



STRATHFIELD ROTARY NEWS

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



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September is New Generations Month

TREV'S TIDINGS

"I realized the car wasn't having problems; the ground was having problems."
Driver, on the San Francisco-Oakland Bay bridge during the 1989 earthquake

This week we will have as our guest speaker Dr Malcolm Buck. Malcolm is a past member of our Club and is well-known to many members. He has a keen interest in volcanoes and earthquakes and we are sure to hear some earth-shattering revelations as to how they cause so much damage. (The scheduled presentation by PP Steve Taylor has been postponed to a later date.)

What a wonderful night was had by those fortunate enough to attend The Ambassador restaurant at the Ryde College of TAFE. As was the case last year, the combination of fine food and wine, a convivial atmosphere, and a welcoming maitre d', Andrew, resulted in a memorable occasion. The evening was so successful that PE Ray is already thinking of booking again for next year as soon as he is able in February.

On Sunday, several Rotarians were at the Strathfield Spring Festival serving our ever popular sausages on a roll. The weather was perfect and the crowds large, a welcome change from some of the previous years. I thank Bradley and his team for organizing everything and everyone who helped on the day.

Last week I announced that we will be having another Club Assembly on Wednesday, 5th October, principally to discuss our meeting format. To prepare for it I encourage you all to read the letters to the editor on pp.10-11 of the September issue of Rotary Down Under, because I think some of the issues raised therein are relevant to our situation in Strathfield Rotary.

Golfers - don't forget that PE Ray has organized a social golf day for this Thursday, 15th September. Unfortunately, I will be unable to play (So what's new?) but I would like as many members as possible to come along for a light lunch at 11.30am and have a game of golf. Strathfield Golf Course is looking good at the moment and it is a great excuse for a pleasant walk with friends.

If there is enough support from members, we will be having a fellowship event called 'Fun and Games at Broughlea' on Sunday afternoon, 25th September, so put it in your diary now and don't forget to add your name to the commitment sheet. Nanette and I intend it to be mainly a time for relaxation with the added attraction of playing some very well-known games and perhaps retrogressing a little towards our younger days.

Our fellowship activities are coming thick and fast at present. On the following Tuesday, 27th September, PE Ray has organized a restaurant night at the Bakehouse Garden Korean BBQ, in George Street, N. Strathfield. A commitment sheet will be available on-line.

Remember, next week we are having a transfer meeting at Breakfast Point RC. It will be a breakfast meeting on Thursday, 22nd September, 7.00 for 7.15am. The cost will be \$20 per person, which includes breakfast and a raffle ticket. As I would like to give PP Margery Foss an idea of the number to be expected for breakfast, please sign the commitment sheet this week.

Remember
Reach Within to Embrace Humanity
President Trevor

TONIGHT'S MEETING

"Liquid Soil"

How Earthquakes Destroy
Dr Malcolm Buck, Volcanologist

CONGRATULATIONS

BIRTHDAYS

10 Sep **Penny True**
 14 Sep **George Helou**
 16 Sep **Paul Giammarco**
 21 Sep **Megan Tarrant**
 22 Sep **Arthur Crossan**
 24 Sep **Keith Byrn**
 28 Sep **Joe Saad**

ANNIVERSARIES

21 Sep **Ian and Fiona Johnson,**
Doug and Olga Potter

ROTARY ANNIVERSARIES

8 Sep **Christopher Virgona**
 10 Sep **Joseph Kim**
 15 Sep **Naveed Chaudhry**

Kiwis told to be Hospitable

Greg Growden SMH

WORLD CUP organisers are advising New Zealanders not to become too obsessed with the All Blacks in the coming tournament, to forget the one-eyed attitude and instead concentrate on being hospitable hosts.

New Zealand Rugby World Cup chief executive Martin Snedden yesterday said the expectation within the host nation that the tournament favourites would this year end a 24-year World Cup drought was "overwhelming".

The former New Zealand Test cricketer added it was crucial the passion did not cloud the country's other participating nations and their fans in September and October. "The expectation on the All Blacks is huge," Snedden said yesterday. We took a lot of comfort from watching how India handled the recent cricket World Cup, and managed to find their way through it. And the expectation on the All Blacks is nothing compared to the Indian cricket team."

However, Snedden added it was crucial for the host nation to look past their team, and embrace the tournament concept, even if the All Blacks suffered their usual World Cup stumble. "If you put all your eggs in the All Blacks basket, you are taking a big risk," Snedden said. "We are just trying to get (New Zealand) people's attention to the fact that we have to look after everybody, and if the All Blacks do well, that's the icing on the cake. If we go for one, and ignore the hosting situation, we are going to be in big trouble; we're not going to host this tournament again. We're going to have a chance to win the World Cup in 2015 and so on. So it is important we don't mess

up as hosts." And how would New Zealand react if the All Blacks were to fail? "It would test our character," Snedden said. He added that the Robbie Deans factor would help the Wallabies gain support in both the North and South Islands. "He is a well respected individual in New Zealand and people there will be supporting Australia because of that. Another reason is that there is a real desire in New Zealand, as it is here, to see the style of rugby that is happening in Australia and New Zealand get even further cemented as the style of rugby for this tournament.

HUMOUR FROM OUR MEMBERS

THE RAILROAD GAUGE

The Canada and US standard railroad gauge (distance between the rails) is 4 feet, 8.5 inches. That's an exceedingly odd number. Why was that gauge used? Because that's the way they built them in England, and the US railroads were built by English expatriates. Why did the English build them like that? Because the first rail lines were built by the same people who built the pre-railroad tramways, and that's the gauge they used. Why did they use that gauge then? Because the people who built the tramways used the same jigs and tools that they used for building wagons, which used that wheel spacing. Okay! Why did the wagons have that particular odd wheel spacing? Well, if they tried to use any other spacing, the wagon wheels would break on some of the old, long distance roads in England, because that's the spacing of the wheel ruts. So who built those old rutted roads? The first long distance roads in Europe (and England) were built by Imperial Rome for their legions. The roads have been used ever since. And the ruts in the roads?

The initial ruts, which everyone else had to match for fear of destroying their wagon wheels, were first formed by Roman war chariots. Since the chariots were made for (or by) Imperial Rome, they were all alike in the matter of wheel spacing. The United States standard railroad gauge of 4 feet, 8.5 inches derives from the original specification for an Imperial Roman war chariot. Specifications and bureaucracies live forever. So the next time you are handed a specification and wonder what horse's ass came up with it, you may be exactly right, because the Imperial Roman war chariots were made just wide enough to accommodate the back ends of two war horses. Thus, we have the answer to the original question. Now the twist to the story here's an interesting extension to the story about railroad gauges and horses' behinds. When we see a Space Shuttle sitting on its launch pad, there are two big booster rockets attached to the sides of the main fuel tank. These are solid rocket boosters, or SRBs. The SRBs are made by Thiokol at their factory at Utah.

The engineers who designed the SRBs might have preferred to make them a bit fatter, but the SRBs had to be shipped by train from the factory to the launch site. The railroad line from the factory had to run through a tunnel in the mountains. The SRBs had to fit through that tunnel. The tunnel is slightly wider than the railroad track, and the railroad track is about as wide as two horses' behinds.

So, the major design feature of what is arguably the world's most advanced transportation system was determined over two thousand years ago by the width of a Horse's Ass!

CLUB STATISTICS from 31/08/2011

Attendance: -	26 members
Partners:-	2 (Pat Giammarco / Jan van der Sleen)
Guests:-	1 (Charles Casuscelli MP)
Visitors:-	1 (Rick Brown – Uganda)
Apologies: -	12
Non-Apologies: -	9
85'ers	4
LOA:-	6
Raffle	\$205
Sergeant	\$91.80

CLUB STATISTICS from 7/09/2011

42 Members and Guests attended the Ambassador Restaurant at the Ryde Food School.

FUTURE CLUB MEETINGS

DATE	PRESENTATION
21/09/2011	No Meeting Transferred to Thursday 22 September
22/09/2011	Transfer Meeting to Breakfast Point Rotary <u>Breakfast Meeting</u> 7:00 for 7:15 am
28/09/2011	Cosmetic Surgery. Dr Geoffrey Lyons
19/10/2011	Pride of Workmanship
20/10/2011	District Golf Day

FUTURE EVENTS

15/09/2011	Golf Day at Strathfield Golf Club 11:30 for 12md
27/09/2011	Restaurant Night Bakehouse Garden, Korean BBQ George St., Nth Strathfield) (Details Ray Wilson)
29/09/2011	Chalmers Road Fundraising Stalls Bakehouse, North Strathfield. (Need volunteers)
29/09/11 – 1/10/11	Gibraltar Golf Club
22/10/2011	Ashfield Infants Home Fair Ashfield Infants Home. (BBQ volunteers needed)
29/11/2011	The Rotary Foundation luncheon Waterview Function Centre 12noon.
14/01/12 - 21/01/12	RYLA Camp at Blue Gum Lodge Applications close 14/10/2011
23/03/2012	2012 District Conference Penrith Panthers