

Trev's Tidings

As I walked through the wilderness of this world, I lighted on a certain place where was a den and laid me down in that place to sleep; and as I slept, I dreamed a dream. I dreamed, and behold, I saw a man clothed with rags, standing in a certain place, with his face from his own house, a book in his hand, and a great burden upon his back. I looked and saw him open the book, and read therein; and as he read, he wept and trembled; and not being able longer to contain, he brake out with a lamentable cry, saying, "What shall I do?"

*The Pilgrim's Progress,
John Bunyan, 1628-1688.*

At the beginning of the new Rotary year that is a question everyone in Strathfield Rotary should ask themselves. What shall I do this year to become more involved in my club? At the Changeover Dinner last Friday I outlined some of our activities planned for the year ahead and put them into the context of Kalyan Banerjee's 2011-12 Theme, "Reach Within to Embrace Humanity". We will continue doing what we do well, but we will also try some new things. We need to involve our partners more in our activities and we need to be seen to be doing good things in the local community. I urge you all to attend the first Club Assembly of the year on Wednesday, 13th July, when we can discuss our plans further.

On Friday we ended PP Peter's successful year with a great start to mine. More than 70 members, partners and guests enjoyed excellent food, good wine and wonderful fellowship. We were honoured by the presence of Assistant Governor Sharon Bond and her partner, Warren, Kayee Griffin, (representing Tony Burke, Member for Watson), Charles (Member for Strathfield) and Marie Casuscelli, PP Jack and Shirley Yuen (Burwood RC), PP Margery (Breakfast Point) and PP Peter Foss, Leedy Watson, and Amanda Woods (Rotaract) and her dad, Lucian. PP Peter Manenti was MC for the night and he did an excellent job of keeping the proceedings on time, which was quite a feat, considering some of the unforeseen events that were sprung on us as the night progressed. In his usual style, PP Peter Foss made light work of the difficult task of deciding who should get the keenly sought after Maurie Awards. PP Grahame maintained the high standard he has set all year to entertain us with his Sergeant's Session. Well done Grahame and Penny. PP Peter reported on the Club's many accomplishments for the year, and then surprised everyone, especially the awardees, by presenting Paul Harris Fellow awards to Suzanne Freund and Charles Pitt. Both recipients are well known for their enthusiasm and are fine examples of true Rotarians. The presentation to PP Rod McDougall of the Club's *Service Above Self* Award, in my opinion, was long overdue. Rod does an incredible amount of work for the Club and truly deserves the honour. To start my year, following my Presidential Address, I was thrilled to be able to make PP Peter Smith a Paul Harris Fellow. For most of his life Peter has made significant contributions to charitable organisations as well as community groups. I congratulate all awardees and hope that their recognition will encourage others to make greater efforts in the coming year.

On Saturday night, PDG David Croft, PP Kevin and Suzanne Freund, PP Peter and Marlene Smith, and Nanette and I attended the District Changeover at Penrith Paceway. Several more PHFs and sapphire pins were awarded by DG Marilyn Mercer but, for me, the highlight of the evening was the presentation to PP Peter of a *Presidential Citation with Distinction* to the Club. I think only five were awarded in the whole district. Two further awards came Strathfield's way. The first was for the "Most attractive, current, dynamic and informative Club Website in District 9690". The second was for the "Most attractive and informative Club Bulletin in District 9690". As AG Sharon Bond said to me at the end of the night "You have a hard act to follow".

As many of you would know, Sharon was scheduled to visit us at our next meeting on Wednesday, 6th July. Unfortunately, she has to fly overseas and PP Kevin Freund has volunteered to entertain us with a presentation entitled "My Game". As it is the night of State of Origin 3, I will endeavour to finish the meeting by 7.45pm so that our rugby league followers can see most of the match. Brian (behind the bar) has agreed to allow the first half to be shown on the Golf Club TV.

Remember
Reach Within to Embrace Humanity