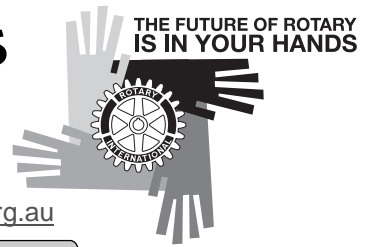


Strathfield Rotary News



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

President: Kevin Freund

Website: www.strathfieldrotary.org.au

March is Literacy Month

Kev's Conveyances

Wednesday, March 3, 2010

Last week's busy meeting was a great demonstration of "Rotary in Action", with a variety of our club activities on display.

It was a pleasure to have as our guests, members of the Girl Guides Association, to receive the proceeds of our Christmas Raffle and gain an understanding of how those proceeds will help in some needy maintenance of the Ismay Avenue Girl Guides Hall.

I am sure everyone present was impressed by Cate Robinson, from Strathfield Girls High, and feel confident that she will be a fine ambassador in her role with the Group Study Exchange Team to District 7820 in May of this year.

The meeting concluded with our guest speaker, James Tham, answering many questions and providing members with some interesting investment options through rare Australian coins and banknotes.

This Sunday, March 7th, Strathfield Council has requested our assistance to provide our barbecue together with a small number of volunteers to feed the Clean Up Australia Day volunteers in Melville Reserve, Homebush West, between 12 and 2pm. If you can assist, please let me know by Friday evening.

A reminder that next week we will be hosting the four RYLA awardees who attended the Springwood Camp in January this year.

Preparations are well under way for a number of events in the

This Week's Meeting

Asylum Seekers Foundation

Virginia Walker

Introduced by PP Raymond McCluskie
Thanked by Paul White

months ahead including participation in the Strathfield Chamber of Commerce 2010 March Fair on Saturday 27th March; Strathfield Youth Achievement Awards on Wednesday 21st April; The Anzac Day Breakfast at Cape Cabarita on Sunday 25th April and The Celebration of Fifty Years of Community Service, saluting Ted Ingall, on Friday 28th May, and The Club Changeover, on Friday 25th June.

Tonight we welcome Virginia Walker, from The Asylum Seekers Foundation.

Cheers, **President Kevin**

Last Week's Presentation

Recorded by Ian Johnson

History of Rare Coins and Bank Notes

Our guest speaker was James Tham who was introduced by PP Grahame True.

James is a numismatic consultant for The Rare Coin Company. The Company was founded in Western Australia in 1982 and is the largest coin company in Australia. The Company caters for the investor rather than the collector.

James informed us that the first Australian coin was the 1813 Hole Dollar which was in fact a Spanish coin with a hole punched in the middle. He also introduced us to the Adelaide pound note of 1852 and the early gold sovereign.

The 1920 square kookaburra penny, which was never circulated, is a very rare and highly valued coin. The most valuable Australian coin is the 1930 penny which at the highest grade is worth \$2,000,000 and at lower grades is worth \$30,000. Pre-federation notes of prime quality have tripled in value over the past seven years.



President Kevin with James Tham

Investment in coins and bank notes has shown average annual growth of 14% to 17% over 43 years. James informed us that an Access Economics survey had shown Cash and Bank Notes was the best performing asset class over 10 years.

James recommended coins and bank notes as an investment option for retirees. The Company offers a Liquidation Guarantee on selected investment quality items sold through the Company. The Company also provides a certificate of authenticity so that people can invest with confidence. The Company offers an optional storage facility with insurance, the cost of which is \$200 per year.

The value of the portfolio is based on the rarity of the coins and notes held. A lot of these old coins and notes have been destroyed by accident. Supply is diminishing whilst demand is going up.

After answering members' questions, James was thanked by PP Angelo Franco.

Congratulations

Birthdays

6th March

Maria Kowalski

8th March

Kate Teale

Wedding Anniversaries

3rd March

Warren and Sue Abbott

Rotary Anniversaries

9th March

**Anuradha Kamkolkar
Umesh Kamkolkar**

Last Week's Proceedings

Recorded by PP Rod McDougall

From President Kevin

Welcomed guests Kerrie Hardie (and husband John), Dianne Dalton, Candice McGuigan and Sue Byrn representing The Girl Guides Association; Cate Robinson, member of Group Study Exchange Team to visit District 9820 in Eastern Canada in May; guest speaker, James Tan, and his son, Nicholas.

President Kevin presented a certificate to Peter Smith recognising his Centurion membership of the Rotary Foundation.

Thanked club members for participating in club assembly two weeks previously.

Thanked members for participation in the Trish Foundation day. The event was very successful raising over \$51,000. Total funds raised by the golf day are now in excess of \$250,000. Thanked Niall King, Ray Wilson, Les Hockley and team.

Advised that Strathfield Council has asked the club to man the barbecue being provided for the Clean Up Australia Day volunteers on Sunday 7th March. Food will only consist of a sausage on a roll. Will operate for approximately two hours in Melville Reserve, or Strathfield Park if volunteer numbers are high, and will only require four or five Rotarians. Kevin reminded members that Strathfield Council stores our barbecue at no charge.

Reported that the Bowelscan program commences next week and will operate from 6th March to 3rd April. There are five participating pharmacies in the Strathfield region; Cowdrey Pharmacy at Greenacre, Rochester Street pharmacy in Homebush, Lidcombe Pharmacy in John Street, the Boulevard and Plaza Pharmacies in Strathfield. Cost will be \$10 per kit.

Congratulated Ted Ingall on celebrating 50 years in Rotary. Ted joined Cabramatta club in 1960 and came to Strathfield club in Peter Douglas' year. He was with Cabramatta Rotary for 28 years and has now been with Strathfield for 22 years. Advised that a dinner was being planned to celebrate the event.

From PE Peter Smith

Announced that the raffle leading up to Carols in the Park raised \$3,200, \$2,800 net, and that our club had brought the amount up to \$3,500. This will be used to refurbish the Girl Guide hall in Ismay Avenue, Homebush. The hall underwent an extensive upgrade in 1991 at a cost of \$70,000. A total of \$60,000 was raised in the community with Strathfield Rotary donating the final \$10,000. The hall's internal guttering system is now in serious need of repair with large sections of ceiling collapsing. Asked for advice from club plumbers and for club members to assist with short term hands-on work on the building. In and out in three to four months.

Girl Guides Cheque Presentation

A cheque for \$3,500 was presented by Peter Smith to Kerrie Hardie. Kerrie thanked the club for its hard work and support over the years and stated that the funds were greatly appreciated and would be put to good use. She congratulated Rotary on reaching 105 years and mentioned that Guiding is celebrating its centenary this year.



President Kevin with Candice McGuigan, Sue Byrn, Dianne Dalton, Kerrie Hardie

From Trevor Duxbury International Director

Reported that the GSE Inbound Team due to arrive in Sydney tomorrow morning for five weeks. First stop is the Blue Mountains area and they will work their way towards the Strathfield-Burwood area, arriving here in the week following the Rotary Conference. Burwood is organizing the Region 5 GSE program this year with help from the RC of Concord. He introduced Cate Robinson, a member of the outbound GSE team heading to Newfoundland and Nova Scotia. Cate is a geography teacher at Strathfield Girls High.

Address by Cate Robinson

Cate commented that the GSE application process is quite intensive and that she found it somewhat daunting, having applied twice. Her first attempt at joining the team, last year, was unsuccessful when she just missed out on going to Brazil, being nominated as the first reserve. She found it a little easier this time and was successful. She commented that her (new) husband was very supportive of her involvement in the program. She outlined the expected benefit of obtaining first hand knowledge and experience which would be relevant in her geography classes at school. She is aiming to undertake a case study of a river forest in Labrador and will implement this into her Year 10 Geography Elective program this year in Term 3. She aims to inspire her girls to become as passionate about geography as she is.

Cate also runs the Duke of Edinburgh Program at SGHS and while in Newfoundland and Nova Scotia will study



President Kevin with Cate Robinson and Trevor Duxbury

their outdoor education programs and determine how these might link with environmental education which will become part of the Australian national curriculum in 2012. She thanked our club for choosing her for the program.

From Paolo Giammarco Community Service Director

Advised that the Strathfield Chamber of Commerce is holding a Fair at Strathfield Square on 27th March and Strathfield Rotary has been asked to participate.

From PP Ted Ingall

Reported on the upcoming district conference. The cruise is booked out and the winery tour is filling fast. Reminded members that Saturday night is Circus theme and all attendees should dress up.

Reminded everyone that DG Paul Reid's wife Julia has encouraged attendees to bring black and navy school socks for students in Tanzania and to place them on her "sock tree" at the conference.

Last Week's Statistics

Attendance: 39 Rotarians

Visitors: James Tham (Guest Speaker)
Nicholas Tham

Candice McGuigan
Unit Leader (Enfield Croydon Park Guides)
Sue Byrn

Acting Division Leader (Inner Metropolitan Division)
Dianne Dalton

District Leader (Enfield Croydon Park)
John Hardie
Kerrie Hardie

Division Secretary (Inner Metropolitan Division)
Cate Robinson
Team Member, GSE Outbound

L.O.A.

Warren Abbott
George Helou
Bert Houston
Les Hockley
Roger Vince

Raffle raised \$310.00

Winners

Domenico Alvaro
Trevor Duxbury
Niall King
Ray Wilson

The Sergeant Raised \$103.30

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

10th March (Wednesday)

Tales from Overseas
Paolo Giammarco

RYLA Presentation

17th March (Wednesday)

Reading, Rugby League and Role Models
Susan Hirsch

19th to 21st March

District 9690 Conference, Forster, NSW

24th March (Wednesday)

Special Olympics NSW
Peter McGhee and Mary Lou Carter

31st March (Wednesday)

Amnesty International

7th April (Wednesday)

Images of the floating world - an impression of Japan
PDG Harley Tarrant

14th April (Wednesday)

Capturing the Passion and Light.
A Personal View of the Science and Art of Photography
Richard Batterley

21st April (Wednesday) ► Partners Night ◀

Youth Awards Night
N.B. 6.15pm for 6.30pm

25th April (Sunday)

Anzac Day Breakfast
Cape Cabarita

28th April (Wednesday)

Coping With Adversity
Domini Stuart

2nd May (Sunday)

District Assembly

28th May (Friday) ► Partners Night ◀

50 Years in Rotary
A Dinner to Celebrate Ted Ingall's Rotarian Life.
Transfer meeting from Wednesday 26th May

16th June (Wednesday)

Rotarian Revelations

25th June (Friday) ► Partners Night ◀

Club Changeover Night
Transfer meeting from Wednesday 23rd June

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

Conference News



Come and join us

There is still time to register for the 2010 Rotary District 9690 Conference, although early bird registration is finished.

The keynote speakers are:

Fred Watson - astronomer

Gemma Sisia - founder of The School of St Jude in Tanzania

Ahn Do - comedian

Paul Lumtin - member of the ill-fated crew of The Winston Churchill in the Sydney to Hobart Race.

Don't forget, Saturday night is a circus theme. You can go as a performer, an animal, a circus hand or just a member of the audience.

Julia Reid has asked attendees to bring along navy or black school socks for her sock tree. These will be sent to the School of St Judes in Tanzania.

When attendees sign in to Club Forster on arrival they should ask for free temporary membership, which will avoid having to sign in each day.

Registration forms can be downloaded from the District website.

Centurion News

2010 Membership Renewals

Renewal notices for the Centurion Program have been sent to each Rotary Club in District 9690. Would all Strathfield Centurions please arrange to collect theirs from me at one of our Wednesday meetings in the next week or two. If you cannot attend please contact me so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

Members should be aware that this year the Rotary Foundation has introduced a new payment system.

Trevor Duxbury
International/Rotary Foundation Director

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.

The Last Laughs

How Fights Start

From Neil Kennan

Ever wonder, in your relationship, how "the fight" started.

One year, a husband decided to buy his mother-in-law a cemetery plot as a Christmas gift.

The next year, he didn't buy her a gift. When she asked him why, he replied, "Well, you still haven't used the gift I bought you last year!"

And that's how the fight started.

My wife and I were watching Who Wants To Be A Millionaire while we were in bed. I turned to her and said, "Do you want to have sex?" "No," she answered. I then said, "Is that your final answer?" She didn't even look at me this time, simply saying "Yes."

So I said, "Then I'd like to phone a friend."

And that's when the fight started.

I took my wife to a restaurant. The waiter, for some reason, took my order first. "I'll have the strip steak, medium rare, please."

He said, "Aren't you worried about the mad cow?"

"Nah, she can order for herself."

And that's when the fight started.

My wife sat down on the couch next to me as I was flipping the channels. She asked, "What's on TV?"

I said, "Dust."

And then the fight started.

My wife was hinting about what she wanted for our upcoming anniversary. She said, "I want something shiny that goes from 0 to 200 in about 3 seconds." I bought her a bathroom scale.

And then the fight started.

My wife and I were sitting at a table at her high school reunion, and she kept staring at a drunken man swigging his drink as he sat alone at a nearby table. I asked her, "Do you know him?"

"Yes," she sighed, "He's my old boyfriend. I understand he took to drinking right after we split up those many years ago, and I hear he hasn't been sober since."

"My God!" I said, "Who would think a person could go on celebrating that long?"

And then the fight started.

I rear-ended a car this morning. So, there we were alongside the road and slowly the other driver got out of his car. You know how sometimes you just get sooooo stressed and little things just seem funny? Yeah, well I couldn't believe it, he was a DWARF!!! He stormed over to my car, looked up at me, and shouted, "I AM NOT HAPPY!" So, I looked down at him and said, "Well, then which one are you?"

And then the fight started.

The Broken Lawn Mower

From Neil Kennan

When our lawn mower broke and wouldn't run, my wife kept hinting to me that I should get it fixed. But, somehow I always had something else to take care of first, the truck, the car, playing golf. Always something more important to me.

Finally she thought of a clever way to make her point. When I arrived home one day, I found her seated in the tall grass, busily snipping away with a tiny pair of sewing scissors.

I watched silently for a short time and then went into the house. I was gone only a minute, and when I came out again I handed her a toothbrush. I said, "When you finish cutting the grass, you might as well sweep the driveway."

The doctors say I will walk again, but I will always have a limp.

Letters to God

From Grahame True

There was a man who worked for the Post Office whose job was to process all the mail that had illegible addresses.

One day, a letter came addressed in shaky handwriting to God with no actual address. He thought he should open it to see what it was about.

The letter read:

Dear God,

I am an 83 year old widow, living on a very small pension. Yesterday someone stole my purse. It had \$100 in it, which was all the money I had until my next pension payment. Next Sunday is Christmas, and I had invited two of my friends over for dinner. Without that money, I have nothing to buy food with, have no family to turn to, and you are my only hope. Can you please help me?

Sincerely, Edna

The postal worker was touched. He showed the letter to all the other workers. Each one dug into his or her wallet and came up with a few dollars. By the time he made the rounds, he had collected \$96, which they put into an envelope and sent to the woman. The rest of the day, all the workers felt a warm glow thinking of Edna and the dinner she would be able to share with her friends.

Christmas came and went. A few days later, another letter came from the same old lady to God. All the workers gathered around while the letter was opened.

It read:

Dear God,

How can I ever thank you enough for what you did for me? Because of your gift of love, I was able to fix a glorious dinner for my friends. We had a very nice day and I told my friends of your wonderful gift. By the way, there was \$4 missing. I think it might have been those bastards at the post office.

Sincerely, Edna

Trev's Trivia

Why is whistling in the theatre frowned upon? For years it was sailors who rigged the ropes for theatres because of their expertise with knots, but, they would always whistle before throwing a rope down from the flies to warn those below to watch out. Whistling was therefore a signal to duck and run!

Leonard Bernstein's hit musical *West Side Story* (which opened in New York in 1957), a modernization of *Romeo and Juliet* that tells of gang warfare in New York between Puerto Rican immigrants and native thugs, originally had a different plot. Bernstein and book-writer Arthur Laurents planned to write it as *East Side Story*, with warring Jews and Catholics. However, they actually sat down to write it six years after they first

had the idea, by which time they decided that Jews and Catholics were yesterday's feud, and so were born the Jets and the Sharks!

Inverne's Stage and Screen Trivia

When people say 'Life is short' what's that all about? Life is the longest damn thing anyone ever does! What can you do that's longer?

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