



STRATHFIELD ROTARY NEWS

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



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March is Literacy Month

TREV'S TIDINGS

*"There have been three great inventions since the beginning of time:
 fire, the wheel and central banking."* Will Rogers

This week, the meeting topic is Community Banking, presented by Robert Chittick, one of the Regional Managers of the Bendigo Bank. The Bendigo community banking approach aims to improve the sustainability and viability of local communities and Robert will explain how and why it works.

Last Friday night and Saturday saw the penultimate District 9690 Annual Conference in Penrith. Although attendance was a little down on previous years, I think everyone who attended thoroughly enjoyed themselves, especially on Saturday night when Panthers was overrun by the Roman hordes. Topics varied, from electric cars and the wonders of the human mind to the complexities of Sydney's water supply. We were brought up to date on the polio eradication initiative with the welcome news that India has been declared endemic polio free for the first time in history. We still need to try and communicate more effectively with generations X and Y. One of the more inspiring presentations was that of a Gen Y person, Ilyasi Siraji, who described his life journey as a refugee from DR Congo to Adelaide. PDG Barry Thomson also told us about the preparations for the International Convention in 2014, which was originally to be held at the Entertainment Centre and Darling Harbour. However, these venues will not now be available and it is more than likely that the Convention will be held at Sydney Olympic Park. I suspect that those Rotary Clubs close to the site will be much more involved in preparing for the event than they would have been otherwise. Next year the final District 9690 Conference will be held 15-17 March at The Cube, Macarthur. Put it into your diary now. It will be a time of reminiscences as we reflect on the remarkable achievements of our District.

Last week there was no dinner meeting but a few of us manned the barbecue for Strathfield Council's Harmony Day celebrations in Airey Park. I would like to thank PP Peter Smith, Niall King, Andrew Kowalski and Nanette for cooking the food and serving the many visitors. One very disappointing aspect was the feeding frenzy that took place once people found out that the food and drinks were free. Originally intended to cater for 150 people and to start at 3.00pm and finish at 5.30pm, we were finished and out of the park well before 5.00pm! It was convenient for us but disappointing to many of the locals who held back and then missed out on the food.

Some of our members, especially the newer ones, may not know that if you can't attend a regular dinner meeting it is possible to record your attendance through a "Make-up", by visiting another Rotary Club or by being part of a recognised Rotary event, such as a committee meeting, a Board meeting, or a barbecue. Please keep this in mind when volunteers are called for in the coming months. However, Make-ups can only count one week either side of the missed regular dinner meeting.

Next week the after-dinner speaker will be Darion Atkins from the United States Consulate General. It should be an interesting meeting and I look forward to seeing everyone there.

Reach Within to Embrace Humanity
President Trevor

TONIGHT'S MEETING

Community Banking
How It's Different, Why It Works
Robert Chittick, Regional Manager,
Sydney Metro South, Bendigo Bank

CONGRATULATIONS

BIRTHDAYS

1 Apr Peter van der Sleesen
 2 Apr Andrew Kowalski

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

28 Mar Naveed and Nusrat Chaudhry

ROTARY ANNIVERSARIES

1 Apr Niall King

ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Trevor Duxbury

- *Commitment Sheets*
 1. 30/03/2012, BBQ at Homebush West Primary School
 2. 03/04/2012, Restaurant Night, Bankstown Sports Club
 3. 05/05/2012, Ashfield Infants Home BBQ, 11am to 2 pm

Secretary Rod McDougall

- Seeking a manufacturer of dinner badges, Imprint from WA not making same quality as old badges

Director Grahame True (Club Service)

- Rotary Magazines needed for recycling

Ray Wilson (President-Elect)

- Ashfield Infants Home Golf Day 3/05/2012

Suzanne Freund

- Bowel Scan Kits now available from local chemists

Group Study Exchange Team from Finland

The **Rotary Club of Springwood** Inc. invites you and your partner to attend the **Farewell Presentation** of the **Group Study Exchange Team from Finland** on **Monday 2 April 2012** 6.30pm for 7.00pm start. Springwood Sports Club, Macquarie Road, Springwood
 RSVP by Wednesday 28 March 2012 please to:
 Laurie Waterson 4751 6626 or watersonbldgcns@optusnet.com.au

FUTURE CLUB MEETINGS

| DATE | PRESENTATION |
|------------|--|
| 4/04/2012 | <i>Across Cultures</i> Darion Akins, Management Officer, United States Consulate General |
| 11/04/2012 | TBA |
| 18/04/2012 | <i>When the Dam Fills</i> Graham Attenborough, Senior Manager Operations, Sydney Catchment Authority |
| 25/04/2012 | <i>Anzac Day - No meeting.</i> Cape Cabarita Anzac Day Breakfast transfer |
| 2/05/2012 | TBA |
| 9/05/2012 | <i>Youth Achievement Awards</i> In conjunction with Strathfield Council |
| 6/06/2012 | <i>Membership Evening</i> Organised by Chris Virgona Prospective members welcome Special guest speaker Phil Koperberg |

CLUB STATISTICS (from Club Meeting 14/03/2012)

| | |
|-------------------------|------------|
| <u>Attendance:</u> - | 27 members |
| <u>Apologies:</u> - | 9 |
| <u>Non-Apologies:</u> - | 13 |
| <u>Partners:-</u> | 8 |
| <u>Visitors:-</u> | 1 |
| <u>Guests:-</u> | 1 |
| <u>85'ers:-</u> | 5 |
| <u>LOA:-</u> | 2 |
| <u>Raffle</u> | \$255.00 |
| <u>Sergeant</u> | \$143.25 |



Mushrooms in a Changing World

*Greg Seymour, General Manager,
Australian Mushroom Growers Association*

FUTURE EVENTS

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| 30/03/2012 | BBQ at Homebush West Primary School |
| 2/04/2012 Monday | <i>Farewell Presentation of the Group Study Exchange Team from Finland</i> The Rotary Club of Springwood Inc \$30pp 6.30pm for 7.00pm |
| 3/04/2012 Tuesday | Restaurant Night <i>La Piazza @ Bankstown Sports Club</i> Set Menu \$35pp |
| 25/04/2012 Wednesday | Anzac Day Breakfast Cape Cabarita (<i>Transfer Meeting</i>) |
| 3/05/2012 Thursday | Ashfield Infants Home Golf Day Strathfield Golf Club |
| 5/05/2012 Saturday | BBQ Ashfield Infants Home Art Show 11:00am to 2:00pm |
| 11/05/2012 | Meriden Interact Dance |
| 12/05/2012 Saturday | Strathfield May Fair Strathfield Square 10am to 4pm |
| 18/05/2012 | <i>Hat Day For Mental Health Research</i> The Red Hat ladies, in Martin Place. Anyone in a red hat is welcome to join at 1.00 pm |
| May 2012 | Strathfield Rotary Club Charity Golf Day |
| 29/06/2012 Friday | Club Changeover |

Humour From Our Members

Learning Maths

Little Zachary was doing very badly in math.

His parents had tried everything...tutors, mentors, flash cards, special learning centres. In short, everything they could think of to help his math.

Finally, in a last ditch effort, they took Zachary down and enrolled him in the local Catholic school. After the first day, little Zachary came home with a very serious look on his face. He didn't even kiss his mother hello. Instead, he went straight to his room and started studying.

Books and papers were spread out all over the room and little Zachary was hard at work. His mother was amazed. She called him down to dinner.

To her shock, the minute he was done, he marched back to his room without a word, and in no time, he was back hitting the books as hard as before.

This went on for some time, day after day, while the mother tried to understand what made all the difference.

Finally, little Zachary brought home his report Card. He quietly laid it on the table, went up to his room and hit the books. With great trepidation, His Mom looked at it and to her great surprise, little Zachary got an 'A' in math. She could no longer hold her curiosity. She went to his room and said, 'Son, what was it? Was it the nuns?' Little Zachary looked at her and shook his head, 'no'. 'Well, then,' she replied, 'was it the books, the discipline, the structure, the uniforms? WHAT WAS IT?'

Little Zachary looked at her and said, 'Well, on the first day of school when I saw that guy nailed to the plus sign, I knew they weren't fooling around.'