

Trev's Tidings

*My heart is warm with the friends I make,
And better friends I'll not be knowing;
Yet there isn't a train I wouldn't take
No matter where it's going.*

Edna St Vincent Millay,
'Travel', Collected Poems, 1956

This week our speaker is Stephen Scott, who will talk about the Sydney rail network. Commuter travel in Sydney is always a hot topic and this presentation will be of interest to anyone who travels by train.

Last week's meeting was a great success. The Police Officer of the Year Awards night is one of our premier events and the attendance of Deputy Commissioner Nick Kaldas, and his wife Natalie, as well as other high-ranking officers from the Burwood and Flemington Area Commands, demonstrated the significance of the awards to the NSW Police Force. Nick's relaxed style contributed to the great fellowship in evidence amongst Police Officers and Rotarians during the night and we may be fortunate enough to have him speak at one of our future meetings. I would like to congratulate all the awardees who, in the words of PP Joe Saad, "were all winners", but in particular, Detective Senior Constable Michael Egan-Hirst (Burwood) and Detective Sergeant Karl Leis (Flemington).

I congratulate and thank Dave Martin for making the event so enjoyable at his first attempt. In addition, there were many others who made the night go so well, including Joe Saad, MC for the night, PP Keith Stockall and PP Grahame True, who read the testimonials, and PP Peter Smith, who was not only on the front desk, but was also a constant provider of advice and information for Dave in the lead-up to the night. Niall King and his helpers raised just over \$700 from the raffle, which was later topped up to \$1000 to be donated to *Police Legacy*. I would like to thank Suzanne Freund, for providing the after dinner cakes, and Nanette, for creating the table decorations. My thanks and appreciation also to the sponsors of the night, viz. Alvaro Bros, Burwood Council, Homebush Community Bank, McDonalds Enfield, Premier Panelbeating, Richardson and Wrench Real Estate, Selectprint, Strathfield Chamber of Commerce, Strathfield Council, and Strathfield Golf Club, without whom the event would not have been such a success.

Last Thursday we had our first restaurant night of the year at *Il Buco*. What a great night of excellent food and fantastic fellowship. Thank you, PE Ray, for organizing the night, even though you were too ill to attend yourself. For those of you who couldn't make it this time, don't miss the next one, which will be at the *Bakehouse Garden, Korean BBQ* on September 27, again organized by Ray.

Of course, we are also going to have a restaurant night on Wednesday September 7 at *The Ambassador* restaurant, Ryde TAFE College. This event was a very popular one last year and I encourage anyone who is interested in attending not to delay getting on the commitment sheet, which will be circulating over the next two weeks.

Last Friday I, together with Nanette, attended my first Presidents' Meeting at *Penrith Panthers* as president. One of the topics for discussion was an Open Letter to the PM, Julia Gillard, requesting the Federal Government to continue funding the polio eradication campaign. The letter can be found on page 35 of the August 2011 issue of *Rotary Down Under*, or online at www.rotarydownunder.com.au, and Rotarians are urged to send it in, either by mail or electronically. We are so close to our goal it would be terrible if we were to fail through lack of funding because of government apathy.

Next week our guest speaker will be Charles Casuscelli, Member for Strathfield. Charles has attended several of our functions so please come along and meet him again.

Remember
Reach Within to Embrace Humanity