



STRATHFIELD ROTARY NEWS

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



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NOVEMBER IS ROTARY FOUNDATION MONTH

PRESIDENT ELECTRIC'S LINES

After no bulletin last week the press has been reinstated.

Neel Raman, the speaker on the 22nd had us all a little confused about when we think for ourselves, but "I think I can, I think I can, I'm not sure"!!!

On the heels of the Police Officer of the Year Peter Smith and his crew again excelled themselves with our Pride of Workmanship evening. Guests and awardees were all full of praise and Mike Bailey entertained us "weather" we liked it or not – great speaker.

Sport sport sport and more sport over the past fortnight we must all be square eyed by now. The Grand Prix on the Gold Coast, League World Cup still in play, Test Cricket in India and Saturday night Union – no comment. More importantly the District Golf Day of which Strathfield were the victors – well done guys.

Last Friday the McCluskie's, Foss's and True's kicked up their heels at the Breakfast Point Rotary Club dinner dance. A great night in their wonderful venue. On the night Strathfield received an award as acknowledgement for us helping with their jazz in the park fund raiser.

As I prepare these lines Penny and I are studying the form guide for an anticipated win at the Burwood Rotary Club Melbourne Cup evening. Good luck peoples.

Update on Eve- out of Alwyn and convalescing at a friend's home.

Don't forget a fun dinner on the 13th organised by Steve Taylor and also please contact Peter Van Der Sleen to assist with RYDA on the 14th.

Remember - Fun and Fellowship in Rotary

President Grahame

TONIGHT'S MEETING

Experiences with Vision Australia
Nick Gleeson & Jo Anne Reeves

Introduced by David Croft Thanked by Roger Vince

CONGRATULATIONS

BIRTHDAYS

02/11/2008	Bert Houston Sharon Saad
03/11/2008	Godfrey Isouard
04/11/2008	Nanette Duxbury
09/11/2008	David Croft
10/11/2008	Jan Van Der Sleenen
12/11/2008	Suzanne Freund

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

08/11/2008	Ray & Anne Wilson
12/11/2008	Suzanne & Kevin Freund

ROTARY ANNIVERSARIES

1 Nov	David Giri
1 Nov	George Hallworth
1 Nov	Richard Horwood
1 Nov	Bert Houston
1 Nov	Janelle Watson
8-Nov	Ian Johnson

LAST MEETING'S GUEST SPEAKER

Our guest speaker was Neel Raman who is a presenter and coach in the area of Performance Improvement. Neel titled his talk "Performance Improvement, Becoming More Productive and Getting Better Results". Neel was introduced by Trevor Duxbury.

Neel advised us that we all have infinite potential and that if we use a little more of our potential we will get better results in major aspects of our lives such as relationships, finances and career success. Each of us is limited by the ideas programmed into our minds and to change these ideas we need to understand how we think.

Neel pointed out that the mind is divided into the conscious mind and the subconscious mind. The subconscious mind contains our emotions and feelings and also contains our daily habits that we perform without any conscious thought.

With our conscious mind we can choose our own thoughts. In any given situation no matter how dire we can choose positive thoughts over negative thoughts. The thoughts we choose when expressed in actions produce results. If we change our thoughts we can change our results.

Our senses are bombarded every day to such an extent that it is hard to STAY FOCUSED. We must not allow our outside environment to dictate our thoughts. We must develop our intellectual faculties. These include:

Perception

This may be different to what our senses tell us. We should look for what is good in every situation.

Will

Stay focused. Concentrate without distraction. If we hold what we want clearly in mind then we will attract what we need to achieve our goal.

Imagination

Einstein said that imagination is more important than knowledge.

Memory

We should remember past successes with using our memory and use them to propel ourselves forward with confidence in our ability to remember.

Intuition

This in part is the ability to pick up vibrations from others. It is also the ability to come up with new ideas.

Reason

If we act on an idea we will move in the direction we want to go in.

In conclusion Neel again stated that if we take greater control of our conscious thoughts our results will start to improve. After answering questions Neel was thanked by Kevin Beltrame.

Last Club Meeting's Statistics

Visitors: - NIL

Attendance: 34

Apologies: 16

Non-Apologies: 12

LOA: Tony Lanzafame till 29/10, Silma Ihram till 31/12, Eve Dutton till 31/12, Peter Foss

Exempt Members: - 5

The Sergeant raised \$100

Last Club Meeting's Raffle

(The Raffle raised \$172)

1 st Prize	Golf Shirt	Allan Petersen
2 nd Prize	Red Wine	(Warren Abbott) Grahame True
3 rd Prize	Dinner next week	Niall King

MERIDEN AT RYPEN

by Genevieve Routh & Kiera Howlett (Year 10)

On 12 September through to 14 September we were sponsored by the Rotary Club of Strathfield to go to the biannual Rotary Youth Program of Enrichment (RYPEN) camp. Over 40 students aged 14 to 16 came from schools all around Sydney to stay at Blue Gum Lodge in the Blue Mountains.

The RYPEN camp focused on leadership, working in teams and creating long lasting friendships. At RYPEN there were several guest speakers each with their own story and their own ideas of what makes a

great leader. We also were able to learn about the work of Rotary within our community as well as internationally.

The camp was great fun and a worthwhile experience from which any person would benefit. RYPEN will stay in both of our memories for ever as it made us take a few steps out of our comfort zones to become more confident and outgoing.

COMING EVENTS

13th November 2008. (Thursday)

Social Night @ ROMANS RESTAURANT CONCORD.

14th November 2008. (Friday)

**RYDA at Penrith. Meriden School
Volunteers needed**

28th November 2008. (Friday)

**TRIVIA NIGHT (Tables of 8)
Strathfield Golf Club. 7:00 for 7:30pm
\$15pp Coffee & Nibbles**

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**

DISTRICT 9690 GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP WINNERS

The annual District 9690 Championship Golf Day was won by Strathfield this year. Congratulations to team members Trevor Duxbury, Les Hockley, Neil Kennan and Joseph Kim, who were presented with their award and prizes by President Grahame True. Last year's winners, Burwood Rotary, were placed second, whilst Breakfast Point Rotary, competing for the first time, occupied the third spot. An excellent day was organised by Ray Wilson, with assistance from Niall King.



LAST MEETING'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

From President Grahame True

- Welcome back to Allan Teale
- John Watkins is recovering well from his treatment and hopes to return to the Club soon
- Reminder of Burwood Rotary Melbourne Cup Night on Mon. 3rd November 2008, Pride of Workmanship on 29th October and Golf Day on 23rd October.
- The Board has donated \$500 to Ronald McDonald House
- Commitment sheet for Social Night/Dinner on Thurs., 13th November at "Romans", Majors Bay Road Concord

From Secretary Allan Petersen

- District Directories still available
- Thank you letter from 'Police Legacy' for donation of \$2,000
- The Catholic University Strathfield is holding an Art Exhibition 22/10 to 1/11
- Six to Eight Volunteers needed on Friday 14th November for the RYDA program held at Penrith for MERIDEN School

From Director Niall King

- Thank you to Doug Potter, Ted Ingall & his son for gardening at the MS Centre Lidcombe on Sat 18th Oct.

From Director Janelle Watson

- At the last Board Meeting the Board gave:-
 - \$1,200 for another Shelter-Box
 - \$1000 for Bed-Nets
 - \$516 for Our World Vision Sponsored Child
- World Vision has moved from Ethiopia to Uganda, abandoning sponsored children in Ethiopia. Our new Student in Uganda is 10 year old Paulo Mosabi
- A review of our donation to World Vision is being considered with Members asked to consider other Charities
- The inbound GSE Tea from South Brazil is in the District for 4 weeks in Jan/Feb 2009. The Team is available to our area for one week in Feb 2009 if we can host 5 members for tours and accommodation

From Ray Wilson

- South Sydney Rotary is organising a 'Sea-Food Night' on the 31st October 2008. \$85pp Tables of 10

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.

FUTURE CLUB MEETINGS

12th November 2008

Judicial Reminiscences

Justice Terry Sheahan
Introduced by Paul White Thanked by Bert Houston

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

NEW MANAGER OF DIK

Most of you will realise that 5 weeks ago Ken "Grumpy" Nicholls passed away. He efficiently and successfully ran the "Donations in Kind" Depot for Eastern Region for several years and had persons from all over the Region contact him by telephone for advice on all matters DIK.

Unfortunately there are still a large number of Rotarians throughout the region who don't know of his passing and so are still using the published phone number to ring for DIK advice. His wife Bobbie has indicated that these calls are distressing for her and embarrassing for the Rotarian who calls.

The new Manager of Donations in Kind (DIK) is Miriam Jacka, and she and her team are hoping to offer the same "Efficient and Friendly Service" that we have grown to expect and we welcome her. Direct all DIK matters to:-

The Manager, Eastern Region DIK

Email: - ljacka@zipworld.com.au

Phone: - 0409 717 973

RI GENERAL SECRETARY ADDRESSES IMPACT OF U.S. FINANCIAL CRISIS

Dear Rotarians,

Given the troubling news from Wall Street over the past several weeks, we have received many inquiries about the impact these events will have on Rotary International and The Rotary Foundation. Although our investments have lost value in the short term, we believe they will recover when the financial markets stabilize. In addition, Rotary maintains a diversified portfolio that includes investments outside of the markets that were adversely impacted by recent events. Rotary's investment policies have proven to be sound through past down markets. This prudent management should allow our programs and projects to continue as planned.

Many Rotarians have asked specifically about our investment holdings, insurance coverage, and reserves, so I would like to note the following:

Both The Rotary Foundation's and RI's investment portfolios have only minor exposure to the companies that were taken over by the U.S. government (Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, and AIG), purchased by other financial institutions (Merrill Lynch and WaMu), or declared Chapter 11 bankruptcy (Lehman).

Although RI has some insurance coverage placed with AIG, AIG's insurance businesses are safe in that they are separate legal entities closely regulated by both state and federal agencies.

Both RI and the Foundation have strong cash balances, and year-to-date revenues from sources other than investments are ahead of last year.

All money in the PolioPlus Fund is invested in U.S. treasuries, the safest securities available.

Both RI and the Foundation have adequate reserves to operate without having to sell investment securities at a loss.

Last week, The Rotary Foundation Investment Advisory Committee met with Rotary's independent investment consultant and several money managers for its regular investment review. The committee confirmed that the current investment policies set by the RI Board and Foundation Trustees continue to be appropriate for the long term. The committee advised the Trustees to continue diversifying the portfolio to further mitigate the impact of losses in any particular market.

You can be assured that Rotary's senior leaders, the general secretary, the Financial Services staff, and Rotary's investment consultant are monitoring this situation very closely. We are confident our investment and reserve policies will allow the good work of Rotary to continue around the world.

Sincerely,

Ed Futa

General Secretary, Rotary International

HUMOUR FROM OUR MEMBERS

The Funeral Service

From Grahame Truee

A young Priest in Whyalla was asked by a funeral director to hold a grave-side service for a homeless man, who had no family or friends. The funeral was to be held at a new cemetery way back in the country, and this man would be the first to be buried there.

He was not familiar with the bush and he soon became lost. Being a typical man, he did not stop to ask for directions, finally arriving an hour late.

He saw the backhoe and the open grave, but the hearse was nowhere in sight. The digging crew was eating lunch. He apologised to the workers for his tardiness, and stepped to the side of the open grave. There he saw the vault lid already in place. He assured the workers he would not hold them up for long, as this was the proper thing to do.

The workers gathered around the grave and stood silent by, as he began to pour out his heart and soul. As he preached about 'looking forward to a brighter tomorrow and the glory that is to come,' the workers began to say 'Amen,' 'Praise the Lord,' and 'Glory!' The fervour of these men truly inspired him. So, he preached and preached like he had never preached before, all the way from Genesis to Revelations.

He finally closed the lengthy service with a prayer, thanked the men, and walked to his car. As he was opening the door and taking off his coat, he heard one of the workers say to another, 'I ain't NEVER seen nothin' like that before, and I've been puttin' in septic tanks for thirty years!'

Two Priests on Vacation

From Shirley Del Prado

Two priests decided to go to Hawaii on vacation.

They were determined to make this a real vacation by not wearing anything that would identify them as clergy. As soon as the plane landed they headed for a store and bought some really outrageous shorts, shirts, sandals, sunglasses, etc.

The next morning they went to the beach dressed in their 'tourist' garb. They were sitting on beach chairs, enjoying a drink, the sunshine and the scenery when a 'drop dead gorgeous' blonde in a topless bikini came walking straight towards them. They couldn't help but stare.

As the blonde passed them she smiled and said 'Good Morning, Father ~ Good Morning, Father,' nodding and addressing each of them individually, then she passed on by. They were both stunned. How in the world did she know they were priests?

So the next day, they went back to the store and bought even more outrageous outfits. These were so loud you could hear them before you even saw them!

Once again, in their new attire, they settled down in their chairs to enjoy the sunshine. After a little while, the same gorgeous blonde, wearing a different colored topless bikini, taking her sweet time, came walking toward them. Again she nodded at each of them, said 'Good morning, Father ~ Good morning, Father,' and started to walk away. One of the priests couldn't stand it any longer and said, 'Just a minute, young lady.' 'Yes, Father?' 'We are priests and proud of it, but I have to know, how in the world do you know we are priests, dressed as we are?' She replied, 'Father, it's me, Sister Kathleen.'