'black-tie' affair

### ***From Director Niall King***

- A Working-Bee will be held next Saturday (6/06/09) at the MS Centre Lidcombe.
- A second Working-Bee will be held the following Saturday (13/06/09) at the MS Centre Lidcombe.

### ***From Secretary Allan Petersen***

- Thank you letter received from the Australian Rotary Health Research Fund, ARHRF, for the donation of \$1,000 from our Club.

### ***From Director Kevin Freund***

- Thank you to the helpers at RYDA last Friday
- The RYDA day was well received by the participants
- The RYDA program is now also operating at Olympic Park

### ***From Ray Wilson***

- Golf Day next week.
- Members interested in attending the State of Origin Game of League on the 24<sup>th</sup> June 2009 should contact Ray or David Martin. This Wednesday Evening will not have a Club meeting due to the Change-Over dinner

## COMING EVENTS

**11<sup>th</sup> June 2009. (Thursday)**

**GOLF DAY.** Strathfield Golf Club 11:30am

**18<sup>th</sup> June 2009. (Thursday)**

**BREAKFAST POINT CHANGEOVER** 6:30 for 7:00pm  
Breakfast Point Country Club, 72 Village Drive, Breakfast Point

**25<sup>th</sup> June 2009. (Thurs) 10am REGISTRATION**

**CONCORD ROTARY CHARITY GOLF DAY.**

The course now has a new feel with creeks and water features.  
Contact Margaret Bain Smith. Email

[mbainsmith@optusnet.com](mailto:mbainsmith@optusnet.com)

Phone 97430265, mobile 0406 757 270.

Golf \$95 Dinner \$60 Golf & Dinner \$140

**4<sup>th</sup> July 2009. (Saturday)**

**DISTRICT CHANGEOVER** 6:30pm for 7:00pm

**Penrith Panthers. \$30pp.**

**3<sup>rd</sup> September 2009. (Thursday)**

**TAGALONG OUTBACK EXPERIENCE 2009**

Inverell Rotary Club 14 day Caravan Tour. \$1,000 per vehicle plus \$20pp for evening meals. \$30 subsidy for non-vanners. Phone 02 6722 4488 or Mobile 0428 221004

## FUTURE CLUB MEETINGS

**17<sup>th</sup> June 2009**

**"What Life Dishes Out"**

Richard Dabinett

Introduced by Keith Stockall

Thanked by Janelle Watson

**24<sup>th</sup> June 2009**

**NO MEETING**

**TRANSFERRED TO CHANGE OVER**

**26<sup>th</sup> June 2009 (Friday)**

**Change Over Night (Strathfield Golf Club)**

**1<sup>st</sup> July 2009**

**Child Protection and Sexual Harassment**

Frank Portelli

**8<sup>th</sup> July 2009**

**Barnardos Children's Family Centre**

Rosemary Hamill

**15<sup>th</sup> July 2009**

**Club Assembly**

**22<sup>nd</sup> July 2009**

**Job Talks.**

Doug Potter, Suzanne Freund, Godfrey Isouard

**29<sup>th</sup> July 2009**

**House With No Steps**

Dennis O'Reilly,

General Manager Fund Raising & Community Relations

## **UPDATE ON THE GLOBAL FINANCIAL MARKETS AND THEIR IMPACT ON ROTARY**

*Ed Futa, Rotary International*

Dear Rotarians: I'm happy to report moderate improvement in Rotary's financial situation since my last letter on this subject on 2 April. Both Rotary International and The Rotary Foundation saw positive investment results in March and April, marking the first consecutive two-month period of growth this fiscal year. As a result, our investment losses have dropped from US\$26 million recorded through February to \$18 million as of 30 April for RI and from \$222 million to \$187 million for the Foundation. Most of the year-to-date losses remain unrealized and should reverse as the markets recover.

Revenues from club dues remain slightly ahead of budget, and total contributions to the Foundation are comparable to last year. However, a dramatic shift in current fund contributions from the Annual Programs Fund to Polio-Plus in response to Rotary's US\$200 Million Challenge has reduced the Foundation's cash available to fund operations. As a result, we will soon be selling some investments to pay for the Foundation's operating expenses. As mentioned in my previous communication, the District Designated Fund remains secure at this time. Also, operating expenses for both RI and the Foundation remain favorably below budget in most areas, with these reductions projected to continue through the end of the fiscal year.

In April, the RI Finance Committee thoroughly reviewed our proposed 2009-10 RI operating budget, which is balanced and will tightly control spending. The committee recommended that the RI Board of Directors approve this budget at their June meeting. At this time, it is projected that RI's General Surplus Fund will remain above the 85% level targeted by the RI Bylaws through 2009-10.

Also in April, the Trustees of The Rotary Foundation approved an austere operating budget for fiscal year 2009-10. For more than 20 years, your Foundation has operated on earnings from Annual Programs Fund investments, enabling the Trustees to spend every dollar contributed by Rotarians on humanitarian, educational, and cultural programs and program operations. During this period, the Trustees also spent approximately \$100 million of investment returns on Polio-Plus, Children's Opportunities Grants, and other humanitarian programs. However, the current financial situation may prevent us from funding the Foundation's operations in this manner for the next several years. Therefore, at the request of the Trustees, Trustee Chair Jonathan Majiyagbe appointed a special committee to develop an equitable and effective multiyear plan to restore the Foundation's reserves. Additionally, the Foundation's Investment Advisory Committee is reviewing the Annual Programs Fund investment policy to ensure that the value of your contributions is protected and that the Foundation will have sufficient liquidity to meet program payments and operating expenses.

Our Foundation has thrived over the past few decades. The growth in our programs is due to your financial support. If you have not yet done so, I hope you will join those Rotarians who have made a contribution to the Annual Programs Fund by 30 June. Every gift, no matter the amount, counts. Your generosity will make a difference in the 33,000 communities that Rotary serves.

# **HUMOUR FROM OUR MEMBERS**

## **CATASTROPHIC COSTS IN HISTORY** From Shirley Del Prado

### **Titanic - \$150 Million**

The sinking of the Titanic is possibly the most famous accident in the world. But it barely makes our list of top 10 most expensive. On April 15, 1912, the Titanic sank on its maiden voyage and was considered to be the most luxurious ocean liner ever built. Over 1,500 people lost their lives when the ship ran into an iceberg and sunk in frigid waters. The ship cost \$7 million to build (\$150 million in today's dollars).

### **Tanker Truck vs Bridge - \$358 Million**

On August 26, 2004, a car collided with a tanker truck containing 32,000 liters of fuel on the Wiehltal Bridge in Germany. The tanker crashed through the guardrail and fell 90 feet off the A4 Autobahn resulting in a huge explosion and fire which destroyed the load-bearing ability of the bridge. Temporary repairs cost \$40 million and the cost to replace the bridge is estimated at \$318 Million. MetroLink Crash - \$500 Million On September 12, 2008, in what was one of the worst train crashes in California history, 25 people were killed when a Metrolink commuter train crashed head-on into a Union Pacific freight train in Los Angeles. It is thought that the Metrolink train may have run through a red signal while the conductor was busy text messaging. Wrongful death lawsuits are expected to cause \$500 million in losses for Metrolink.

### **B-2 Bomber Crash - \$1.4 Billion**

Here we have our first billion dollar accident (and we're only #7 on the list). This B-2 stealth bomber crashed shortly after taking off from an air base in Guam on February 23, 2008. Investigators blamed distorted data in the flight control computers caused by moisture in the system. This resulted in the aircraft making a sudden nose-up move which made the B-2 stall and crash. This was 1 of only 21 ever built and was the most expensive aviation accident in history. Both pilots were able to eject to safety.

### **Exxon Valdez - \$2.5 Billion**

The Exxon Valdez oil spill was not a large one in relation to the world's biggest oil spills, but it was a costly one due to the remote location of Prince William Sound (accessible only by helicopter and boat). On March 24, 1989, 10.8 million gallons of oil was spilled when the ship's master, Joseph Hazelwood, left the controls and the ship crashed into a Reef. The cleanup cost Exxon \$2.5 billion.

### **Piper Alpha Oil Rig - \$3.4 Billion**

The world's worst off-shore oil disaster. At one time, it was the world's single largest oil producer, spewing out 31,000 barrels of oil per day. On July 6, 1988, as part of routine maintenance, technicians removed and checked safety valves which were essential in preventing dangerous build-up of liquid gas. There were 100 identical safety valves which were checked. Unfortunately, the technicians made a mistake and forgot to replace one of them. At 10 PM that same night, a technician pressed a start button for the liquid gas pumps and the world's most expensive oil rig accident was set in motion. Within 2 hours, the 300 foot platform was engulfed in flames. It eventually collapsed, killing 167 workers and resulting in \$3.4 Billion in damages.

### **Challenger Explosion - \$5.5 Billion**

The Space Shuttle Challenger was destroyed 73 seconds after takeoff due on January 28, 1986 due to a faulty O-ring. It failed to seal one of the joints, allowing pressurized gas to reach the outside. This in turn caused the external tank to dump its payload of liquid hydrogen causing a massive explosion. The cost of replacing the Space Shuttle was \$2 billion in 1986 (\$4.5 billion in today's dollars). The cost of investigation, problem correction, and replacement of lost equipment cost \$450 million from 1986-1987 (\$1 Billion in today's dollars).

### **Prestige Oil Spill - \$12 Billion**

On November 13, 2002, the Prestige oil tanker was carrying 77,000 tons of heavy fuel oil when one of its twelve tanks burst during a storm off Galicia, Spain. Fearing that the ship would sink, the captain called for help from Spanish rescue workers, expecting them to take the ship into harbour. However, pressure from local authorities forced the captain to steer the ship away from the coast. The captain tried to get help from the French and Portuguese authorities, but they too ordered the ship away from their shores. The storm eventually took its toll on the ship resulting in the tanker splitting in half and releasing 20 million gallons oil into the sea. According to a report by the Pontevedra Economist Board, the total cleanup cost \$12 billion.

### **Space Shuttle Columbia - \$13 Billion**

The Space Shuttle Columbia was the first space-worthy shuttle in NASA's orbital fleet. It was destroyed during re-entry over Texas on February 1, 2003 after a hole was punctured in one of the wings during launch 16 days earlier. The original cost of the shuttle was \$2 Billion in 1978. That comes out to \$6.3 Billion in today's dollars. \$500 million was spent on the investigation, making it the costliest aircraft accident investigation in history. The search and recovery of debris cost \$300 million. In the end, the total cost of the accident (not including replacement of the shuttle) came out to \$13 Billion according to the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics.

### **Chernobyl - \$200 Billion**

On April 26, 1986, the world witnessed the costliest accident in history. The Chernobyl disaster has been called the biggest socio-economic catastrophe in peacetime history. 50% of the area of Ukraine is in some way contaminated. Over 200,000 people had to be evacuated and resettled while 1.7 million people were directly affected by the disaster. The death toll attributed to Chernobyl, including people who died from cancer years later, is estimated at 125,000. The total costs including cleanup, resettlement, and compensation to victims has been estimated to be roughly \$200 Billion. The cost of a new steel shelter for the Chernobyl nuclear plant will cost \$2 billion alone. The accident was officially attributed to power plant operators who violated plant procedures and were ignorant of the safety requirements needed.

### **Gordon Brown - \$300 Billion since he came to power**

Since he came to power Gordon Brown has spent \$300 Billion with soaring public spending, together with propping up the banks the ailing economy which he also presided over as Chancellor.