

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.

20th February 2006

Chair: Peter Synan

Sergeant at Arms, Emu, called the meeting to order and asked Keith to pronounce the invocation before proposing the toast to Rotary International and Australia. Following dinner, Chairman Peter welcomed guest speaker David Harrington and guest Wilma Tennant and then invited Alan to make his Presidential announcements.

PRESIDENT'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- President Alan commended all Rotarians who helped with the opening of the Swing Bridge on Sunday. He also congratulated Lyndon for the good organisation of the event, and Peter for an excellent speech. Alan felt it was a great day which provided an opportunity for good fellowship with Rotarians from Sale Central. Lyndon responded by also thanking Rotarians for their help.
- Alan then asked Rod to inform the Club about Sale College's involvement with MUNA, the Model United Nations Assembly. Rod reminded members of the meeting earlier in the Rotary year with the Iraqi Ambassador who came to Sale as a result of the impressive performance by Sale students Deanne Bruns and Jasmine Prow. They participated in the MUNA program last year and went on to win the national award for the team that best represented the aims of the UN. Rod explained that Sale and Sale Central will each support a group from Sale College and that possibly Maffra could also provide a team. Sale Rotary is contributing \$300 to assist its group.
- Rod also spoke about the Choices Program which operates in Sale College to find ways of promoting excellence and dedication in kids and make clear the positive choices they can make. The Club is making available \$1200 to support this program.
- Ben was next to speak and told members that 25 year old Lauren Kerry has been selected to take part in the RYLA program planned for a weekend early in March. Lauren is a Community Program Officer with Red Cross.
- Carmel continued with the flood of information by explaining the meaning of the Shine On Award. This award is presented to selected people who, despite a disability, find ways to make significant contributions to the community. Our Club has nominated and is supporting Gary Hammer who is a very good candidate for the award.
- Alan resumed his announcements by informing members that Paul Borg, another guest speaker earlier this year, has won the Australian Title for disabled sailors and has been presented the opportunity to go to Italy for the World Championships. The Club is providing \$500 to help Paul.
- David, Daniel and Alan proposed to walk the Heritage Trail at 9am on Tuesday to plan the layout of the track. All members involved with the implementation plan discussed the details after the meeting.
- Grant will attend future board meetings.
- Alan welcomed back Brenda after a short absence.
- David T. turned 70 on Sunday.
- Our Club is looking for team members to walk around Lake Guthridge to defeat Motor Neurone Disease.
- Please let Keith know if you are not going to the meeting at the Princeton for Bob Pitman's Interplast documentary. Also let Keith know if asap if you are taking your spouse or guests.
- Mike informed the Club that Roger Malouf from the Maffra RC spoke on ABC radio Monday morning about the Ride to Conference in which he and about 80 others were taking part to raise money for Interplast as well as Centenary House and ARHRF. The riders were staying overnight in Maffra.

- Alan continued with his final message that the benches for Sale Specialist School are finished and that next week the hay and mulching will be put down in the garden.

To complete his Presidential session, Alan called on Keith to come forward and introduce Wilma Tennant before she was inducted into the Club.

Keith said that he had heard about Wilma for several years before he first met her some months ago. Wilma arrived in Australia from Scotland in 1980 and joined the RAAF in 1984. She has been to many postings since then and is now Deputy Base Commander in East Sale.

Alan performed the induction ceremony, presented Wilma with the Rotary badge and gave her the classification of Defence Force. Neil followed this up by explaining the Four Way Test. Following the induction, all the members made Wilma welcome into the Club

Guest Speaker: David Harrington: Teaching in China

Chairman Peter introduced guest speaker David Harrington and told the audience that David had been a teacher for 37 years and a principal for 16. The last few of these were at Wurruk. Peter went on to say that David has been heavily involved in the community and that one of his big achievements was organising the Relay For Life to raise money for assisting the Cancer Council in its fight against cancer.

David was selected to teach in China for 3 months at the senior middle school in Tianjin, a "village" of 1.5 million people. There are 3200 students at the school with numbers of boys and girls approximately equal and ages ranging from 16 in year 1 to 19 in year 3. Classes have 65 students and teachers have no teaching aids other than a blackboard

The school where David taught attracted the best academic students and was the wealthiest school in the district because it had the best results. There is an incredible work ethic in the school where learning is very important to the students who want to perform well firstly for their parents, who have often made huge sacrifices so that their children have better opportunities, secondly for their country and thirdly for themselves.

Teachers too want the students to do well, primarily for the sake of the students but also because the results reflect on them as teachers. Classes run from 6:30am to 10pm, 7 days a week. Although there is great pressure on the teachers as well as the students for a good performance, the role of the teacher appeared relaxed to David. Teachers were able to teach without the need for discipline. Teachers take four classes a week and are well respected but poorly paid. What they lacked in contact time with the students they made up in marking exams which were held every Saturday and Sunday.

Some other facts David presented were:

- 75 – 80% of the students wore glasses. Eye exercises were scheduled for 5 minutes every day to address this issue
- Students no longer wear uniforms when at one time they were all dressed in the Red Army uniform.
- Lunchtime is from 11:30 to 2:00pm. Some students live at school but others go home for lunch and a nap.
- Students keep the school clean. There are no paid cleaners.
- Students had a good command of English and used correct grammar. Their ability to write in English was outstanding

David showed slides and videos clips that illustrated school life and the village. He remarked that at no time did he feel unsafe. He did have two weeks of cultural shock but found the food sensational although you do need to enjoy rice.

David fielded a number of questions from Alan, Mike, Wilma, Daniel, Carmel and Brenda before Alan thanked him on behalf of the members and Peter closed the meeting

The following letter of thanks was received

Hi Alan,

Please pass on our thanks to all Rotarians who helped on Sunday. It was a great day. I believe VicRoads will be writing with formal thanks.

The efforts of your volunteer marshals contributed greatly to maintaining some form of order and safety at both the car parks and bridge. For interest, the buses from the Canal car park alone carried 1,800 people to the site.

Michael Mattingley from VicRoads has also advised he will be in Sale on Friday and would like to collect the outstanding orange vests that were used on Sunday. Is it possible for you to arrange for these to be dropped at Council, or alternatively ring Michael direct and arrange an alternative collection?

Once again thanks for Rotary's contribution to a great day.

Regards

Mark Vitlin

Public Relations & Marketing Co-ordinator

Wellington Shire Council

Sergeant at Arms: Emu Jones

- Sergeant Emu set about collecting fines in his customary, calculating manner. David T turned 70 and as this is not a common occurrence, it was an opportunity Emu was not going to slip past without collecting a fine.
- Wilma experienced the fun of Rotary on her first night of membership and paid the price.
- Noel is generally very efficient with collecting the dinner fees but it is remiss of him not to have the change ready when the sergeant presents him with a \$50 note. He paid up.
- Carmel was complimented for being the best at setting up the meeting room but was asked to contribute to the sergeant's coffers for getting the flags around the wrong way.
- Alan paid because he was a VIP at the opening of the Swing Bridge when he should have been helping.
- Rod had cars going in all directions – not good when you are meant to be controlling the traffic.
- Harry, Ben and Alan were observed taking up prominent positions in their fluoro vests.
- Bob coughed up for deserting his post early at the Bridge
- All members who did not turn up to the opening were also fined.
- Peter was charged for the hard work he had obviously put into all the preparations for his speech.
- Lyndon paid a fine for failing to come good with the money for the Australia Day work.
- Neil collected a rock with his car and sustained \$1500 damage. On top of this misfortune, he had to find another dollar for a fine.
- Brian, in his absence, was fined for the excellent appointment he made with Mike Clapper as Principal.
- Rod's bird flu program earned him a fine.
- Grant also paid up but held out until he was told what his fine was for before he parted with his money.
- The final fine was from the floor by Rod on Leo for leaving him without a lift from the Bridge.

Keep Smiling

A husband and wife went to the fairgrounds. The wife wanted to go on the Ferris wheel, but the husband wasn't comfortable with that. So the wife went on the ride by herself. The wheel went round and round and suddenly the wife was thrown out and landed in a heap at her husband's feet.

"Are you hurt?" he asked.

"Of course I'm hurt!" she replied. "Three times around and you didn't wave once."

NEXT 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

Meeting Thursday 2nd March

☆☆☆☆ Combined meeting at the Princeton in lieu of the meeting on Mon 6th March. Interplast Movie presented by Bob Pitman. ☆☆☆☆
Attendance: Noel Langley
Venue: Princeton

ON THE RADAR

Mon 13th Mar – Public holiday
 Mon 20th Mar – Working B Ashleigh House
 Mon 27th Mar – Partner's night at Leo's
 Mon 3rd Apr – Trivia and partner's night
 Mon 24th Apr – Group Captain Sawadi

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: 24 Rotarians at the start, 25 at the finish
Visiting Rotarians: None
Guests: Wilma Tennant
Make – Ups: David Tulloch Mildura Deakin, Feb. 8, and Mildura, Feb. 9.
Raffle: Tania 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:

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