



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

July is New Rotary Officers' Month

Kev's Conveyances

Wednesday, July 29, 2009

The second anniversary of the passing of Past President Euan Watson was commemorated with a "Remembrance Ride" to Brighton on Sunday, when a colourful group of "Lycra Boys", provided the opportunity for some good fellowship on one of Euan's favourite rides.

District Governor, Paul Reid, in his first newsletter, has put particular emphasis on literacy programs during his year and is encouraging clubs to make an impact in this area. I feel that our club has the potential to provide wider support, gained from our ongoing experience in the Literacy Extension Program with Strathfield Girls High School.

I would also encourage members to visit and explore the district website at www.rotary9690.org.au or by simply clicking on the links through our own website, to witness what is happening throughout our district, and if you feel areas where we can contribute information, I am confident that we will receive a favourable response.

At last week's meeting we learnt a great deal about two of our

Last Week's Presentation Recorded by Ian Johnson

Rotarian Revelations

Our guest speakers were fellow members Doug Potter and Godfrey Isouard who told us about their "jobs".

Doug, who runs a travel agency, told us of his early days in the travel industry dealing with customer's complaints and lost bags. He told us of one flight on a DC3 going from Mascot to Albion Park. On take off the pilot requested that passengers at the rear of the plane move to the front so that the load would be evenly distributed for take off. The pilot omitted to tell the passengers to return to their seats after take off and found on arrival at their destination that many of them had remained standing at the front of the plane for the entire flight. One passenger commented that whilst she could understand sometimes missing out on a seat on the bus she did expect to have a seat on a plane!

Doug advised us that domestic airline bookings were once a significant source of income for many travel agents. Now many people hunt for bargains on the internet and book online. He told us that, to do well now, a travel agency needed to have an established client base or to cater for a niche in the travel market.

Doug's business is an amalgamation of an American Express office and a

Travelscene office. Doug informed us that being able to use the American Express logo was very important for his business and that it is the tenth most recognised brand in the world.

Doug advised us that 2009 is the year of the "travel special". New airlines and larger aircraft are now servicing Australia. In an effort to fill seats many prices are now reduced to about half of what they were a year ago.

Doug also advised us that there has been a big increase in the popularity of cruising, although the state government has been slow to provide the additional terminal facilities required. The government should remedy this situation urgently as the passengers the ships bring to Sydney spend a lot of money whilst they are here.

Doug expressed the view that Sydney's second airport would be built at Richmond as the existing runway there is long enough to accommodate the world's largest planes. Doug expressed concern that the recent hotel bombings in Indonesia may affect travel to Bali which had largely recovered after previous terrorist attacks. In conclusion Doug noted that increased travel would be an integral part of Australia's recovery from recession.

Godfrey Isouard worked at Canterbury Hospital early in his career. There he received wide experience in general pathology and endocrinology. Being a

This Week's Meeting

House with No Steps

Presented by

Dennis O'Reilly

General Manager, Fund Raising and Community Relations

members, Doug Potter and Godfrey Isouard, in our initial Rotary Revelations for the year, and I am sure we all gained a better insight into the vocational depth and diversity of our club.

President Kevin

young doctor on call in such a busy hospital Godfrey had to deal with the needs of a wide range of patients.

Godfrey then worked at Lidcombe Hospital where he found the culture to be quite different. Whilst at Lidcombe Godfrey started his Masters in Public Health.

Then "area health boards" were implemented and Godfrey became involved with "change management" which he enjoyed. He then commenced his PhD. studies.

Godfrey then started working with the University of Western Sydney. He was involved with the amalgamation of the Macarthur, Nepean and Western Sydney institutions. He had to deal with a lot of vested interests as the number of schools and deans were drastically reduced. He was also involved with preparing 5 year and 25 year strategic plans for the University. During this time Godfrey's interest in research was put on the back burner.

Godfrey has been involved with moves by the University to engage with significant groups in the local community. Representatives of the University have meet with elders of one significant group who place great emphasis on religion and education. This has resulted in increased enrolments of young people who are often the first member of their family to attend university.

Last Week's Presentation (contd)

Godfrey has also been involved with opening up the campuses to local high school students so that the University is not viewed as a foreign environment.

In conclusion Godfrey advised us of some of the research projects he is presently involved with. One, which is of great topical interest, is research into "cyber bullying" in local high schools. Results from this project should be published soon. Another project involves the radiography department at Blacktown Hospital. The aim has been to reduce the number of unnecessary X-rays being processed and thereby creating better access for X-rays that are essential.

The "85 Rule"

by Harley Tarrant

There has been discussion in the club recently about the so-called "85 rule" and PP Raymond McCluskie has been inquiring as to who is entitled to apply for excused absence under that rule.

Article 9, section 3(b) of the Standard Club Constitution provides:

"A member's absence shall be excused if:

- (b) the aggregate of that member's years of age and years of membership in one or more clubs is 85 years or more and the member has notified the club secretary in writing of the member's desire to be excused from attendance and the board has approved."

Section 5 of that article provides:

"Any member whose absences are excused under the provisions of subsection 3(b)... of this article shall not be included in the membership figure used to compute this club's attendance."

There are some important matters to consider in relation to the application for and approval of excused absence under this provision.

Firstly, the member should consider whether or not he or she intends to maintain regular attendance. If the member intends to do so, there is no advantage either to the member or the club to apply for excused absence. If approved by the board, the member is no longer included in the membership for calculating the club's percentage attendance and the club will be penalised by not being able to include that member's regular attendance. However, if the member is unable to continue to maintain regular attendance and is eligible, applying for excused attendance

Last Week's Announcements *Recorded by Harley Tarrant*

From President Kevin

Thanked members for their participation and ideas presented at the club assembly.

From International Service Director Trevor Duxbury

Advised re selection and criteria for GSE Team. See details on page 3.

PP Steve Taylor suggested that the club prepare a one-page brochure to circulate to schools and the Catholic University.

From Secretary Charles Pitt

Advised he was coerced into announcing that he had no announcements.

From Niall King

Requested members to advise of any prospective sponsors for the Trish Golf Day. The committee will be sending out invitations shortly.

From Treasurer Keith Stockall

Advised that, as Shirley is ill, receipts for dues paid this week will be issued next week.

From PP Peter Foss

Advised that Breakfast Point Club will be hosting a musical evening at MLC on Saturday 1st August. Proceeds will go to the enhancement of Teacher Training College in East Timor. There will be a light meal and drinks at a cost of \$50 per head. Performance will be by MLC Students. Call Peter or Margery for tickets.

From PP Steve Taylor

Advised that there will be a walk in mid to late August for Parkinson's NSW in Bicentennial Park. More details later.

Steve also presented a banner and other items from the Rotary Club of Belfast to President Kevin.

may be of benefit both to the member and the club.

Secondly, it must be remembered that the board is under no obligation to grant approval and should consider the merits of each case. The board should ascertain the member's intentions regarding future attendance before deciding on its course of action.

Thirdly, there is the problem of apologies. Should an excused member continue to apologise, say nothing, or only advise the club when he or she intends to attend? Unfortunately, the constitution and by-laws are silent on this point. Clearly, the club needs to know as accurately as possible how many members will be attending each meeting. However, if an excused member is only going to attend once or twice a year, is it unreasonable to expect that member to apologise when not attending? In such cases it may be preferable to require the member to advise the club only when he or she intends to attend. This is a matter for the board to consider and to establish a policy.

It should also be noted that this provision should not be used where the inability to attend is for a limited period only. This can be covered adequately by seeking **Leave of Absence**.

Congratulations

Birthdays

29th July **Joseph Kim**
1st August **Pam Singh**
3rd August **Joanne Slater**
4th August **Grace Kim**

Wedding Anniversaries

None

Rotary Anniversaries

None

Rotary Leadership Institute

The Rotary Leadership Institute is providing Courses 1 and 3 on August 1st at Youth Hall at the St Marys RSL Ex-servicemen's Club, in Mamre Road, St Marys. The cost of the course is \$25.

It is a program that is suitable for all Rotarians - new and experienced. Places are limited to 16 people per course.

Trainers are Barry Thompson, Phil Lacey, Ian Scott, Jennifer Scott, Marilyn Mercer, Paul Reid and Keith Roffey.

"The mission of The Rotary Leadership Institute is to provide an educational opportunity for Rotarians identified as potential leaders by their club presidents. Courses will be given for the nominees to foster Rotary knowledge and leadership skills. It is hoped that these courses will also motivate the participants to be enthusiastic, creative and dedicated Rotarians. Those attending the three course days for their full duration will receive recognition of completion. Course methods will reflect the most innovative and participatory methods possible. Methods will include discussion groups, role-playing, problem solving workshops, group planning exercises, etc. Lectures are limited.

Further details from President Kevin

Last Meeting's Statistics

Attendance: 34

Apologies: 14

Non-Apologies: 12

The Sergeants raised \$104.60

Raffle raised \$225.00

Winners

Domenico Alvaro

Ray Wilson

Ian Johnson

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

5th August 2009 (Wednesday) [*Partners Night*]
The Police Officer of the Year Awards
 Commissioner Andrew Scipione APM
 6.30 for 7.00pm

12th August 2009 (Wednesday)
Water for Life
 Dr Michael Storey
 Sydney Water

19th August 2009 (Wednesday)
Strathfield Girls High School
Literary Extension

26th August 2009 (Wednesday)
RYDA
 Greg Rappo
 Director of Program Development

2nd September 2009 (Wednesday)
Visit by Assistant District Governor Keith Roffey

3rd September 2009 (Thursday)
Tagalong Outback Experience 2009
 Inverell Rotary Club 14 day Caravan Tour. \$1,000 per vehicle
 plus \$20pp for evening meals. \$30 subsidy for non-vanners.
 Phone 02 6722 4488 or Mobile 0428 221004

9th September 2009 (Wednesday)
Raising Positive Kids in a Negative World:
Challenges for Schools and Parents
 Dr Julie Greenhalgh
 Principal of Meriden

16th September 2009 (Wednesday)
Visit by District Governor Paul Reid

23rd September 2009 (Wednesday)
Presentation by 2008-9 outbound GSE Team

30th September 2009 (Wednesday)
From the Desert to the Beach,
all in the name of Education
 Erin Greenhalgh

10th November (Tuesday)
District Golf Day

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

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

Applications called for Group Study Exchange Team 2010

This Rotary year, District 9690 will be exchanging with District 7820, which covers Nova Scotia, Newfoundland, Labrador and Prince Edward Island in Canada. The proposed dates are from May 1st to 31st 2010. The District GSE Committee is now calling for applications for team members for this exchange.

Some of the qualifications and responsibilities for GSE Team Members are:

- ◆ between the ages of 25 and 40 at the time of application;
- ◆ employed full-time in a recognised business or profession for at least two years;
- ◆ resident of, or working in, District 9690;
- ◆ not a Rotarian or not a lineal relation of a Rotarian;
- ◆ a citizen of Australia;
- ◆ in good health;
- ◆ able to express themselves clearly and logically;
- ◆ of a sound, general educational background and cultural awareness;
- ◆ interested in and clearly enthusiastic about their chosen vocation and in possession of outstanding vocational skills;
- ◆ interested in international relations and learning about different cultures;
- ◆ open-minded, tolerant, and flexible;
- ◆ knowledgeable about current affairs in Australia;

- ◆ tolerant to new and different ideas, cultures, foods, and lifestyles;
- ◆ comfortable working and living as part of a team with a schedule that is physically and emotionally demanding;
- ◆ able to travel for four weeks with their employer's consent;
- ◆ willing to attend required orientation and training sessions and complete final reports along with attendance at the District 9690 conference and club meetings before and after the exchange.

For each team member, The Rotary Foundation provides for the most economical round-trip air ticket between the home and host countries. Local Rotarians in the host area provide for meals, lodging, and group travel within their district. There are some expenses that need to be met by the team member, around \$2,000 can be taken as a guide.

Timetable:

- | | |
|----------------------------|---|
| 21 st August | Team Member Applications are returned to Clubs for endorsement |
| 13 th September | Compulsory selection interviews, candidates will be advised of selection outcome on the day |
| 14 th September | Advice to nominating Clubs regarding team member selections |
| May 2010 | Team departs for Nova Scotia. |

Further information and application forms may be obtained from Trevor Duxbury at info@strathfieldrotary.org.au.

Trev's Trivia

Australian Big Things and Rotary

The first **BIG THING** to be built in Australia was the **Big Banana** at Coffs Harbour, NSW, in 1964. Since then over 120 Big Things have been built for a variety of reasons, some with help from Rotarians.

For example, the **Golden Gumboot** at Tully, Qld, was opened in May 2003. The Gumboot stands 8 metres tall and part way up the side is a white-lipped green tree frog carved by Tully Rotarian Roger Chandler.

The **Big Pelican** at Noosaville, Qld, was built by the local Rotary Club originally as a floating pontoon in the annual Festival of the Waters.

Although not directly associated with the **Big Cigar** in Churchill, Vic., the local Rotary Club erected a wall underneath it to commemorate the farmers whose land had been acquired by the town.

When John Davidson first mentioned the idea of a **Giant Cornish Miner** to his local Rotary Club at Kaponda, SA, the club said it couldn't be done. However, when a local sculptor accepted the challenge to build the statue the Rotary Club helped to fund its construction.

Local Rotarians also helped fund the construction of the **Giant Ram** at Wagin, WA.

If this photograph sent in by Bradley Ayres is anything to go by it would appear that the Rotarians in Victor Harbor are now getting into the act by constructing their own **Big Rotary Sign**. (Yes, they are power lines arrowed!)



A Blast from the Past



Capturing the Moment!

This is a photograph from Rod McDougall's archives. It was taken in 2003 when Sal Tosto received his Paul Harris Fellow Award from President Steve Taylor.

Captioning the Moment!

It is such a wonderful photo I thought I would challenge our members to come up with some humorous captions, speech balloons or thought clouds for the photo. Prize for the best contribution will be 20 free tickets in one of our usual weekly raffles.

Entries in writing to Trevor at news@strathfieldrotary.org.au or by fax to 9764 6943 or 8004 8115.

The Last Laugh

Blind as a Bat

A vampire bat came flapping in from the night, face all covered in fresh blood and parked himself on the roof of the cave to get some sleep.

Pretty soon all the other bats smelled the blood and began hassling him about where he got it. He told them to leave him alone and let him get some sleep, but they persisted until he finally gave in.

"OK, follow me", he said and flew out of the cave with hundreds of excited bats behind him.

Down through a valley they went, across a river and into a huge forest. Finally he slowed down and all the other bats excitedly milled around him, tongues hanging out lusting for fresh blood.

"Do you see that large oak tree over there?" he asked.

"YES, YES, YES!!!" the bats all screamed in a frenzy.

"Well good for you then!" said the bat, "Because I didn't!"

Little Johnny

Little Johnny watched, fascinated, as his mother smoothed cold cream on her face. "Why do you do that, mummy?" he asked. "To make myself beautiful," said his mother, who then began removing the cream with a tissue. "What's the matter?" asked Little Johnny "Giving up?"

More Trev's Trivia

Spotted by Rod McDougall

Give Us Your Poor, Your Tired, Your Entire Country

New York Magazine 24.7.09

"According to the latest data, the number of vacant U.S. homes touched 18.7 million in the second quarter.

That is a daunting figure, of course, but it is more fun to put it in context. Assuming four people per household, the U.S. currently has enough surplus housing [in which] to put either, the entire population of the U.K., with room left over for Israel, or the entire populations of Iraq and Afghanistan, with room left over for Darfurians."

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