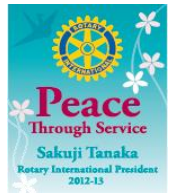




# STRATHFIELD ROTARY NEWS

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



President **Ray Wilson**  
 President Elect **Suzanne Freund**  
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 Club Service Director **Rod Rimes**  
 Community Service Director **Niall King**  
 Vocational Service Director **David Martin**  
 New Generations Service Director **Allan Teale**  
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Secretary **Joe Saad**  
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 6.15 p.m. for 6.30 p.m.

Wednesday, 17 April 2013

## April is Magazine month - recognising the contribution of "The Rotarian", and "Rotary Down Under".

### TONIGHT'S MEETING

**Mr Len Norman –  
 General Manager ABLE Business Simulations  
 and Managing Director, Conquest Consulting  
 Pty Ltd, Concord**

*Presentation will highlight his heritage - the story of migration from his ancestral northern Lebanese village of Kfarsghab (pron K-Fra-Sorb).*

*He will also show an invention - Triangle of Life - that allows us to trace our heritage all the way back unbroken about 16 generations.*

### LAST WEEK'S MEETING

Mr Patrick Longfield  
 "Environmental Education and Future Sustainability"

Patrick is devoted to his topic and has been a Tertiary level science lecturer for many years. He now lectures on sustainability and talks to groups about the reasons behind the need for change, and how we can go about it.

The social impacts and consequences and an understanding that the concept of 'Education for Sustainability', is an idea of real significance.

### Announcements Last Week:

*President Ray Wilson*

- Encouraged members to make "State of Origin" a social night on 5 June and remain after the meeting to watch the football on the large screen at 8.00 pm. There may even be a surprise guest speaker.
- Email from Terry Davies to assist with a charity event on 19 May at Parramatta in aid of Australian Rotary Health Foundation.
- Email from Margaret Roffey thanking Rotarians who attended the district conference and advised funds raised from silent auction and most popular bear amounted to \$11,000.

*Niall King*

- Advised there will NOT be another BBQ commitment on 11 May for the Chamber of Commerce Fair in Strathfield Square, it will be a Rotary promotions day, including a display of the new Graffiti trailer.

*PDG David Croft*

- Reminded members again of the ANZAC Day BBQ at Cape Cabarita and encouraged attendance at this important occasion. A commitment sheet has been circulated.

- Announced the “Service Above Self” award will again be announced on changeover night and provided the following background.
- Rotarians give service to their club and to the community in many different ways. Some serve actively in high profile roles such as officers of the club, chairs of committees or event organizers while many others give outstanding service, support and assistance in less obvious and unobtrusive ways.
- President Ray has agreed that the Rotary Club of Strathfield “Service Above Self Award” will continue to be presented to the club member who is judged to:
  1. put the Rotary Ethic ahead of their own personal considerations
  2. always put in that extra effort for Rotary in serving the community
  3. go beyond the norm in representing Rotary to the community.
- Nomination forms were distributed to members present. All members are encouraged to complete a nomination and return to Secretary Joe Saad by 22 May.

*Paulo Giammarco*

- Reported he attended St. George Central Rotary club recently, whilst only a small club they only meet every 2 weeks and a dinner meeting once a month. The club will be holding an Italian night on 20 April as a fund raiser for cancer research. Contact Paulo for further details.

*PP Peter Smith*

- Provided an update on the graffiti trailer, it is now almost fully equipped and sign writing complete. Thanks to PP Keith Byrn for assistance with getting the sign writing done.



*PP Rod McDougall*

- Reminded members of the membership night coming up on 22 May.

Reproduced below is the email PP Rod sent to all members on 5 April.

*“Our next membership night will be held Wednesday 22.5.13 (previously planned for 29.5.13) at the golf club, 6:30 for 7:00 pm. It will be a partner’s night.*

***You are invited to nominate friends and colleagues who you think may be interested in joining Rotary.***

*Our special guest speaker will be **Damien Tudehope**. Damien is the chief of staff to the attorney-general of NSW. For many years he practiced as a solicitor in Strathfield.*

*The evening will run as a normal meeting, but with an emphasis on showcasing Rotary.*

*Please nominate a guest and a written invitation will be extended. Your name will not be mentioned if that is your preference. Prospective members and their partners will be guests of the club.*

*Many vocations are not represented in our club. You might consider a person working in an area that we do not currently cover. If you operate a*

local business, why not suggest one of your customers or suppliers. And so on.

As PP Joe Saad reminded us recently, it is great to be a Rotarian. With just a little effort hopefully each of us can suggest one or two men or women to invite.

**Please give it some thought - and please be there on the night.**

Please contact me with the details of suggested guests, or for more information”

**Congratulations to the following for birthdays and anniversaries next week:**

**Birthdays**

19 April Maryanne Franco  
Charter Night 1971  
23 April Patricia Giammarco

**Anniversaries**

Nil

**Rotary Anniversaries**

Nil

CLUB STATISTICS	10/04/2013
Members	27
Apologies	7
Silent - no apologies	13
LOA	1
85'ers	3
	51
Partners	0
Guests	1
<b>TOTAL ON NIGHT:</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>Make-Ups:</b>	
Paolo Giammarco	1
Raymond McCluskie	1
Raffle	\$205.00
Sergeant-at-Arms	\$166.65
	\$371.65

**FUTURE CLUB MEETINGS**

Date	Topic
24/4/2013	<b>NO MEETING</b>
1/5/2013	<i>PARTNERS NIGHT – Stephen and Denise Taylor - "around the World in 35 minutes"</i>
8/5/2013	<i>Club Debating Challenge Topic TBA</i>
15/5/2013	<i>Youth Achievement Awards</i>
22/5/2013	<i>A membership information Evening Guest Speaker - Damien Tudehope, Chief of Staff, Office of the Attorney General and Minister for Justice</i>
29/5/2013	TBA
5/6/2013	<i>Fellowship evening – “State of Origin”</i>
12/6/2013	<i>PARTNERS NIGHT – “Korean Banquet” \$35 p/p</i>

**FUTURE CLUB EVENTS**

Date	Event
25/4/2013	ANZAC DAY service @ Cape Cabarita 8.00 am
4/5/2013	BBQ – Parkinson’s Big Ride Sydney Olympic Park 5.00 am – 9.00 am
4/5/2013	BBQ – Ashfield Infants Home 10.00 am – 3.00 pm
11/5/2013	Rotary Display – Strathfield Chamber of Commerce Fair
17/5/2013	Meriden Interact Dance
25/5/2013	Rotary BBQ Bunnings Lidcombe
26/5/2013	Red Shield Appeal



## Dubai Rotarian fights the scourge of pollution

By Brittany Shoot

The Rotarian -- April 2013



Theresa and David Wernery in Bulgaria during their Plastic Not So Fantastic Expedition

When David and Theresa Wernery plan a road trip, they don't mess around. In early 2012, they quit their jobs – he as a lawyer, she as a merchant banker – packed up their modified Ford F-150, and headed out from their home base in Dubai on a journey across the Middle East and Europe.

Their aim: to educate people about the environmental effects of plastic pollution. They called it the Plastic Not So Fantastic Expedition. The Wernerys have both lived in the United Arab Emirates since childhood; David is German, and Theresa is German-British. They originally planned one epic, 18-month trip that would cover more than 110,000 miles through 55 countries. They later decided to split their itinerary into several stages – the first, five-month leg of which began this past May and took them across Iran and Turkey, through the Balkans and Central Europe, to the United

Kingdom, then through Scandinavia, the Baltics, Russia, the Caucasus, and back home. They are now raising money for the second leg of their odyssey, next year.

The couple learned about plastic pollution through David's father, Ulrich Wernery, the scientific director of the Central Veterinary Research Laboratory in Dubai. He has studied the role that plastic debris plays in the deaths of desert animals, finding that many species, including protected ones such as sand gazelles, die after ingesting plastic, either from choking or from blocked digestive systems. Even as plastic breaks down, the tiny particles pose a persistent threat to hungry, curious birds and other animals.

David, a member of the Rotary Club of Jumeirah-Dubai, and Theresa began giving local educational presentations and organizing cleanups at desert dump sites. The nature lovers decided to hit the road to share what they'd learned

As David plotted their course, the couple contacted Rotary and Rotaract clubs along the way. David had been a Rotaract club president a decade earlier, while he was a university student in Bonn, Germany; he later served as the New Generations service director and Rotary Foundation chair for his Rotary club. In areas where the couple had no personal connection, they used the Rotary Club Locator app to find nearby clubs.

The Wernerys focused on documenting the impact of plastic pollution on the people and places along their route. At club meetings, they talked with Rotarians about the effects of plastic trash on local nature reserves, beaches, and camping sites. When they were in one place longer than a few days, David notes, they tried to visit as many clubs as possible.

They are pleased by how supportive fellow Rotarians have been throughout their travels. "Rotarians speak a common language," David says. "Environmental issues are immediately discussed and supported."