



# STRATHFIELD ROTARY NEWS

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



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**Wednesday, November 19 2008**

## NOVEMBER IS ROTARY FOUNDATION MONTH

### PRESIDENT ELECTRIC'S LINES

I must admit fellows last Wednesday's meeting had a great atmosphere- the camaraderie and fellowship was in full force. Justice Terry Sheahan's "chat" with the club had me feeling like we were sitting in my own lounge room.

Steve's gourmet fellowship night on Thursday saw 24 of us indulge in much chomping and chatting. Another great night thanks to Steve.

RYDA on Friday – thanks go to Harley, Trevor and Angelo for giving of their time supervising the Meriden girls at Penrith.

The inclement weather on Saturday did not deter the hardy group of horticulturalists, spades in hand, to spruce up the Euan Watson memorial garden. We arrived in shifts so we were not tripping over one another.

The 'Don Burke' team comprised of Niall, of course- Neil, Doug, Peter Smith, Peter Douglas, Peter Foss, Dave McGlynn, Roger, Kevin Beltrame, Raymond and a ring-in from Breakfast Point, Margery Foss.

We are grateful to Doug Potter for organising a truck from GF James plumbers so the garden waste could be removed and dumped.

David Snow whose wife recently passed away from MS has donated the funds to create a new pond and garden area at Lidcombe and we as a club are supporting him with some manpower. As I mentioned to you last Wed night, Sharon Bond the District vocational chair is involved with literacy kits to be sent to the Lotus orphanage in Ulan-Batar, Mongolia which will be dispatched early in the New Year. I would like our club to support this programme by filling a Qantas pillowslip (supplied) with stationery items as suggested. As we are approaching the season of goodwill and giving, I think this is a fine idea.

**Remember - Fun and Fellowship in Rotary**

**President Grahame**

### TONIGHT'S MEETING

#### **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

### CONGRATULATIONS

#### **BIRTHDAYS**

20/11/2008

**George Hallworth**

#### **WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES**

1222/11/2008

**Joe & Katherine Campisi**

25/11/2008

**Roger & Janice Vince**

#### **ROTARY ANNIVERSARIES**

19 Nov

**Keith Stockall**

22-Nov

**Les Hockley**

22-Nov

**Godfrey Isouard**

### LAST MEETING'S GUEST SPEAKER

Our guest speaker was Justice Terry Sheahan who is a judge in the Land and Environment Court. Terry was introduced by Paul White.



Terry has been a judge in the Court for eleven years. Terry noted that two of our members are regular attendees at the Court namely Bert Houston and Neil Kennan. Terry stated that people using the Court knew something wonderful was happening but did not particularly enjoy the experience which he likened to the feelings of an artificially inseminated cow. Terry believes that the structure of government in Australia is over-complicated and that a lot could be done to make things simpler. He noted that federal electorates

are not permitted to include cross border areas and that this has led to some silly situations. This requirement should be changed. He also observed that Local Government could fix a pothole provided that the work was approved by the State Government and funded by the Federal Government. We should always question whether things could be changed to run the country more effectively. Terry advised us that Australia does not have a rigid “separation of powers” as the United States of America has. In Australia the only arm of power that is separate is the judiciary. This means that judges are totally free of external influences – they are only influenced by people putting competing points of view before them in the courtroom.

An important foundation for achieving this independence is “tenure”. Until the 1970’s judges were appointed for life but this has been curtailed to ensure that judges are able to carry out their functions effectively.

Terry stressed that a judge in every case that comes before him needs to feel free from influence and also to be sure that the average person would be satisfied that the judge is bringing an unbiased mind to the case. If any circumstances would lead to the appearance that this was not the case the judge is duty bound to disqualify himself from hearing the case.

Terry noted that judges are frequently criticised by the community for the penalties they impose. However he advised that this is often uninformed criticism as the critics are usually not aware of a lot of the matters placed before the judge during the hearing.

Half of the matters previously dealt with by courts are now dealt with by tribunals. These have distinct differences to courts and utilise different ways to resolve disputes. Terry advised us that the setting up of the Workers Compensation Resolution Tribunal had been an important reform.

In conclusion Terry advised us of the important functions of the Judicial Commission which Terry helped set up. This body aims to achieve a balance between judicial independence and public confidence in the judiciary. At the time this body was set up a High Court judge was on trial and a chief magistrate was in jail so public confidence was a major issue. An ordinary person can lodge a complaint that a judge is not fit for office. After investigating the complaint the Commission can bring the judge to account or provide counselling.

The commission also meets an important educational function which has led to more consistent sentencing.

Terry was thanked by Bert Houston.

### **Last Club Meeting’s Statistics**

**Visitors:** - Colin Kenney (Springwood Club), Garrett Ryan, Dr. Jenni Harvey (Partner of Speaker0, Welwyn Petersen, Nanette Duxbury, Paul & Meghan Austin

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

Exempt Members: - 5

### **Last Club Meeting’s Raffle**

1 <sup>st</sup> Prize	Picnic Rug	Joe Saad
2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize	Picture Frame	Niall King
3 <sup>rd</sup> Prize	Book	Janelle Watson

## **LAST MEETING’S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

- 12 tables filled for Trivia Night, 20 Tables available in total
- Colouring Books & Pencils etc., to fill Qantas slips from District Chairperson Sharon Bond; for Children in Mongolia. Details later
- Reminder of Xmas Cruise for Burwood Club

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

- AGM in 21 days
- Nomination forms available for nominations for Board & President-Elect
- Names & addresses soon to be forwarded to RDU & RI.
- “Point Zero Youth Services” presentation at Leichhardt Town Hall on 27<sup>th</sup> Nov, 6:30 to 8:30pm

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

- Thank you to Peter Douglas for help at gardening Bee at the MS Centre Lidcombe last Sat.
- Working Bee again at MS Centre Lidcombe next Sat., 8:30am
- 13 Awardees at the MS “Go for Gold” presentation night.
- MEGA SWIM on again in July 2009, 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup>.

### ***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 Van der Sleen***

- Thank You to RYDA volunteers
- 2 applicants received for RYLA in Jan 2009

### ***From Director Peter Smith***

- Xmas cakes & puddings to be paid for & collected next Weds.
- Next payment for 2009 Conference due in Dec.

### ***From Peter Foss***

- Need prizes for the Trivia Night

### ***From Tony Lanzafame***

- Needs Rotarian to collect an award from Burwood Police on 26<sup>th</sup> November.

### ***From Steve Taylor***

- 26 takers for the Social Night at Romans.

### ***From Colin Kenney***

- Speakers for the District Conference include James Morrison & Kerrie Pottharst.
- Golf on Friday is a Single Stableford with 10:30am Shot-gun start. Food will be provided on the course

## FUTURE CLUB MEETINGS

- 26<sup>th</sup> November 2008**  
**Muslim Culture and Australian Integration**  
Silma Ihram  
**PARTNERS' NIGHT 6:30 for 7:00pm**  
Introduced by Rod McDougall Thanked by Kevin Freund
- 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2008**  
**AGM and Elections**
- 10<sup>th</sup> December 2008**  
**Christmas Party (Rotarians)**
- 17<sup>th</sup> December 2008**  
**Christmas Party (Children)**
- 24<sup>th</sup> December 2008**  
**NO MEETING**
- 31<sup>st</sup> December 2008**  
**NO MEETING**
- 7<sup>th</sup> January 2009**  
**Restaurant Social Evening (Venue TBA)**
- 14<sup>th</sup> January 2009**  
**Bowls Social Evening**  
South Strathfield Bowling Club, Augusta Street
- 21<sup>st</sup> January 2009**  
**Club Assembly**
- 28<sup>th</sup> January 2009**  
**Bushcare and Other Community Environmental Issues**  
Jeanie Muspratt, Environmental Projects Officer,  
Strathfield Council
- 4<sup>th</sup> February 2009**  
**Men's Shed**  
Peter Sergeant

## STRATHFIELD ROTARY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 3<sup>RD</sup> 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 30<sup>th</sup> 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 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2010
  - iii. Nomination of Public Officer
  - iv. Any other matters.

## COMING EVENTS

- 28<sup>th</sup> November 2008. (Friday)**  
**TRIVIA NIGHT (Tables of 8)**  
*Strathfield Golf Club. 7:00 for 7:30pm*  
*\$15pp Coffee & Nibbles*
- 4<sup>th</sup> December 2008. (Thursday)**  
**Xmas Golf Day & Lunch. 12:30pm**  
*Strathfield Golf Club. 9 holes of golf after lunch*
- 10<sup>th</sup> December 2008. (Wednesday)**  
**Charity Children's Christmas Party**  
*Sydney Showgrounds, Olympic Park, Halls 3 & 4,*  
Volunteers needed on Mon, Tues & Weds
- 14<sup>th</sup> February 2009.**  
**Dinner at the Duxbury's**  
*An evening of Victorian Elegance*
- 19<sup>th</sup> February 2009. (Thursday)**  
**Trish Charity Golf Day & Dinner**  
Strathfield Golf Club
- 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> March 2009.**  
**District Conference**  
Cypress Lakes Resort, **Hunter Valley**
- 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)

## **Social Night @ Romans**



## HUMOUR FROM OUR MEMBERS

### **FBI Training**

From Grahame True

The FBI had an opening for an assassin. After all the background checks, interviews and testing were completed, there were 3 finalists; two men and a woman. For the final test, the FBI agents took one of the men to a large metal door and handed him a gun. "We must know that you will follow your instructions no matter what the circumstances. Inside the room you will find your wife sitting in a chair. Kill Her!" The man said, "You can't be serious, I could never shoot my wife." The agent said, "Then you're not the right man for this job. Take your wife and go home." The second man was given the same instructions. He took the gun and went into the room. All was quiet for about 5 minutes. The man came out with tears in his eyes, "I tried, but I can't kill my wife." The agent said, "You don't have what it takes. Take your wife and go home." Finally, it was the woman's turn. She was given the same instructions, to kill her husband. She took the gun and went into the room. Shots were heard, one after another. They heard screaming, crashing, banging on the walls. After a few minutes, all was quiet. The door opened slowly and there stood the woman. She wiped the sweat from her brow. "This gun is loaded with blanks" she said. "I had to beat him to death with the chair."

### **Monkey Market**

From Raymond M'Cluskie

Once upon a time in a village, a man appeared and announced to the villagers that he would buy monkeys for \$10 each. The villagers, seeing that there were many monkeys in the forest, went out and started catching them. The man bought thousands at \$10 and as supply started to diminish, the villagers stopped their effort. He further announced that he would now buy at \$20. This renewed the efforts of the villagers and they started catching monkeys again. Soon the supply diminished even further and people started going back to their farms. The offer increased to \$25 each, and the supply of monkeys became so scarce that it was an effort to even see a monkey, let alone catch it! The man now announced that he would buy monkeys at \$50! However, since he had to go to the city on some business, his assistant would now buy on his behalf. In the absence of the man, the assistant told the villagers. 'Look at all these monkeys in the big cage the man has collected. I'll sell them to you at \$35 and when the man returns from the city, you can sell them to him for \$50 each.' The villagers rounded up all their savings and bought all the monkeys. Then they never saw the man nor his assistant ever again, only there were now monkeys everywhere! And that's how the stock market works!

### **Job Applicant**

From Kevin Beltrame

One day while walking down the street a highly successful Human Resources Manager was tragically hit by a bus and she died. Her soul arrived up in heaven where she was met at the Pearly Gates by St. Peter himself. 'Welcome to Heaven,' said St. Peter. 'Before you get settled in though, it seems we have a problem. You see, strangely enough, we've never once had a Human Resources Manager make it this far and we're not really sure what to do with you.' 'No problem, just let me in,' said the woman. 'Well, I'd like to, but I have higher orders. What we're going to do is let you have a day in Hell and a day in Heaven and then you can choose whichever one you want to spend an eternity in.' 'Actually, I think I've made up my mind, I prefer to stay in Heaven,' said the woman. 'Sorry, we have rules...!' And with that St. Peter put the executive in an elevator and it went down-down-down to hell. The doors opened and she found herself stepping out onto the putting green of a beautiful golf course. In the distance was a country club and standing in front of her were all her friends - fellow executives that she had worked with and they were well dressed in evening gowns and cheering for her. They ran up and kissed her on both cheeks and they talked about old times. They played an excellent round of golf and at night went to the country club where she enjoyed an excellent steak and lobster dinner. She met the Devil who was actually a really nice guy (kind of cute) and she had a great time telling jokes and dancing. She was having such a good time that before she knew it, it was time to leave. Everybody shook her hand and waved goodbye as she got on the elevator. The elevator went up-up-up and opened back up at the Pearly Gates and found St. Peter waiting for her. 'Now it's time to spend a day in heaven,' he said. So she spent the next 24 hours lounging around on clouds and playing the harp and singing. She had great time and before she knew it her 24 hours were up and St. Peter came and got her. 'So, you've spent a day in hell and you've spent a day in heaven. Now you must choose your eternity,' The woman paused for a second and then replied, 'Well, I never thought I'd say this, I mean, Heaven has been really great and all, but I think I had a better time in Hell.' So St. Peter escorted her to the elevator and again she went down-down-down back to Hell. When the doors of the elevator opened she found herself standing in a desolate wasteland covered in garbage and filth. She saw her friends were dressed in rags and were picking up the garbage and putting it in sacks. The Devil came up to her and put his arm around her. 'I don't understand,' stammered the woman, 'yesterday I was here and there was a golf course and a country club and we ate lobster and we danced and had a great time. Now all there is a wasteland of garbage and all my friends look miserable.' The Devil looked at her smiled and said 'Yesterday we were recruiting you, today you're an Employee'