



STRATHFIELD ROTARY NEWS

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



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June is Rotary Fellowship Month

TREV'S TIDINGS

"Most clubs have the atmosphere of a Duke's house with the Duke lying dead upstairs."
 Douglas Sutherland

This week is our Information Evening and I would like to extend a warm welcome to all our invited guests. It promises to be a great night with Phil Koperberg, from the NSW Emergency Management Committee, as our guest speaker. Essentially, the meeting will follow our normal format so that those who are not familiar with the workings of Rotary can learn a little about what we do and see first hand what a club meeting is all about. On behalf of Strathfield Rotary, I hope everyone finds the proceedings informative and enjoyable.

Last week, I found the presentation by Sergeant Rod Murphy a real eye-opener and, from some of the comments and questions that followed, I was not alone. Will Eyewatch, the new web-based version of Neighbourhood Watch, be successful? Only time will tell, but it can only be so if local communities take it on board. Perhaps it is time I bit the bullet and signed up to Facebook? And what about bullets? The brief presentation by Inspector Matt Harris certainly convinced me that to be incapacitated by a taser for five seconds beats being hit, either intentionally or otherwise, by a bullet! Both presentations were worthy of a better attendance, but I think everyone who was there enjoyed the evening.

This is the last Wednesday meeting at the Golf Club. Our next event is our visit to Domenico and Johanna Alvaro's home in Bowral on Sunday, 17th June. There is a commitment sheet circulating. Please fill it in so that we know the numbers both for catering purposes and for bus hire. Our previous visit to the Alvaros was two years ago and everyone who has been there always wants to return. This year we are a little later than usual, which should provide a different experience, not only with regard to the weather, but also the scenery. I particularly encourage our newer members to make the journey, and to bring along their families. The Alvaros always offer a warm welcome.

The following Wednesday evening is a vocational visit to the Animal Referral Hospital at Flemington. Again there is a commitment sheet and this needs to be filled in so that the ARH can cater accordingly. Animal lovers will find this a fascinating look behind the scenes of one of the most up-to-date animal welfare establishments, which very recently commissioned its MRI unit. Everyone is welcome.

Our final highlight is our Changeover Dinner at the Golf Club on Friday, 29th June. As well as current members and their families, we are inviting some of our past members to come and join us in the celebration of our year. Please respond to the RSVP by Friday, 22nd June.

Finally, those who wish to attend the District Changeover on Sunday, 8th July, should let me know by June 27 so that I can submit the Club attendance sheet to Padstow RC. The dates for

the changeover of other clubs in the District can be found as a link from Cookie's Communique in our e-news.

Remember
Reach Within to Embrace Humanity
 President Trevor

TONIGHT'S GUEST SPEAKER

Phil Koperberg,
 Chairman,
 New South Wales Emergency Management Committee

CONGRATULATIONS

BIRTHDAYS

6 Jun **Connie Galletta**
 7 Jun **Emmanuel Vatalis**
 8 Jun **Rita Tosto**
 13 Jun **Afaf Helou**
 22 Jun **Bill Carney**
 26 Jun **Denise Taylor, Raymond McCluskie**

ANNIVERSARIES

6 Jun **Dr A and Devi Bala**
 10 Jun **Johanna and Domenic Alvaro**
 30 Jun **Emmanuel and Michelle Vatalis**

ROTARY ANNIVERSARIES

15 Jun **Peter Revelos, Rod Rimes, Adrian Risi**
 19 Jun **Peter van der Sleen**
 20 Jun **Chang Yoon, Peter Smith**
 30 Jun **John Leftwich**

LAST MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Trevor Duxbury

- Transfer Meeting on 20/06/2012 at 6:45pm. Animal Referral Hospital Homebush
- District Changeover 8th July at Marconi Club
- *Commitment Sheets*
 1. Membership Evening 6/06/2012
 2. Alvaros Transfer Meeting 11:30am 17/06/2012 (Bus Leaves Golf Club 9:00am, \$10pp)

Secretary Rod McDougall

- Club to support Strathfield Council HSC Art Exhibit in December.
- Need Ideas for new cover for Changeover bulletin
- Test results for Cheryl Ayres are clear.

Treasurer Peter Smith

- Received cheque for \$1060 from Hat Day.

Kevin Freund (New Generations)

- Five Student sent to RYPEN
 - Victoria Haritos, Eirene Sidiropoulos, Krystina Mullally (**Meriden**).
 - Liam Heron, Austin Heesh (**Homebush Boys High**)

FUTURE CLUB MEETINGS

| DATE | PRESENTATION |
|------------|--|
| 13/06/2012 | <i>Transfer Visit to the Alvaros on Sunday 17/06/2012</i> |
| 20/06/2012 | <i>Vocational Visit to Animal Referral Hospital Homebush 6:45pm Partners Night</i> |
| 27/06/2012 | <i>Transfer to Club Changeover Friday 29/06/2012</i> |

CLUB STATISTICS (from Club 30/05/2012)

| | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| Attendance: - | 26 members |
| Apologies: - | 11 |
| Non-Apologies: - | 11 |
| LOA: - | 5 |
| 85'ers:- | 2 |
| Guests:- | 2 |
| Make-Up:- | Roger Vince x 3 (Interact) |
| Raffle | \$160.00 |
| Sergeant | \$ 110.70 |

The Taylor's World Cruise Issue 3 (abridged), May 29th Penang, Malaysia

Well here we are again, just having finished three hectic, long and very hot days of port visits to Singapore (superb), Kuala Lumpur from Port Klang (disappointing) and Georgetown on Penang Island (typical Asia, hot, messy and not looked after)

Saturday May 26th Crossing the Equator

As indicated in my brief email with pictures we crossed the very hot Equator on Saturday afternoon. King Neptune's ceremony was fun, the Captain was thrown in the pool, and the cruise director "guttled" (very funny.) all first time crossers who wanted to had to kiss a fish, unfortunately the line was too long for us to partake.

Sunday May 27th Singapore.

Singapore was overcast and around the mid to high twenties. Surprisingly for an Asian city the greenest, cleanest and leafiest place I have ever been. We started on Faber lookout which gave a great view of all the shipping in the harbour, and the cable car over to the resort island of Sentosa and then we drove through the city to Chinatown, which was a fascinating experience with great shopping and a completely different atmosphere. Mixed in were Muslim mosques and Hindu temples, in a great multi racial mix of people.

We then went to the tranquility of the National Orchid Garden, where there was the most wonderfully landscaped setting and thousands of orchids in beautiful display.

Finally we were let off in the famous Orchard Road, the supposed "Champs Elyse" of Asia, which is full of shopping malls, all the big brands and prices to match. After a quick lunch at McDonald's (yeah I know!!) and a bit of shopping we went to the new and spectacular Marina Bay Sands, and went up to the "Skypark" observation level which gives a great view of Singapore. We returned to the ship very tired but really enjoyed the day and could not have done much more in the time.

We unfortunately missed Raffles but one of our friends indicated the Singapore slings (A\$30 each) were like a cordial with soda! I would have liked to have seen the Long Bar though. Maybe next time.

Monday May 28th Kuala Lumpur

Today we got a coach into the city and went at our own pace. KL is cheaper than Singapore and there were some good bargains to be had, with Mrs. T getting a lovely new Oroton bag, and a really lovely new Tissot white watch. We went to a number of malls and shopping areas and finished the day on top of the KL tower which gave a great view over this incredibly spread out, messily planned, poorly laid out city (there is no intelligible street grid at all and footpaths are almost non-existent). It was also bloody hot (36°C) and humid which did not induce much walking outside.

The city is not dirty, but is old in many areas, looking very tired, and like many Asian cities is not well maintained. The highlight of the visit was undoubtedly the Petronas "twin towers" clad in stainless steel and glass and still gleaming after over 15 years. It is truly great architecture and the attached six story shopping mall adjacent elegant and clean.

Tuesday May 29th Georgetown on Penang Island

Penang was very hot, sunny and humid. We did a lot of walking on my poorly chosen tour, looking at the smelly "wet markets" (seafood etc), the flea markets (think trash and treasure), and exploring the crowded motor scooter infested streets of Little India, with its cheap trinkets, very expensive gold, low quality fake watches, and dirty restaurants and food stalls. The Penang Museum was OK but we had no desire to visit elsewhere due to the heat. Georgetown does have a lot of old 19th century English buildings but when you're on a coach "with low slung decorative velvet curtains" it is almost impossible to get a decent picture of them, and unfortunately no tourist books were on sale. Georgetown is not a place we would return to, but neither is KL. Singapore on the other hand, we look forward to returning someday. Thankfully our friends Norm and Sandy had a much better day seeing the city by rickshaw, and getting a much better view of the colonial buildings.

Hope all is well with you. All the best as always,

Steve and Denise

HUMOUR FROM OUR MEMBERS

Duck Dog?

An avid duck hunter was in the market for a new bird dog. His search ended when he found a dog that could actually walk on water to retrieve a duck. Shocked by his find, he was sure none of his friends would ever believe him. He decided to try to break the news to a friend of his, the eternal pessimist who refused to be impressed with anything. This, surely, would impress him. He invited him to hunt with him and his new dog. As they waited by the shore, a flock of ducks flew by. They fired, and a duck fell. The dog responded and jumped into the water. The dog, however, did not sink but instead walked across the water to retrieve the bird, never getting more than his paws wet. This continued all day long; each time a duck fell, the dog walked across the surface of the water to retrieve it. The pessimist watched carefully, saw everything, but did not say a single word. On the drive home the hunter asked his friend, "Did you notice anything unusual about my new dog?" "I sure did," responded the pessimist. "He can't swim."

Our Secret!!

A married couple was in a terrible accident where the woman's face was severely burned. The doctor told the husband that they couldn't graft the skin from her body, so the husband offered to donate some of his own skin. However, the only skin on his body that the doctor found suitable would have to come from his rear end. The husband and wife agreed that they would tell no one about where the skin came from, and requested that the doctor also honour their secret. After all, this was a very delicate matter.

After the surgery was completed, everyone was astounded at the woman's new beauty. She looked more beautiful than she ever had before! All her friends and relatives just went on and on about her youthful beauty!

One day, she was alone with her husband, and she was overcome with emotion at his sacrifice. She said, "Dear, I just want to thank you for everything you did for me. There is no way I could ever repay you." "My darling," he replied, "think nothing of it. I get all the thanks I need every time I see your mother kiss you on the cheek."

The Chauffeur

After getting all of Pope Benedict's luggage loaded into the limo, (and he doesn't travel light), the driver notices the Pope is still standing on the curb. 'Excuse me, Your Holiness,' says the driver, 'Would you please take your seat so we can leave?'

'Well, to tell you the truth,' says the Pope, 'they never let me drive at the Vatican when I was a cardinal, and I'd really like to drive today.'

'I'm sorry, Your Holiness, but I cannot let you do that. I'd lose my job!

What if something should happen,' protests the driver, wishing he'd never gone to work that morning. 'Who's going to tell,' says the Pope with a smile. Reluctantly, the driver gets in the back as the Pope climbs in behind the wheel. The driver quickly regrets his decision when, after exiting the airport, the Pontiff floors it, accelerating the limo to 205 kms/hr. (Remember, the Pope is German.) 'Please slow down, Your Holiness,' pleads the worried driver, but the Pope keeps the pedal to the metal until they hear sirens. 'Oh, dear God, I'm going to lose my license -- and my job!' moans the driver. The Pope pulls over and rolls down the window as the cop approaches, but the cop takes one look at him, goes back to his motorcycle, and gets on the radio. 'I need to talk to the Chief,' he says to the dispatcher. The Chief gets on the radio and the cop tells him that he's stopped a limo going 205 kph. 'So bust him,' says the Chief. 'I don't think we want to do that, he's really important,' said the cop. The Chief exclaimed, 'All the more reason!' 'No, I mean really important,' said the cop with a bit of persistence. The Chief then asked, 'Who do you have there, the mayor?' Cop: 'Bigger.' Chief: 'A senator?'

Cop: 'Bigger.' Chief: 'The Prime Minister?' Cop: 'Bigger.' 'Well,' said the Chief, 'who is it?' Cop: 'I think it's God!' The Chief is even more puzzled and curious, 'What makes you think it's God?' Cop: 'His chauffeur is the Pope!'