



Strathfield Rotary News



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

President: Kevin Freund

Website: www.strathfieldrotary.org.au

September is New Generations Month

Kev's Conveyances

Wednesday, September 30, 2009

Well, we have certainly experienced some interesting weather conditions recently, and they were challenging to say the least on Sunday, when a good number of our members braved strong winds for the majority of the day whilst manning the barbecue at the Strathfield Spring Fair. It was great to see a strong roll up and the effort provided for an enjoyable and successful day. Thank you to everyone who provided their time and energy.

The club has a number of events scheduled over the next few months where members and partners are most welcome including a day at Domenico & Johanna Alvaro's home at Bowral, travelling by coach or car, on Sunday October 25th; Pride of Workmanship, on Wednesday October 28th; the Infant's Home Barbecue at Bunnings Ashfield, on Saturday November 7th; a Trivia Night on Friday November 13th, organized by Bert Houston, at Strathfield Golf Club; and a Wine Tasting Evening, conducted by Cabarita Cellars and Peter Manenti, on Wednesday 18th November, at the Golf Club.

It looks a busy schedule, but we hope there is a little bit of something for everyone to participate in and enjoy. I encourage everyone to also look at the guest speakers we have scheduled, thanks to Neil Kennan and his committee, for our regular meeting nights and feel confident that you will be both informed and entertained on attendance.

This Week's Meeting

**From the Desert to the Beach
All in the Name of Education**

Erin Greenhalgh

Introduced by PP Peter Manenti Thanked by PP Bert Houston

Let's continue to enjoy that Rotary spirit of fellowship and Service above Self and remember that "The Future of Rotary is in Your Hands".

Tonight we welcome Erin Greenhalgh, who will convey her experiences of being a guardian to two Indigenous students from the tiny township of Ti Tree in the Northern Territory, who are now attending Meriden and living in Homebush.

Cheers, **President Kevin**

Last Week's Presentation

Recorded by Ian Johnson

Presentation by 2008-9 GSE Team

Our guest speakers were Graham Wilson and Kathy Nash who spoke to us about the 2008-2009 GSE team's trip to Brazil. Graham and Kathy were introduced by PP Stephen Taylor. Graham is a member of Penrith Valley Rotary Club. Kathy, who is a psychologist, was sponsored by the Lower Blue Mountains Rotary Club.

Graham advised us that the team went to District 4710 which is located in the south of Brazil. District 4710 is similar in size to our District.

Graham started by giving us some information about Brazil. It was colonised by Portugal in 1532. It obtained its independence in 1822. It occupies 50% of the South American continent. It is the 5th largest country in the world and has the 5th largest population however it ranks 63rd on income per person.

Kathy advised us that the GSE ran from 29 March 2009 to 27 April 2009. In that time they stayed with six hosts and at two hotels and covered 3,500 kilometres. She found the Brazilians to be exceptionally hospitable.



President Kevin with Kathy Nash and Graham Wilson

The group made twelve presentations to sixteen clubs and to a District Conference. The presentations were made in Portuguese which greatly impressed the Brazilians. The group were the first to do this. The group had eight lessons in Portuguese before leaving Australia.

One of the highlights for Kathy was a day spent at the Iguacu Falls which she found to be amazing. Also she found the vocational visits to be of great interest. In Australia special schools are funded by the government whilst in Brazil most are

funded by Rotarians. One team member was a police officer which led to some interesting (but scary) visits to police stations and a jail. We were also informed of some cultural aspects of the trip. We were told of the popular local dance which includes aspects of martial arts. The primary agricultural pursuits are beef cattle and sugar cane. There are a lot of visible Rotary projects as there is little government funding for the special needs of the community. The main meal is had in the middle of the day. A favourite meal is barbecue skewers. One of the team members who is a vegetarian was inadvertently placed with a host who was a butcher!

We were told that security was frequently an issue which often led to high fences being built. We were told of a "no-go-zone" where a low security school had been built which despite initial problems had proven successful and which had led to a more open community.

In conclusion we were informed that during their stay the team had received six proposals for matching grants totalling \$80,000. Graham's club has taken on one of these. Graham and Kathy were thanked by Janelle Watson.

Last Week's Proceedings

Recorded by Roger Vince

From President Kevin

Thanked Domenico and Johanna Alvaro for offering their beautiful home in Bowral on Sunday 25th October for a day of fellowship, food, wine and music. The invitation is extended to family and friends who may travel to Bowral in a luxury coach for \$10 per head or use their own transport. The bus will depart from Strathfield Golf Club at 9am and return to the Golf Club by 5pm. Members need to advise numbers by 16th October and whether they will be travelling in the coach or in their own transport.

Reminded those members who are helping at the Strathfield Council Spring Fair this Sunday.

Advised members that he spoke to John Watkins this week, he has been very ill with a serious lung problem. John, who was a great stalwart and supporter of the Club would like to have a chat and a coffee in Homebush with any member who can spare the time, please give him a ring. John indicated he would try and attend a meeting as soon as he is able.

Announced that Charles Pitt rang to apologise for not attending the meeting tonight and to advise the Club that Olga's Father passed away at the weekend and the funeral service is to be held tomorrow. The Club has passed their condolences on to Olga, Charles and their family.

From PP Ted Ingall

Advised those members who are attending next year's conference in Forster that he was handing out information kits including the registration form. He reminded members to send the registration form away with payment by the end of November to obtain the early bird discount.



Have a Laugh



Changing a light bulb!

So, just how many people does it take to change a light bulb? A number of years ago the question was put to the students of Sydney, and here's how they replied (although attitudes and traditions may have since changed):

Scot's: Two. One to mix the martinis and one to phone the electrician.

PLC: One. She holds the bulb and the world revolves around her.

Sydney Grammar: Two. One to change the bulb and one to crack under pressure.

James Ruse Agricultural: Four. One to design a nuclear powered one that never needs changing, two to install it and one to write the computer programme that controls the switch.

Loretto Kirribilli: One. She'll put through a call to maintenance staff because there's no way she's going to do manual labour.

Mater Maria: Twenty. One to change it and the rest to carry on about how it was, like soooo fully better than at their old school.

Knox Grammar: Two. One to install the new bulb completely powered by testosterone and one to brag about it loudly.

Cranbrook: Six. One to change the bulb and five to support its sexual orientation.

Ravenswood: Five. One to change the bulb, two to reassure her that she doesn't look fat at the top of the ladder and two to circulate photos showing that she does.

Abbotsleigh: Four. One to smash the glass ceiling so that they can get to the top of the ladder, one to install the bulb and two to check that it's brighter than PLC's.

Shore: Sixteen. One to send out the invitations, two to get the beer, one to change the bulb, one to buy Ralph Lauren polos for everyone, two to smuggle the chicks in and one to keep watch for the boarding master. The second eight just need to be ready to back them up.

Maccdonald College: Five. One to change the globe and four to do an interpretive dance about it.

Killara High: Two. One to change the bulb and one to write to the North Shore Times about how she did it as well as any private school student.

Santa Sabina: None. They're all down at Strathfield Station having a ciggie.

St Pat's, Strathfield: Ten. One to change it and one to buy the hair gel to impress Santa Sabina chicks, while the rest compete wiv da Christian Bruvvers for da turf (Strathfield Station).

Homebush Boys High: Fourteen. One to change it, one to throw the old one at the St. Pat's boys and 12 to kick the !!!! out of each other in the meantime.

Barrenjoey High: Eleven. One to change it and ten to share the experience.

Joey's: Fifteen. It's not that one's not smart enough, it's just that they're a team and they have to form a lineout and get the backs into position.

Barker College: Fifteen. One to change it and the rest to walk around as if they own the place and talk it up.

Sydney Uni: Seventy six. One to change the globe, fifty to protest the globe's right not to be changed and twenty five to stage a counter protest.

"If we don't succeed, we run the risk of failure."

Bill Clinton

"I do not object to people looking at their watches when I am speaking - but I strongly object when they start shaking them to make certain they are still going."

Lord Birkett, MP and Lawyer (Attrib.)



Another Laugh



Maureen had been talking for a very long time to the doctor about her husband's symptoms.

"I'm afraid, doctor," she said finally, "that my husband has some terrible mental disorder. Sometimes I talk to him for hours then discover he hasn't heard a single word."

"That's not a disorder," was the doctor's weary reply, "that's a gift."

Last Meeting's Statistics

Attendance: 32

Visiting Rotarians: PP Graham Wilson
(RC Penrith Valley)

Visitor: Kathy Nash
(GSE Team Member District 4710)

Apologies: 16

Non-Apologies: 11

L.O.A.: Warren Abbott
Paolo Giammarco
Doug Potter

Raffle raised \$205.00

Winners

Harley Tarrant
Joseph Kim
Kathy Nash

The Sergeants raised \$80.15

Congratulations

Birthdays

30th September **Margery Foss**
4th October **Fiona Johnson**
5th October **Grahame True**

Wedding Anniversaries

Ted and Mary Ingall

Rotary Anniversaries

None

Rotary Grace

O, Lord and giver of all good,
We thank you for our daily food,
May Rotary friends and Rotary ways
Help us to serve you all our days.

Dates for Your Diary

For catering purposes, please remember to send apologies or details of extra attendees by
4.00pm Tuesdays to Eric Khu 9746 0397

email: brontin@bigpond.com

Late apologies by 5.00pm Wednesdays to Kevin Freund 0412 494 125

7th October (Wednesday)

*The Climate Change Issue
Carbon Ready... or not?*

Andrew Petersen
Partner, PricewaterhouseCoopers

Introduced by Allan Petersen Thanked by Welwyn Petersen

10th November (Tuesday)

District Golf Day

11th November (Wednesday)

MS Ambassador

13th November (Friday) ► Allcomers' Night ◀
Trivia Night

18th November (Wednesday) ► Partners' Night ◀

Wine Tasting Evening
Hosted by Cabarita Cellars

25th November (Wednesday)

Hearing Voices Network

9th December (Wednesday) ► Partners' Night ◀

Strathfield Rotary Christmas Party

16th December (Wednesday)

Children's Christmas Party

18th February 2010 (Thursday)

Transfer meeting from 17th February
Trish MS Research Foundation Golf Day

19th to 21st March 2010

District 9690 Conference, Forster NSW

14th October (Wednesday)

Travelling the Silk Road

Brian Lawrenson
Past President, Breakfast Point Rotary Club

Introduced by Joe Saad Thanked by Ray Wilson

21st October (Wednesday)

*Awareness: An Effective Way
to Beat Prostate Cancer*

Hayes van der Meer

Introduced by Peter Smith Thanked by Peter Foss

25th October (Sunday) ► Partners' Day ◀

A Day with the Alvaros

Join Domenic and Johanna Alvaro at their beautiful
home at Bowral in the Southern Highlands.

28th October (Wednesday) ► Partners' Night ◀

Pride of Workmanship Awards

**The Rotary Club of Strathfield meets every Wednesday evening at Strathfield Golf Club, Centenary Drive, Strathfield.
Visitors welcome**

Rotary Note

by Raymond McCluskie

A Note on Attendance

The Rotary Club of Strathfield's Constitution outlines a Rotarian's meeting attendance responsibility.

Our Constitution says that each Strathfield Rotary member should attend Strathfield Rotary Club's regular meetings. We are a Rotary Club and the meetings are for us. When you review the meeting details a lot of work by a lot of Rotarians goes into making it happen so no wonder our Constitution expects you to attend.

The Constitution also recognises that when members are involved in Rotary activities and Rotary duties and who might attend other Clubs' meetings they should be given credit equivalent to participating at a meeting. They are called make-ups and the constitution details what comprise make-ups.

The Constitution is really quite generous. It sets a minimum attendance rate. Throughout each Rotary half year you need only attend (including make-ups)

50% of Club meetings but it does have a couple of riders: You must not miss 4 weeks continuously (note: you should apply for leave of absence) and also that at least 30% attendance must be at your own Club. But breach the minimum attendance requirements and the Constitution gets tough "the member's membership shall be subject to termination unless the board consents to such non-attendance for good cause".

Now the good news. The constitution recognises that from time to time attendance can be difficult for various reasons (sickness, travelling or other problems) and allows the board to grant leave of absence for specific periods. Also the constitution recognises that there comes a time in a Rotarian's life that the matter of attendance is self regulating and so these Rotarians emeritus, so to speak, needn't have all these constitutional rigours applied to them. It's known as the 85 rule, and you can apply for this attendance exemption if the sum of your chronological age and years of Rotary membership exceed 85.

Although it's not in the constitution a member is expected to apologise for non

attendance. So even if you are exempt attending a meeting as a result of say, a makeup, exceeding 50% attendance rate, the 85 rule, on special Rotary duties, emergencies or for what ever reason you believe exempts you from attendance, it is only polite to apologise either by seeking leave of absence or advising the number of meetings you will be absent.

Remember nothing is automatic. You must make the Club aware. So what should a good Rotarian do in regard to attending Club meetings? Here are five points:

- ◆ Monitor your attendance and tell the attendance officer of your make-ups;
- ◆ If you are likely to miss 4 weeks in a row apply for leave of absence;
- ◆ If you're away for an extended period, apply for leave of absence;
- ◆ If you are eligible for the "85 rule" and you want to take advantage of its provisions then you must apply in writing to the board; and
- ◆ If you haven't applied for leave of absence please apologise when you can't attend a meeting.

The Ritual Continues — Passing the Rotary Sausage.



Strathfield Spring Fair, Sunday, 27th September 2009



Synchronized Smiles!



Synchronized Tongues!



The Last Laugh



Woods and Wonder

Stevie Wonder and Tiger Woods are in a restaurant having dinner. Woods turns to Wonder and says, "How's the singing career going?"

Stevie Wonder replies, "Not too bad. How's the golf?"

Woods replies, "Not too bad. I've had some problems with my swing, but I think I've got that going now."

Stevie says, "I always find that when my swing goes wrong, I need to stop playing for a while and not think about it. Then, the next time I play, it seems to be alright."

Tiger says, "You play golf?"

Wonder says, "Oh yes, I've been playing for years."

Woods says, "But you're blind! How can you play golf if you can't see?"

Wonder replies, "I get my caddy to stand in the middle of the fairway and call to me. I listen for the sound of his voice and

play the ball toward him. Then, when I get to where the ball lands, the caddy moves to the green or farther down the fairway and again I play the ball toward his voice."

"But how do you putt?" asks Woods.

"Well," says Stevie, "I get my caddy to lean down behind the hole and call to me with his head on the ground, and I just play the ball toward his voice."

Woods asks, "What's your handicap?"

Stevie says, "Well, I'm a scratch golfer."

Woods, incredulous, says to Stevie, "We've got to play a round sometime."

Wonder replies, "Well, people don't take me seriously, so I only play for money, and never play for less than \$10,000 a hole."

Woods thinks about it and says, "OK, I'm up for that. When would you like to play?"

Stevie says, "Pick a night."

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Printed by Selectprint

Printers, Typesetters since 1977

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