

ROTARY CLUB OF SYDNEY CBD



BULLETIN



The Rotary Club of Sydney CBD
Rotary District 9750
Meet 1st & 3rd Monday 6pm for 6.30pm
Castlereagh Boutique Hotel
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International President 2008- 09 DK Lee
District 9750 Governor 2008- 09 Barney Koo

6 APRIL 2009



TONIGHT WE HAVE
A VERY UNIQUE
MEETING

We will meet the members of the Sydney Street Choir and hear the personal stories of some of the members. Furthermore we shall enjoy a short performance by the choir during the evening. Members of the choir will be seated at each table and we urge all members to get to know them personally.

The Sydney Street Choir, a group formed five years ago to give the less fortunate in our society a chance to have fun, feel good about themselves and form friendships.

Renowned Australian opera singer Jonathon Welch, who was inspired by a similar venture in Canada, founded the Sydney Street Choir in 2002 and has recently set up a sister act in Melbourne with the Choir of Hard Knocks.

The Sydney Street Choir continues under the tutelage of Peter Lehner who takes the group for twice-weekly rehearsals and on average, a gig once a fortnight. The Tuesday rehearsal, held at Newtown Neighbourhood Centre, is a good, old-fashioned jam session, that is all about inspiring people to have a great sing-a-long and belt out some old favourites from the 50s and 60s and on Friday more technical in allowing a core group of eleven members the opportunity to learn harmonies, practise new songs and give their voices a good work out. The statistics tell us that the issue of homelessness cannot be swept under the carpet. One in every 200 Australians are homeless and each night 100,000 Australians do not have a place to call home.

In addition to a lack of housing, homeless people face adversity in the form of mental health issues or addictive behaviours, as well as suffering mistreatment on the streets through assault and robbery.



The Sydney Street Choir is a refuge where people can feel safe and be themselves. It also gives them a sense of community that they might not experience otherwise.

To sing is a simple act - it doesn't cost anything and just about anybody can do it. And yet its capacity to reap powerful rewards makes it one of life's true wonders.

Choir Director Peter Lehner says, "Singing is a release. The people that join our rehearsals always feel better afterwards "Long term, you see improvements in people's lives.

Tonight – The President will present a sizable donation to employ a part time social worker to assist with the brilliant work being carried out by Peter Lehner (Choir Master) and his dedicated team.

The money was raised by the Rotary Club of Sydney CBD Nathans Bequest Fund Raising dinner held late last year.

APRIL IS MAGAZINE MONTH**TONIGHT'S PROGRAM**

6.00 **PRE – DINNER DRINKS**
CHAIRMAN: PAST PRESIDENT GRAHAM STEER
 6.30/40 **CALL TO ORDER & WELCOME**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

"I wish to acknowledge the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation, the traditional owners on whose land we hold this meeting tonight. I pay respect to elders past and present"

ROTARIAN: Shirley Doust

THE TOAST TO AUSTRALIA - SAA Graham Steer

**WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS
 BY PRESIDENT JIM HARRISON**

REPORTS

**INTRODUCTION OF CHOIR AND THE EXECUTIVE
 PP MICHAEL KENYON**

**PRESENTATION OF CHEQUE TO THE CHOIR
 PRESIDENT JIM HARRISON**

STORIES BY MEMBERS OF THE CHOIR

**CHORAL INTERLUDE
 BY SYDNEY STREET CHOIR**

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS
 PRESIDENT JIM HARRISON**

CLOSE: ROTARY 4 WAY TEST



The Sydney Street Choir has performed at many notable venues, including the Sydney Opera House, and last year embarked on its first tour to Melbourne to join The Choir of Hard Knocks in a performance at the Melbourne Town Hall



**Picture by
 Jamie
 Williams**

Sydney Street Choir on Tour

KEY COLLEGE

Key College opened its doors in 1996 and caters for approximately nine to twelve students at any one time. This is the same year that our Rotary Club of Sydney CBD was established. We have had a constant association with Key College ever since.

Key College is an accredited independent high school in Surry Hills in inner Sydney. It operates under the auspice of **Youth Off the Streets (YOTS)**, a NSW charity, and is one of three educational programs operated by YOTS. As a registered independent school, Key College draws some national and state funding on a per capita basis, but is largely dependent on donations to and fund-raising by YOTS for its support

The students can be in Years 7 to 12, but the main pattern is for them to be in Years 9 to 12, and aged between 14 and 18 years.

There are only two full-time staff members who are "teachers, after-care workers, cleaners, cooks and office staff" - as well as being advisers, counsellors and friends to the students: at various times making appointments, arranging housing, advising about careers. "We are everybody!" they say. In addition, volunteer teachers conduct some specialist classes (eg in science) each week.

We SALUTE Min Bonwick and Ben for their excellent Service Above Self!

Students come from all over the Sydney metropolitan area to attend. They mainly live in youth refuges, have experienced substantially disrupted schooling, and have had high support needs in the areas of homelessness, addiction and physical, mental or sexual abuse.

Key College creates individual learning programs for these young people. It aims to provide them with stability and motivation to overcome barriers to a positive and healthy life. Personal development is encouraged and is a major component of the College's program. It works with small numbers of young people who are committed towards achievement of School Certificate (Year 10) and, to a lesser extent, Higher School Certificate (Year 12).

The College's goal is that, in a successful year, approximately half a dozen students will get their School Certificate with competitive marks. The aim is also to develop the social skills of these young people. "It's about being able to work with other people. ... they're used to being individuals, looking out for number one, which is how they've had to live ... to survive. So, working in groups, making decisions together and discussing things together is important.

The school provides a consistent structure to achieve these individual goals, and insists on students carrying through on their commitments. For example, the school regularly follows up the attendance and punctuality of the young people; a student must be there by about 9.20 am or have phoned in with information about other appointments; they must show, by their approach to their studies, that they seriously want to be there.

SUCCESSFUL WORKING BEE AT KEY COLLEGE

(held last Saturday week 28th March)

The first "hands on" project the CBD club has undertaken for some time was a huge success. We worked hard but enjoyed great fellowship as we discovered hidden talents in some of our members (no I'm not going to tell you what they were)! For many it was the first "hands on" project with the Club and for most it was the first contact personally with Key College!



A good roll up of members and friends soon cleaned the school

to within an inch of its life.

Everything from the classroom, including the clean up of the unwanted stuff on computers, all the windows and doors, the desks, the art cupboards, the library, the entrance and courtyard and garden, toilets, kitchen including pantry, fridge all cupboards and all the floors throughout the school and even Mins office!



Now they will wonder where to find everything.



As mentioned earlier Min Bonwick the head teacher is a marvel as is Ben (the only other teacher) and they do EVERYTHING including teaching

the students, cook meals for the kids and try to find time to clean! They counsel the kids as well as organise and to take them on field trips, get them ready for the Duke of Edinburgh Awards and other programs.

After all this Service above Self Min and Ben try to live a normal life at their respective homes at the end of the day. It is not easy when they seem to be on call 24/7!

As mentioned above the kids live in Refuges and have generally had an horrific life in so many ways. Some or most have suffered every type of abuse and consequently suffer from some form of mental illness, but have some sort of a "spark" which drives them to want to come back to Key College and try for their school certificate.



With the brilliance of Min and Ben, they generally achieve their goal!!

There will be another Working Bee a little later on when we can find out what is wrong with the roof on the entrance hall. Water floods in like a sieve in wet weather and needs to be fixed before we can wash down the walls and paint.



Thanks to Joaquim Smith and Marjorie, Roger Kilburn, Joan and Ron Richards, Sasha Miroshnikoff and Anthony (Sasha mate) and Amanda Clark, Michael Heffernan, Grace Teng (2IC)! and her helper "Jacky Chan", Russel Galt and Julie and of course Min Bonwick. Joan and Ron looked after the catering for morning tea and lunch which was enjoyed by all.



The Project proceeds after costs will be donated to The Mary McKillop Sisters who are working very hard in very primitive conditions in Brazil to save and nurture the orphaned/street kids who are at the mercy of every "low life" in one of the most disadvantaged places in that country.

This project embraces RI President DK Lee's theme to "Make Dreams Real" especially for all the little children of the world!

MARKET STALL AT KIRRIBILLI – A ONE OFF
 Saturday 23rd May (to be confirmed)
 To sell home made cookies and sweets.

MEMBERS INDIVIDUAL \$30 DINNERS

To date only President Jim Harrison, Shirley Doust, Sally Hetherington, John Hepworth and Roland Gridiger have held their functions.
HAVE YOU HAD YOURS YET????????????????
 This is the easiest fund raising function ever
How – invite you friends to Dinner (after telling them it is a "members individual fundraiser" for \$30 pp)
 Indicate that the proceeds are for the projects of the Rotary Club of Sydney CBD. Have some printed Club material or even a Bulletin about the club to hand out..
WHAT - dinner/brunch/lunch/BBQ and charge \$30 each. You supply the food and/or drinks or ask them to BYO. **OR** – take them to a Yum Cha or other such restaurant – they all pay for their own meal **PLUS \$30** for the fundraiser.
Or make & sell anything. Sell something on eBay!



Members rostered should be at the club before 6pm - If you are unable to accept this duty please exchange with another Member

TONIGHT
6 APRIL
 Desk – Shirley Doust, Shelley Sammut, Ben Fung
 Meet and Greet – Moeroa Tiatoa, Russell Galt

EQUIPMENT SET UP AND PACK AWAY
 Kim Smith, Janet Kayes, Sally Hetherington

20 APRIL
 Desk – Roland Gridiger, John Hepworth
 Meet and Greet – Mano Tiari

EQUIPMENT SET UP AND PACK AWAY
 Kim Smith, Sally Hetherington

ITEMS TO BULLETIN EDITOR
ARTICLES FOR EDITING TO
JOAN RICHARDS BY THURSDAY OF EACH WEEK
EMAIL: joan-ron@bigpond.net.au

Coming programs and meetings 2009

- 6 April GALA MEETING – THE SYDNEY STREET CHOIR AND THEIR JOURNEY**
- 14 April BOARD MEETING**
- 20 April MICHAEL KELLY** "The Audacity of Inspiration" Speaking and Presentation Techniques of President Barack Obama.'
- 2 May Garage Sale at Benjamin Pittman's**
- 4 May Job Talks & Club Forum**
- 11 May BOARD MEETING**
- 15 May Cocktail Function "with a difference"**
- 18 May GALA MEETING – "SHARING A JOURNEY OF HEALING WITH INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIANS"**
 Speaker....Ms Nicole Watson, Aboriginal lawyer and senior researcher at the Jumbunna Indigenous House of Learning UTS.
 Dancers and song by a young Aboriginal group
- 1 June PRIDE OF WORKMANSHIP AWARDS**
- 5 June Rotary Singles Membership Night**
 - Art House Hotel Pitt Street Sydney
- 9 June BOARD MEETING**
- 15 June RUSSIAN NIGHT CELEBRATIONS**
- 29 June CLUB CHANGEOVER DINNER**

ROTARY CLUB OF SYDNEY CBD
BOARD – 2008-09

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WHAT MEMBERS ARE DOING!

**Russell Galt and Julie
TO BE MARRIED ON 12 APRIL**

For those of you who have not met Julie she is a most delightful person and hopefully Russell will bring her along to all club functions. Here you see Russell involving Julie in our Rotary Working Bee at Key College last weekend.



We wish them all the best for their future happiness.

Michelle Kilburn- left for Brazil last Saturday

for 4 weeks as Team Leader of the District 9750 Group Study Exchange Team, following a District 9750 farewell function held

last week at Sutherland.

We believe there could be no greater Ambassador for Rotary CBD or for Australia.

It is a very demanding role and an important one in the realm of Rotary International.

We know the exchange will be a great success because of Michelle's knowledge, skills and personality.

Good Luck and best wishes to Michelle and the Team – you will all do us proud!

But she will be missed, not just for her bubbly personality **Who will do the TRIVIA QUIZ while she is absent!!**



Honorary Member Michael Kirby

Recently-retired High Court judge Michael Kirby has been appointed a distinguished visiting fellow at the Australian National University (ANU) in Canberra. Michael Kirby is only the second such appointment to ANU's College of Law, joining former High Court chief justice Sir Anthony Mason.

He is Sydney-based but will be in Canberra for up to a week at a time to deliver lectures.

College Dean Michael Coper says the ANU is honoured

to welcome one of Australia's most distinguished jurists. Staff and students will relish the opportunity to learn from his experience.



We look forward at CBD Rotary to having more time with Michael and Johan when Michael finishes all of

his farewell meetings and functions, (of which there are many) and before he starts on another "new Career". Michelle (and hopefully Johan) will be with us at our meeting on 18 May when we present "SHARING A JOURNEY OF HEALING WITH INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIANS"

Carrie Bendeich- is out in the Central desert of Australia again conducting one of the excellent NASC (National Aboriginal Sporting Chance) programs with another group of young aboriginal people. **Keep up the good work Carrie.**



Kaye Gordon – beside being back at TAFE full time, working a day job, and doing "gigs" on weekends, has also been involved in helping to prepare a Maori cultural group for a major competition with South Pacific countries.

The dress rehearsal performance was held last Friday night.

For those of us who attended - **we were enthralled - it was fantastic!!!.**

Good luck and best wishes are extended to the group for success in the finals.



Amy Hing-Young has been to PETS

No – she has not gone into the Pet industry! " PETS" is the acronym for President Elect Training Seminar.

All Incoming Presidents of Rotary Clubs must attend these very special seminars so that when they come into office after 30 June each year, they will bring new ideas and renewed enthusiasm to their respective Clubs. This is one of the reasons that Rotary has succeeded and grown over the past 104 years of service!



"FOR-CBD" Jack Beetson

At the moment Jack is working in Timor and other places in the world as well as Australia where they need advice on indigenous issues.

He was in Sydney for 3 weeks recently and had the chance to catch up with Joan and Ron.

Hopefully he will be back in May in time to attend our Rotary CBD "SHARING A JOURNEY OF HEALING WITH INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIANS"

