

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.

13th February 2006

Chair: Chris Harrison

PRESIDENT'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Past President Graeme Dyer stood in for Alan in his absence. He welcomed all present and then called on Grant to explain the arrangements for next Sunday's opening of the Swing Bridge.

Grant asked for volunteers and got a good show of hands to help with parking and directing traffic on the day.

Volunteers from both Sale and Sale Central Clubs were asked to attend a briefing meeting on Wednesday 15th February. Buses will transport the public from parking areas at the northern and southern approaches. Many activities are planned for the occasion and a big crowd is expected.

There were no further announcements.

Guest Speaker: Mike Clapper – Reflections on Education

Chairman Chris briefly introduced the guest speaker, Mike Clapper, as the Principal of Gippsland Grammar School who has a degree in mathematics and enjoys rowing and cycling. She then invited Mike to address the Club.

Mike stated that he commenced teaching in 1974 and very enthusiastically claimed that he still enjoys teaching although in his present position, opportunities for class contact time are very limited.

Shortly following the start to his teaching career, Mike applied for a job as a teacher in computer science at an inner city London school and somewhat to his surprise his application was accepted. It was a very new discipline for secondary schools and Mike's knowledge of computing was basic but sufficient to convince the school to take him on.

In those early years of computing, programs were read from cards with holes punched in them by the students. The cards would then be taken to a university computer where they were fed into a card reader and the program executed if there were no errors. To speed the process up, Mike would sometimes correct the errors for the students.

In 1978 the school bought a computer with 32 Kbytes of memory and within 5 years every school had a computer and every pub had a computer for playing the Bat and Brick tennis game. In that time the function of the computer had evolved from a machine for calculating to a word processor, however rudimentary it was to begin with.

Mike came to Australia in 1986 with his Australian wife who was also a teacher. He found it difficult to gain employment because his qualifications were not accepted in Australia. What was even more difficult to comprehend was that the qualifications of his wife, who had been trained in Victoria, were not recognised in NSW where they were eventually employed in an independent school in the Hunter Valley.

Two years after arriving in Australia Mike purchased a computer with a 20 Mbyte hard disc. He went on to say that everybody these days has more computational power than NASA did for the first moon landing and it is staggering to think how far we have come in 30 years. In that time computers have undergone a metamorphosis from devices for data storage, to internet, communication and home entertainment.

Mike also touched on some ways in which the world has changed as a result of maths. He mentioned the Heisenberg Principle and its relationship with modern day life where there has been a shift from the assumption that everything will unfold in a predictable way to one where there is a lot of uncertainty. This is reflected in the career changes experienced by many when in the past the breadwinner would have had one job for life. The assumption of automatic respect commanded in the teaching and other professions has disappeared and instead there is an automatic distrust. Mike felt that this is due in a large degree to the media which controls our lives when once it used to be

influenced by family.

Life as Mike sees it is full of risks and he believes educators need to encourage young people to assess the risks and take the good ones but not the bad.

There were questions raised by Harry, Peter, Keith, Brian, Tania, Rod and Emu which Mike answered very willingly. Graeme thanked Mike for enthralling his audience and Chris then closed the meeting.

Sergeant at Arms: Rod Exton

- Sergeant Rod managed to fine just about everyone present starting with Tania.
- Lyndon paid up on behalf of the Council sending the letter of approval for the Heritage Walk to Sale Central.
- In the absence of Col, who was expounding the idea that accountants are overpaid, Bob paid the fine for being one of those accountants.
- Leo paid up for being the closest thing to the local AWB representative.
- Daniel, who normally does a great job as the in-house croupier, found some raffle tickets to sell last week JIT. Just to keep him on his toes, Rod fined him.
- Grant was fined for owning a \$1.30 organiser.
- Graeme copped it for his role as acting President.
- Noel's golf handicap earned him another fine.
- David C., Sale's expert gardener, gave the sergeant some watering tips which were contradicted by another gardener. Needless to say, the sergeant fined David for this even though he heeded his advice.
- Chris, because of her fine performance, was fined for her chairmanship.
- Emu had been caught red-handed, through his own admission, drafting in a cycling time trial around the RAAF base last Sunday and paid the penalty.
- The flamboyant shirt worn by Harry also attracted a fine.
- Fines on Adrian for arriving late have been replaced by fines for errors in the Bulletin.
- The final fine came from the floor when Keith claimed that Peter should pay for making the hard cover versions of his history books too heavy.

Keep Smiling

For everyone who has to work with THE PUBLIC.....

Customer: "I've been ringing 0700 2300 for two days and can't get through to enquiries, can you help?"

Operator: "Where did you get that number from, sir?"

Customer: "It was on the door to the Travel Centre".

Operator: "Sir, they are our opening hours".

Samsung Electronics

Caller: "Can you give me the telephone number for Jack?"

Operator: "I'm sorry, sir, I don't understand who you are talking about".

Caller: "On page 1, section 5, of the user guide it clearly states that I need to unplug the fax machine from the AC wall socket and telephone Jack before cleaning. Now, can you give me the number for Jack?"

Operator: "I think you mean the telephone point on the wall".

NEXT MEETING Monday 20th February

Guest Speaker: David Harrington in
China

Chair: Peter Synan

Sergeant: Emu Jones

Attendance: Noel Langley

Set Up: Brenda Burditt

Venue: Relish

Meeting Monday 27th February

Guest Speaker: Harry Hua – Job
talk

Chair: Tania Jones

Sergeant: Leo O'Brien

Attendance: Noel Langley

Set Up: Christine Harrison

Venue: Relish

ON THE RADAR

Thu 2nd Mar. – Combined meeting at the Princeton in lieu of the meeting on Mon 6th March. Interplast Movie presented by Bob Pitman. ☆ ☆☆☆☆

Mon 20th Mar - Working B Ashleigh House

Mon 27th Mar – Partner's night at Leo's

Mon 3rd Apr – Trivia and partner's night

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: 18 Rotarians

Visiting Rotarians: None

Guests: None

Make – Up: None reported

Raffle: Carmel won the red.

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

APPEAL FOR HELP

ROMAC has brought Valente, a boy from Timor Leste, to RCH Melbourne for Major Heart surgery. He is accompanied by his grandmother, Isabel. Both speak Tetun. Neither can read nor write. They have a very little English which they have picked up whilst being in Australia. They are delightful people & a pleasure to be with

In July 2005 Valente was operated on in Timor Leste by the Interplast team working there. This operation gave Valente a shunt to increase blood flow to his lungs. Interplast referred Valente to ROMAC as he needed major heart surgery & this could not be done in Timor Leste. Incidentally the same surgeon will operate in Melbourne for ROMAC as was working with the Interplast team

Valente & Isabel arrived here Thurs 12th Jan

Mon 16th Valente spent the day in RCH undergoing tests, Xrays, MRI's etc

Here it was discovered he had a tooth abscess & had not had any vaccinations as he was too ill to attend school

Thurs 19th Valente had his first vaccinations at RCH

Wed 25th Valente had a general anaesthetic in RCH to remove 4 teeth

Mon 30th Jan Valente will attend the RCH for observations

Tues 31st he has a general anaesthetic to have a catheter inserted, into his heart, for further investigations

Fri 3rd Feb we expect Valente will have his major heart surgery, anticipated length of time for the operation is 6 to 8 hours

After this time both Valente & Isabel will be in the RCH for at least 2 weeks. So until Fri 17th Feb at the earliest

Then they will be in Australia for at least another 3 weeks. So that will be till 10th March at the earliest

To date twice daily visits have been made by a band of wonderful volunteers from Districts 9800 & 9810 & members of the Rotary club of Pakenham. Daily contacts from the Timor Leste community in Melbourne have also been coordinated

District Chairman for ROMAC, George Blenkhorn, invites all Rotarians & their families from District 9820 to visit Valente & Isabel in RCH, if you are in Melbourne, up to at least the 17th Feb & maybe for longer

George hopes to place Valente & Isabel with a family or families who speak Tetun for the remaining 3 weeks of their stay. George hopes Rotarians & their families from District 9820 will visit Valente & Isabel & maybe take them on outings etc during this time

If you can help please contact George & his wife, Sue, as they are drawing up a roster to ensure that Valente & Isabel have visitors at least twice daily

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