

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.

7th November 2005

Chair: Rob Noble, Assistant Governor, RC Maffra

CLUB ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Alan advises the following:

- Members and partners of the Rotary Club of Sale have been invited to attend a Celebration Barbeque & Turning of the Sod to celebrate the commencement of the building of Gippsland Rotary Centenary House. The event will take place at the site, 8 Valley Drive Traralgon West (off Airport Rd and behind the hospital), on Sunday 20th November 2005 commencing at 4:30pm. RSVP to Norm Butler 5174 4824 or Ken Peake 5122 1728 by Thursday 17th November 2005. BYO Drinks and Seat. Dress Casual.
- A letter was received from the Federal Member for Gippsland, Peter McGauran, acknowledging receiving a copy of the submission to Wellington Shire seeking \$25,000 and approval to proceed with the proposed River Heritage Wetland Trail from the Port of Sale to the Swing Bridge. Mr McGauren commends the Rotary Club of Sale for taking on this project and has confirmed his support for the submission with the CEO of the Wellington Shire, Lyndon Webb.

PP Don Ripper also made an announcement and reminded Rotarians that the Rotary Health Safari is in Sale on Friday 11th November between 9:00am and 4:00pm and that more volunteers are needed to man the stand. John Pernu from GROW will be in attendance as well.

Guest Speaker: Ambassador of the Republic of Iraq, His Excellency, Ghanim Taha Al-Shibli

Chairman Rob Introduced Mr Ian Symons from the Rotary Club of Cranbourne who informed those in attendance about how this special combined meeting came about. Two Sale College girls, Deanne Bruns and Jasmine Prow, have taken part in a Model United Nations Assembly (MUNA) program this year and won through to the national MUNA at Old Parliament House in Canberra where they chose to represent Iraq. The Iraqi Ambassador was impressed with the performance of the girls and as a result accepted an invitation to visit the area and meet with the Rotary Clubs that sponsored the girls. Ian explained that MUNA is a youth program about building bridges of goodwill for world peace and understanding, how it evolved and how it has spread world wide.

At the conclusion of his talk, Rob thanked Ian and then went on to introduce the guest speaker, His Excellency, Ghanim Taha Al-Shibli.

Mr Al-Shibli acknowledged the presence of the five Wellington Rotary Clubs and thanked DG Ray Stewart as well as Deanne and Jasmine for making his visit possible. He also reiterated Ian Symons' sentiments that projects like MUNA should be actively encouraged and commended the good work of Rotary in supporting it.

His Excellency indicated that he wanted to concentrate on Iraq's development since Saddam Hussein was deposed. He started with a brief history, stating that modern Iraq was known as Mesopotamia in ancient times. Iraq gained independence in 1932 and following a coup in 1958 became a republic. In 1979 Saddam Hussein took power and Iraq from that point lost credibility with the rest of the world through abuse of human rights, freedom of speech and gender equality. Restoration of credibility started when on January 30 this year, 56% of eligible voters elected a democratic government. On October 15 a new constitution was approved by a national referendum and on 15 December the people of Iraq will again vote to elect a government empowered with the authority of the new constitution. Iraq has received assistance from the United Nations in implementing the democracy for the nation.

Mr Al-Shibli continued by pointing out that terrorism has inflicted tremendous damage on Iraq and that stability and a good market economy are preconditions for a prosperous society. The areas where improvements must be made include utility services, education, agriculture - which had been badly mismanaged during Saddam's rule, communication and transportation. Iraq will rely heavily on oil which provides 90% of its income. There is a known reserve of 115 billion barrels of oil in Iraq and 110 trillion cubic meters of gas. The banking system has also been established with 6 public banks and 18 private banks currently operating in Iraq. This has helped to stabilise the exchange rate of the Dinar. Other improvements that have been made is in the intelligence services which has helped to pre-empt terrorist strikes and secured the borders. Australia has helped in this and other ways as well. There are 3 large Australian companies operating in Iraq and Australian wheat has long been exported to Iraq.

At the conclusion of his address, His Excellency answered questions from a number of Rotarians. Don asked Mr Al-Shibli if he thought the time was right to re-introduce Rotary to Iraq to which he replied that when the time is right, Rotary will be re-established in Iraq. Alan inquired whether the western model of democracy will work in Iraq. The Ambassador in no uncertain terms stated that democracy is not the sole domain of the West and that Islam is conducive to democracy. He went on to explain that Iraqis had no faith in Saddam's government because it was not their choice. A member from the Yarram Club then asked about the influence America has on Iraq and its interest in oil. as a motivation for its actions. His Excellency was again quite firm in his response, stating that America provided the means for Iraq to move forward and that oil is abundant in other parts of the world. He also confirmed that America's action put to an end Saddam's regime that was responsible for the death of 2 million Iraqis. Harry asked the final question about the different factions of Sunis and Shiites who appear to oppose the introduction of Western democracy. The Ambassador made it clear that the people who disrupt the democracy process are not Sunis and Shiites but foreign terrorists and Saddamists. He said that 60% of Iraqis are intermarried.

DG Ray Stewart then thanked the Ambassador for his visit and address and invited the five Club Presidents to present a banner to His Excellency. Ted Mitchell introduced Deanne and Jasmine to the audience and thanked all the organisers of the combined meeting. Chairman Rob then closed the meeting.

Keep Smiling

One day a housework-challenged husband decided to wash his sweatshirt. Seconds after he stepped into the laundry room, he shouted to his wife, "What setting do I use on the washing machine?". "It depends," she replied. "What does it say on your shirt?" He yelled back, "University of Melbourne."

RELISH CONTACT DETAILS

Hosts: Tania Jones & Robert Wood

Phone/Fax: (03) 5144 5044

E-mail: 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: Rotarians

Visiting Rotarians: Members from RCs of Heyfield, Maffra Sale, Sale Central and Yarram

Guests: Many

Make - Up: None reported

Raffle: No raffle

NO MEETING Monday 14th November

Meeting Thursday 17th November

Combined meeting with RC Maffra
80 members of Rotary RV Fellowship, Victoria Division have registered to attend a joint meeting with the Wellington region Clubs. It's a partners night starting with pre-dinner drinks followed by dinner at 6:30pm. The meeting will be chaired by Rob Noble and entertainment provided by entrepreneur, Darren McCubbin who will present "Discovering New Caledonia - Gippsland"

COMING UP Monday 21st

November

Guest Speaker: Gippsland

Grammar Chaplain (TBC)

Chair: Brian Turner

Sergeant: Rod Exton

Attendance: Noel Langley

Set Up: Chris Harrison

Venue: Relish

ON THE RADAR

Mon. 28th Nov. Anglicare -
Gambling Task Force

Mon. 5th Dec. Tracey Lauria
(tentative)

Sun. 11th Dec. Christmas
meeting

Mon. 19th Dec. Traditional
Breakfast Meeting with Noel &
Betty Langley

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

Bairnsdale Sunrise: Friday 6:45am Main Hotel

Heyfield: Monday 6:30 Railway Hotel

Lakes Entrance: Wednesday 6:00pm Bellevue Motel

Maffra: Thursday 6:00pm Duart Receptions

Mitchell River: Monday 5:45pm Italian Club

Sale Central: Tuesday 6:00pm Princeton

Traralgon: Tuesday 6:00pm Traralgon Golf Club

Traralgon Central: Monday 6:00pm Latrobe

Convention Centre

Yarram: Wednesday 6:00pm Yarram Club