

# ROTARY CLUB OF SALE INC.

Club President  
Alan Lewis  
Secretary  
Neil Ross

**CHARTERED 1928**



**SERVICE Above Self**

R.I President  
Carl-Wilhelm  
Stenhammar.  
District Governor  
Ray Stewart

## WEEKLY BULLETIN OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF SALE. 10th October 2005

Chair: Neil Ross

### PRESIDENT'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Neil welcomed all to tonight's meeting and especially President Alan, who was back after his operation, guest speaker, Paul Borg and Col's guest, Harry Hua. He then invited Alan to the podium for the president's announcements. Alan was pleased to be back and said he felt good but was not able to drive yet. His condition did, however, not stop him from sharing a port with Noel on his achieving the OBE status.

Alan drew attention to the following matters:

- A detailed proposal to the Wellington Shire Council for the development of the River Heritage and Wetlands Trail had been prepared and distributed for member's examination. The 15 page document outlines the concept and describes the route of the trail along the canal, the Thomson River, Latrobe River and Flooding Creek. The report defines Rotary's role, who the stakeholders are, technical specifications, the number of interpretive signs and estimated cost
- A letter, circulated to the members, about the nomination to national heritage listing of the swing bridge at Longford.
- There is a board meeting in Alan's home at 5pm Tuesday.
- A river walk open to all family, friends, neighbours, pets will commence at 9:30 am Sunday 16 October from the Port of Sale. Refreshments will be available. For more details contact Daniel Smolenaars.
- A Black Tie Ball featuring Gippsland Grammar Jazz Band will be held on 5 November in the Sale Memorial Hall. Cost is \$55 per head with proceeds going to McColl Rowing Club and the Music Department.
- There is a Rotary membership seminar to be conducted in Traralgon on 25 October. For further details contact Alan
- Alan also appealed to anyone with skills in preparing brochures to please let Grant know.

### Guest Speaker – Paul Borg – Sailing Blind

Neil introduced tonight's speaker as an inspirational person who loved sailing and continued in this sport despite contracting macular dystrophy and becoming blind. Paul Borg has been blind for 10 years, has won the 2005 title Victorian Disabled Sailor of the Year and is a qualified sailing coach. Neil proceeded to read a passage from The Fatal Storm, a book by Rob Mundle, that covers the Sydney to Hobart Yacht race in 1998, the year it was hit by an horrific storm and resulted in a tragic loss of life. In it the author describes the towering waves and the impact they had on the vessels in the Tasman Sea. Paul was a sailor on Aspect Computing that won Division 1.



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Aspect Computing manned by sailors with disabilities

Paul began his talk by saying that he was close to committing suicide when he found that he had lost his sight but now enjoys sailing with his disability and beats sighted sailors in his Hartley yacht. He has a 9 year old Labrador, Huey, that helps him get around but his companion has developed arthritis and may not be able to continue as a guide dog for much longer. Paul impressed his listeners with his apparent ability to "see" in spite of his blindness.

There were 12 people in the crew of the 54ft yacht for the Sydney to Hobart race and a 50 knot wind at the start ensured a quick time to Bateman's Bay. Then a terrific storm blew up and at 2:30am the first

may day call went out from Sir Winston Churchill, a beautiful old boat that was taking in water in 50ft waves that increased to as high as 90ft. Ten minutes later a 2<sup>nd</sup> may day went out and then a 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>. All the crew members were scared and turned to Paul who prayed for the safety of their boat. They endured the storm for 16 hours when the wind abated to 55 knots and the seas reduced to between 45 – 50 ft waves. The crew took turns for 2 hours on duty and 2 hours off for sleeping. Any man overboard in seas such as they experienced would have been lost as it is impossible to find someone, let alone retrieve him. Four hours later they found themselves becalmed. At 4:30am they reached Hobart. There were more than 400 people to greet them but there was no cause for celebration despite winning their division and coming in 9<sup>th</sup> overall.

Paul interspersed his presentation with some jokes and continued by explaining how a blind sailor can navigate his boat by feeling the direction of the wind and listening for the beeping sound from the buoys and other tell tale signs. He also stated that sighted sailors cannot teach blind sailors; it is a skill blind sailors must learn for themselves or be taught by other blind sailors. Paul pointed out that he was blind but not stupid. He has beaten Italian and Israeli sailors in international events.

At the conclusion of his talk, Paul answered questions from Alan about how to tell the direction of the wind, Harry about electronic aids to determine wind direction and Bob about Huey. Paul explained that it costs \$30,000 to train a guide dog and it takes 6 months to find a person to match the dog, and then another month to train the dog and blind person together. Dogs are so well trained they can find a lift in a building they have never been before.

At this point Neil drew question time to a conclusion and told members that Paul sails in the open competition and beats Neil. Alan then thanked Paul for his inspirational talk and pointed out what a tremendous model he is for people with a disability.



Victorian Disabled Sailor of the Year, Paul Borg (Gippsland Lakes Yacht Club)

**SERGEANT AT ARMS:** Emu Jones

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First to be fined tonight was Adrian for providing a laugh in the Bulletin at the expense of blondes.</li> <li>• Graeme had been observed on an early morning walk dressed for the cold only from the knees up. He paid for this inexplicable behaviour.</li> <li>• Col apparently got the dimensions wrong for the length excised from Alan's bowels and was fined for misinforming the members</li> <li>• Following on from the points he made in his talk some weeks ago, Leo was asked to pay up for the new saleyards being built in Sale.</li> <li>• Neil scored a fine for becoming veteran champion following golfing scores of 65 and 73 to win by 5 strokes.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The sergeant has a keen eye and the fact that Tanya was not wearing a badge did not escape his attention. Another fine for the collection box.</li> <li>• David T was fined because, as Keith had noted, he had never been seen at Rotary without a tie, except for tonight.</li> <li>• The sergeant could not contact Grant on Sunday and fined him for this as well as the apparent lack of information about his interests as a car club enthusiast.</li> <li>• Noel got the better of the sergeant in the argument about Alan's age but paid anyway, as did all the members who were similarly mistaken about how old Alan is.</li> <li>• Keith fined Rossi from the floor because the flower girl at his wedding was a grandmother before his children were even married.</li> </ul> |
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**Keep Smiling**

A lot of people can't understand how we came to have an oil shortage here in our country. Well, there's a very simple answer. Nobody bothered to check the oil. We just didn't know we were getting low. The reason for that is purely geographical. Our oil is located in Bass Strait and off the coast of W.A. Our dipsticks are located in Canberra.

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 A man and his wife were having some problems at home and were giving each other the silent treatment. The next week the man realized that he would need his wife to wake him at 5:00 AM for an early morning business flight to Sydney. Not wanting to be the first to break the silence (AND LOSE), he wrote On a piece of paper, "Please wake me at 5:00 AM." The next morning the man woke up, only to discover it was 7:00 AM and that he had missed his flight. Furious, he was about to go and see why his wife hadn't woken him when he noticed a piece of paper by the bed. The paper said, "It is 5:00 AM. Wake up."

**RELISH CONTACT DETAILS**

**Hosts:** Tania Jones & Robert Wood

**Phone/Fax:** (03) 5144 5044

**E-mail:** [relish8@westnet.com.au](mailto:relish8@westnet.com.au)

Rotarians, please remember to notify Relish of your intentions before 12:00 midday on the Monday of the meeting.

**NOTICES**

**Attendance:** 22 Rotarians

**Visiting Rotarians:** None

**Guests:** Harry Hua

**Make – Up:** None reported

**Raffle:** Bob won a bottle of good red

**NEXT MEETING Monday 17<sup>th</sup> October**

**Guest Speaker:** John Tatterson -  
Lex Glover Aquatic Centre  
**Chair:** Ben Lancaster  
**Sergeant:** Leo O'Brien  
**Attendance:** Noel Langley  
**Set Up:** Keith Miller  
**Venue:** Relish

**COMING UP Monday 24<sup>th</sup> October**

**Guest Speaker:** Keith Miller –  
Gippsland Show Briefing  
**Chair:** Keith Miller  
**Sergeant:** Rod Exton  
**Attendance:** Noel Langley  
**Set Up:** Daniel Smolenaars  
**Venue:** Relish

**ON THE RADAR**

**Mon 31<sup>st</sup> October** – No meeting  
**Mon 7<sup>th</sup> November** – Tracey Lauria  
**Mon 14<sup>th</sup> November** – Meeting deferred  
**Thu 17<sup>th</sup> November** – [Mark your diary](#)  
Combined meeting with RC Maffra in  
Maffra Memorial Hall.

If you are away from home you will find friends at all Rotary Clubs. You can make up for missed meetings of the Sale Club with any of the following local Clubs:

Bairnsdale: Tuesday 6:00pm Bairnsdale Club	Maffra: Thursday 6:00pm Duart Receptions
Bairnsdale Sunrise: Friday 6:45am Main Hotel	Mitchell River: Monday 5:45pm Italian Club
Heyfield: Monday 6:30 Railway Hotel	Sale Central: Tuesday 6:00pm Princeton
Lakes Entrance: Wednesday 6:00pm Bellevue Motel	Traralgon: Tuesday 6:00pm Traralgon Golf Club
	Traralgon Central: Monday 6:00pm Latrobe Convention Centre
	Yarram: Wednesday 6:00pm Yarram Club