



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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Wednesday, November 12 2008

NOVEMBER IS ROTARY FOUNDATION MONTH

PRESIDENT ELECTRIC'S LINES

Last week we had Nick Gleeson accompanied by Janey Bloomfield from Vision Australia. It never ceases to amaze me how people we perceive having a disability live a most productive and positive life. Hopefully we will be presenting Vision Australia (Children's Programmes) with a cheque at the end of the Rotary year.

I am pleasantly surprised that we are raising a good amount of money from the raffles and sergeant sessions each week (thanks to the great work of Keith, Doug and Terry) and all done whilst having a good time. It is really quite unbelievable that with an average of 36 Rotarians each week that these amounts can be "extracted"! Unfortunately it seems to be the same ones putting their hands into their pockets. Just imagine if we had a reasonable attendance from our 68 members how much we would raise and have available to donate to charities.

November is Rotary Foundation month. The Rotary Foundation is a vehicle for fighting hunger, poverty, disease and illiteracy around the world and we should all look towards ways to support foundation projects.

Peter Van der Sleen is pushing forward with two RYLA applications – we wish them the best.

It is wonderful to hear that each time the OTEN web page is accessed it is headed with a photo and spiel on the award our club presented to their teacher Raymond Banister on the Pride of Workmanship evening.

The club has sent Eve a floral arrangement to help cheer her up during her convalescence.

Penny and I are looking forward to another of Steve Taylor's gourmet fellowship nights on Thursday, having previously tasted the Asian delights with Steve we have now moved onto continental cuisine – bon appetite.

Thankyou to everyone who has volunteered to help Peter Van der Sleen on Friday with RYDA. Should you wish to help it is not too late.

Remember - Fun and Fellowship in Rotary

President Grahame

TONIGHT'S MEETING

Judicial Reminiscences

Justice Terry Sheahan

Introduced by Paul White

Thanked by Bert Houston

CONGRATULATIONS

BIRTHDAYS

12/11/2008

Suzanne Freund

18/11/2008

Janet Johnson

Devi Bala

Umesh Kamkolkar

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

12/11/2008

Suzanne & Kevin Freund

15/11/2008

Tony & Connie Lanzafame

Niall & Carole King

Peter & Marley Harries

ROTARY ANNIVERSARIES

NIL

LAST MEETING'S GUEST SPEAKER

Our guest speaker was Nick Gleeson the Community Development Officer at Vision Australia, Enfield. Nick was introduced by David Croft.

Nick became permanently blind at age seven following an accident with an automatic door at a supermarket. Despite this Nick has taken part in many adventurous activities around the world and is known at Vision Australia as "our global adventurer". Nick advised us that four years ago the Royal Blind Society merged with a number of other organisations to become Vision Australia. Administration costs were greatly reduced following the merger. It has been possible to improve the quality of services and to still deliver them at a local level. Where a young child is involved, Vision Australia works closely with the child's family. It is important that they know where to turn for assistance. It is also important for them to realise that these young people will grow up to be outstanding people and to realise their dreams.

At Enfield people requiring assistance are taught computing. If a person has low vision large lettering can be used. If a person is blind, software is available enabling the operator to listen to the information on the screen. Brail is still in use. This enables children to "read" a book for themselves and develop literacy skills.

Talking books are still used though new technology called "Daisy Discs" is now employed. These facilitate precise location of passages of text and are very useful for students. A "Low Vision Clinic" is often the first point of contact for people requiring assistance with Vision Australia. They discover that the Vision Australia staff, equipment and counselling services can make their life a great deal better. The philosophy of Vision Australia is to take away the barriers that prevent people with low vision or no vision from doing things that they want to do and to establish partnerships to facilitate these endeavours.

Nick told us of his involvement with cricket which he played for eighteen seasons. A ball is placed in the ball and a low vision person acts as a runner when batting.

Nick also told us of his day of driving at Eastern Creek where he reached the magic ton and left his passenger a little shaken. Nick has also climbed Mount Kilimanjaro and spoke of his vivid recollections from that great adventure. This included the view from the summit of a glacier and the plains of Africa far below as described by his sighted fellow climber.

In conclusion Nick reminded us that Vision Australia is reliant on community support from organisations such as Rotary to meet its financial needs. Nick was thanked by Roger Vince.

Last Club Meeting's Statistics

Visitors: - NIL

Attendance: 33

Apologies: 17

Non-Apologies: 14

LOA: Anuradha & Umesh Kamkolkar till 31/12, Silma Ithram till 31/12, Eve Dutton till 31/12, Peter Foss

Exempt Members: - 5

The Sergeant raised \$109.60

Last Club Meeting's Raffle

(The Raffle raised \$205)

1 st Prize	Rotary Jacket	Charles Pitt
2 nd Prize	Red Wine	Les Hockley
3 rd Prize	Book (from Carino)	Peter Douglas
4 th Prize	Dinner next week (donated back)	Les Hockley

"THE GREAT ROTARY BIKE RIDE"



"The Great Bike Ride", is being conducted next year and arrives in our district (D9690) on 17th April 2009 and departs on Sunday 19th April; The Great Ride committee has put a request forward that our district tries and arrange an event during this period.

Our ride will cover some 300 kilometres from Parramatta to Parramatta, traveling via Breakfast Point, Concord, Burwood, Strathfield, Padstow, Liverpool, Cabramatta, Chester Hill, Granville, Holroyd, Wallacia, Mulgoa. on Friday 17th April.

Then on to Lithgow, Blackheath, Katoomba, Upper Blue Mountains, Springwood, Lower Blue Mountains, Penrith, Kurrangong - Nth Richmond, Windsor, Hawkesbury, St. Marys, Mt. Druitt, Blacktown, Prospect and returning to Parramatta on Saturday 18th April.

I would like to generate enthusiasm from clubs to have riders from each club ride from club to club, or zone to zone to be part of this great event. The ride has been sanctioned by the Research Fund, the ARHRF Vice Chairman P.D.G. Alan Grady, ARHRF Director, P.D.G. Phil Lacey, GABR Director, P.D.G. Dick White and the D 9690 ARHRF Chairman, Susan Wakefield, as well as our current DG Paul Erickson, DG Elect Paul Reid and DG Nominee Marilyn Mercer.

I look forward to any input you may have and also the opportunity of seeing you as we ride into your club on the proposed day. I will naturally update you on time schedules as time progresses.

P.P. Melvin Gray (Mel) ARHRF committee

You can contact me at any time with any queries

melvindgray@optusnet.com.au

Phone at home 02-9622-5576 or mobile 0417-657-620

LAST MEETING'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

From President Grahame True

- Welcome back to Tony Lanzafame
- Commitment Sheets for:-
 - Rotarians' Xmas Party
 - Children's' Xmas Party
 - Social Night @ Romans, Concord
- The True's, Foss's and McCluskie's attended the Breakfast Point Dinner Dance
- Breakfast Point Rotary presented the Club with a Thank you Certificate for help with the BBQ at their fund raiser
- Small attendance from the Club at Burwood's Melb. Cup Night
- Thank you to Peter Smith for Pride of Workmanship Night

From Secretary Allan Petersen

- AGM in 28 days
- RYDA volunteers needed in 9 days @ Penrith
- Thank you letter from Ronald McDonald House for donation
- RI Conference in Birmingham 21st to 24th June 2009

From Director Niall King

- Gardening Bee at the MS Centre Lidcombe on Sat 8th Nov.
- Thank You to Ray Wilson for the District Golf Day

From Director Janelle Watson

- World Vision update on our new Student in Uganda
- The inbound GSE Tea from South Brazil will be 4 teachers, all female
- Our Donation to ShelterBox will aid earthquake victims in Pakistan

From Director Peter Smith

- Thank You to Bert Houston, Connie Galletta, Shirley Del Prado and Kevin Freund for assistance on the Pride of Workmanship Awards Night

From Treasurer Charles Pitt

- Attendance numbers are uneconomic at 34 attendees. 40 attendees is break-even.

From Ray Wilson

- A Xmas Lunch & Golf Day on the 4th Nov 2008. 12:30pm lunch followed by 9 holes of golf

From Bert Houston

- The 'Trivia Night' will be on 28th November 2008 at Strathfield Golf Club
- Prizes and volunteers needed
- Entrance will be \$15 with Tables of 8.

From Warren Abbott

- Xmas Puddings and Cakes arriving soon.

FUTURE CLUB MEETINGS

19th November 2008

The Centurion Program

PDG Warwick Tester PP Lyn Tester

Introduced by Harley Tarrant Thanked by Janelle Watson

Rotaract

Aaron Sivasothy

Introduced by Bradley Ayres Thanked by Peter Manenti

26th November 2008

Muslim Culture and Australian Integration

Silma Ihram

PARTNERS' NIGHT 6:30 for 7:00pm

Introduced by Rod McDougall Thanked by Kevin Freund

3rd December 2008

AGM and Elections

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

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

SHELTERBOX LATEST PAKISTAN EARTHQUAKE

A new earthquake occurred on 28th Oct 08 of 6.4 on the Richter scale. 1500 homes were destroyed & 200 killed, 15,000 people displaced and 50,000 people sleeping outside in 0 degrees. Shelterbox personnel arrived on 30th with 200 boxes and all these boxes are set up. So far 773 boxes have been sent to Pakistan since 2003. This is where our donations are going and we need require as much money as you can spare. We worry about our Shares and our bank deposits, whereas these people in the earth quake zone have nothing.

COMING EVENTS

13th November 2008. (Thursday) 6:30 for 7:00pm
Social Night @ ROMANS RESTAURANT CONCORD.

14th November 2008. (Friday)

RYDA at Penrith Lakes. Meriden School

Volunteers needed 10:00am to 2:00pm

28th November 2008. (Friday)

TRIVIA NIGHT (Tables of 8)

Strathfield Golf Club. 7:00 for 7:30pm

\$15pp Coffee & Nibbles

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

14th February 2009.

Dinner at the Duxbury's

An evening of Victorian Elegance

19th February 2009. (Thursday)

Trish Charity Golf Day & Dinner

Strathfield Golf Club

6th – 8th March 2009.

District Conference

Cypress Lakes Resort,

Hunter Valley

Request for Student Hosting

42 Harrier Drive

Thursday 30th October

Burleigh Waters 4220

PH: 0755350348 MOBILE: 0418754970

Email: robinaplumbina@optusnet.com.au

I am writing to you on behalf of my son Travis King. Travis was sponsored by Palm Beach Rotary Gold Coast to attend the 2006 National Youth Science Forum in Canberra and again at in 2007 as a NYSF leader. He subsequently represented Australia at the Canada Wide Science Fair. During his experiences with NYSF he discovered the Photovoltaic course at UNSW which is the only undergraduate solar course in the world. When he received a Co op (industry) scholarship to study this he had to move to Sydney. One of the conditions of his scholarship is that he completes industrial training with industry sponsors. This summer he will work at BP Solar (based at Homebush) whereas in future years he will work at CSG Solar (based at Botany) and other companies based in China, Germany and Norway.

As Travis will be completing his ten week industrial training course at BP Solar, Homebush during the holiday period, he will need to move off campus closer to Homebush. I would like to enquire whether any of your members would be willing to take him as a paying boarder for all or part of his training? He has been waiting for several weeks now for BP to confirm the exact dates he will be working, but as yet has not heard anything. As the holidays are fast approaching I decided to send this letter out with approximate dates. It's likely to be for 8-9 weeks in total as he'll be able to stay at uni for the first week or two. He should need accommodation for the first 3 weeks of December, then there would be a break of at least 2 weeks over Christmas and New Year (more likely to be 3)

and then he would be back for a week or two at the end of January continuing into the first 2 -3 weeks of February. Hopefully he'll be informed of the exact dates soon.

Travis is a well rounded young man. In Year 12, along with high academic achievements he was school captain, athletics captain, played in the 1st 15 Rugby union and first 11 cricket teams at All Saints Anglican School. Character references are readily available. If anyone from your club is able to help out please contact me by phone or email.

Yours faithfully

Thomas E King

BRAZILIAN GSE TEAM MEMBERS

Elizabeth Daros

As a teacher, I would like to know places and people related to the education. Nowadays I develop my work not in a classroom, but in the administrative part, for the Secretary of State of Education of Paraná, more specifically in the "Núcleo Regional da Educação de Cornélio Procopio". Another area of interest is in law, because it is my second graduation (2007). As I am getting experience in this new area, I would like to have the opportunity of knowing as much as I can about law in Australia.

Maristela Miranda da Silva

In Brazil I work as a teacher in private and public schools. I teach children, adolescents and adults. I hope that this month of living and learning will help me to grow professionally and culturally. My deep interest is in sharing lifestyles. In visiting your area I would enjoy the natural environment, the history, the bunch of activities, entertainment on offer. My personal qualities are enthusiasm, organizational skills, and good sense of humour. My strong desire is growing in teaching field and improving my English and after that, helping my students in my community by showing, telling them about an unforgettable time in Australia, especially in my host family.

Iloná Adriana Davidse

I have worked with five-year-old children at kindergarten for about ten years. I stopped teaching them because I was working too long hours and had no time to prepare my classes properly since I also taught English at a language school. Nowadays I only work at this school. There I have been working with people of all ages and all levels, my youngest students are nine and the oldest is sixty. My parents are Dutch and run an agricultural farm. We live on this farm and I help my father with the book-keeping. In my free time I love travelling, therefore I believe visiting Australia, meeting new people, exchanging personal and professional experiences is going to be very enriching.

Ana Maria Caetano

This exchange program will be very important to my professional life and to help me to get acquainted with new people, new culture. I hope as an English teacher, to improve my fluency in English and also to share my knowledge about this experience with my students and my co-workers. I work at a language school with about ninety-five students of different ages. I have 6 to 10 years old, at this age they like to play games in English, to sing children songs and to learn some grammar. I also teach teenagers between 11 and 18 years old, and adults. I teach until the intermediate level. I enjoy being in contact with different people of different ages as we have too much to learn from all of them. I'm very happy in my profession, and with this opportunity abroad in contact with another culture, I hope to be better in my profession and my life and ready to help as necessary.

HUMOUR FROM OUR MEMBERS

Ducks In Heaven

From Katie Franco

Three women die together in an accident and go to heaven. When they get there, St. Peter says, 'We only have one rule here in heaven: Don't step on the ducks!'

So they enter heaven, and sure enough, there are ducks all over the place. It is almost impossible not to step on a duck, and although they try their best to avoid them, the first woman accidentally steps on one.

Along comes St. Peter with the ugliest man she ever saw. St. Peter chains them together and says, 'Your punishment for stepping on a duck is to spend eternity chained to this ugly man!'

The next day, the second woman steps accidentally on a duck and along comes St. Peter, who doesn't miss a thing. With him is another extremely ugly man. He chains them together with the same admonishment as for the first woman. The third woman has observed all this and, not wanting to be chained for all eternity to an ugly man, is very, VERY careful where she steps.

She manages to go months without stepping on any ducks, but one day St. Peter comes up to her with the most handsome man she has ever laid eyes on; very tall, long eyelashes, muscular. Saint Peter chains them together without saying a word.

The happy woman says, 'I wonder what I did to deserve being chained to you for all of eternity?'

The guy says, 'I don't know about you, but I stepped on a duck.'

Underwear Is Important

From Grahame True

Always wear clean underwear in public, especially when working under your vehicle.

From the Northwest Florida Daily News comes this story of a Crestview couple who drove their car to Wal-Mart, only to have their car break down in the parking lot.

The man told his wife to carry on with the shopping while he fixed the car in the lot. The wife returned later to see a small group of people near the car. On closer inspection, she saw a pair of male legs protruding from under the chassis. Although the man was in shorts, his lack of underpants turned private parts into glaringly public ones. Unable to stand the embarrassment, she dutifully stepped forward, quickly put her hand UP his shorts, and tucked everything back into place.

She took a deep breath and stood up boldly to face the crowd. She looked across the hood and found herself staring at her husband, who had been standing idly by. The mechanic, however, had to have three stitches in his forehead.