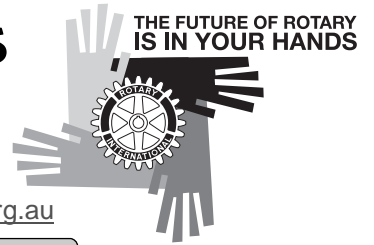


Strathfield Rotary News



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 24, 2010

Words cannot fully describe the feelings one gains from attending a District Conference, but there are many and all positive from the 2010 Conference at Forster over the weekend.

The quality of the keynote speakers and the Rotary District presentations provided an informative, inspirational and entertaining mixture of what is happening within and beyond our district.

The fellowship and social activities were vibrant and entertaining, highlighted at the Governor's Cocktail and Circus Parties on Saturday evening.

I am positive everybody who attended has taken away many happy memories and I would like to thank our members for being great ambassadors for Strathfield.

Our club received a special commendation for The Youth Literature Extension Program, high praise for our website and was runner-up in the best club group category for the Circus Party; beaten by a flea circus.

Our guest speaker last week, Suzan Hirsch, a Lecturer from the Australian Catholic University, provided a wonderful insight into a special literacy program aimed at shifting negative stereotypes towards reading of Primary School boys by involving the boys' role models (Rugby League players) in weekly reading sessions.

Last Week's Presentation

Recorded by Rod McDougall

The New Three R's

Last week's guest speaker was Suzan Hirsch from the Australian Catholic University. Suzan was introduced by Paul White, who had been instrumental in arranging for her appearance. Suzan is a Lecturer in Boys Education, Literacy and Education Studies.

She is a leader in her field. With a masters degree in boys education, she is currently completing her PhD. She has won a national award for her work and a scholarship allowing her to study in the US. Her research has been presented at national and international conferences and her teacher leadership recognised with a national quality schooling award, and her appointment as a Fellow of the Australian College of Educators.

Suzan introduced us to The New Three Rs, being used to engage reluctant male readers: Rugby League, Reading and Role Models. In all developed countries, boys are under performing in literacy compared to their female peers. Australia is no exception. Many boys are disengaged, unmotivated readers in the classroom, a battle many teachers face. The multi-award



President Kevin with Suzan Hirsch

winning Sea Eagles Reads mentoring program involves matching disengaged boys with their self identified role models - first grade rugby league players.

The Manly Sea Eagles committed to the program four years ago. A first grade "reading captain" is assigned to a school and attends every week for ten weeks, bringing a "surprise player" each week. Students are able to build a rapport with the reading captain but to also read with a variety of players. The players share their reading history, reading habits and personal reflections with the students before reading with a group of students and answering their questions. The players are very enthusiastic about the program and become very actively involved during the sessions. Some describe their own

reading difficulties as young boys.

The results of the four year pilot were amazing. In all four years the program has had positive results and shifted negative attitudes to reading and increased voluntary reading of boys. In 2008, 100% of boys recommend the program for other schools. Sea Eagles players are participating again in 2010 with twelve schools currently involved. They are part of Suzan's PhD study.

At a broader level the national Rugby League Reads initiative is now underway. As well as player involvement it includes a free, English syllabus linked, Rugby League Reads magazine for primary school students as well as home readers for kindergarten to year 2 students. Three issues of the magazine will be released to schools in 2010 and will feature text teachers can use in the classroom as well as a reading captain for each of the sixteen clubs. Suzan has written the resources and is researching their use and acceptance in schools.

Suzan's excellent talk prompted many questions, including one from Steve Taylor (that will doubtless see him fined by the president or Bert Houston) who congratulated Suzan on finding league players who can read!

Suzan was thanked by Trevor Duxbury and received warm applause for her talk.

This Week's Meeting

Special Olympics NSW

Peter McGhee and Mary Lou Carter

Introduced by Peter van der Sleenen
Thanked by PP Peter Foss

Our club will be participating this Saturday March 27 at the Strathfield Chamber of Commerce 2010 March Fair, in Strathfield Square, from 10.00am to 4.00pm. If you are able, please come along and help us promote our club and Rotary.

Tonight we welcome Mary Lou Carter and Peter McGhee from Special Olympics NSW.

Cheers, **President Kevin**

Last Week's Proceedings

Recorded by Janelle Watson

From President Kevin

President Kevin welcomed the guest speaker, Suzan Hirsch, to the meeting.

In the process of cleaning out his house and moving, Rotarian Peter Douglas came across the original Club Attendance Book dated from 10th March, 1971 to the 1987 Rotary year. President Kevin noted that several of the names listed in the book were at the meeting. The Attendance Book was circulated.

The District Conference is on this weekend at Forster. Present Kevin said that there were several resolutions, mainly to do with Incorporation, that were to be discussed at the Conference.

A member of the GSE team lead by Ted Ingall several years ago through the Cabramatta Club, has passed away. His

name was Paul Baker and he was 62.

Continuing on to the current Inbound GSE team from Nova Scotia – the team will be giving their last presentation at the combined Burwood/Concord Rotary Club meeting on Monday the 22nd March.

District Governor Paul Reid is calling for nominations for the position of DG 9690 for 2012–2013. Those intending to nominate must meet the guidelines. If any Strathfield Rotarians are interested they should contact Secretary Charles Pitt who has the information package. Nominations close on the 30th April, 2010.

President Kevin said that Arjun Jeganathan passes on his best wishes to Rotarians. He is very busy with not only his dental practice here in Enfield but also his practice in Newcastle. Arjun says that he would very much like to get back to Rotary at some stage.

From Peter Smith President Elect

Peter advised that there was a

Commitment Sheet circulating for the Youth Awards evening being held on Wednesday 21st April.

Peter also announced that there is an opportunity now to purchase some new Rotary shirts as it has been some time since a bulk purchase was made. The brochure is being circulated which shows designs and sizing for both male and female Rotarians. There is an additional cost to have the Rotary emblem on the shirts.

From Paolo Giammarco Community Services Director

Paolo reminded Rotarians about the Strathfield Fair coming up on Saturday 27th March, 2010. This is a good opportunity to promote Rotary. A Shelter Box will also be on display on the day.

From Secretary Charles Pitt

All correspondence under control.

From Treasurer Keith Stockall

Payment of semi-annual dues was progressing well.

Food for Thought

A US lawyer purchased a box of two dozen rare and expensive cigars, then insured them against fire among other things. Within a month, having smoked his entire stockpile of these cigars, and without yet having made even his first premium payment on the policy, the lawyer filed a claim against the insurance company. In his claim, the lawyer stated the cigars were lost "in a series of small fires".

The insurance company refused to pay, citing the obvious reason: that the man had consumed the cigars in the normal fashion.

The lawyer sued.... and won!

In delivering the ruling the judge agreed with the insurance company that the claim

was frivolous, but stated nevertheless, that the lawyer held a policy from the company in which it had warranted that the cigars were insurable and also guaranteed that it would insure them against fire, without defining what was considered to be "unacceptable fire", and was obligated to pay the claim. Rather than endure a lengthy and costly appeal process, the insurance company accepted the ruling and paid \$15,000 to the lawyer for his loss.

After the lawyer cashed the cheque, the insurance company had him arrested on 24 counts of arson. With his own insurance claim and testimony from the previous case being used against him, the lawyer was convicted of intentionally burning his insured property and was sentenced to 24 months in jail and ordered to pay a \$24,000 fine.

Trev's Trivia

The Ruinous Game of Croquet

The Victorians may have believed sport was healthy and character-building for men, but conservative elements within 19th-century society were convinced that the growing popularity of activities such as cycling and croquet represented a danger to women. An article published in the *American Christian Review* in 1878 described a woman's downfall in 12 steps:

1. A social party.
2. Social and play party.
3. Croquet party.
4. Picnic and croquet party.
5. Picnic, croquet and dance.
6. Absence from church.
7. Imprudent or immoral conduct.
8. Exclusion from church.
9. A runaway match.
10. Poverty and discontent.
11. Shame and disgrace.
12. Ruin.

Fotheringham's Sporting Trivia

Last Week's Statistics

Attendance

34 Rotarians

Visitors

Suzan Hirsch
(Guest Speaker)

L.O.A.

Warren Abbott
George Helou
Bert Houston
Les Hockley

Raffle raised \$200.00

Winners

Ray Wilson
David Martin (not taken)
Paolo Giammarco
Trevor Duxbury
Peter Douglas

The Sergeant Raised \$101.00

Rugby News

It's on again!!!

Rugby
Saturday 29th May

West Harbour v Randwick

Concord Oval
Usual footy food & beverages
Approx \$35 a head

Interested?

Let PP Doug Potter have your name and number of tickets required.

It's also the day before the "Red Shield Appeal", and we will be collecting money for the Salvos prior to the game. If you can help out with this, please contact Peter Smith.

Congratulations

Birthdays

24th March
Harley Tarrant
Guru Singh

Wedding Anniversaries

None

Rotary Anniversaries

None

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

31st March (Wednesday)

Amnesty International
Howard Bell

26th May (Wednesday)

No Meeting
Transferred to Friday 28th May

7th April (Wednesday)

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

28th May (Friday) ► Partners Night ◀

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

14th April (Wednesday)

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

16th June (Wednesday)

Rotarian Revelations

21st April (Wednesday) ► Partners Night ◀

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

23rd June (Wednesday)

No Meeting
Transferred to Friday 25th June

25th April (Sunday)

Anzac Day Breakfast
Cape Cabarita

25th June (Friday) ► Partners Night ◀

Club Changeover Night
Transfer meeting from Wednesday 23rd June

28th April (Wednesday)

Coping With Adversity
Domini Stuart

7th July (Wednesday)

Rotarian Revelations

2nd May (Sunday)

District Assembly

25th August (Wednesday)

Club Assembly

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

Have a Laugh

British Military Officer Fitness Reports

The British Military writes Officer Fitness Reports. The form used for Royal Navy and Marines reports is S206. The following are actual excerpts taken from S206s.

- ◆ His men would follow him anywhere, but only out of curiosity.
- ◆ I would not breed from this officer.
- ◆ This Officer is really not so much of a has-been, but more of a definitely won't be.
- ◆ When she opens her mouth, it seems that this is only to change whatever foot was previously in there.
- ◆ He has carried out each and every one of his duties to his entire satisfaction.
- ◆ He would be out of his depth in a car park puddle.
- ◆ Technically sound, but socially impossible.
- ◆ This Officer reminds me very much of a gyroscope - always spinning around at a frantic pace, but not really going anywhere.
- ◆ This young lady has delusions of adequacy.
- ◆ When he joined my ship, this Officer was something of a granny; since then he has aged considerably.
- ◆ This Medical Officer has used my ship to carry his genitals from port to port, and my officers to carry him from bar to bar.
- ◆ Since my last report he has reached rock bottom, and has started to dig.
- ◆ She sets low personal standards and then consistently fails to achieve them.
- ◆ He has the wisdom of youth, and the energy of old age.
- ◆ This Officer should go far - and the sooner he starts, the better.
- ◆ In my opinion this pilot should not be authorized to fly below 250 feet.
- ◆ The only ship I would recommend for this man is citizenship.
- ◆ Works well when under constant supervision and cornered like a rat in a trap.
- ◆ This man is depriving a village somewhere of an idiot.
- ◆ Only occasionally wets himself under pressure.

Trev's Trivia

Olympick Shindig in Gloucestershire

Captain Robert Dover, who was in fact a local barrister, inaugurated the Cotswold Olympick Games in 1612. A natural amphitheatre on the outskirts of Chipping Camden, Gloucestershire, was employed as the venue for a number of unusual sports, including shin-kicking, tug of war and obstacle races. The Games have been held annually in Whitsun week ever since.

Why do they put pictures of criminals up in the Post Office? What are we supposed to do...write to them? Why don't they just put their pictures on postage stamps so the posties could look for them while they delivered the mail?

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.



**District 9690 Annual Conference
Forster 2010**

Photos Bradley Ayres

Editor: Trevor Duxbury

Email: news@strathfieldrotary.org.au

Contributors: Peter Douglas, Ian Johnson, Harley Tarrant, Roger Vince, Janelle Watson

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16 The Crescent, Homebush

Ph. 9746 6434

All correspondence to:

The Secretary
The Rotary Club of Strathfield
PO Box 268,
Strathfield,
N.S.W. 2135

Website: www.strathfieldrotary.org.au

Webmaster: Raymond McCluskie