



STRATHFIELD ROTARY NEWS

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



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Wednesday, March 25 2009

MARCH IS LITERACY MONTH

PRESIDENT ELECTRIC'S LINES

Last Wednesday it was wonderful to catch up with past Strathfield Rotarians and their partners at the 'Doug and Terry Show'. We had memories from P.P Peter Foss and P.P. Peter Manenti and it was interesting to see Max Douglas' photo album – no one has aged! A big thank-you to P.P. Doug and P.P. Terry – great fun - great fellowship. I was delighted to award a Paul Harris Fellowship to Paul Giammarco in recognition of his commitment to Rotary over the past ten years.

Our speaker last Wednesday, Bill Allen, spoke on the history of the Sydney ferries on the harbour and the Parramatta river an area close to the heart of many of our Rotarians, his slide show and his knowledge kept everyone's interest.

We have the Meriden Interact dance coming up on the 3rd April, help is needed for supervision, if you could spare a couple of hours on the evening see Roger Vince. On the subject of youth, Ray Wilson has organised a junior golf fundraiser on the 23rd April – we are helping support this sporting cause by the sale of raffle tickets, don't forget to return the butts to Ray. I hope you have all given Ray Wilson the contact names and addresses for anyone you wish to receive an invitation to our Rotary information night on the 22nd April.

Last Sunday saw a band of intrepid travellers take a mystery tour to destinations unknown; luckily we are pleased to report that all starters arrived without the need of a search party – one car required the use of the safety envelope! I would like to thank Keith Byrn for his efforts in getting us there. The venue for those who did not go was the magnificent home of Sue and John Leftwich. John gave us a talk on his extensive collection of Pond Boats and their importance in Sydney's maritime history. A beautiful day was had by all and a big thank-you to John and Sue for their generous hospitality.

It is now time to think about our 'Fun Raiser' on the 9th May, dust off your boots and press your hootenanny skirt in readiness – Strathfield Council has generously waived their fee for the Town Hall for the evening.

Remember - Fun and Fellowship in Rotary

President Grahame

TONIGHT'S GUEST SPEAKER

RYLA PRESENTATION

Maria and Vanessa

Introduced by Peter Van der Sleenen Thanked by Bradley Ayres

CONGRATULATIONS

CONGRATULATIONS TO PAUL GIAMMARCO ON BECOMING THE LATEST RECIPIENT OF A PAUL HARRIS FELLOWSHIP FROM THE ROTARY CLUB OF STRATHFIELD

BIRTHDAYS

1/04/2009 **Peter Van Der Sleenen**

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

31/03/2009 **Silma & Baheej Ihram**

ROTARY ANNIVERSARIES

1 Apr **Niall King**

LAST MEETING'S GUEST SPEAKER

*At last week's meeting of Strathfield Rotary, **Doug Potter and Terry Rohan** held the first "Sergeant's Dinner".*

The event was an opportunity for former members of the Club to attend the Club Meeting and share stories with the current membership about the former years of Strathfield Rotary.

Our guest speaker was Bill Allen who spoke about "A Brief History of Sydney Ferries and the Parramatta River Then and Now". Bill was introduced by PP Terry Rohan. Bill is a former General Manager of Sydney Ferries and was the founder of the Great Ferry Boat Race.

When Bill was growing up his neighbour was the Works Manager for Sydney Ferries. If anything was being thrown out his neighbour would give the item to Bill to add to his collection.

Bill is now putting together a file on each ferry on his computer with the assistance of his grandson. The first ferry to take passengers to Parramatta was the "Lump" which commenced operating in 1789. It took three days to get to Parramatta.

The early ferries were paddle steamers. These were replaced by propeller driven ferries.

Many of the early ferry builders were French. This included the operator of the Lane Cove River service. He built ferries at Figtree on the river and named them after

his daughters. These included the Isabelle, the Rose and the Pearl. Later when the river was silting up the Lady Chelmsford was designed and built. It was designed to last fifteen years. However the ferry which commenced operating in 1910 continued operating until 2008.

Bill showed us photographs of many ferries from the past including:

- The Greycliffe which was cut in half by the Tahiti.
- The Wallaby (which was supposed to be named the Willoughby) the first ferry in the world with propellers at both ends.
- The Kulgoa which operated from 1904 to 1949 and carried troops to larger boats in the harbour in both world wars.
- The Kuttabal a very large ferry which was hit by a torpedo fired from a Japanese submarine.
- The Koondooloo which made its way from Scotland to Sydney and became Sydney's first showboat.

Following the opening of the Harbour Bridge the number of ferries declined rapidly. Since 1951 the ferries have been state run.

The Hydrofoils and Jet Cats have come and gone. In addition to the older ferries we now have the following types of vessels operating:

- First Fleet Catamarans.
- River Cats.
- River Kittens and
- Super Cats.

Bill advised us that for ferry operations to have a solid future he believes that their operation needs to be returned to private hands. Bill was thanked by PP Doug Potter.

Last Club Meeting's Statistics

VISITORS: - 40

Former Members of Strathfield Rotary,
Partners of Members & former Members

Attendance: 45 Apol: 7 Non-Apol: 5

LOA:

Peter Harries: till 15 April, 2009.

Les Hockley: till 22 April, 2009

Brian Driver: till 30 April 2009

Terry Rohan: till 1 May, 2009

Suzanne Freund: till 31 May, 2009

The Sergeant raised \$221.⁵⁰

Last Week's Raffle

(The raffle raised \$555.⁰⁰)

1 st Prize	Lyn Rimes	6 th Prize	Geoff Boyce
2 nd Prize	Peter Douglas	7 th Prize	Richard Horwood
3 rd Prize	Sal Tosto	8 th Prize	Bob Jury
4 th Prize	Paul Sarks	9 th Prize	Mary Ingall
5 th Prize	John Elvy	10 th Prize	Jan Templeman

LAST MEETING'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

From President Grahame True

- Welcome to all Former Members and a thank you to **Doug Potter** and **Terry Rohan** for arranging this get-together of former members for the **Sergeant's Dinner**
- Commitment Sheets for:-
 - Car Rally - 22nd March.
 - Elizabeth Farm – 8th April
 - OTEN – 15th April. \$25pp
 - Anzac Day Breakfast
- Presentation of a Paul Harris Fellowship to Paul Giammarco

From Terry Rohan & Doug Potter

- Roll Call of former members in attendance
- Roll Call of former members who apologised
- Roll Call of former members who are now deceased

From Peter Foss

- Recollections of the first meeting of the Rotary Club of Strathfield
- Some of the characters who have been in the Club and their foibles
- Memories and Highlights of past meetings of Strathfield Rotary

From Peter Manenti

- Remembered being inducted by Brian Hennell
- Related stories of some of the former Sergeants at Arms of the Strathfield Club

From David Croft

- "Toast to the Ladies" in honour of Ron Thurgar

Australian Rotary provide Wildfires Relief

By Ryan Hyland Rotary International News -- 24 February 2009

Members of the Rotary clubs of Hawthorn and Boroondara, Victoria, Australia, are transforming an unused nursing home into a temporary shelter for residents left homeless by the wildfires. Rotary districts in Victoria, Australia, are bringing relief to families victimised by a series of devastating wildfires that swept across the state this month, killing more than 200 people and leaving thousands homeless. As the scale of the disaster becomes clearer, Rotary clubs in districts 9780, 9790, 9800, 9810, and 9820 are excavating debris and providing food, clothes, tools, and short-term shelter to those affected by the blaze. District 9800 has also established an emergency fund for medium- to long-term assistance for rebuilding. "Victorian clubs are doing a tremendous job at rallying to help those in need, both in donations and relief projects," says District Governor Jim Studebaker. "Rotary will be there when the fire is out and the dust settles. It's clear that many communities are going to need long-term help rebuilding." The process of rebuilding is unlikely to begin for months, and it will take many years to replace homes lost in the fire, says Joan Janka, president of the Rotary Club of Hawthorn, near Melbourne. Just days after the fire started, her club partnered with members of the Rotary Club of Boroondara to turn a vacant nursing home into a temporary shelter for up to 60 displaced residents. "Volunteers worked very hard and extremely fast to transform an unusable residence into a clean, fully functional living facility," says Janka. "It's a huge effort put forth by Rotarians." Members donated and purchased furniture, bedding, and kitchen supplies. They also cleaned, painted, and repaired 30 bedrooms, dining areas, and six common areas, which are furnished with couches, tables, and TVs. Rotarians are working with the Boroondara City Council to identify the families with the most need to occupy the facility.

COMING EVENTS

3rd April 2009. (Friday Evening)

MERIDEN-INTERACT DANCE 6:00pm to 10:30pm

WALLIS HALL AT MERIDEN. *Rotarian Helpers needed*

23rd April 2009. (Thursday)

JUNIOR GOLF CLUB FUND RAISER

Strathfield Golf Club

Organised by Ray Wilson

2nd May 2009. (Saturday)

Rotary Race Day at Rosehill

25th April 2009. (Saturday)

ANZAC DAY Breakfast at Cape Cabarita,

Organised by David Croft & Bert Houston

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

4th July 2009. (Saturday)

District Changeover 6:30pm for 7:00pm

Penrith Panthers. \$30pp

SERVICE ABOVE SELF AWARD

Rotarians give service to their club and to the community in many different ways. Some serve actively in high profile roles such as officers of the club, chairs of committees or event organizers while many others give outstanding service, support and assistance in less obvious and unobtrusive ways. Last year the Rotary Club of Strathfield introduced a "Service Above Self Award" to be presented annually to the club member who is judged to;

- *put the Rotary Ethic ahead of their own personal considerations*
- *always put in that extra effort for Rotary in serving the community*
- *go beyond the norm in representing Rotary to the community.*

The recipient of this award is chosen by secret ballot of all members of the club; not by the President or the Board which makes the award all the more meritorious because the winner is recognized and rewarded by his/her peers. The first recipient of the Service Above Self Award was Ray Wilson who was presented with his award at the Club Changeover.

In April we will be calling for nominations for this year's award. So start thinking now about who you will nominate for this very special recognition

> FUTURE CLUB MEETINGS

1st April 2009

St Mary's House

Sister Josephine Brimo

Introduced by Janelle Watson

Thanked by Brian Driver

8th April 2009

Elizabeth Farm Visit PARTNERS' NIGHT

Bronwyn Alcorn

15th 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.

22nd April 2009

Rotary Information Night

Membership Promotion by Ray Wilson

29th April 2009

Youth Achievements Awards Night

Tony Lanzafame & Strathfield Council

6th May 2009

Cochlear Awareness Network

Faye Yarroll

13th May 2009

Deborah Ng and Eve Dutton

Peter Smith

20th May 2009

"Ranfurly Library Services"

Peter Bourke

27th May 2009

"Using Acupuncture to Treat Depression"

Kirt Wilson

Introduced by Ray Wilson Thanked by -----

3rd June 2009

Wheelchair Sports

To Be Confirmed

10th June 2009

Lost Words

Gunilla Denton Cook

17th June 2009

TBA

24th June 2009

NO MEETING

Transferred to Change Over

26th June 2009 (Friday)

Change Over Night

Strathfield Golf Club

HUMOUR FROM OUR MEMBERS

IDIOTS OF 2008

From Peter Douglas

1. I am a medical student currently doing a rotation in toxicology at the poison control centre. Today, this woman called in very upset because she caught her little daughter eating ants. I quickly reassured her that the ants are not harmful and there would be no need to bring her daughter into the hospital. She calmed down and at the end of the conversation happened to mention that she gave her daughter some Ant Rid to eat in order to kill the ants. I told her that she better bring her daughter into the emergency room right away.
2. Early this year, some Qantas employees on the airfield decided to steal a life raft from one of the 747s. They were successful in getting it out of the plane and home. Shortly after they took it for a float on the river, they noticed a WA Police helicopter coming toward them. It turned out that the chopper was homing in on the emergency locator beacon that activated when the raft was inflated. They are no longer employed at Qantas.
3. A man, wanting to rob a downtown Bank of Queensland, walked into the Branch and wrote this, 'Put al your munny in dis bag.' While standing in line, waiting to give his note to the teller, he began to worry that someone had seen him write the note and might call the police before he reached the teller's window. So he left the Bank of Queensland and crossed the street to the NAB. After waiting a few minutes in line, he handed his note to the NAB teller. She read it and, surmising from his spelling errors that he wasn't the brightest light in the harbour, told him that she could not accept his stickup note because it was written on a Bank of Queensland deposit slip and that he would either have to fill out a NAB deposit slip or go back to Bank of Queensland. Looking somewhat defeated, the man said, 'OK' and left. He was arrested a few minutes later, as he was waiting in line back at Bank of Queensland.
4. A NSW motorist was unknowingly caught in an automated speed trap that measured his speed using radar and photographed his car. He later received in the mail a ticket for \$40 and a photo of his car from the RTA. Instead of payment, he sent the police department a photograph of \$40. Several days later, he received a letter from the police that contained another picture, this time of handcuffs. He immediately mailed in his \$40.
5. I have a friend who lives in a semi-rural area (Oberon, NSW). They recently had a new neighbor call the local Council office to request the removal of the Wombat Crossing sign on their road. The reason: "Too many wombats are being hit by cars out here! I don't think this is a good place for them to be crossing anymore."
6. A pair of Michigan, USA robbers entered a record shop nervously waving revolvers. The first one shouted, 'Nobody move!' When his partner moved, the startled first bandit shot him.
7. A guy walked into a little corner store with a shotgun and demanded all of the cash from the cash drawer. After the cashier put the cash in a bag, the robber saw a bottle of Scotch that he wanted behind the counter on the shelf. He told the cashier to put it in the bag as well, but the cashier refused and said, 'Because I don't believe you are over 21.' The robber said he was, but the clerk still refused to give it to him because she didn't believe him. At this point, the robber took his driver's license out of his wallet and gave it to the clerk. The clerk looked it over and agreed that the man was in fact over 21 and he put the Scotch in the bag. The robber then ran from the store with his loot. The cashier promptly called the police and gave the name and address of the robber that he got off the license. They arrested the robber two hours later.
8. Northern Territory: Seems this guy wanted some beer pretty badly. He decided that he'd just throw a cinder block through a liquor store window, grab some booze, and run. He lifted the cinder block and heaved it over his head at the window. The cinder block bounced back knocking him unconscious. It seems the liquor store window was made of Plexi-Glass. The whole event was caught on videotape.

DIARY NOTES

From Kevin Beltrame

Her Diary

Dear diary,

Tonight, I thought my husband was acting weird. We had made plans to meet at a bar to have a drink. I was shopping with My friends all day long, so I thought he was upset at the fact that I was a bit late, but he made no comment on it. Conversation wasn't flowing, so I suggested that we go somewhere quiet so we could talk. He agreed, but he didn't say much. I asked him what was wrong; he said, 'Nothing.' I asked him if it was my fault that he was upset. He said he wasn't upset, that it had nothing to do with me, and not to worry about it. On the way home, I told him that I loved him. He smiled slightly, and kept driving. I can't explain his behaviour. I don't know why he didn't say, 'I love you, too.' When we got home, I felt as if I had lost him completely, as if he wanted nothing to do with me anymore. He just sat there quietly, and watched TV. He continued to seem distant and absent. Finally, with silence all around us, I decided to go to bed. About 15 minutes later, he came to bed. To my surprise, he responded to my caress, and we made love. But I still felt that he was distracted, and his thoughts were somewhere else. He fell asleep - I cried. I don't know what to do. I'm almost sure that his thoughts are somewhere else. What a disaster.

His Diary

Dear diary,

The Harley wouldn't start today, but at least I got laid.