

THE UNLEY ROTARIAN

Meeting 3626 – 26 August 2008

unley.rotaryclub.org.au

2008 - 2009

Rotary Club of Unley Inc.

DISTRICT 9520
CHARTERED 17TH APRIL 1935



PRESIDENT: Jerry Casburn: 8295 8227 or 0407 646 396
SECRETARY: Anne Wehr: 8357 0486
ADDRESS: PO Box 18, Unley SA 5061
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MEETINGS: The Club meets every Tuesday at The Old Orphanage Function Centre
Corner Goodwood Road & Mitchell Street, Millswood at 6.30pm.
Fellowship at 6.00pm

Our Last Meeting

Meeting No.	3626
Date	26 August 2008
Venue	The Orphanage
Guest Speaker	Mike Dennis: "Consulate Experience in the Pacific"
Chairperson	David Middleton
Guests & Visiting Rotarians	Janet X, David Rusk (formerly RC Blackwood)
Returning Rotarians	Bob Mills, Ken Haines
Apologies	Sheila Evans, Natalie Bowen, Neville Highett, Colin Schirmer, Geoff Howland
Sick List	Shelia Evans
Attendance	82%

President Jerry's Announcements

1. Last week I mentioned that the Board wanted to run a survey of club members to ensure that we adequately planned future direction and to endeavour to improve the benefits of membership. Janet Singh has designed the survey form and due to her absence this week will distribute it next week by hand or via email. We would still like to get the responses back within two weeks.
2. I sent a note out to all Rotarians advising that Districts 9500 and 9520 would have a Membership stand at the Royal Adelaide Show this year. Volunteers are being sought to look after the stand. Please advise if you are interested in helping.
3. Prior to Changeover I was given a plaque fashioned by **PP Bob Mills** to present to **PP David Middleton** commemorating his year in the chair as President. Alzheimer's struck and I forgot. I now have great pleasure in presenting that plaque.
4. I previously advised the club of our record sales of the Entertainment Book, 79 books to be precise. I am pleased to pass on a cheque to the Treasurer for our commission on the sales to the value of \$1027; this with the sale of the free book brings profit to \$1087. My thanks to the team of sellers.

Spots

Bob Laws: Paperback books are needed for the Thrift Shop. The next monthly Thrift Shop clean-up Sunday is on 7th September. Next week Bob will be asking for volunteers to assist.

Member Report - Reno Elms: "Back to Denpasar"

Reno Elms gave a report on his family's recent return visit to the William Booth Boys Home in Denpasar, Bali, Indonesia. In July 2008, Reno, Roslyn, Josiah, Samuel and Levi Elms spent two weeks living with 85 boys at the Boys Home, some of whom cannot be looked after by their families and some of whom have no families at all.

The William Booth boys Home is run by the Salvation Army and is entirely dependent on overseas sponsorship. Captain Nengah and Captain Adolphina work from 4:30am until after 10pm, seven days a week with no regular personal allowance to care for the 85 boys.

Levi raised money for the Home through his Year 7 class at Sunrise School. This money was used to buy new uniforms for four boys to enable them to commence school for the first time. The balance of the money was used to purchase pencils and other school items.

Each day Roslyn conducted craft classes to aid the development of their fine motor skills. Josiah, Samuel and Levi use money raised by collecting cans and bottles and contributing their own earnings to sponsor six boys.



The footballs and stress balls arranged by Joan Reed and transported to Bali by the Elms family were very popular with the boys. DVDs of AFL (Port Power) games were watched avidly (the boys thought that replays of the same game were in fact different games).

The Elms have a dream, which is to raise enough money to (1) purchase an industrial strength washing machine to replace a broken twin-tub, (2) replace the Home's seven-seater vehicle with a larger bus to ease the problem of taking the boys to and from the various schools they attend and (3) provide resources for setting-up a business for the older boys.

Sergeant's Session

Sergeant Bob Laws' fines took on Olympic proportions with the Poms copping it for winning too many medals and the Aussies for not winning enough. Rex Martin won the wine and David Payne won the lucky square.

Guest Speaker – Mike Dennis: "Consulate Experience in the Pacific"

Chairman David Middleton introduced our guest speaker Lt Colonel Mike Dennis to speak on his consulate experiences in the Pacific. Mike joined the Army in 1967, in 1982 he was promoted to Major and about that time was awarded an MBE. He has undertaken extensive Special Services training and has variously been a diving instructor, a demolition instructor, a foreign weapons instructor, a small craft instructor, an unconventional warfare instructor, a linguist and a marksman. He had a major change of direction when he was promoted to the Defence Intelligence Organisation.



In 1988 Mike was promoted to Lt Colonel and posted as a Defence Attaché to Papua New Guinea, which subsequently awarded him an OBE, in a predominantly intelligence gathering role, then in 1989-90 was assigned to Bougainville in a plain-clothes role during the early stages of the Bougainville conflict. He was awarded the Chief of the Army's Commendation for his actions in Bougainville.

In 1995 Mike resigned from the Australian Defence Forces and became General Manager of Suncorp Stadium in Brisbane. He has since done a number of jobs in sports management including the planning and conducting of the Sydney Olympics, the Commonwealth Games in Manchester and the Athens Olympics. His other sporting interests including being the Manager of the Australian Kangaroos Rugby League team and being Manager and Coach of the Papua New Guinea national rugby team. Mike retired to Adelaide (he's married to an Adelaide girl) and is currently the Honorary Consul to Fiji in South Australia. Apart from playing golf he is also active in veterans' welfare organisations.

Mike spoke of his experience as a Defence Attaché, which he described bluntly as being a complicated spy, not your ordinary average spy. A Defence Attaché is a declared intelligence officer who along with an Ambassador must be approved by the host nation, whereas undeclared intelligence officers and diplomatic staff do not. Mike represented the Chief of the Defence Forces and interacted with a range of intelligence agencies; his job was to collect information.

He described the roles of Australia's intelligence agencies, which include the Inspector General of Intelligence, the Office of National Assessments, ASIO, ASIS, the Defence Intelligence Organisation, the Defence Force Signals Directorate, DIGO and others such as Navy, Air Force and police forces.

The South Pacific is often referred to as the "ring of instability" surrounding Australia. Examples of problem areas include Timor, the Indonesia-PNG border, Bougainville, Solomon Islands, New Caledonia, Fiji, Tonga and Samoa. All South Pacific countries have internal security problems and are potential transit points for undesirables and importation of drugs and weapons into Australia and are potential locations for money laundering to occur. This explains why the South Pacific is of such great interest to Australia, although many Australians would not appreciate or understand this.

Mike described how colonial powers in Europe after the 1st World War had divided up the South Pacific islands into territories without regard to cultural and ethnic differences; this sowed the seeds of many of the troubles in the region past and present. He described the origins and outcomes of many of the past troubles in various countries and how these have been resolved or not.

He highlighted Fiji explaining the origins of the most recent coup and the responses to it from the populace and from citizens of other countries, e.g. Australian tourists. Fiji is prone to military intervention and natural disasters (floods and cyclones) that affect their infrastructure extensively.

Mike also highlighted the Kingdom of Tonga where after the last king died a mob burned down most of the capital Nuku'alofa. Australian troops were deployed there to help keep order. The Tongan royal family extends back further in direct bloodlines than the British royal family. Tonga is a typical feudal kingdom where the King owns every piece of land in Tonga and determines who can get land for housing, agriculture, commerce, etc. It is a country where it can be debated whether a guided democracy would be better than an "out of control", idealistic form of government in the Tongan environment.

Understanding the South Pacific is difficult because generalisations are neither possible nor prudent; each country, and even islands within countries are distinctly different in many ways. A "one size fits all" approach does not work. Each country suffers unique problems that are not easily solved. Unfortunately Australia's politicians do not appear to have much interest in the region.

Jerry's Jottings

This week I am back on the membership theme. To bring club members up to date I had the pleasure of attending a joint districts seminar on membership, the seminar was held at Pulteney Grammar School on the morning of Sunday 24th August.

The session had two main components, a keynote speaker and panel followed by a number of workshops on different subjects.

The keynote speaker was Rick Harcourt who was President of Adelaide East and prior to that the President of the Rotary Club of Sydney. Rick's tenure as President and the subsequent year saw a rise of some eighteen members for the Adelaide East club, a club that was ailing when Rick took over. The key message from Rick was that it is not just about attracting someone to attend a meeting but retaining that interest and the interest of existing members. He said that a club had to meet five critical attributes:



1. Venue – Modern, prestigious, clean and good value for money.
2. Leadership Vitality. Enthusiasm, good humour, interesting and energetic.
3. Achievable objectives.
4. The absence of interest deadeners, old rules, too much formality, boring assemblies and a fetish about attendance.
5. Quality speakers.

My view is that we meet or are not far from meeting these, and in **PP David Middleton's** words "Why wouldn't you want to join Unley Rotary". Rick suggested that Membership is the responsibility of an individual and not a committee and if the club is ailing, the President should take that on. Individual members should be asked to recommend people to approach, not necessarily approach them, as this falls easily to some and not to others so take away the responsibility for follow up and let Membership or the President handle it. **So I am setting another challenge, if every member of the club recommends one person for membership and passes that name to Martin Cooper or me, I will buy the entire club a round of drinks at the meeting following the objective being met.** We have had two new members join in the past month; we had two people at the last meeting having a look at us. Martin and I have set a goal for ourselves of ten new members, we are on the way, please help.

Yours in Rotary,

Jerry

Our Upcoming Meetings

Date	Venue	Time	Occasion	Venue Set-up/ Plaque Board	Sergeant	Attendance Desk
02/09/08	Old Orphanage	6 for 6.30pm	David Bacchus: "SA Water Police Experiences"	John Russell	Natalie Bowen	Neesha Nandasena & David Payne
09/09/08	Old Orphanage	6 for 6.30pm	Gerry McGinly: "Coins and Collectibles"	Ron Schubert	Natalie Bowen	John Peacham & Joan Reed
16/09/08	Old Orphanage	6 for 6.30pm	Natalie Moore & Lauren Sperring: Indigenous Health Scholarship Students	Janet Singh	Natalie Bowen	John Russell & Ron Schubert
23/09/08	ABC Studios, Collinswood	6 for 6.30pm	Visit to the ABC Studios + Dinner Nearby	NA	NA	Janet Singh & Chandra Sluggett

Rotarians, who are unable to attend as rostered, please arrange a swap or contact:

Sergeant-At-Arms: Bob Laws: 8223 6403; (M) 0438 865 305; e-mail: unley.sergeant@rotaryclub.org.au

Venue Set-up or Plaque Board: Bob Laws: 8223 6403; (M) 0438 865 305; e-mail: unley.sergeant@rotaryclub.org.au

Attendance Desk: Glenys Ferguson (H) 8379 8821

Members are urged to diarise when they are required to serve and then they will be unlikely to overlook their rostered service duty. For those members rostered on Venue Set-up and Plaque Board, the relevant paraphernalia can be found in the servery area of the Function Centre. Please remember to gather up all items at the end of the meeting and return them to the top of the cupboard.

Apologies To: Anne Wehr on 8357 0486.

Diary Dates

16 – 19 Oct District Conference in Mt Gambier
9 Dec Christmas Dinner at Mt Osmond Golf Club

Midweek Thrift Shop Roster

The midweek Thrift Shop Roster for September 2008 is now available on the Club website in the Members Area.

We URGENTLY need volunteers for 2nd Wednesday mornings and 4th Wednesday mornings.

Also, we need volunteers to fill-in on particular dates in September: Wed 2nd PM, Wed 10th AM and PM, Wed 17th PM and Wed 24th AM. If you can help, please contact Bob Laws: 8223 6403; (M) 0438 865 305; e-mail: unley.sergeant@rotaryclub.org.au

Saturday Thrift Shop Roster: August-September 2008

Week No.	Dates This Month	Early Shift: 9am to 11.30 am	Late Shift: 11am to 1.30pm
5	30/08/08	Reno Elms, Bob Mullins & Kevin Rogers	Natalie Bowen & Ken Haines
1	06/09/08	Lindsay England, Rohan Singh & Kevin Rogers	Mavis Martin & Stephen Westgarth
2	13/09/08	Stephen Baker, Greg McLeod & Kevin Rogers	Ken Haines & David Middleton
3	20/09/08	Glenys Ferguson, Chandra Sluggett & Kevin Rogers	Joan Reed & Ron Schubert
4	27/08/08	Colin Schirmer, Chandra Sluggett & Kevin Rogers	Martin Cooper & John Peacham

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Rotary News

August – Membership Month

What Rotarians get out of Rotary depends largely on what they put into it. Many membership requirements are designed to help club members more fully participate in and enjoy their Rotary experience.

Attendance

Attending weekly club meetings allows members to enjoy fellowship, enrich their professional and personal knowledge, and meet other business leaders in their community.

If members miss a meeting of their own club, they're encouraged to expand their Rotary horizons by attending a meeting of any other Rotary club in the world.

Service

By participating in local and international service projects, club members can volunteer their time and talents where they're most needed.

Finding and keeping members

To keep clubs strong, every Rotarian must share the responsibility of bringing new people into Rotary. Even new members can bring guests to club meetings or invite them to participate in a service project.

Keeping members involved in Rotary is another responsibility. Fostering strong fellowship and encouraging early participation in service projects are two of the best ways to sustain a club's membership.

Dues

Club members are required to pay annual dues (half-yearly at Unley) to their clubs, districts, and Rotary International, as well as the subscription fee to the appropriate Rotary magazine.

Leadership

Club members are encouraged to volunteer for leadership roles at the club level and beyond.

e-Mail Scams Target Rotarians

There are several e-mail scams that target Rotarians. Please be aware of the following scams:

- A request via e-mail for a \$5 donation to list your Interact club on a website. This website is not affiliated or in any way associated to Rotary International.
- An e-mail that claims that a Rotarian has "emerged a recipient of our Rotary International improvement Grant Programs." It goes on to say that the recipient was selected from an "exclusive" database of more than 800 million individuals and corporate bodies. The e-mail then gives a fake a batch number and contact information for a "cash prize."
- Another scam e-mail claims that a deceased Rotarian has left money to the e-mail recipient to be donated to philanthropic efforts. The sender, who claims to be the executor of the will, then asks for the recipient's personal information in order to claim the inheritance.
- Another e-mail scam from a fake Rotary club claims that the recipient won a sum of US\$700,000. The e-mail states that the winnings can't be transferred in the recipient's home country and that they must share an active bank account for deposit of the "cash prize".

Rotary International does not solicit funds through e-mail, nor does it ask that personal information be updated by e-mail or other electronic means. RI encourages Rotarians and Rotary clubs to avoid becoming victims of such scams by deleting any e-mail that appears suspicious.

Jokes for the Week

Noah's Ark II

One day God calls down to Noah and says "Noah me old china, I want you to make me a new ark".

Noah replies, "No probs God, me old Supreme Being, anything you want after all you're the boss".

But God interrupts, "Ah but there's a catch this time Noah, I want not just a couple of decks, I want 20 decks one on top of the other".

"20 DECKS!" screams Noah. "Well, okay Big Man, whatever you say; should I fill it up with all the animals just like last time?"

"Yep, that's right, well.....sort of right.....this time I want you to fill it up with fish," God answers.

"Fish?" queries Noah.

"Yep, fish ... well, to make it more specific Noah, I want carp, wall to wall, floor to ceiling - carp!"

Noah looks to the skies, "Okay God me old mucker, let me get this right, you want a new ark?"

"Check".

"With 20 decks, one on top of the other?"

"Check".

"And you want it full of carp?"

"Check"

"Why?" asks the perplexed Noah, who was slowly but surely getting to the end of his tether.

"Dunno," says God. "I just fancied a multi-storey carp ark".



Einstein and the Chauffeur

When Albert Einstein was making the rounds of the speaker's circuit, he usually found himself eagerly longing to get back to his laboratory work.

One night, as Einstein and his chauffeur were driving to yet another rubber-chicken dinner, Einstein mentioned to his chauffeur, a man

who somewhat resembled Einstein in looks and manner, that he was tired of speechmaking.

"I have an idea, boss," his chauffeur said. "I've heard you give this speech so many times. I'll bet I could give it for you."

Einstein laughed loudly and said, "Why not? Let's do it!"

When they arrived at the dinner, Einstein put on the chauffeur's cap and jacket and sat in the back of the room.

The chauffeur gave a beautiful rendition of Einstein's speech and even answered a few questions expertly.

Then, an extremely pompous professor asked a confusing and difficult question about anti-matter formation, digressing here and there to let everyone in the audience know that he was nobody's fool.

Without missing a beat, the chauffeur fixed the professor with a stare and said, "Sir, the answer to that question is so simple that I will let my chauffeur answer it for me."

Remember our Rotary theme for the year:

Make Dreams Real