

At Our Meeting: 1 March 2010

Guest Speaker Megan Etheridge from 'Dressed for Success Sydney'

President Paul Twigg opened the meeting at 6.25pm and welcomed a former member Lenore Johnson. Lenore led us in Rotary Grace & her voice was welcomed by one & all.

Apologies, Make-ups and ill reports: apologies from PDG Lloyd, PDG Paul, PP Ron, PP John Mansour, PP Fuad, PP Colin, PP Peter Moore, PP Steve, Dickie, Michael Maher & Gloria.

President's Announcements: President Paul – Cruise last Friday night was an outstanding success – marginally more money raised than last year yet with less attendance. Special thanks to PDG Lloyd, PP Sana & PP Peter Hamer for a great night & good result for Lifehouse at RPA.

Secretary's Report: President Paul
– Letter from **Burwood Council** confirming RC Burwood contact details for new directory. Cheque from **RC Strathfield** president Kevin Freund for Cruise payment. **BBQ Trailer** registration sticker for Sam; **RDU** bill adjustment. **RYDA** request for volunteers needed for Homebush site. **Interplast** Newsletter; invoice from Burwood Post Office for **PO Box** renewal. **The Rotary Foundation** Annual Report.



Directors Reports:

PE Jack – Irene's first edition of **Spoke** expected next week. Sam & Jack seeking venue for next **fellowship day** – stay tuned for details. **Club website** updates still waiting for Ariel to settle in after house move.

David Kwong – reminder **Membership** Promotion Night on Monday **29 March**. Each member encouraged to bring prospective members as guests of Club (no charge for guests 1st attendance).

PP Sana – Cruise raised **\$5,369** for Lifehouse. Tax deductible donations still accepted.

Irene – Burwood Girls High School were approached regarding Irene giving a **Polio** Presentation – still waiting for confirmation of suitable date.



Other Business: PP David – reminder Thursday 4 March is **International Women's Day** & Burwood Rotaract presenting at Woodstock Thursday night; 3-4 members needed to assist PP Keith & Helen Wright with **BBQ** from 4pm Thursday; advise PP Keith if you can help. Charter night for new **Rotaract Club of Western Sydney** Friday 12 March – need to contact PP David ASAP if you can attend.

Sergeant-At-Arms: PP Keith using Rotary Trivia as a means of testing members & fining them if they didn't know the correct answer also managed to embarrass all but a few ... perhaps gold coin fines for incorrect answers might improve results.

Guest Speaker:

Irene introduced & welcomed our guest speaker **Megan Etheridge** from 'Dressed for Success Sydney' (DFS) to tell us the organisation she heads.

Megan explained how 'Dressed for Success Sydney' started in May 2009 as 'Suited for Work' & last week was launched under its new branding. DFS has 104 affiliates world wide, with Sydney being the first in Australia. Brisbane & Perth will follow shortly. They are a non-for-profit organisation run by volunteers & located in Conder Street, Burwood (opposite Belmore St intersection). Megan chose Burwood because it's centrally located, on a main rail line & easily accessible for both clients & volunteer helpers.



Their core business at present is to dress disadvantaged women (only women) & to advise them on how to better present themselves in a number of areas including job interviews, court appearances & the like. In the near future they wish to expand on this to include training clients on things like how to retain a job.

Their clients generally come to them with low self esteem & possess no presentable clothing. They include migrants, mental health patients, women from women's refuges, ex-prisoners, etc, & are referred from community groups, referral agencies, corrective services, Centrelink or the like. DFS helps improve their

clients' self esteem by outfitting them with clean, presentable, fashionable clothing & accessories which help them fit into society.

On their first visit to DFS they are provided a minimum of 1 complete outfit but normally 2-3 outfits if possible complete with shoes & accessories. Once a client secures a job they return to be given more outfits – preferably providing them 1-2 weeks worth of different clothes, shoes & accessories to get them started.

Of the clothes they receive about 80% are discarded – Megan's criteria is that if she wouldn't wear it then they don't keep it. Most clothes are 2nd hand with about 15% being new out-of-season or discontinued items.

The next major move for DFS is to set up a mobile service to take their clothes & accessories to women who can't come to them. Megan explained how so many prisoners leave prison wearing their prison greens because they don't have any other clothes & within a short time of their release are being picked up by police as escapees. This mobile service will provide outfits to these women before they leave prison giving them a better start.

DFS current major expenses include rent (\$30Kpa), insurances (\$5Kpa) & salary for 1 person 3 days per week. Government funding is very difficult to get until an organisation is well established ... but how does one become well established without funding? Megan asked for whatever assistance the Club or individuals could give. She said it could be in the form of donations, assistance to fundraise, sponsorship for dry cleaning, van for mobile service, volunteers, access to larger sized clothes (new or good 2nd hand ones), shoes, & the like.

The raffle: Won by PP Sana.

President Paul closed the meeting at 8.06pm

Report by: PP Garry and photos by: PE Jack.

Joke from Rosanne Barnett.

I was in the department store when I heard on the public address system that the optical department was offering free ice cream. I headed down the escalator to take advantage of the offer, trying to decide on vanilla or chocolate. I was nearly drooling when I got to the optical section and said to the assistant, "I'm here for my free ice cream."

"Ice Cream. Came the reply. 'Sorry. What we have is a free eye Screen

Rotary Club of Burwood Program 2009 / 2010							
School Holiday	Rotary Month	Meetings / Speaker	Speaker		Notes	Board / Committee Meetings	Special events to remember
			Introduce	Thanking			
4 Jan	Rotary	No Meeting					
11 Jan	Awareness	Fellowship night					
18 Jan	Month	Chest tickets				Board	
25 Jan		Aust day – no meet					
1 Feb		RYLA & Youth presentations	Vas	David W	Walter		
8 Feb	World	Club Assembly			Peter M		Pres. Meeting Fri 12th
15 Feb	Understand	Fiona Plant - Chiropractor	Peter M	Gloria	Irene	Board	
22 Feb	Month	Nick Simone – Returning YEP – Partners night.	John M	Hamer	David W.		Harbour Cruise Sat, 27 th Feb
1 Mar		Megan Etheridge – suited for work	TBA	Irene	Fred		
8 Mar	Literacy	Domini Stuart – challenge & choice	Ron Le	David K	Tim		
15 Mar	Month	Sharon Crean – Beyond water	Walter	Vas	Keith	Board	Dist Conf. 19 th to 21 st - Foster
22 Mar		GSE joint meeting at Concord			John Man.		
29 Mar		Nick Tantarò – Film Production	Colin	Mike	Colin		
5-Apr		No Meeting - Easter					
12-Apr	Magazine				Lloyd		
19-Apr	Month	ANZAC day speaker			Vas	Board	
26 Apr		No Meeting - ANZAC					
3-May							
10-May							
17-May						Board	
24-May		POW					
31-May							
7 June		Giving night					
14 June	Fellowships	No Meeting – Queens b/day					
21 June	month					Board	
28 June		Changeover					

This SPOKE was edited by Irene Giardino, printed courtesy of Theo Kapeleris. Ariel and Steve Spargo post it in colour at www.rotanet.com.au/Burwood