



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 26 2008

NOVEMBER IS ROTARY FOUNDATION MONTH

PRESIDENT ELECTRIC'S LINES

The centurion program as outlined by Warwick Tester, last week, is in my opinion one of the very worthwhile programs in Rotary, with money going directly to Rotary Health. You may have given some thought to it over the past week so we will have some more centurions in our club.

We must all remember to apologise by Tuesday afternoon if unable to attend the weekly meetings – due to the ups and downs in our attendance numbers the golf club will start to charge us for incorrect advice given to them on the number of meals required.

It was agreed at our recent board meeting to continue with donations to our local schools for their citizenship awards and these were sent last week.

I mentioned last week how I would like to support the literacy program by filling the Qantas pillowslips with stationery items, all the pillowslips were taken last week(great effort), but don't worry their will be more this week!

On the weekend Penny and I ventured west to Orange and checked on one of our Rotarians and his farming prowess – all going well. On opening their local paper who was staring out at me on the social pages, Marlene Smith, she was in Orange last week for a school reunion – Strathfield is everywhere.

Our end of year commitment to the community is "Carols in the Park". Tony Lanzafame has the organisation well in hand -don't forget to diarise the 13th December, there is a job for everyone.

Christmas celebrations are fast approaching. Kevin Freund along with Connie are putting together an evening full of fun for the children on the 17th December. The clubs Christmas festivities will be on the 10th December. I hope we all have our thinking caps on for Friday night - the trivia night.

Commiserations to Kangaroo supporters and congratulations to our New Zealanders on their World Cup win – however the Wallabies still have their reputation *intact*.

This week we welcome Silma, not as a Rotarian but as our guest speaker, she will be speaking on a very important topic.

Remember - Fun and Fellowship in Rotary

President Grahame

TONIGHT'S MEETING

Muslim Culture and Australian Integration *Silma Ihram*

Introduced by Rod McDougall Thanked by Kevin Freund

CONGRATULATIONS

BIRTHDAYS

28/11/2008 *Rod McDougall*
29/11/2008 *Eric Khu*
3/12/2008 *Roger Vince*
Angela White
6/12/2008 *Keith Stockall*
Peter Harries

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

30/11/2008 *Allan & Kate Teale*
4/12/2008 *Mary Anne Kennan*
7/12/2008 *Paul & Angela White*
8/12/2008 *Rod & Maree McDougall*
Godfrey & Linda Isouard

ROTARY ANNIVERSARIES

27-Nov *Trevor Duxbury*
27-Nov *Neil Kennan*
30 Nov *Bill Carney*
30 Nov *Eve Dutton*
30 Nov *Terry Rohan*
30 Nov *Gurcharan Singh*
1 Dec *Ross Brown*
1 Dec *Keith Byrn*
1 Dec *Paul Giammarco*
1 Dec *Peter Manenti*
1 Dec *Sal Tosto*
18 Dec *Bradley Ayres*

LAST MEETING'S GUEST SPEAKERS

Our first guest speakers were Aaron Sivasothy and David Mahoney who spoke to us about Rotaract. Aaron and David were introduced by Bradley Ayres. Aaron is a member of Burwood Rotaract and advised that the aim of Rotaract is to bring peace and International Understanding to the world starting at the community level.

Rotaract started in the 1960's with Rotary sponsoring some university youth groups. It received a big boost

when the sponsorship of youth groups became an approved project for Rotary Clubs. Membership is open to people aged 18 to 30 who are interested in the goals of Rotaract. Members are able to develop their professional and personal contacts.

Rotaract gets involved in many community projects and activities. An example is the Primary Schools' Citizenship Awards (PRISCA). These awards recognise leadership and other valued attributes of students in local primary schools. Rotaract also conducts raffles and other activities to raise funds for children's charities.

David is a member of the '**GUNARGARANG**' Club at Penrith. This name is the aboriginal word for the place where the mountains meet the plain. David joined Rotaract in 1996 and is now a District Representative. David's parents were also members of Rotaract.

David's Club organised a large scale community event to raise funds for victims of bushfires. His Rotaract Club is involved in **Movember** which is raising funds for research into men's health issues.

Our third speaker was PDG Warwick Tester who spoke to us about the Centurion Program. Warwick was introduced by Harley Tarrant.

Warwick advised us that the proposal for an endowment fund was first put forward in 1917 by the then head of Rotary International. From humble beginnings this fund now receives \$85 million per year on average.

Originally an annual contribution of US\$100 was required. Since about 2000 a Centurion is required to contribute A\$100 to the Australian Rotary Foundation Trust. Contributions to the Trust are tax deductible.

Warwick advised us that he is now sending out annual reminders to contributors and this is proving to be very effective.

Warwick pointed out that 20% of contributions come back to local clubs as District Designated Funds. These funds have been used for projects such as the Holroyd Club's project to improve access to a local school for wheelchair bound students. The Wallacia Mulgoa Club received a grant to erect a war memorial in a park at Warragamba.

Warwick said that he was keenly awaiting the day when a local club had 100% of members contributing to the Centurion Program. Warwick was thanked by Janelle Watson.

Last Club Meeting's Statistics

Visitors: - David Mahoney (Rotaract)

Attendance: 38

Apologies: 14

Non-Apologies: 10

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

Exempt Members: - 5

Last Club Meeting's Raffle (The Raffle raised \$212)

1st Prize Picnic Frame

Doug Potter

2nd Prize Korean Art

Tony Brown

3rd Prize Red Wine

Les Hockley

4th Prize Dinner next Week

Ted Ingall

The Sergeant raised \$116.85

LAST MEETING'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

From President Grahame True

➤ Tables still available for Trivia Night

- Blue Literacy Kit Bags are now available for filling with Colouring Books & Pencils etc. A list of contents required is included. A carry strap needs to be sewn on the bag

➤ Thank you letter from Eve Dutton who is recovering at home

➤ Board Meeting held last night

From Secretary Allan Petersen

➤ AGM in 14 days

➤ \$50 donation to 15 local schools for community service award

➤ Invitation to 'Carols by Twilight' at Ashfield Children's Home on 5th Dec.

➤ Invitation to Xmas Dinner at the Epping Club for the ARHRF on 11th Dec.

➤ Rotary Race Day at Rosehill 2nd May 2009.

From Director Trevor Duxbury

➤ Thank You to RYDA volunteers

➤ Summary of the RYDA program being six thirty minute sessions on aspects of driving

From Ted Ingall

➤ Early Bird Conference registration ends at the end of November.

From Ray Wilson

➤ Reminder of Xmas Lunch and Golf Day on 4th Dec.

From Bert Houston

➤ 19 Tables filled for the Trivia Night.

From Steve Taylor

➤ Thank you to attendees at the Social Night at Romans. \$145 raised

From Warren Abbott

➤ Xmas cakes & puddings to be paid for & collected ASAP.

ROTARY NEWS

The latest fundraising project of The Rotary Club of Esperance in Perth has been a great success. The club produced a calendar "featuring" the ladies of the club. The Pearls of Wisdom calendar has so far raised \$15,000 for charity, including Rotary's WA Cord Blood Bank (a Rotary Centenary gift to the Australian community from the Rotary Clubs of Western Australia).

The story below was spotted by Rod McDougall, who is sure that Strathfield Rotary ladies would be keen to support such a project – and that the club's photographers would be eager to volunteer their time.

(See article following)

ROTARY LADIES EXPOSED

The Esperance Express 21/10/2008.

A GROUP of older women in Esperance have taken inspiration from the film 'Calendar Girls' and have bared not quite all in an effort to raise money for the palliative care unit at the Esperance Hospital and a Rotary sponsored cord blood research program. Katrina Mackenzie from the Esperance Rotary Club explained the idea: "This year we decided to have a bit of fun and raise some money, so we rounded up 15 ladies, aged from 45-80, and decided we would make a calendar."

The result of the fundraising exercise has seen a 13 month calendar produced, proudly sponsored by many local businesses. "Nobody hesitated," Ms Mackenzie said. "As soon as we told people what we were doing and what the money was going towards they said: 'where can I sign?'"



From Pearls of Wisdom, pictured is "February" Picture Marni Topping

FUTURE CLUB MEETINGS

- 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, Strathfield
- 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

➤ COMING EVENTS

- 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
- 13th December 2008. (Saturday)**
Carols by Candlelight
Strathfield Park
5:00pm to 9:00pm
- 14th February 2009.**
Dinner at the Duxbury's
- 19th February 2009. (Thursday)**
Trish Charity Golf Day & Dinner
Strathfield Golf Club
- 6th – 8th March 2009.**
District Conference
Cypress Lakes Resort, **Hunter Valley**

- 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

DISTRICT 9690 CENTURION PROGRAM

**The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International
Through the Australian Rotary Foundation Trust**
Donations made through the ARFT are Tax Deductible

I would like to become a Centurion so that I may personally support the great humanitarian programs of the Rotary Foundation Trust of Rotary International. To achieve this end, I commit myself to a contribution of \$100 AUS per annum for as long as I am in a position to do so.

Surname: _____

First Name: _____

Rotary Club of: _____

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Payment Details: Cheques to be made payable to
"The Australian Rotary Foundation Trust".

Receipts will be sent.

Credit Card Details: *BankCard MasterCard VisaCard*
Card No: ____/____/____/____ **Expiry Date:** ____/____

**Please send completed form to Lyn Tester, PO Box 107,
Silverdale NSW 2752**

STORIES FROM OUR MEMBERS

Two Choices

From Grahame True

At a fundraising dinner for a school that serves children with learning disabilities, the father of one of the students delivered a speech that would never be forgotten by all who attended. After extolling the school and its dedicated staff, he offered a question:

'When not interfered with by outside influences, everything nature does is done with perfection. Yet my son, Shay, cannot learn things as other children do. He cannot understand things as other children do. Where is the natural order of things in my son?'

The audience was stilled by the query. The father continued. 'I believe that when a child like Shay, who was mentally and physically disabled comes into the world, an opportunity to realize true human nature presents itself, and it comes in the way other people treat that child.' Then he told the following story:

Shay and I had walked past a park where some boys Shay knew were playing baseball. Shay asked, 'Do you think they'll let me play?' I knew that most of the boys would not want someone like Shay on their team, but as a father I also understood that if my son were allowed to play, it would give him a much-needed sense of belonging and some confidence to be accepted by others in spite of his handicaps. I approached one of the boys on the field and asked (not expecting much) if Shay could play. The boy looked around for guidance and said, 'We're losing by six runs and the game is in the eighth inning. I guess he can be on our team and we'll try to put him in to bat in the ninth inning.' Shay struggled over to the team's bench and, with a broad smile, put on a team shirt. I watched with a small tear in my eye and warmth in my heart. The boys saw my joy at my son being accepted.

In the bottom of the eighth inning, Shay's team scored a few runs but was still behind by three. In the top of the ninth inning, Shay put on a glove and played in the right field. Even though no hits came his way, he was obviously ecstatic just to be in the game and on the field, grinning from ear to ear as I waved to him from the stands. In the bottom of the ninth inning, Shay's team scored again. Now, with two outs and the bases loaded, the potential winning run was on base and Shay was scheduled to be next at bat. At this juncture, do they let Shay bat and give away their chance to win the game? Surprisingly, Shay was given the bat. Everyone knew that a hit was all but impossible because Shay didn't even know how to hold the bat properly, much less connect with the ball. However, as Shay stepped up to the plate, the pitcher, recognizing that the other team was putting winning aside for this moment in Shay's life, moved in a few steps to lob the ball in softly so Shay could at least make contact. The first pitch came and Shay swung clumsily and missed. The pitcher again took a few steps forward to toss the ball softly towards Shay. As the pitch came in, Shay swung at the ball and hit a slow ground ball right back to the pitcher.

The game would now be over. The pitcher picked up the soft grounder and could have easily thrown the ball to the first baseman. Shay would have been out and that would have been the end of the game.

Instead, the pitcher threw the ball right over the first baseman's head, out of reach of all team mates.

Everyone from the stands and both teams started yelling, 'Shay, run to first! Run to first!'

Never in his life had Shay ever run that far, but he made it to first base. He scampered down the baseline, wide-eyed and startled.

Everyone yelled, 'Run to second, run to second!'

Catching his breath, Shay awkwardly ran towards second, gleaming and struggling to make it to the base.

By the time Shay rounded towards second base, the right fielder had the ball, the smallest guy on their team who now had his first chance to be the hero for his team. He could have thrown the ball to the second-baseman for the tag, but he understood the pitcher's intentions so he, too, intentionally threw the ball high and far over the third-baseman's head.

Shay ran toward third base deliriously as the runners ahead of him circled the bases toward home.

All were screaming, 'Shay, Shay, Shay, all the Way Shay!' Shay reached third base because the opposing shortstop ran to help him by turning him in the direction of third base, and shouted, 'Run to third! Shay, run to third!' As Shay rounded third, the boys from both teams, and the spectators, were on their feet screaming, 'Shay, run home! Run home!' Shay ran to home, stepped on the plate, and was cheered as the hero who hit the grand slam and won the game for his team. 'That day', said the father softly with tears now rolling down his face, 'the boys from both teams helped bring a piece of true love and humanity into this world'.

Shay didn't make it to another summer. He died that winter, having never forgotten being the hero and making me so happy and coming home and seeing his Mother tearfully embrace her little hero of the day!

May your day, be a Shay Day.

Helpful Blonde

From Grahame True

A blonde lady motorist was about two hours from the Gold Coast when she was flagged down by a man whose truck had broken down. The man walked up to the car and asked, 'Are you going to the Gold Coast?'

'Sure,' answered the blonde, 'do you need a lift?'

'Not for me. I'll be spending the next three hours fixing my truck. My problem is I've got two chimpanzees in the back which have to be taken to the Gold Coast Zoo.

They're a bit stressed already so I don't want to keep them on the road all day. Could you possibly take them to the zoo for me? I'll give you \$100 for your trouble.'

'I'd be happy to,' said the blonde. So the two chimpanzees were ushered into the back seat of the blonde's car and carefully strapped into their seat belts.

Off they went. Five hours later, the truck driver was driving through the heart of the Gold Coast when suddenly he was horrified!! There was the blonde walking down the street and holding hands with the two chimps, much to the amusement of a big crowd. With a screech of brakes he pulled off the road and ran over to the blonde. 'What the heck are you doing here?' he demanded, 'I gave you \$100 to take these chimpanzees to the zoo.' 'Yes, I know you did,' said the blonde, 'but we had money left over so now we're going to SeaWorld