

# STRATHFIELD ROTARY NEWS

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



**President** Grahame True  
**Secretary** Allan Petersen  
**Editors** Ian Johnson / Peter Douglas /  
Bert Houston / Angelo Franco  
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**Web:** [www.strathfieldrotary.org.au](http://www.strathfieldrotary.org.au)

**APOLOGIES BY 4pm TUES** Eric Khu 9746 0397  
**OR EXTRA ATTENDEES** Email: [brontin@bigpond.com](mailto:brontin@bigpond.com)

**LATE APOLOGIES by 5pm WEDS:** Kevin Freund 0412 494125

**Wednesday, March 11 2009**

## MARCH IS LITERACY MONTH

### PRESIDENT ELECTRIC'S LINES

A small band of Strathfield Rotarians that attended the District Conference last weekend were enriched by a very full programme. The key note speakers were Deepa Willingham (PACE), Brian McGuigan (wine / history of the Hunter District), Professor Anthony Jorm (first aid for mental health), Kerry Pottharst (Olympian), James Morrison (musician) and Susan Templeman (Journalist). These speakers were punctuated throughout the weekend by District Directors talking on their portfolios.

Deepa Willingham from PACE (Promise of Assurance to Children Everywhere) spoke on the organisations mission to nurture the education, nutrition and social development of young girls in the slums of Kolkata (formerly Calcutta) India. Kerry Pottharst and James Morrison were both excellent motivational speakers. Kerry stated we must set ourselves goals, look at them daily and pursue even if fearful. We must meet our challenges which our own Burt demonstrated, though petrified, he managed to walk bare footed across a bed of broken glass – amazing.

James pushed his message i.e. we are all what we want to be, perhaps not experts, but with perseverance we can make it. He used humour, anecdotes of his life and great music to put his points across. Both these speakers left us leaving the auditorium on a high.

Susan Templeman (daughter of past Strathfield Rotarian Bob) had an interesting topic – a younger person's views of Rotary and what may encourage them to join. Susan said not only to use the print media to advertise “Rotary” but we must also consider increased use of electronic media e.g. websites, u-tube etc. I would like to thank P.D.G. David for his continued efforts in submitting articles of our club to the local paper – Susan said monthly articles are an essential – David that is a challenge.

The conference was not only a learning experience but lots of fun – Saturday night in Hollywood saw our group dress for the occasion to walk the red carpet, many laughs and lots of dancing. Thank you to Ted and Peter Smith for organising all facets of the conference for us.

Don't forget to fill out the commitment sheets tonight.

- Sergeants Dinner – 18<sup>th</sup> March
- Elizabeth Farm – 8<sup>th</sup> April
- Car Rally - 22<sup>nd</sup> March
- OTEN – 15<sup>th</sup> April

These will all be great functions so please do your best to attend.

**Remember - Fun and Fellowship in Rotary**

**President Grahame**

### TONIGHT'S GUEST SPEAKER

#### **Polio Plus Program**

PDG Lloyd Roever

Introduced by Niall King    Thanked by Ray McCluskie

### CONGRATULATIONS

#### **BIRTHDAYS**

14/03/2009    *Strathfield Rotary 1971*  
17/03/2009    *Joan Brown*

#### **WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES**

213/03/2009    *Keith & Sue Byrn*  
18/03/2009    *Brian & Cheryl Driver*

#### **ROTARY ANNIVERSARIES**

14 Mar    *McCluskie, Raymond*  
14 Mar    *Thurgar, Ronald*

### LAST MEETING'S GUEST SPEAKER

Our guest speaker was Paul Martin whose subject was *'Weird and Strange Weapons'*.

Paul was introduced by Trevor Duxbury.

Paul is a Licensed Firearms Dealer whose specialty is the weaponry of WW1, WW2 and the Vietnam War. He also teaches Australian Military History.

Paul had with him an array of weaponry which he gave details of as they were shown to us.

These included a fork which had been fashioned into a knuckle duster by an inmate of Bathurst jail, a pistol made at Long Bay Jail by Darcy Dugan and Lock Pick which had been made from hacksaw blades and nail-files. Amongst other items were an 1890 .22 Pistol; a 1937 machete and a genuine 'bowie' knife. Paul also displayed a Daisy Air gun, a BSA poacher's gun and a 2 shot derringer

Paul also had a selection of concealed weapons. These included a walking stick shotgun, a riding crop with a concealed knife, an umbrella with a concealed knife and a biro with a concealed blade and a pen gun.

Paul told the story about a rifle which came to light after being found concealed in the back of a piano. Upon further investigation the rifle was found to have originally been owned by the renowned Australian poet Henry Lawson.

Possibly the most unusual, and certainly the most deadly, was an air bolt weapon which used compressed air to fire

a projectile. The recoil from this weapon was apparently vicious and the power of the projectile was such that anything in its path was totally destroyed.

The best looking weapon on display was a Colt 'Anaconda' .44 calibre revolver. Although only 10 years old the basic Colt design is straight out of the American wild west of the 1800's.

The final weapon was described by Paul as "Ladies Best Friend" and was possessed by the 'ladies of the night'. It was not a weapon as such but fired a stream of a particularly noticeable perfume if the customer attempted to leave without paying.

After a series of questions Paul was thanked by PP Steve Taylor

### Last Club Meeting's Statistics

**VISITOR:** - Doug Tindale (President South Strathfield Probus))

Ken Goodrick (President Strathfield Probus)

Betty Goodrick

*Attendance:* 39      *Apol:* 8      *Non-Apol:* 7  
*LOA:* *Suzanne Freund:* till 31 May, 2009  
*Brian Driver:* till 30 April 2009  
*Peter Harries:* till 15 April, 2009.

The Sergeant raised \$148<sup>30</sup>

### Last Week's Raffle

*(The raffle raised \$260.<sup>00</sup>)*

1 <sup>st</sup> Prize	Bottle of Wine	Harley Tarrant
2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize	Book	Peter Douglas
3 <sup>rd</sup> Prize	Glasses	Connie Galletta
4 <sup>th</sup> Prize	Book	Visitor
5 <sup>th</sup> Prize	Dinner next week	Keith Stockall

### DOCUMENTARY ON POLIO ERADICATION RECEIVES OSCAR NOD

By Ryan Hyland,  
Rotary International News -- 26 January 2009

In a week when Rotary International and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation announced millions more in funding toward polio eradication, a short documentary film, *The Final Inch*, received an Academy Award nomination on 22 January for its intimate look at the massive mission to rid the world of the crippling disease. Nominated in the documentary short subject category, [The Final Inch](#), a 38-minute film commissioned by the philanthropic division of Google, chronicles the challenges health organizations and governments face during the final stages of polio eradication.

Director and producer Irene Taylor Brodsky captured workers immunizing children in the poorest slums of India and Pakistan in 2007. In several scenes Rotarians were filmed working during a National Immunization Day on 22 April. Led by M.S. Jain, past governor of District 3100, NID volunteers administer polio vaccination drops to children in Meerut Samrat, Uttar Pradesh, India.

## LAST MEETING'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

### *From President Grahame True*

- Commitment Sheets for Elizabeth Farm Visit on 8 April and for An Evening at OTEN College on 15 April.
- Book titled Silk Road to China for sale. Some of the sale proceeds from each copy sold to be donated to Rotary.
- A big thank you to Trevor and Nanette for an enjoyable night on 14 February. The sum of \$500 was raised on the night.
- Thanked Niall for his work in organising the Trish Golf Day and Dinner. The amount raised was an astounding \$50,000!
- Advised that the Mystery Car Rally will be held on 22 March. There will be a barbecue lunch. More information to come.
- Fred Haddon needs old notebook computers for the School for Seniors.

### *From Director Niall King*

- Thanked the many members who assisted with the running of the Trish Golf Day and Dinner which was a great success.

### *From Director Janelle Watson*

- Drew attention of members to articles on the Rotary Foundation in the latest Rotarian magazine.

### *From Secretary Allan Petersen*

- Welcomed the Probus Club members attending the meeting.
- Received note of thanks from Carol Langsford for the substantial funds raised from the Trish Golf Day and Dinner which will be applied to MS research which is showing positive results.
- Nominations for the position of District Governor for District 9690 are called for and are to be made by 31 March.
- Reminder of the Blue Mountains Jazz Night to be held on 28 February.
- Advised that the Australian Rotary Health Race Day will be held at Rosehill Gardens on 2 May.

### *From Treasurer Charles Pitt*

- Shirley will be contacting members with overdue dues.

### *From Ray Wilson*

- Needs names for Rotary Information Night by 18 March.
- Golf Day to be held on 23 April to raise funds for junior golf. Ray would appreciate the assistance of members in selling raffle tickets.

### *From Doug Potter*

- Reminder re Sergeant's Dinner to be held on 18 March.

### *From Ted Ingall*

- To be a meeting to get ideas for table decorations and costumes for the District Conference.

## FUTURE CLUB MEETINGS

18<sup>th</sup> March 2009

**Sergeant's Dinner PARTNERS' NIGHT**  
Doug Potter

25<sup>th</sup> March 2009

**RYLA presentation**  
Maria and Vanessa

Introduced by Peter Van der Sleesen Thanked by Bradley Ayres

1<sup>st</sup> April 2009

**St Mary's House**  
Sister Josephine Brimo

Introduced by Janelle Watson Thanked by Brian Driver

8<sup>th</sup> April 2009

**Elizabeth Farm Visit PARTNERS' NIGHT**  
Bronwyn Alcorn

Introduced by Janelle Watson Thanked by Brian Driver

15<sup>th</sup> April 2009 PARTNERS' NIGHT

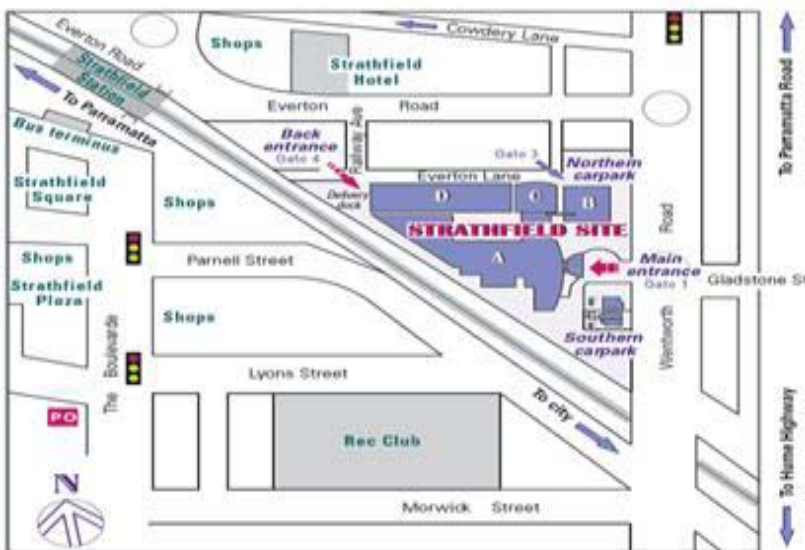
**TRANSFER MEETING TO OTEN COLLEGE**  
**51 Wentworth Road, Burwood**

The management and staff at OTEN are enthusiastically supporting our visit - they will be providing *two speakers* on the night together with a *brief tour* of the facility.

We will be having a *nice hot and cold buffet dinner* (cost still being negotiated) on site at Café O (which is licensed and table wine will be available). The Café is independently operated by Fred Kaleel.

*On site parking* (southern car-park) has been arranged.

### **Strathfield Site Location Map**



22<sup>nd</sup> April 2009

**Rotary Information Night**  
Membership Promotion by Ray Wilson

29<sup>th</sup> April 2009

**Youth Achievements Awards Night**  
Tony Lanzafame & Strathfield Council

6<sup>th</sup> May 2009

**Cochlear Awareness Network**  
Faye Yarroll

20<sup>th</sup> May 2009

**"Ranfurly Library Services"**  
Peter Bourke

## COMING EVENTS

21<sup>st</sup> March to 10<sup>th</sup> October 2009.

**"Great Aust. Bike Ride" Nine Stages from Melbourne Around Australia**  
*Stage One & Two (Melb-Hobart-Melb 21-29 Mar)*  
*Stage Three (Melbourne to Sydney 21<sup>st</sup> Mar)* and  
*Stage Four (Sydney to Brisbane 19<sup>th</sup> April).*

**Register as a rider or sponsor at**

[www.greataustralianbikeride.org.au](http://www.greataustralianbikeride.org.au)

22<sup>nd</sup> March 2009.

**"Mystery Car Rally" & BBQ**

3<sup>rd</sup> April 2009. (Friday Evening)

**MERIDEN-INTERACT DANCE 6:00pm to 10:30pm**  
**WALLIS HALL AT MERIDEN. Rotarian Helpers needed**

23<sup>rd</sup> April 2009. (Thursday)

**JUNIOR GOLF CLUB FUND RAISER**  
**Strathfield Golf Club**  
*Organised by Ray Wilson*

25<sup>th</sup> April 2009. (Saturday)

**ANZAC DAY Breakfast at Cape Cabarita,**  
*Organised by David Croft & Bert Houston*

17<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:hawkesbury@rotarnet.com.au)

### **MERIDEN-INTERACT DANCE**

The annual dance organised by the Meriden Interact Club for years 7 to 9 is being held this year on Friday April 3 in the Wallis Hall at Meriden from 6:30pm until 10:30pm.

As has happened at previous dances the girls have arranged for outside security officers and they have also requested Strathfield Rotary Club members to help on the night from about 6.00pm.

Entrance is strictly by pre sold tickets from invitations sent to various schools in the area.

Roger Vince would appreciate help from Rotarians who are available for some part of this evening.

A commitment sheet will be circulated by Roger over the next few weeks prior to the dance.

Our main role is to check only bona fide ticket holders gain entrance to the dance.

Tanya Naticchia, the Meriden School Interact coordinator, will be present as will other Meriden staff members on the night.

## **HUMOUR FROM OUR MEMBERS**

### **Wet Weather Cycling**      **From Kevin Beltrame**

Last Sunday morning I got up early, quietly put on my cycling clothes, and slipped quietly into the garage. I checked the tyre pressures on my trusty bike and proceeded to open the garage door to see a torrential downpour. The wind was blowing 50 KPH, so I quickly closed the garage door, turned on the radio, and discovered that the weather would be bad all day.

I went back into the house, quietly undressed, and slipped back into bed. I cuddled up to my wife's back, now with a different anticipation, and whispered, "The weather out there is terrible." My loving wife of 15 years replied, "Can you believe my stupid husband is out riding in that?"

### **Sick Leave**      **From Tony Lanzafame**

I urgently needed a few days off work, but, I knew the Boss would not allow me to take leave. I thought that maybe if I acted 'Crazy' then he would tell me to take a few days off. So, I hung upside-down on the ceiling and made funny noises. My co-worker (who's blonde) asked me what I was doing. I told her that I was pretending to be a light bulb, so that the Boss might think I was 'Crazy' and give me a few days off.

A few minutes later the Boss came into the office and asked, "What in the heck are you doing?" I told him I was a light bulb.

He said, "You are clearly stressed out. Go home and recuperate for a couple of days."

I jumped down and walked out of the office...

When my co-worker followed me, the Boss asked her, "And where do you think you're going?!"

She said, "I'm going home too. I can't work in the dark."

### **The Smell of Leather**      **From Grahame True**

Did you know that when a woman wears a leather dress a man's heart beats quicker, his throat gets dry, he gets weak in the knees and he begins to think irrationally?

Ever wonder why?

It's because she smells like a new golf bag!

### **If My Body Were a Car**      **From Kevin Beltrame**

If my body were a car, this is the time I would be thinking about trading it in for a newer model. I've got bumps and dents and scratches in my finish. My paint job is getting a little dull. My headlights are out of focus and it's especially hard to see things, even up close. My paint job is getting a little dull. My traction is not as graceful as it once was. I slip and slide and bump into things even in the best of weather. My whitewalls are stained with varicose veins. It takes me hours to reach my maximum speed, and then I can only sustain it for about a minute. My fuel consumption is inefficient. But here's the worst of it:

Almost every time I sneeze, cough or sputter either my radiator leaks or my exhaust backfires.

### **School Politics**      **From Kevin Beltrame**

Kevin Rudd was visiting a primary school and he visited one of the classes.

The pupils were in the middle of a discussion relating to words and their meanings.

The Teacher asked Kevin if he would like to lead a discussion on the word 'tragedy'.

So Kevin asked the class for an example of a tragedy.

A little boy stood up and offered: 'If my best friend, who lives on a farm, is playing in the field and a tractor runs over him and kills him that would be a tragedy'.

'No', said Kevin 'that would be an accident'.

A little girl raised her hand: 'If a school bus carrying fifty children drove over a cliff, killing everyone inside, that would be a tragedy'.

'I'm afraid not', explained Kevin, 'that's what we would call a great loss'.

The room went silent. No other children volunteered.

Kevin searched the room: 'Isn't there someone here who can give me an example of a tragedy?'

Finally, at the back of the room, little Johnny raised his hand. In a quiet voice he said: 'If a plane carrying you and Julia Gillard was struck by a 'friendly fire' missile and blown to smithereens that would be a tragedy'.

'Fantastic' exclaimed Kevin. 'That's right'. 'And can you tell me why that would be a tragedy?'

'Well' says little Johnny 'it has to be a tragedy because it certainly wouldn't be a great loss and it probably wouldn't be an accident either'.

### **Three Men on a Hike**      **From Shirley Del Prado**

Three men were hiking through a forest when they came upon a large raging, violent river. Needing to get to the other side, the first man prayed:

'God, please give me the strength to cross the river.'

Poof! ... God gave him big arms and strong legs and he was able to swim across in about 2 hours, having almost drowned twice.

After witnessing that, the second man prayed: 'God, please give me strength and the tools to cross the river'

Poof! God gave him a rowboat and strong arms and strong legs and he was able to row across in about an hour after almost capsizing once.

Seeing what happened to the first two men, the third man prayed: 'God, please give me the strength, the tools and the intelligence to cross the river'

Poof! He was turned into a woman. She checked the map, hiked one hundred yards up stream and walked across the bridge.