

THE UNLEY ROTARIAN

Meeting 3643 – 24 December 2008

unley.rotaryclub.org.au

2008 - 2009

Rotary Club of Unley Inc.

DISTRICT 9520
CHARTERED 17TH APRIL 1935



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MEETINGS: The Club meets every Tuesday at "Tiffins on the Park",
176 Greenhill Road, Parkside (Cnr George Street) at 6.30pm.
Fellowship at 6.00pm



Our Last Meeting

Meeting No.	3643
Date	Wednesday 24 December 2008
Venue	Sturt Club, Unley
Guest Speaker	Pastor Richard Haar
Sergeant-at-Arms	Bob Laws
Chairperson	Pres. Jerry Casburn
Guests & Visiting Rotarians	DG Peter and Margaret Shipp, AG Roy and Marilyn Armstrong, members of the Rotary Clubs of Hyde Park and Eastwood, Birendra Bhandari.
Apologies	Joan Reed
Birthdays & Anniversaries	Birthday: Jesus of Nazareth 25/12

Joint Christmas Meeting

This week's meeting was the annual Christmas joint breakfast meeting of the Rotary Clubs of Unley, Hyde Park and Eastwood. This year the meeting was hosted by the Unley club.

Pres. Jerry welcomed the members of the Rotary clubs of Hyde Park and Eastwood, in particular Richard DeGaris, President of the Rotary Club of Hyde Park, and Judy Hare, President of the Rotary Club of Eastwood. Special guests at this meeting were our District Governor Peter and Margaret Shipp and Assistant Governor for Group 6, Roy and Marilyn Armstrong.

DG Peter commented on the Donations In Kind project to provide soft toys at Christmas for indigenous children in the Northern Territory. DIK Chair Norm O'Flaherty's ambitious target of 3,000-4,000 toys was passed with Districts 9500 and 9520 "Making Dreams Real" for 17,000 children. Now Norm is looking to go national next year, so even more soft toys will need to be found for next Christmas. DG Peter also reported that 47 Operation Cleft operations in Bangladesh have now been funded.

Pres. Jerry's Announcements

1. Yesterday was Ron Schubert's funeral and it was good to see a life celebrated with so many friends and family members. Ron's life was deeply involved with Rotary and it was great to see so many Rotarians there. Our thoughts are now with Joan and family.
2. Another reminder, our move to Tiffins will need us to change some current practises and for catering purposes we have been asked if we can provide an estimate of numbers. You will be asked to be attending unless you advise otherwise, therefore, can all members please tell **Bob Mullins** no later than midday on Monday of each week if you will either be an apology or be bringing a guest for the following day's meeting. Can you also let him know if you will need fish as an alternative dish?

Sergeant's Session

There was no Sergeant's Session this morning. However, Rotarians were invited to contribute the amount of the fines they expected to pay toward a charity nominated by our guest speaker, Pastor Richard Haar; all Rotarians responded generously.

Special Guests



Front Row: Eastwood Pres Judy Hare, Margaret Shipp, Marilyn Armstrong. **Back Row:** Hyde Park Pres Richard DeGaris, Pastor Richard Haar, DG Peter Shipp, AG Roy Armstrong, Unley Pres Jerry Casburn.

Guest Speaker - Pastor Richard Haar: "What's the Meaning of Christmas?"

Pres Jerry introduced our guest speaker Richard Haar, the Senior Pastor at St John's Lutheran Church, Malvern. Pastor Richard had officiated at Ron Schubert's funeral the day before this meeting. Richard came to Australia from New Zealand in 1977 and after completing his seminary studies went to Papua New Guinea as a missionary, which is probably a good reason for Rotary clubs to invite him to be a guest speaker. He has been in Adelaide for 12 years and is married with two children, one studying law at the University of Adelaide and the other just finishing year nine.



Pastor Richard Haar

Richard began his talk by acknowledging Ron Schubert and the contribution he made during his life to our community and to the lives of those close to him. It was Ron who asked Richard to speak to us this morning about the meaning of Christmas, not just as a Christian celebration but as a celebration that is embraced by the whole of the community.

Christmas is about peace and goodwill. Christmas transcends religious affiliation and embraces everyone, which is fitting from a Christian perspective because Christmas is a message for all humanity. When we think about Christmas we think about peace and goodwill, so Rotarians should be great supporters of Christmas because that is what Rotary is all about, encouraging peace and goodwill in our local community. Although peace and goodwill may sound a bit clichéd, when we think about some of the terrible things that happen in our world, for example the recent events in Mumbai, we need so many more people committed to peace, goodwill, justice and treating each other with respect. And so Christmas is a time when we reflect on the importance of that message and to live it out. And of course that message is anchored in the events of Christmas. We know the story of the angel's announcement to the shepherds that the saviour of the world was born and that God's peace and goodwill was towards humanity and we are invited to share in that.

Christmas is about family and bringing the family together, so it is also fitting that the 'Grandma' (Unley), 'Mother' (Hyde Park) and 'Granddaughter' (Eastwood) clubs should get together at Christmas, making those connections and feeling that we are one family together. And hopefully the peace and goodwill also extends to families. Sometimes after lunch on Christmas day the peace and goodwill gets strained a bit when families get together, particularly if they haven't seen each other for most of the year and after a few glasses of red or 'coldies' there can sometimes be a distinct lack of peace and goodwill amongst families, sadly, and some tensions. So at Christmas is worth considering how we are going to treat each other, how are we going to build bridges between people who maybe during the year don't have much to do with each other because there are certain underlying problems. Christmas is about transcending some of those barriers and about reconnecting, which goes back again to the heart of the Christmas message about God joining the human families, the story about the divine taking on [the flesh and blood of] humanity; the whole intent of that is that God wants us to be part of His family, to draw us into a relationship with Himself. God's whole intent is wrapped up in a little baby called Jesus.

Christmas is about gifts. With apologies to those in the retail business, sometimes Christmas gets completely out of control and becomes a spending frenzy. Venturing into the political arena Richard questioned the idea of giving everyone on pensions a huge Christmas gift when, in our present economic crisis, commentators are saying that we globally are in this problem because people have overspent and we have lived beyond our means and there has to be this massive correction, we want to fix this problem by getting people to spend more. That doesn't make sense.

Christmas is about giving, but people have lost the idea about giving and think that the most important thing is getting gifts. One of the core values of Rotary is about giving to make a difference, about being committed to giving someone else a hand up and to helping one another have better lives. As we get older we discover that, as much as it's nice to get a good gift from someone, it's nothing quite like the pleasure of seeing the joy of someone else when you give them a gift or the joy of touching another person's life and enriching their journey. So gifts are more about giving than receiving, which links in again to the Christmas story of the wise men who presented their gifts to the baby Jesus. A bit later in history there is the story of the Christian Saint Nicholas, known for giving gifts to poor families and who would go through villages at night and throw coins through the windows so that people could have some help and blessing at Christmas. In the last 100 years or so St Nicholas has morphed into Santa Claus who oddly comes with a message that if you are not good you won't get any presents from him at Christmas. What a tragic message to send our children, that you earn your Christmas gifts by your good behaviour. That's the opposite of Christmas, which is about Mum and Dad giving you a gift because they love you. But the message we should give to our children is that the real gift is not what comes wrapped up in the parcel but what comes wrapped in our hearts and the love and connection that we have for our children.

Sadly in our society there is a sense of entitlement, that you deserve your Christmas gifts, that you deserve the holiday break, that somehow by being good you get that wonderful reward. Christmas is a message of God's love for humanity, irrespective of our behaviour. It is not that we are so good that God should come and share in our humanity in the baby Jesus; it is because God is so good that he wants to share himself with us. The most important gift that we can give at Christmas is ourselves, our time, our heart and connecting together. If we do that then Christmas will truly be peaceful, joyful and everything we want it to be.

Jerry's Jottings

I hope that all of you are enjoying the best of the festive season and Jenn and I wish you all that you would wish yourselves for 2009.

It is hard to believe that we are already half way through the Rotary year but there is a lot to look forward to with the Police Officer of the Year Award managed by **Stephen Baker** and the Vocational Services team. **Chandra** is deeply immersed in organising the International Night in February and we will have a fun night with interesting speakers and good entertainment.

Don't forget we are still looking to increase the size of the club and we get great speakers at our meetings making it easy to invite friends and colleagues to come along and see what Rotary is like.

I hope that the next six months will bring lots of opportunity to have fun and fellowship as well as provide an opportunity to serve the community.

Finally, do not forget we have our AGM on January 13th and there are opportunities to work on the Board. If you want to put your hand up, or someone else's, for a position, nominations must be with **Anne Wehr** by December 31st.

Yours in Rotary,

Jerry

Diary Dates

Tue 30 Dec Board Nominations Close
Tue 13 Jan Annual General Meeting

Our Upcoming Meetings

Date	Venue	Time	Occasion	Venue Set-up/ Plaque Board	Sergeant	Attendance Desk
06/01/09	Tiffins on the Park, Parkside	6 for 6.30pm	Steve Larkin: "The First Stolen Generation"	Mark Zada	Bob Laws	Glenys Ferguson & Ken Haines
13/01/09	Tiffins on the Park, Parkside	6 for 6.30pm	Annual General Meeting; Tony Wright: "The Man From Snowy River"	Anne Zada	Bob Laws	Geoff Hill & Geoff Howland
20/01/09	Tiffins on the Park, Parkside	6 for 6.30pm	Stephen Haines: CEO of the City of Salisbury	Stephen Westgarth	Bob Laws	Alex Jonson & Heather Kilsby
27/01/09	Tiffins on the Park, Parkside	6 for 6.30pm	Guest Speaker: "OSSAA"	Anne Wehr	Bob Laws	Mavis Martin & Greg McLeod

Apologies To: Anne Wehr on 8357 0486.

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 server 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.

Saturday Thrift Shop Roster: January 2009

Week No.	Dates This Month	Early Shift: 9am to 11.30 am	Late Shift: 11am to 1.30pm
NA	03/01/09	CLOSED	
1	10/01/09	Lindsay England & Rohan Singh	Mavis Martin & Stephen Westgarth
2	17/01/09	Stephen Baker, Greg McLeod & Kevin Rogers	Ken Haines & David Middleton
3	24/01/09	Glenys Ferguson & Neesha Nandasena	Bob Laws & TBA
4	31/01/09	Sheila Evans, Chandra Sluggett & Kevin Rogers	Martin Cooper & John Peacham
5	NA	Reno Elms & Bob Mullins	Natalie Bowen & Ken Haines

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Rotary News

Rotary Action Group Joins AIDS prevention effort

By Ryan Hyland – Rotary International News – 16 December 2008

Rotarians for Fighting AIDS (RFFA), a Rotarian Action Group, has joined a broad coalition of organizations in a new initiative designed to combat the spread of AIDS among young people. Coordinated by the U.S. government, Partnership for an HIV-Free Generation is bringing together public- and private-sector leaders to create marketing campaigns that will promote healthy living among at-risk youth, and to monitor the effectiveness of the messages with cutting-edge market research. The initiative is being launched in Nairobi, Kenya, with the goal of reducing new HIV infections in 10- to 24-year-olds by 50 percent during the next five years. In addition, participating organizations will provide mentoring and promote business and educational opportunities for youth.

"Never before have so many top-quality private-sector organizations banded together with the U.S. government to make a difference in reducing HIV infection among youth," says Marion Bunch, RFFA chair. "We are proud to be a part of this leading-edge program, which has a chance of creating a best-practice model for dramatically reducing HIV infections in all of Sub-Saharan Africa."

According to Partnership for an HIV-Free Generation, youth are particularly at risk of contracting AIDS, because they lack information and education and have a low perception of the risk. They also tend to have less access to, and make less use of, health care services.

RFFA will mobilize volunteers at the grassroots to mentor and counsel Nairobi's young people, while working to improve health care and education opportunities. "RFFA will develop more Rotary Community Corps and mentor them, because these groups actually live and work in the targeted slum areas and get the right messages through to the youth more readily than the Rotary club members," says Bunch. According to the partnership, girls are particularly at risk of AIDS, for biological, cultural, and sociological reasons. In many countries, infection rates are two to eight times higher for girls.

Economic empowerment is seen as part of the solution. Bunch says Rotarians will provide job counseling, job leads, and information on how to start a microbusiness. And Rotarian business leaders will work with government officials to improve the quality of schools. Warner Bros. has created an interactive, multiplayer computer game to show teens how to identify and avoid risky behaviors.

The Rotary Foundation From the D9520 DG's Dec 2008/Jan 2009 Newsletter

As we approach the Christmas Season we give and receive cards that cry out: **"Peace on Earth, Goodwill to all Mankind."** And this sentiment is echoed in all of the world's religions, although the words may be slightly different. The search for real Peace is a universal one for the entire human race. But this is also precisely the objective of OUR Foundation, whose Mission Statement is: **"to enable Rotarians to advance international understanding, goodwill and peace by the improvement of health, the support of education and the alleviation of poverty."**

So regardless of faith, culture or creed, OUR Foundation works to improve the human condition as a means of extending peace worldwide. Its ambassadorial programs, its peace and conflict studies programs and its human programs all have this same mission driven imperative. When we train an outbound GSE team, or brief an inbound team, or counsel an Ambassadorial Scholar it is critical that they understand the Foundation's Mission, so that they fully comprehend the rationale behind the program in which they are participating. It is incumbent upon them-and upon all Rotarians who travel internationally-to act in accordance with this Mission Statement and so extend the goal of international peace and understanding wherever they travel and with whomever they come in contact with.

Archbishop Desmond Tutu to Speak at 2009 Peace Symposium From the RI Website



Archbishop Desmond Tutu

The Rotary Foundation has announced that Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu of South Africa will be the keynote speaker at the 2009 Rotary World Peace Symposium on 18 June in Birmingham, England. Tutu, a Nobel Peace Prize recipient, will address Rotarians and Rotary peace programs alumni on the challenges of peace-building.

Rotary's peace symposium, a preconvention event scheduled for 18-19 June, will focus on issues related to migration and refugees, recovery and development, and the role of religion and ethnicity.

The Rotary World Peace Fellowships program is a peace studies initiative that provides the next generation of leaders and diplomats with the skills needed to resolve conflicts and promote peace. Attending alumni are dedicating their careers to preventing and resolving the root causes of conflict, such as poverty, hunger, illiteracy, and environmental degradation.

Jokes of the Week

Pastors and Their Sermons

The elderly pastor was searching his closet for his collar before church one Sunday morning. In the back of the closet, he found a small box containing 3 eggs and 100 \$1 bills. He called his wife into the closet to ask her about the box and its contents. Embarrassed, she admitted having hidden the box there for their entire 25 years of marriage. Curious, the pastor asked her, "WHY?" The wife replied that she hadn't wanted to hurt his feelings. He asked her how the box could have hurt his feelings. She said that every time during their marriage that he had delivered a poor sermon, she had placed an egg in the box. The pastor felt that 3 poor sermons in 25 years was certainly nothing to feel bad about, so he asked her what the \$100 was for. She replied, "Each time I got a dozen eggs, I sold them to the neighbours for \$1."

Three boys are in the school yard bragging about their fathers.

The first boy said, "My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a poem, they give him \$50."

The second boy said, "That's nothing. My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a song; they give him \$100."

The third boy said, "I got you both beat. My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper; he calls it a sermon. And it takes eight people to collect all the money!"

A preacher was completing a temperance sermon: with great expression he said, "If I had all the beer in the world, I'd take it and throw it into the river."

With even greater emphasis he said, "And if I had all the wine in the world, I'd take it and throw it into the river."

Finally, he said, "And if I had all the whiskey in the world, I'd take it and throw it into the river."

He sat down. The song leader then stood very cautiously and announced with a smile, "For our closing song, let us sing Hymn #365: "Shall We Gather at the River."



*Wishing You All a
Merry Christmas
and a
Happy New Year*

**Remember our Rotary theme
for the year:**

Make Dreams Real