



STRATHFIELD ROTARY BULLETIN

DISTRICT 9675

THE SPOKE

15th-March-2017

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Rotary, United Nations and Australian Themes

Month of March	Rotary	Water and Sanitation Month
	Rotary	World Rotaract Week (13-19 March)
Days of March	United Nations	International Day of Happiness (20th March)
	United Nations	International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (21st March)
	United Nations	World Poetry Day (21st March)
	United Nations	International Day of Nowruz (21st March)
	United Nations	World Down Syndrome Day (21st March)
	United Nations	International Day of Forests (21st March)



Rick's Ramblings (masquerading as Steve's Snippets)

Fellow Rotarians,

Wow...what a District Conference! Those that attended with me (the Croft's, the Manenti's and the van der Sleen's) will I'm sure attest to my assessment that it was truly an inspirational and worthwhile investment of our time. Maybe it's just "First Conference Euphoria", but I really enjoyed it. It was less 'about Rotary' and more about "the effects of Rotary" in changing individuals and communities lives. Poor ol'

President Steve was struck down with a spot of Man Flu in the days leading up to the conference, and through the weekend, so he and Denise couldn't make it (it's also the reason you're subjected to my ramblings this week!). Get well soon, Steve! Like Steve and Denise, those of you that couldn't make it really missed out. It was a beauty. You can read a full report later in the Bulletin.

The 2018 Conference, under the leadership of DGE Stephen Britten was announced to be held at The

Parklands Conference Centre in Mudgee, on 2-4 March 2018. Put this into your diaries, NOW! It is a great location, and I'm sure will be a fabulous event too.

The other announcement to come out of this conference was that next year – when Australian, Ian Risely will be RI President – a series of Global Peace Conferences will be held around the world. One of those will be in Sydney on 17 March 2018 at the Sydney Town Hall. Put this into your diaries too, again NOW! It is also hoped and expected we will be able to announce the end of Polio in Ian Risely's year, fitting as Australian Clem Renouf conceived it, and hopefully Australian Ian Risely can declare that war won. What a big year coming up.

Our Board meets this Friday evening. If you have any matters you'd like to table, please funnel these through Secretary, Peter van der Sleen.

There's plenty of entertaining events coming up soon. Make sure you and your families are aware of these: 7 April 2017, Dinner and Ten Pin Bowling; 25 April 2017, Cape Cabarita ANZAC Day BBQ Breakfast; and 30 April 2017, The Stroller Derby at Sydney Olympic Park.

So for now, let's just sit back, relax and listen to what I'm sure will be a very entertaining Vocational and Life Talk from Director Andrew Aravanis.

President Elect Rick



Last Week's Guest Speaker: n/a

With the District Conference on this coming weekend, tonight sees a more casual night of fellowship at the Golden Coronet Chinese Restaurant.

For some (very) candid shots taken on the night, please refer to the "Out and About" segment at the end of this Bulletin.



This Week's Speaker: Andrew Aravanis

This week, we will be enlightened by a presentation by our newest

member, the dynamic Andrew Aravanis.



Next Week's Speaker: Wayne Collis

If ever there were a topic filled with complications brought about by

shifting government regulations, international pressures, not to

mention the jargon, it is the personal investment industry. In tonight's presentation, Wayne will take our

members through the 'minefield' that is investing for retirement.



Dates for the Calendar



<i>Rotary Events</i>	
Wednesday 15 th Mar 2017	Vocational talk – Andrew Aravanis
Wednesday 22 nd Mar 2017	Wayne Collis: Tips and traps for investing for retirement
Monday 27 th Mar 2017	Tribute to honour the work of RAWCS Australia (transfer meeting to Burwood)
Wednesday 29 th Mar 2017	No meeting (transfer meeting to Burwood)
Wednesday 5 th April 2017	School debate
Friday 7 th April 2017	Ten pin bowling + dinner at Thai Paragon @ North Strathfield
Wednesday 12 th April 2017	Vocational talk
Wednesday 19 th April 2017	Noel Trevaskis - Telling the Rotary Story
Tuesday 25 th April 2017	Cape Cabarita ANZAC Day BBQ Breakfast
Wednesday 26 th April 2017	Youth Achievement Awards
Sunday 30th April 2017	Stroller Derby at Sydney Olympic Park

<i>Birthdays</i>	
17 th March	Joan Brown
21 st March	A Bala

<i>Anniversaries</i>	
n/a	n/a



Rotary Celebrities and Projects

Orville Wright, who with his brother Wilbur, is generally credited with inventing, building & flying the world's first successful aeroplane, was a member of the Rotary Club of Dayton, Ohio USA.

Orville expressed sadness in an interview years later about the death

and destruction brought about by the bombers of World War II:

“We dared to hope we had invented something that would bring lasting peace to the earth. But we were wrong...no one could deplore more than I do the destruction it has caused.”

March on the old Rotary calendar was Literacy Month. Combating illiteracy has been a focus of Rotary International since 1986 - and for good reason.

functionally illiterate, without the reading and writing skills necessary for everyday life. The United Nations has identified illiteracy as a major obstacle to economic, political, and social development.

UNESCO estimates there are 862 million illiterate adults in the world and about two-thirds of them are women. Millions more are

David Croft



The Statistics

Attendance last week	12
Leave of absence	2
Apologies	5
No apology	14
Club membership	33
Partners	5
Guests	2
Members Rotary activities	Week ending 8-3-17: 47.5 [hours]

<i>Funds raised last week</i>	
Raffle	n/a
'Heads and tails'	n/a
Sergeants session	n/a

Your Committee 2016-2017

President	Stephen Taylor	Secretary	Peter van der Sleen
President Elect	Rick Vosila	Sergeant	Grahame True
Immediate Past President	Allan Petersen	Treasurer	Rod McDougall
Youth	Arie Pappas	Community	Andrew Aravanis
International	Rick Vosila	Vocational	Not filled
		Club Services	Bradley Ayres

Bulletin Editor	Bradley Ayres	Web master	Raymond McCluskie
Bulletin Printer	Selectprint	Apologies	Gulian Vaccari

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## *Fines Sessions Roster*

President Steve along with Sergeant Grahame have come up with the idea that our members take turns delivering the fines session each week. This should make for a fun and entertaining evening.

Here is the list of names and dates for you to record. If you are unable to deliver the fine session on your designated night could you please organise a replacement and let me know.

### Sergeant Grahame

|                        |                     |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| 15 <sup>th</sup> March | Paolo Giammarco     |
| 22 <sup>nd</sup> March | Anuradha Kamkolkar  |
| 29 <sup>th</sup> March | Peter Manenti       |
| 5 <sup>th</sup> April  | Arie Pappas         |
| 12 <sup>th</sup> April | Raymond McCluskie   |
| 19 <sup>th</sup> April | Charles Pitt        |
| 26 <sup>th</sup> April | Richard Horwood     |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> May    | Joe Saad            |
| 10 <sup>th</sup> May   | Peter Smith         |
| 17 <sup>th</sup> May   | Gulian Vaccari      |
| 24 <sup>th</sup> May   | Peter van der Sleen |
| 31 <sup>st</sup> May   | Rick Vosila         |
| 7 <sup>th</sup> June   | Janelle Watson      |
| 14 <sup>th</sup> June  | Andrew Aravanis     |
| 21 <sup>st</sup> June  | Usha Garg           |

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Out and About: dinner night

In lieu of our normal meeting due to the District Conference, a night of fellowship was held at the Golden Coronet Chinese restaurant



Out and About: District Conference

With an attendance of over 400 Rotarians from across our District, the Foundations of Success Rotary Conference at the Novotel North Wollongong was another great opportunity for fellowship, networking and hearing inspirational stories from ordinary people who have achieved extraordinary things.

The first speaker of the program was Australian RI Director, Noel Trevaskis. He had a number of important messages for us all. Firstly, he emphatically said “Attendance means nothing!” He wants clubs to look at the contributions individuals can make, and the opportunities given to them to serve, when they can. We should also look to induct people of all ages; he himself once inducted an 82 year-old, who had a most fulfilling time at Rotary in the final years of his life. Our first priority is membership – getting it; keeping it; nurturing it. Fundraising comes later.

There was a special announcement made by Chris McDiven of the Rotary Club of Sydney. Incoming Australian RI President Ian Risely has announced six Presidential Peace Conferences around the world in his year. One of those will be in Sydney, hosted by the Rotary Club of Sydney, on 17 March 2018 at the Sydney Town Hall. This is one to put in your diaries now!

Curtis McGrath – born a Kiwi, former Australian soldier, and world and Paralympic kayak champion gave a very moving speech about his journey and what led to his sporting achievements. He stepped on an IED whilst on deployment to Afghanistan, losing both legs. Within 30-minutes of that happening, he was telling his mates that were stabilising him and about to medivac him to a troop hospital that he was now going to be a Paralympian. He has done just that, and so much more; a true example of how to turn a really bad experience into a positive life journey.

Did you know that you can’t drink water safely in 180 countries in the world? We are so lucky in Australia that we can just turn on our taps and drink great, clean water. Bo Morse, from Disaster Aid Australia shared with us a great Australian invention from Tweed Heads, that can help avoid the current terrible situation where 3.5 million people die every year due to drinking contaminated water. Sky Hydrant is a simple water filtration system that can be installed almost anywhere. It simply takes “bad” water in one end, filters all the bad stuff out at a microbiological level (dirt, bacteria, virus, etc.), and pumps potable water out the other. How good is that? It is making a huge difference in communities all over the world.

We then heard from three great “New Generations” young people: Jayden Bregu, Judith Mogi and Tabatha Buonaccorsi. Each of these has told how their lives had been forever changed through some Rotary connection or other, be it RYLA, Rotaract, or Youth Exchange.

Jayden explained the impact a RYLA camp had on his life, describing Rotary as the “ultimate organisation for young leaders”. Judith said it was a real shame that she only ever heard about Rotary towards the end of her schooling. Her view is that Rotary provides everyone a platform to achieve anything they want in life. Tabatha told her amazing story of Youth Exchange to Japan, where she really became part of

her host families family. Her message were that Rotary changes lives and Rotary builds connections. Her motto is now: “If not us, who? If not now, when?”

Our next speaker, Marcus Akuhata-Brown told of his story of coming from a remote, quiet community in the north-east of NZ, where the expectation is that the best a boy will do at school is (maybe) finish year 10, and then hopefully go on to some blue-collar job. He had a teacher who helped him see a greater version of himself, lifting the “lid of low expectations” off his head. This empowerment led him to finish school, be the first in his family ever to go to university (to study to be a teacher), being appointed principal of the school he left just a few years earlier (before teaching a single class as a new teacher!), representing NZ in various international fora on youth leadership, meeting Prince Charles, meeting The Queen, going to the White House, United Nations, and the list goes on. His simple message: “your decisions determine your destiny”.

Professor Michael Sawyer then discussed Adolescent Mental Health. He told us that mental health is the leading cause of disability in the formative years of young people, with 14% of children and young adults experiencing some mental disorder today (and increasing!). 50% of these disorders onset before the age of 14; 75% by the age of 24. It is a serious national issue.

Bob Aitken, End Polio Now Coordinator for Zone 7B, gave us an update on the Polio Plus program. The current view is that we are hoping to announce sometime during the next Rotary year that we have eliminate Polio. This would be fitting, as the program was conceived by an Australian RI President (Clem Renouf), and its success could be declared by another Australian RI President, Ian Risely, next year. We are still \$1.24B short of funds estimated to finish the job, and Rotary Clubs around the world are asked to help out here.

Melissa Abu-Gazaleh was our next speaker – another whose life was transformed by her RYLA experience. RYLA empowered Melissa to thing big; and believe that she achieve what she put her mind to. She took her passion for wanting to help young men deal with mental health issues, and started the Top Blokes Foundation, where she and her team have already helped over 10,000 young men. Her view is that every young adult is just one caring person away from being a success story.

Next up was Jessie Harman, Project Lead, Regional Membership for Zone 8, who reminded us that we are in different times, and we need to adjust if we are to survive. There have been five shifts in volunteerism in recent years that we need to understand.

- 1) Rise in digital volunteering, where the Internet is used to find a cause or make an online donation.
- 2) Rise of skills-based volunteering, such as Médecins Sans Frontières and Engineers without Borders.
- 3) Rise of workplace-based volunteering (Corporate Social Responsibility; triple bottom line, etc.)
- 4) Rise of cause-based volunteering, where young people relate to a specific cause, such as poverty, hunger, peace, etc.

- 5) Rise of episodic volunteering whereby people dip in and out of volunteering, based on lifestyle needs and other priorities at the time.

In general, modern volunteers want more meaning and greater flexibility when volunteering. How do clubs respond? Provide greater flexibility; embrace change!

Debbie Roberts from the Rotary Club of Narellan, told a very personal story about organ donation and its importance. Her daughter, Rebecca had numerous medical conditions, leading to her death at the age of just 20. She was very sick in the final year, and spent a lot of time talking about organ donation to her parents around the dinner table! Rebecca's organ donations have changed the lives of four people, which is very comforting for her family. We were all encouraged to think about organ donation, discuss it with family, get on the register, and have a chance to also change or even save other lives. Donate organs; donate life.

There was a Q&A session with a panel of guests at the start of Day 2 that examined several ethics questions. The five panelists (including DG Stephen Humphries) were generally consistent with their "good ethics" responses, as was to be expected ("Is it the truth" featured heavily).

PDG Wendy Gaborit lead a presentation describing elements of the Rotary brand that we should promote, including: "People of Action"; "Feeling good; doing good". We need to be seen to connect people of action to worthwhile causes. The word "Rotary" must always accompany the wheel when used. It was found that people recognised the wheel, but couldn't remember which association it belonged to.

PDG Bruce Allen gave his presentation (similar to what we have seen at our club) on the Rotary Foundation, really talking about the good we have been able to do through Foundation funds applied to the right projects. He described the Foundation as our vehicle to do good in the world. Let's support it, and let's use it.

DRR Zach Fitzpatrick gave an impassioned speech about the need for stronger connections and threads between Rotaract and Rotary. Why don't more Rotaractors convert to become Rotarians? In fact, why don't more Interactors convert to become Rotaractors. It seems nobody asks them. Let's not let this happen in our club.

The final presentation of the day was certainly the highlight of the conference. Deng Adut – child soldier, refugee, criminal lawyer, refugee advocate, author, NSW Australian of the Year winner, survivor. His story was both terrifying and compelling all at the same time. It's impossible to do it justice here. To get an insight, read his book, *Songs of a War Boy*, which describes this incredible journey.

All in all, it was a great conference! Oh, and the location at the Novotel at North Wollongong was spectacular to boot.

President Elect Rick

