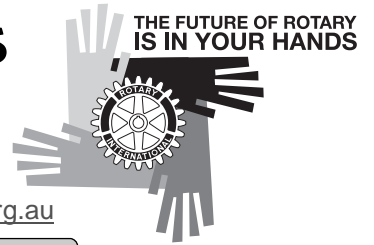


# Strathfield Rotary News



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

President: Kevin Freund

Website: [www.strathfieldrotary.org.au](http://www.strathfieldrotary.org.au)

## March is Literacy Month

### Kev's Conveyances

### Wednesday, March 10, 2010

Remarkable scenes were witnessed last Sunday in Melville Reserve, Homebush, when word spread throughout the community that the Strathfield Rotary Barbecue, manned by "Master Chef", Keith Stockall, with able assistance from "Iron Chef", Peter Smith, were displaying their culinary skills.

Young and old alike, who had been toiling all morning as volunteers for The Clean Up Australia Day, descended on the reserve to replenish their reserves and partake in the delicacies provided. Everybody was extremely delighted and satisfied with the feast and demanded to be informed the next time such talent and skills could be enjoyed.

We were extremely thankful for Niall King and his dexterity in delicately steering the barbecue trailer through the crowd and safely delivering it back home to the garage at Strathfield Council.

Keith, Peter and Niall, you have created a legend, congratulations and thanks.

Our club will have a strong representation at this year's District Conference in Forster, over the weekend 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> March, with 22 attending. The circus theme of The Greatest Show on Earth has brought out the "Showmen" in our group who are eagerly awaiting the opportunity to display their talents under the big top.

Last week our guest speaker, Virginia Walker, provided members with an insight into the difficult circumstances encountered by asylum seekers and I encourage members to

**This Week's Meeting**

**Tales From Overseas**

**Paolo Giammarco**

Introduced and thanked by President Kevin

read Ian Johnson's report.

We were honoured to have as our guest last week The Mayor of Strathfield, Councillor Tony Maroun, who presented a cheque in support of The Trish MS Foundation.

Tonight we welcome our four nominees, Jessica Rossiter, Santino Bol Wek, Kristyna Wowk and Clare Mullen, who attended the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) at Springwood during January and look forward to their presentation.

Our very own, Paolo Giammarco, will be our guest speaker with tales from his recent adventures through Italy and France.

Cheers, **President Kevin**

### Last Week's Presentation

*Recorded by Ian Johnson*

#### Asylum Seekers Foundation

Our guest speaker was Virginia Walker, a volunteer worker for the Bridge for Asylum Seekers Foundation. Virginia was introduced by PP Raymond McCluskie.

Virginia's involvement with the foundation began in 2002 when a friend asked her to start writing letters to refugees in detention. Then she was asked to go to Villawood Detention Centre to visit the refugees. She was initially reluctant to do this as she had worked for the Department of Corrective Services for many years and had seen enough of jails. Of course Virginia relented and thus began her close involvement with the refugees at a personal level.

The foundation was set up in 2003 by a number of churches, community groups and concerned individuals. The Uniting Church, through its benevolent arm Uniting Care, has been very supportive of the foundation.

The refugees assisted by the foundation are those that are not entitled to any government benefits such as Centrelink or



President Kevin with Virginia Walker

Medicare and have no right to seek employment. The amount allocated by the foundation is \$90 per person per week for individuals and \$70 per person per week for family members. This covers essential expenses but does not cover medical expenses or rent. An additional payment may be considered for medical expenses. The foundation assists about seventy people per month. Since 2003 the foundation has given out about \$2,000,000 helping about 450 people.

Refugees in detention centres are often despondent as they await determination of their fate by the courts and the minister. They are lonely and frightened. The impact

of a friendly and supportive face coming to visit them in custody can be very significant in uplifting their spirits. Virginia also provides the refugees with some goodies such as juice, cake, hommos or dates paid for from her own superannuation income. Many of the refugees understandably come to call her "mum". Virginia has also provided baby's clothes for three women who were pregnant.

When released the refugees often call Virginia for advice on what they should do next. Virginia assists them with such matters as visas, Medicare cards, opening bank accounts, registering with Centrelink and contacting job networks.

Virginia stated her belief that these people should not be called "illegal immigrants" but rather "asylum seekers". Virginia told us of one young refugee who showed her his scars and said "This is where I have been tortured for my beliefs".

Virginia advised us that when released most refugees do really well. She encouraged us to not view the refugees as problems but to acknowledge their enthusiasm and their potential to contribute to our society in the future.

Virginia was thanked by Paul White.

## Last Week's Proceedings

Recorded by PP Rod McDougall

### From President Kevin

President Kevin welcomed visitors Cr Tony Maroun, Mayor of Strathfield, Joe Sumegi, Communications and Cultural Services Coordinator, Strathfield Council, guest speaker, Virginia Walker, Asylum Seekers Foundation, and visiting Rotarian, Sheldon Ross from Holroyd Rotary (a guest of Joe Saad).

Kevin reminded members that volunteers were still needed for a barbecue to be conducted in cooperation with Strathfield Council in support of the Clean Up Australia campaign. To be held in Melville Reserve, Sunday, 7<sup>th</sup> May. Council will supply all food.

He announced that Cape Cabarita Anzac Day breakfast plans were proceeding – David Croft organising.

Kevin commented that the date for the district conference was close, and that the numbers were good. Announced that resolutions to be voted on were being considered by PP Rod McDougall.

He announced that Cabramatta Rotary's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner had been held on 1<sup>st</sup> March and had been attended by PDG David Croft, PP Ted and Mary Ingall, and Suzanne and himself. Photos of Ted with his finger in the cake were available!

He advised that RYLA representatives sponsored by our club will be reporting on their attendance at the camp next week, and that our guest speaker will be travelling Rotarian Paolo Giammarco.

### From Dave Martin

In announcing the raffle, Dave reported that, through PP Joe Saad, Allan Fahd of Allan Tres Menswear had kindly offered to donate a series of gift vouchers for use as raffle prizes. Allan's store is now located in Lane Cove, having moved from Strathfield Plaza. Raffle prizes and winners are shown elsewhere in the bulletin.

### Cheque Presentation by Strathfield Council

Cr Tony Maroun presented a cheque for \$200 in support of the Trish golf day fundraiser. He congratulated Strathfield Rotary, in particular Niall King, Ray Wilson and Les Hockley, on an outstanding result. The cheque was accepted by Niall King who thanked Council for its contribution.



Niall King receiving the cheque from Tony Maroun

### From Trevor Duxbury International Director

Trevor announced that the annual renewals for those members supporting the Centurion program had arrived and were available for distribution. Requested that members contact him in the first instance.

### From Anuradha Kamkolkar

Anu reported on her visit last December to the Rotary Club of Woburn in Boston, Massachusetts. She had been made very welcome by President Josh Garfinkle. A lunch time club with many local businessmen. The children and grandchildren of Rotarians are invited to attend as a way of exposing Rotary to them. Anu viewed the Rotary polio documentary "The Final Inch" at the meeting and recommended that our club acquire a copy. She presented a Strathfield Rotary banner. Woburn will mail their banner when supplies are replenished. She was presented with their guest speaker mug as a token of goodwill. Offered members access to the documentary "Hear and Now" on cochlear implants that she had acquired.

### Comment from Visiting Rotarian Sheldon Ross

Sheldon mentioned that he was returning to Rotary after an absence due to the illness and death of his wife. The period had reminded him of the importance of fellowship in our daily lives and the significant contribution that Rotary makes, as a wellspring of friendship in towns and cities around the world. Sheldon concluded with a salute to Rotary.

## Have a Laugh

While taxiing at London's Gatwick Airport, the crew of a US Air flight made a wrong turn and came nose to nose with a United 727. An irate female ground controller lashed out at the US Air crew screaming "US Air 2771, where the hell are you going? I told you to turn right onto Charlie taxiway! You turned right on Delta! Stop right there. I know it's difficult for you to tell the difference between C and D, but get it right!" Continuing her rage to the embarrassed crew, she was now shouting hysterically: "God! Now you've screwed everything up! It'll take forever to sort this out! You stay right there and don't move till I tell you to! You can expect progressive taxi instructions in about half an hour and I want you to go exactly where I tell you, when I tell you, and how I tell you! You got that, US Air 2771?" "Yes, ma'am," the humbled crew responded.

Naturally, the ground control communications frequency fell terribly silent after the verbal bashing of US Air 2771. Nobody wanted to chance engaging

the irate ground controller in her current state of mind. Tension in every cockpit was running high. Just then an unknown pilot broke the silence and keyed his microphone, asking: "Wasn't I married to you once?"

## Congratulations

### Birthdays

14<sup>th</sup> March

**Strathfield Rotary 1971**

### Wedding Anniversaries

10<sup>th</sup> March

**Bradley and Cheryl Ayres**

13<sup>th</sup> March

**Keith and Sue Byrn**

### Rotary Anniversaries

11<sup>th</sup> March

**Darrell Slater**

14<sup>th</sup> March

**Raymond McCluskie  
Ronald Thurgar**

## Last Week's Statistics

### Attendance

32 Rotarians

### Visitors

Virginia Walker

(Guest Speaker)

Tony Maroun

(Mayor of Strathfield)

Joe Sumegi

(Communications and Cultural Services Coordinator,  
Strathfield Council)

Sheldon Ross

(Holroyd RC)

### L.O.A.

Warren Abbott

George Helou

Bert Houston

Les Hockley

### Raffle raised \$236.00

#### Winners

Tony Lanzafame

Anuradha Kamkolkar

Joe Saad

### The Sergeant Raised \$123.00

## 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](mailto:brontin@bigpond.com)

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

**17<sup>th</sup> March (Wednesday)**  
*Reading, Rugby League and Role Models*  
Susan Hirsch

**25<sup>th</sup> April (Sunday)**  
*Anzac Day Breakfast*  
Cape Cabarita

**19<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> March**  
*District 9690 Conference, Forster, NSW*

**28<sup>th</sup> April (Wednesday)**  
*Coping With Adversity*  
Domini Stuart

**24<sup>th</sup> March (Wednesday)**  
*Special Olympics NSW*  
Peter McGhee and Mary Lou Carter

**2<sup>nd</sup> May (Sunday)**  
*District Assembly*

**31<sup>st</sup> March (Wednesday)**  
*Amnesty International*  
TBA

**26<sup>th</sup> May (Wednesday)**  
*No Meeting*  
Transferred to Friday

**7<sup>th</sup> April (Wednesday)**  
*Images of the floating world - an impression of Japan*  
PDG Harley Tarrant

**28<sup>th</sup> May (Friday) ► Partners Night ◀**  
*50 Years in Rotary*  
*A Dinner to Celebrate Ted Ingall's Rotarian Life.*  
Transfer meeting from Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> May

**14<sup>th</sup> April (Wednesday)**  
*Capturing the Passion and Light.*  
*A Personal View of the Science and Art of Photography*  
Richard Batterley

**16<sup>th</sup> June (Wednesday)**  
*Rotarian Revelations*

**21<sup>st</sup> April (Wednesday) ► Partners Night ◀**  
*Youth Awards Night*  
*N.B. 6.15pm for 6.30pm*

**23<sup>rd</sup> June (Wednesday)**  
*No Meeting*  
Transferred to Friday

**25<sup>th</sup> June (Friday) ► Partners Night ◀**  
*Club Changeover Night*  
Transfer meeting from Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June

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

### Have another Laugh

#### Please Mr Milkman From Peter Smith

Notes left for the Milkman in the UK.

1. Dear Milkman, I've just had a baby, please leave another one.
2. Please leave an extra pint of paralysed milk.
3. Please don't leave any more milk. All they do is drink it.
4. Milkman please close the gate behind you because the birds keep pecking the tops off the milk.
5. Sorry not to have paid your bill before, but my wife had a baby and I've been carrying it around in my pocket for weeks.
6. Sorry about yesterdays note. I didn't mean one egg and a dozen pints, but the other way round.

7. When you leave my milk knock on my bedroom window and wake me because I want you to give me a hand to turn the mattress.
8. Please knock. My TV's broken down and I missed last night's Coronation Street. If you saw it, will you tell me what happened.
9. My daughter says she wants a milkshake. Do you do it before you deliver or do I have to shake the bottle.
10. Please send me a form for cheap milk, for I have a baby two months old and did not know about it until a neighbour told me.
11. Milk is needed for the baby. Father is unable to supply it.
12. From now on please leave two pints every other day and one pint on the days in between, except Wednesdays and Saturdays when I don't want any milk.
13. My back door is open. Please put

milk in fridge, get money out of cup in drawer and leave change on kitchen table in pence, because we want to play bingo tonight.

14. Please leave no milk today. When I say today, I mean tomorrow, for I wrote this note yesterday.
15. When you leave the milk please put the coal on the boiler, let dog out and put newspaper inside the screen door.  
PS. Don't leave any milk.
16. No milk. Please do not leave milk at No.14 either as he is dead until further notice."

### 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.

## Trev's Trivia

In keeping with the international travel theme of tonight's meeting, the following information may be of interest.

The US standard railroad gauge (distance between the rails) is 4ft 8½in (1.44 m). That's an exceedingly odd number. Why is that gauge used? Because that's the way they built them in England, and the US railroads were built by English ex-patriots.

Why did the English build them like that? Because the first rail lines were built by the same people who built the pre-railroad tramways, and that's the gauge they used. Why did they use that gauge then? Because the people who built the tramways used the same jigs and tools as they used for building wagons, which used that wheel spacing.

OK! Why did the wagons use that wheel spacing? Well, if they tried to use any other spacing the wagons would break on some of the old, long distance roads, because that's the spacing of the ruts.

So who built these old rutted roads? The first long distance roads in Europe were built by Imperial Rome for the benefit of their legions. The roads have been used ever since. And the ruts? The initial ruts, which everyone else had to match for fear of breaking their wagons, were first made by Roman war chariots. Since the chariots were made by or for Imperial Rome they were all alike in the matter of wheel spacing (ruts again).

Thus we have the answer to the original question. The United States

standard railroad gauge of 4ft 8½in derives from the original military specification for an Imperial Roman army war chariot, because they were made to be just wide enough to accommodate the rear ends of two war horses.

A follow-up to this story:

When Napoleon marched on Russia, his army made much slower time than planned once they reached eastern Europe because the ruts weren't to Roman gauge. Because they made slower time than planned they got caught in the field in the Russian winter rather than on the outskirts of Moscow. And then, of course, they lost the war.

Now the twist to the story:

When you see a Space Shuttle sitting on its launch pad, there are two big booster rockets attached to the sides of the main fuel tank. These are solid rocket boosters, or SRBs. The SRBs are made by Thiokol at their factory in Utah. The engineers who designed the SRBs would have preferred to make them a bit fatter, but the SRBs had to be shipped by train from the factory to the launch site. The railroad line from the factory happens to run through a tunnel in the mountains. The SRBs had to fit through that tunnel. The tunnel is slightly wider than the railroad track, and the railroad track, as you now know, is about as wide as two horses' behinds.

So, a major Space Shuttle design feature of what is arguably the world's most advanced transportation system was determined over two thousand years ago by the width of a horse's rump.

## The Last Laugh

### Bran Flakes From Kevin Beltrame

The couple were 85 years old and had been married for sixty years.

Though they were far from rich, they managed to get by because they watched their pennies.

Though not young, they were both in very good health, largely due to the wife's insistence on healthy foods and exercise for the last decade.

One day, their good health didn't help when they went on a rare vacation and their plane crashed, sending them off to Heaven.

They reached the pearly gates, and St. Peter escorted them inside. He took them to a beautiful mansion, furnished in gold and fine silks, with a fully stocked kitchen and a waterfall in the master bath. A maid could be seen hanging their favourite clothes in the closet.

They gasped in astonishment when he said, 'Welcome to Heaven. This will be your home now.'

The old man asked Peter how much all this was going to cost. 'Why, nothing,' Peter replied, 'remember, this is your reward in Heaven.'

The old man looked out the window and right there he saw a championship golf course, finer and more beautiful than any ever built on Earth.

'What are the greens fees?' asked the old man.

'This is heaven,' St. Peter replied. 'You can play for free, every day.'

Next they went to the clubhouse and saw the lavish buffet lunch, with every imaginable cuisine laid out before them, from seafood to steaks to exotic desserts and free flowing beverages.

'Don't even ask,' said St. Peter to the man. This is Heaven, it is all free for you to enjoy.'

The old man looked around and glanced nervously at his wife.

'Well, where are the low fat and low cholesterol foods and the decaffeinated tea?' he asked.

That's the best part,' St. Peter replied. 'You can eat and drink as much as you like of whatever you like and you will never get fat or sick. This is Heaven!'

The old man pushed, 'No gym to work out at?'

'Not unless you want to,' was the answer.

'No testing my sugar or blood pressure or...'

'Never again. All you do here is enjoy yourself.'

The old man glared at his wife and said, 'You and your bloody bran flakes. We could have been here ten years ago!'

"Don't you know the Queen's English?"

"Yes, I've heard she is."

## And another Laugh

### The Italian Elbow

An Italian grandmother is giving directions to her grown grandson who is coming to visit with his wife.

'You comma to de front door of the apartamenta. I am inna apartamenta 301. There issa bigga panel at the front door. With you elbow, pusha button 301. I will buzza you in. Come inside, the elevator is on the right. Get in, and with you elbow, pusha 3. When

you get out, I'mma on the left. With you elbow, hit my doorbell.'

'Grandma, that sounds easy, but, why am I hitting all these buttons with my elbow?'

'What . . . . . You coming empty handed?'

If a pig loses its voice, is it disgruntled?

If love is blind, why is lingerie so popular?

Why isn't 11 pronounced onety one?

Do Roman paramedics refer to IV's as "4's"?

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