



# STRATHFIELD ROTARY NEWS

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



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**Wednesday, April 11, 2012**

## April is Magazine Month

### TREV'S TIDINGS

*A teacher affects eternity; he can never tell where his influence stops.*  
 Henry Adams, *The Education of Henry Adams, 1907*

This week, our guest speaker is Dan O'Carrigan, who taught for several years at Canterbury Boys' High School, including a period during which he was principal. I am looking forward to hearing of his adventures and to learn about some of the qualities required of a teacher-in-charge of a school in the Australian bush.

Last week we heard from Darion Akins, how he began his working life as a teacher then, having had experience with the Peace Corps, progressed to become manager of the United States Consulate General in Sydney. An enjoyable presentation from someone who really believes that what he and his country are doing is right.

On Friday, two weeks ago, we put on a barbecue for Homebush West Primary School. My thanks to Bradley Ayres for his excellent organizational skills, to IPP Peter Smith for setting up, and PP Rod McDougall for helping with the cooking. Also there were PP Peter and Margery Foss. Thank goodness for Margery as she was the one who sold everything. Peter was there mostly to tour the grounds and reminisce, as he was headmaster of the school during the 1990s.

Last Tuesday, a few of us enjoyed another restaurant night, this time at La Piazza at Bankstown. I would like to thank Peter Smith and PE Ray Wilson for organising it. The next one, and probably the final one for my year, will probably be at the New Golden Rickshaw in Homebush on Thursday, 3<sup>rd</sup> May, following the Infants' Home Golf Day.

Last week, a significant number of us attended the funeral of fellow Rotarian, Sal Tosto. He was one of our members who, one way or another, always made his presence felt, whether it was at a weekly meeting or a barbecue. He will be missed. Sadly, last Thursday we were also informed that Ron Thurgar had passed away that morning. Ron was a charter member of our club, was one of our first presidents, and was an Honorary Member for a number of years. Sal was 60 years old and Ron, nearly 90. It just goes to show how unpredictable life is and it is a timely reminder that all of us must continue to do what we can, while we have the chance, to make the world a better place to live in. It also reminds me that some of our newer members, including myself, may not fully appreciate how significant a contribution some of our longer-serving members have made to the club, and to the work of Rotary, and that it is up to us to take on the new challenges. So, if you have a little time available, why not speak to one of our directors, or committee chairpersons, and volunteer to help with the organization or running of one of our future events?

*Reach Within to Embrace Humanity*

*President Trevor*

### TONIGHT'S MEETING

## The Adventures of a Teacher-in-Charge Dan O'Carrigan

*Introduced by Patricia Giammarco*

*Thanked by Allan Petersen*

### VALE RON THURGAR



Following a relatively short illness, Ron Thurgar, an Honorary Member of Our Club, died in hospital on Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup> April 2012.

Ron had been a charter member of our club and one of our first presidents. He would have celebrated ninety years of age on his birthday this week. His funeral is Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup> April at 10:00 am at **Macquarie Park Cemetery and Crematorium** (corner of Delhi and Plassey Roads, North Ryde), in the Magnolia Chapel.

*Ron was always charming to the ladies at Rotary Functions with his toasts, "A toast to the ladies; You have never looked MORE BEAUTIFUL."*

### VALE SALVATORE TOSTO



Our Club Member Sal Tosto died at home on Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2012.

His funeral was held at St. Fiacre's Church, Catherine Street, Leichhardt on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2012 and was well attended by Club Members and friends.

As usual Sal was late for his own funeral. Sal was interred in the Family Vault at Field of Mars Cemetery.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### **President Trevor Duxbury**

- Toast to Sal Tosto and a minutes silence in remembrance of SAL
- Restaurant Night at Bankstown Sports Club attended by 9 members and guests
- **Commitment Sheets**
  1. 05/05/2012, Ashfield Infants Home BBQ, 11am to 2 pm
  2. Anzac Day Breakfast at Cape Cabarita

#### **Rod McDougall (Secretary)**

- New Constitution accepted by Dept of Fair Trading

#### **Director Bradley Ayres (Community Service)**

- Thank you to BBQ volunteers

#### **Ray Wilson (President-Elect)**

- TV Raffle for Ashfield Infants Home

# CONGRATULATIONS

## BIRTHDAYS

16 Apr Angelina Canturi, Rod Rimes

## FUTURE CLUB MEETINGS

DATE	PRESENTATION
18/04/2012	<b>When the Dam Fills</b> <i>Partners Night</i> <b>Graham Attenborough</b> , Senior Manager Operations, Sydney Catchment Authority
25/04/2012	<b>Anzac Day - No Meeting.</b> <b>Cape Cabarita Anzac Day Breakfast transfer</b>
2/05/2012	<b>Three Dimensional Printing</b> <b>Scott Thompson</b> , Director, Any Dimension
9/05/2012	<b>Youth Achievement Awards</b> <i>Partners Night</i> <i>In conjunction with Strathfield Council</i> <i>Special guest Strathfield Mayor Paul Barron</i>
16/05/2012	TBA
23/05/2012	TBA
30/05/2012	<b>Community Based Policing,</b> <b>Superintendent Philip Rogerson</b> <i>Flemington Local Area Commander</i>
6/06/2012	<b>Membership Evening</b> <i>Organised by Chris Virgona</i> <i>Prospective members welcome</i> <b>Special guest speaker Phil Koperberg</b>

## CLUB STATISTICS (from Club Meeting 4/04/2012)

<b>Attendance:-</b>	28 members		
<b>Apologies:-</b>	12	<b>Non-Apologies:-</b>	10
<b>Partners:-</b>	1	<b>Guests:-</b>	1
<b>Visitors:-</b>	2	<b>85'ers:-</b>	4
<b>LOA:-</b>	2		
<b>Raffle</b>	\$245.00	<b>Sergeant</b>	\$115.20



*Across Cultures*

*Darion Akins, Management Officer, United States Consulate General*

## FUTURE EVENTS

25/04/2012 Wednesday	<b>Anzac Day Breakfast</b> <b>Cape Cabarita (Transfer Meeting)</b>
3/05/2012 Thursday	<b>Ashfield Infants Home Golf Day</b> <b>Strathfield Golf Club</b>
5/05/2012 Saturday	<b>BBQ Ashfield Infants Home Art Show</b> <b>11:00am to 2:00pm</b>
11/05/2012	<b>Meriden Interact Dance</b>
12/05/2012 Saturday	<b>Strathfield May Fair</b> Strathfield Square 10am to 4pm
18/05/2012	<b>Hat Day For Mental Health Research</b> The Red Hat ladies, in Martin Place. Anyone in a red hat is welcome to join at 1.00 pm
May 2012	<b>Strathfield Rotary Club Charity Golf Day</b>
29/06/2012 Friday	<b>Club Changeover</b>

# EULOGY FOR SAL TOSTO

Angelo Franco

I first met Sal 23 years ago through Strathfield Rotary.

My first memory of Sal was his arrival during a Rotary meeting at the Bowling Club in Augusta Street Strathfield in 1989. (Presidents Kevin Lawrenson and Max Douglas).

The meeting had already started when Paul Giammarco and Sal arrived late, wanting to know what Rotary was about and how to join. He joined the Club in December 1989.

From this first introduction of a brush and in your face Sal to Strathfield Rotary, I did not think I would have much to do with him; Sal always had something to say, no matter to whom and no matter what subject. Sal would always ask a question of the guest speakers we had each week.

He always began with, "Just One Question....." Sal was not always politically correct in the way he asked his questions. I remember Dr Ken Boston, who was Director-General of NSW Education, gave a talk to our Club. Sal began his question in the usual way then added, "I think the Education Department SUCKS!!" We worked long and hard to make Sal Politically Correct after that outburst.

After joining Strathfield Rotary Club, Sal soon knew all the members and by 1990 he was given the job of bulletin editor by President Brian Driver. Sal had never used a computer in his life nor had he ever prepared a newsletter. Sal took on the job and bought a computer knowing that he could trust us to help him. With a lot of tuition and ongoing editing, Sal produced the Club Bulletin for the whole year.

Also during 1990, Sal organised a Sunday afternoon, fund raising, lunch at the Villa Rosa in Leichhardt and used the occasion to make Brian Driver an honorary Italian, so that Brian could be part of the Italian faction in the Club.

During my term of Presidency at Strathfield Rotary, I couldn't get Sal to be part of my Board, but he was my right-hand man. When we decided to hold a fund-raising night at Le Montage in Leichhardt, it was Sal I relied on to pull the evening together. The night was a great success. Sal was a great support for me as well as a great friend and support to all the Club members who called on his help. Apart from his "upfront" support of Rotary, Sal offered his help behind the scene, such as calling on Jean Thurgar at home to do her hair when she became incapacitated. He often donated goods or funding for raffles and special occasions without any qualms or want of recognition.

In 2003 President Steve Taylor formally recognised Sal's contribution to Strathfield Rotary by presenting him with a Paul Harris Fellowship. Rita and his family were there that night and I knew that he was especially proud to be a Rotarian that night.

Sal and Rita became a close friend to many Club members and their families. This was particularly so with my wife Maryanne and Brian Driver's wife Cheryl. We did many things together and Maryanne and Cheryl tried hard to make Sal into a SNAG, (Sensitive, New Age Guy) sending him anonymous Valentine's Day Cards and reminding him of his faux-pas when it came to political correctness.

As part of his social retraining, Cheryl took a picture of Sal drying the dishes on one of our outings and threatened to blackmail him with it if he did not adopt a more correct approach to the opinion of others. This must have worked as Sal pleaded with Cheryl to never let anyone see it.

Political & Social arguments with Sal were commonplace. These discussions could be heated, but he knew he was amongst friends and his opinion was listened to even though not always accepted.

We did many things together, and I will miss him.