

Our Last Meeting

Meeting No.	3407
Date	20 April 2004
Venue	Unley Community Sports Club
Occasion	Colin Pitman – Director Salisbury Council: Wetlands and Water Catchment
Guests & Visiting Rotarians	Max Thomas , Netta-Riina Salila
Apologies	Ichiro Tanaka, Lou Barteletti, Adrian Sobels, Neville Highett, Norm Wallace, Mavis Martin, John Nowland, David Middleton
Make Ups	None
Percentage	71%
Sick List	None
Returning Rotarians	Don Emmett
Departing Rotarians	

From President John

A note has been received from **Faye Ross** thanking the Club for birthday greetings. President John expressed his and the Club's appreciation of the work done by **Janet Pearce** to keep up the tradition of sending birthday cards to the spouses and partners of members.

All the remaining packs of **East Timor coffee** were sold at last week's meeting.

President John thanked all the members who made presentations on proposed **70th Anniversary projects** at our last meeting. They all presented them very well and it is a pity that there could be only one "winner". Thanks particularly to our new members who were in there "lending a hand" – Ian Pearson, Maeve Swindon, Chandra Sluggett and Sheila Evans.

The **District Conference** at Swan Hill starts on Friday 23 April. We have 15 members/partners booked in and they will bring news of events/decisions to next week's meeting.

From the first meeting in May the **cost of dinner** at Tuesday night meetings at the U.C.S.C. will rise to \$17.50 to meet increasing costs. To help offset this, Treasurer Alex

Jonson has recommended to the Board that subscriptions can be reduced from \$95.00 to \$90.00 per half year, and the Board has accepted this recommendation.

On the Spot

Kaylene Kranz called for volunteers to lend a hand at the **Helping Hand garage sale** on Saturday 8th May in Buxton Street, North Adelaide. Help is needed with setting up (from 7.00 am) and selling goods (until 12.00 noon). Proceeds will go to the refurbishment of Rotary House. Please see Kaylene if you can help.

Wayne Ross reported that the Vocational Committee has selected the nominee for **Police Officer of the Year** for 2003 and has sent the details to the Commissioner for ratification. The presentation of the award to the winner will take place firstly in Rundle Mall at midday on Tuesday 11th May, to be followed by the **Presentation Dinner** at the U.C.S.C. that evening at 7.00pm for 7:30pm. The cost of the dinner is \$26 per person and this is a **Partners event**. Please let Wayne know next week if you will be attending and how many guests you will be bringing.

Ian Pearson reported that the Rotary Club of Unley is now a member of the Unley Council's Unley Safety Committee, a panel comprising various community groups with the aim of highlighting to police where the community feels unsafe, where they feel there were hotspots and where there are issues that worry community members; the concept being to help enable proactive policing. At the Unley Way To Go questionnaires were distributed to local residents seeking views on safety issues. Ian has copies of the questionnaire available for Club members residing in Unley to express their views. Please see him if you would like a copy.

Gary Tonkin advised that there are a few Entertainment Books remaining for sale; please see him if you would like to purchase one.

Gary called for six volunteers with cars to help to transport elderly folk (probably 1-2 each) from their homes to the Senior Citizens Concert and back again. The concert is being held on Sunday 2nd May. This year one delightful person has volunteered to provide all the food for the Seniors Concert.

Sergeant's Session

The Sergeant for the evening was Natalie Bowen. Greg McLeod won the Lucky Squares Draw and Geoff Dunn won the Wine Raffle.

Guest Speaker – Colin Pitman

Chairman Peter James introduced our guest speaker Colin Pitman who is Director of Contract Management for the City of Salisbury. Colin is a qualified engineer and has a MBA Degree. His background includes works in the public and private sectors and his interests are in developing local government techniques for improving and managing assets.

Colin spoke about the work the City of Salisbury has done, and is continuing, to harvest storm water by building wetlands and capturing, purifying and storing storm water in the aquifers beneath Adelaide, then profitably recycling it for sale to commercial and local government customers.

The City of Salisbury is among the world leaders in the use of storm water recycling technology. Nine current projects are expected to yield 10 gegalitres of recycled storm water by 2005. This equates to one sixth of the water drawn from the Murray River each year for use in metropolitan Adelaide, which currently uses 120 gegalitres of water per year with 60 gegalitres coming from catchments in the Adelaide Hills. The City of Salisbury expects to ultimately supply one fifth of Adelaide's water needs.

The wetlands are planted with a variety of native plants that absorb salts such as potassium and magnesium, and the clay under the ponds captures the heavy metals in the storm water. Water entering and flowing through the wetlands is usually cleansed within eight hours and can then be pumped under pressure into the aquifers, about 150 metres underground.

Recycled water pumped back up from the aquifer is sold at about 80% of the price of water from SA Water to local companies such as Michels for wool scouring and General Motors Holden for use in their paint booths. The City of Salisbury also uses recycled storm water for watering sports grounds.

Our Next Meetings

Date	Venue	Time	Occasion	Chairperson	Venue Set-up	Sergeant	Plaque Board	Attendance	Apologies
27/04/04	U.C.S.C.	6.00 for 6.30pm	Bendigo Bank Representative	Robert Birnie	Joan Reed	TBA	Wayne Ross	Ken Daly	To Ken Daly 8179 5650
04/05/04	U.C.S.C.	6.00 for 6.30pm	Committee Meetings	John Russell	Ken Haines	TBA	Ron Schubert		
11/05/04	U.C.S.C.	7.00 for 7.30pm	Police Officer of the Year Dinner	Wayne Ross	Adrian Sobels	TBA	Chandra Sluggett		
18/05/04	U.C.S.C.	6.00 for 6.30pm	Club Assembly	John Russell	Geoff Howland	TBA	Adrian Sobels		

Rotarians Pioneer Rainwater Harvesting in Villages in India

Despite heavy rainfall, villages on the slopes of the Western Ghat Mountains in the Konkan region of Maharashtra, India, suffer from periodic water shortages.

During the monsoon (June-October) season, the rains bring plentiful water for farming, tending animals, and daily use in the home. But by December, the wells have run dry and residents, mostly women, must endure the drudgery of fetching water in pots from distant streams for the next eight months in the summer heat.

Through a rainwater harvesting initiative of the Rotary Club of Bombay Metropolitan, located about 180 kilometres away, some villages now have a closer and steadier supply of water year round.

According to club president Manoj Mehta, the villages are victims of geography. Rainwater tends to run off the slopes instead of seeping into the soil. And the substrata of volcanic rocks impede the percolation and eventual accumulation of the trickles that penetrate through the thin topsoil. Hence, underground water reservoirs seldom fill up. Under such conditions, even the deepest water well dries up quickly when it is not directly replenished from rainfall.

"Each village has its own water requirement," explains Mehta. "The method of harvesting rain water is decided depending on local geology and topography. In each case, a service-minded geologist helps us select the most economical way of harvesting."

When the club identifies a village in need, a representative meets with residents to discuss the requirements for a successful project. Always, the village must commit to supplying volunteer labour. A committee of villagers participates in making decisions about location and other matters regarding construction of a catchment, such as a dam, and the club pays for a skilled mason and building materials. In addition to ensuring timely completion, shared responsibility enhances the villagers' sense of ownership for the initiative.

Since 2002, the club has helped to construct four dams, each at an average cost of 170,000 rupees (approximately A\$4,800). Up to eight more dams are planned. So far, each project has been paid for from the club's reserve funds, contributions from members and two US Rotary clubs.

Mehta explains how the project has nudged some villages toward bridging the divide of India's caste system. When the club was working on a dam in Vihule, residents from four neighbouring villages volunteered to help because they thought the pond would benefit them, too. In the end, men and women from different castes, who ordinarily would never mix, worked together. The people of Vihule were so moved by this expression of solidarity that they are planning to assist another village in building a dam.

"The habits of hundreds of years during which these villages had been separated by the caste system has died within one month due to basic necessity, and a brotherly feeling of love and helping one's neighbour has spread across the communities," says Mehta. "After visiting these villages at least once a month during the past year, I have an immense feeling of satisfaction and fulfilment from lending a helping hand and promoting Rotary's ideals of service."

The club has also started a micro-credit project to assist enterprising villagers augment their meagre incomes.

Water management is a concern of Rotary clubs throughout India, as underscored by the RI presidential celebration dedicated to the topic in December 2003. Officially inaugurated by Indian President Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam in New Delhi, the event featured discussions of safe water supply and sustainable water management projects sponsored by Rotary clubs and districts in the country.

Thrift Shop Duty

Date	Rotarians
24/04/04	David Middleton and Lindsay England
01/05/04	Helen Richter and Ken Haines
08/05/04	John Russell and Greg McLeod
15/05/04	Joan Reed & Ron Schubert

Ladies Auxiliary

The next meeting of the Ladies Auxiliary will be held at the home of Eunice Pascoe, Unit 38 Victoria Grove, 254 Greenhill Road, Glenside, on Monday 24th May at 11am. Enter Victoria Grove off Greenhill Road through Gate 3.

Last Word

A woman always has the last word in an argument; anything a man says after that is the beginning of a new argument.

The Unley Rotarian 2003/2004

Meeting 3407 – Tuesday 20 April 2004

Rotary Club of Unley Inc

Chartered 17th April 1935 – District 9520

The Club meets every Tuesday at the
Unley Community Sports Club, Oxford Terrace, Unley
at 6.30 pm. Fellowship at 6.15 pm

President: John Russell 8271 7178

Secretary: Ken Haines 8332 5138

Post: PO Box 18, Unley SA 5061

Email: secretary@unley.rotaryclub.asn.au

<http://unley.rotaryclub.asn.au>

“Lend a Hand”