



STRATHFIELD ROTARY BULLETIN

DISTRICT 9675

THE SPOKE

26th-April-2017

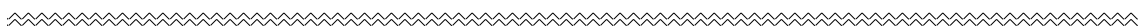
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Rotary, United Nations and Australian Themes

Month of April	Rotary	Maternal and Child Health Month
Weeks of April	United Nations	World Immunization Week (24th -30th April)
Days of April	United Nations	International Chernobyl Disaster Remembrance Day (26th April)
		World Intellectual Property Day (26th April)
		World Day for Safety and Health at Work (28th April)
		Day of Remembrance for all Victims of Chemical Warfare (29th April)
		International Jazz Day (30th April)
		World Tuna Day (2nd May)



Steve's Snippets

Hi everyone.

What an interesting meeting last week. It was fantastic to have a full room of Rotarians, and from six clubs as well.

As a beginning for our new world of working more collaboratively, enjoying each other's fellowship more, and perhaps in future sharing projects, it was a really good start. I am particularly grateful to Burwood, Concord and Drummoyne, who are

very supportive of our Club's initiative.

A large part of the reason for the great attendance of course was our speaker, Rotary International Director Noel Trevaskis, representing South East Asia and the Pacific Rim. Noel had a very interesting take on Rotary, and is obviously a very committed Rotarian.

I was absolutely amazed and impressed that a man who tried to take his life three times, and spent a

considerable period in hospital overcoming depression, could recover so well, and then contribute so much to Rotary. He is incredibly admirable.

His talk though on the future of Rotary, and many of its long held conventions and traditions left me feeling very conflicted. Certainly, I have now come to the view that 'attendance is absolutely everything' is not as important in the modern world as I believed only a short time ago, and that Rotarians can contribute and be worthwhile members of a club, even if their attendance is not fantastic or regular.

Here's the thing though, unless a member attends a regular meeting, or some regular form of gathering, how do you develop that 'mateship' that is so important? I could never have been President of this club, if I didn't have at least a few real friends and supporters, and regular attendance to me has been important and necessary because it's the only way for a Rotarian to know what's going on, what work is being done, and who I could depend on to do something because I knew them.

I'm not sure that you would be impressed if I or any other president only attended one meeting in two or three.

Moving on, I believe (and hope) that the newer and innovative methods being implemented by Rick and Arie to attract new members will be successful. However, maybe it is time to consider whether some of our traditions, such as Advance Australia

Fair and the sergeant's session are appropriate going forward. Thankfully, those will be Rick's dilemmas, not mine.

Certainly Rotary has to change, and even though I am now reluctantly part of the older group in our club, I am still young enough to recognise that change is inevitable, and I'll do my best to accept it. But, you younger guys should realise that some years ago, 100% attendance was an aspirational ideal, for every member and clubs would scour the District Governor's monthly membership report to see where they stood. True story. And now...who cares? RI doesn't. Change can be sometimes hard to take, and take a while at that.

Tonight we warmly welcome our very active and involved local member Jodi McKay, who has accepted our offer of an honorary membership. In accordance with the board's directive, Jodi's membership will remain only as long as she remains a Parliamentarian. We warmly welcome Jodi as a member and hope that she will always have positive experiences when visiting us.

Anyway that's enough from me in this column, I've got some letters of apology to write, one in particular to David Martin.

Rotary can be very fulfilling, but it can also be very difficult, as change can be. I wish you all luck in your own personal journeys in Rotary

President Steve



Last Week's Guest Speaker: Noel Trevaskis

Introduced by ex-Strathfield member Allan Petersen, who incidentally taught Noel in Year 6, we certainly learnt a bit about Noel. A current member of the Bega Club, ex-member of the Goulburn Club, Noel has been a Rotarian since 1996. He is an ex-District Governor, and only the second RI representative to attend the Rotary Club of Strathfield since the visit of Clem Renouf on 26-July-1977.

Noel commenced his presentation by drawing our attention to the fact that from June-1, the next RI President will be Australian, Ian Riseley. This is timely as we expect in his Rotary year that we will finally eradicate Polio from the planet, a program commence by another Australian Rotarian, Clem Renouf.*

With the 100th anniversary of the Rotary Foundation, Noel stressed what exciting times are ahead; tempered by some challenges that Rotary is also facing.

Foremost is the decline in membership in the Western world and countries such as Japan. In Australia, we have voluntarily lost over 700 members. In the UK, the figure is around 800. Moreover, we are seeing fewer young members join, resulting in the average age of a Rotarian in Australia standing at 71 years of age.

Noel highlighted that people say they join Rotary for two main reasons, one, to meet new people, and two, contribute to their community. And members tend to leave because these two are goals are unfulfilled.

Somewhat 'controversially' Noel believes that Rotary Clubs spent too much time worrying about attendance. In fact, he is adamant that Rotary needs to fit in with Rotarians, not the other way around.

Noel is less than enamored with the concept of the 'elevator pitch' concept of explaining Rotary to an outsider. However, he did stress his belief that it is vital that Rotarians tell their own



unique story of why they are a Rotarian, in order to encourage others to consider joining Rotary.

Part of the 'sell' is to make the distinction that Rotary is a service club, rather than a fundraising organisation. And, among many quotable quotes, Noel believes new members should be told to "come as you are, do what you can".

* Editor: for a fantastic video from the 7:30 Report highlighting the history of Rotary's involvement with Polio eradication, take a look at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=scTl0ee pZFg>

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## *This Week's Speaker: Jodi McKay*

A familiar name and face for most of us at the Rotary Club of Strathfield, Jodi McKay is a member of the New South Wales Legislative Assembly. She has represented Strathfield for

the Australian Labor Party since 2015. Jodi is currently the Shadow Minister for Transport and Shadow Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight.

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Next Week's Speaker: Dr Kenneth Graham

Kenneth Graham is the Principal Scientist at the NSW Institute of Sport and holds an Adjunct Senior Lectureship at the University of Sydney. Kenneth has over 20 years working in high performance sport and has been involved in the preparation of multiple Olympic,

World and Commonwealth champions.

Kenneth's primary research area, in which he completed his PhD, is on the monitoring of fatigue, recovery and performance in athletes.

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## *Dates for the Calendar*



| <i>Rotary Events</i>                  |                                                                                                  |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> April 2017 | Jodi McKay                                                                                       |
| Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> May 2017    | Dr Kenneth Graham – NSW Institute of Sport                                                       |
| Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> May 2017   | Membership night                                                                                 |
| Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> May 2017   | tba (BBQ at Golf Club)                                                                           |
| Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> May 2017   | Youth Awards                                                                                     |
| Wednesday 31 <sup>st</sup> May 2017   | Indian Night (Concord Function Centre)                                                           |
| Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> June 2017   | tba                                                                                              |
| Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> June 2017  | No meeting (transfer to 16-6-17)                                                                 |
| Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> June 2017     | <i>Celebration of members who have each been in Rotary for 40+ years (Strathfield Golf club)</i> |
| Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> June 2017  | Members and Partners dinner @ Buddha Raksa                                                       |
| Saturday 24 <sup>th</sup> June 2017   | <b>Changeover</b>                                                                                |
| Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> June 2017  | Club Assembly                                                                                    |

| <i>Birthdays</i>       |                    |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| 23 <sup>rd</sup> April | Patricia Giammarco |
| 25 <sup>th</sup> April | Olga Pitt          |
| 25 <sup>th</sup> April | Johanna Alvaro     |

| <i>Anniversaries</i>   |                    |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| 19 <sup>th</sup> April | Charter Night 1971 |



## *Rotary Celebrities and Projects*

**Richard Milhous Nixon** served as the 37th President of the United States from 1969 until 1974, when he became the only U.S. president to resign from office. Nixon was a member of the Rotary Club of Whittier, California.

Nixon ended American involvement in the war in Vietnam in 1973. Nixon's visit to the People's Republic of China in 1972 opened diplomatic relations between the two nations, and he initiated détente with the Soviet Union the same year.

“Always remember others may hate you but those who hate you don't win unless you hate them. And then you destroy yourself.”

**April is Maternal and Child Health month.** The Rotary Foundation reaches mothers and children in need by giving communities the help and training they need to take control of their own maternal and infant health care.

Rotary provides education, immunisations, birth kits, and mobile health clinics. Women are taught how to prevent mother-to-infant HIV transmission, how to breast-feed, and how to protect themselves and their children from disease.

*David Croft*





## The Statistics

|                           |                                         |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| Attendance last week      | 17                                      |
| Leave of absence          | 2                                       |
| Apologies                 | 6                                       |
| No apology                | 9                                       |
| Club membership           | <b>34</b>                               |
| Partners                  | 2                                       |
| Guests                    | 41                                      |
| Members Rotary activities | Week ending 19-4-17: <b>tba</b> [hours] |

| <i>Funds raised last week</i> |               |
|-------------------------------|---------------|
| Raffle                        | \$380.00      |
| 'Heads and tails'             | \$81.50       |
| Sergeants session             | Not conducted |

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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

|                        |                   |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| 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   | Raymond McCluskie |
| 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           |



*Out and About: More photos from the visit by Noel Trevaskis*



