

THE UNLEY ROTARIAN

Meeting 3698 – 2 February 2010

Website: unley.rotaryclub.org.au

2009 - 2010

Rotary Club of Unley Inc.

DISTRICT 9520
CHARTERED 17TH APRIL 1935



PRESIDENT: Jerry Casburn: 8295 8227 or 0407 646 396
SECRETARY: Mavis Martin: 8178-0076 or 0408 399 834
ADDRESS: PO Box 18, Unley SA 5061
EMAIL: unley.secretary@rotaryclub.org.au
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.	3698
Date	2 February 2010
Venue	Tiffins on the Park
Occasion	Bob Laws: "The Burmese Doctor"
Sergeant	David Middleton
Chairman	Bob Laws
Guests	Linda England, Leena Kasurinen
Visiting Rotarians	Geoff Bailey (RC of Mitcham)
Apologies	Janet Plumb, Janet Singh, Geoff Howland, Stephen Westgarth, David Mackrell
Make-Ups	Joan Reed
Anniversaries	NIL
Attendance	79%

President's Announcements

1. A thank you to Anne Wehr for hosting the recent social BBQ event at her home.
2. The Group 6 family day and picnic is still to be held towards the end of March but there is now a strong possibility that the venue will be changed to Ridge Park. More news later. President Jerry sought a general indication from members of likely attendees from the Club. Stephen Baker will be this Club's representative on the organising committee.
3. The Board will be meeting this Thursday evening at his home at Glenelg.
4. The familiarisation evening is to be held at the Unley Civic Centre on 23 February 2010. It will largely be run along the lines of a normal meeting. Members are urged to bring along prospective members. Any input on the format of the meeting will be welcomed by President Jerry from members.
5. Geoff Howland is undergoing further scans and ongoing treatment for his illness. The Club sends best wishes to Geoff.

Spots

Geoff Bailey from the RC of Mitcham, in his capacity as a representative of the Australian Rotary Health Research Fund, presented a banner to President Jerry acknowledging the Club's contribution to the Fund of \$500.00 per member.

Lindsay England raised several treasurer-related issues. He advised the members that he and Tom Tirrell have completed last year's accounts and they are ready to be sent off to the auditor. As well, the subs. for this half-year will be determined at this week's Board meeting and invoices will then be provided to members.

Stephen Baker reported that the Police Officer of the Year Award project is underway, with posters in the course of distribution. He participated in a radio interview with 5RPH which will be aired in due course.

Bob Laws called for volunteers to participate in the Thrift Shop culling this Saturday at 1.30pm.

Joan Reed has reminded members that she has whisky cakes available for purchase at \$15.00. See her if feeling hungry.

Sergeant's Session

Undertaken in determined fashion by Sergeant David. Lucky square was won by John Russell.

Jerry's Jottings

No jottings this week.

Leena Kasurinen's Progress Report

During the last two weeks we had a quite few parties. We had Catherine's birthday party, Joan's family's get together and Richards and Mavis' birthday party too. We also went to see the start of Tour Down Under from the King William Road and we almost got our picture to the paper. I've been catching up with friends, been to the beach and to the best of all... the Big Day Out. The bands were amazing and I and the other Finnish girl Juulia had a great time together. And today we had our Year 12 orientation day in school.

Guest Speaker – Bob Laws: The Burmese Doctor

Bob and Glenyss recently visited Burma, a hot, wet and humid country of three-fourths the size of South Australia with a population of 52 million people of 9 nationalities and with many different languages. The people are mainly Buddhists, with some 20% of personal income being given to their faith. The country was originally a number of squabbling kingdoms until it was colonised by the British. It has been independent since 1948 but is currently ruled by an authoritarian military dictatorship.

Monks make up about 10% of the population but do not necessarily remain monks for life. To become a monk is seen as a good thing and providing personal service to one's faith.

Private vehicles are very expensive to own and trucks and transport vehicles are pretty basic in design. Much raw power is provided by bullocks, whether pulling drays or servicing agricultural pursuits.

Housing is typically of bamboo and corrugated iron construction, which is well suited to the environment and climatic conditions.

It is largely an agrarian economy, with even the river system being utilised to support floating gardens where tomatoes and other produce are grown.

The school system is severely underfunded by the government, with even the basic materials of pens and papers being in very short supply but the children at a school visited by Bob and Glenyss were nevertheless welcoming and seemed eager to learn.

Burma was struck by the devastating Cyclone Nargis in May 2008 in the large Irrawaddy Delta region, directly killing over 146,000 people, injuring many more and destroying the homes of hundreds of thousands, with entire villages devastated and their rice fields contaminated with salt water. Many people are still living in temporary shelter made from palm fronds. It is estimated that it will take at least 10 years before the area is well on the road to recovery.

Dr Hla Tun is a GP employed by a travel organisation as an on board physician available to passengers on cruise boats on the Irrawaddy River. He spends much of his free time providing free medical services to poor villagers in the cyclone-affected region. Since the cyclone, Dr Tun has made 33 trips to the region, which takes about 6 hours by boat from Rangoon. Trips are taken to areas remote from medical support services and usually take 3 to 4 days with over 14,207 people to date treated free of charge.

Dr Tun has received monetary support from the travel company and from passengers and other sources but much work is done by volunteers enlisted by him. Medical supplies for each trip average less than \$2.00 per patient, with a typical trip costing about \$1,000.00.

Without Dr Tun's work, medical aid to the poor and needy is almost impossible to obtain. The government is sadly deficient in this respect.

This Club through its International Committee is supporting Dr Tun's work.

Our Upcoming Meetings

Date	Venue	Time	Occasion	Chairman & Scribe	Venue Set-up/ Plaque Board	Sergeant	Attendance Desk
09/02/10	Tiffins on the Park	6 for 6.30pm	International Night – Mark Huddleston: "TRF Grants"	Chandra Sluggett	J Peacham	D Middleton	J Reed & J Russell
16/02/10	Salisbury Wetlands	6 for 6.30pm	Vocational Visit to Salisbury Wetlands – Stephen Haines	S Baker	N/A	N/A	TBA
23/02/10	Unley Civic Centre	6 for 6.30pm	Membership Familiarisation & Recruitment – Tony Pilkington	J Singh & Mayor Thorne	P O'Neil	D Middleton	J Russell & C Schirmer
02/03/10	Sinclairs Gully	TBA	Sinclairs Gully Winery Visit	TBA	N/A	N/A	TBA

Apologies To: Wendy Andrews by e-mail to unley.attendance@rotaryclub.org.au or in an emergency on (08) 8377-7830

Meeting Chair Enquiries To: Stephen Baker on 8379 7105 or email to unley.vocational@rotaryclub.org.au

Venue Set-up/Plaque Board Enquiries To: Bulletin Editor Greg McLeod on 8223 3999 or 0417 811 838

Attendance Desk Enquiries To: Wendy Andrews by e-mail to unley.attendance@rotaryclub.org.au or in an emergency on (08) 8377-7830

Members rostered on Venue Set-up and Plaque Board should see Tiffins on the Park staff to gain access to the club's meeting paraphernalia. Please remember to gather up all items at the end of the meeting and return them to the storeroom.

Saturday Thrift Shop Roster: February 2010

Week No.	Dates	Early Shift: 9am to 11.30 am	Late Shift: 11.30am to 1.30pm
1	06/02/10	Lindsay England & Rohan Singh	Mavis Martin & Glenys Ferguson
2	13/02/10	Stephen Baker & Greg McLeod	Janet Plumb & David Middleton
3	20/02/10	Glenys Ferguson & Neesha Nandasena	Joan Reed & Bob Laws
4	27/02/10	John Peacham & Chandra Sluggett	Bob Mullins & Sheila Evans
1	06/03/10	Lindsay England & Rohan Singh	Mavis Martin & Stephen Westgarth

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

Bob Laws: 8223 6403; (M) 0438 865 305; e-mail: steedman@senet.com.au

RI President's Monthly Message - Feb 2010: 'What is Rotary?'

My fellow Rotarians,



Each of us has, at one time or another, been asked the question, what is Rotary? There are many ways to answer, depending on the questioner, the context, and the time available. The shortest and simplest answer is that Rotary is the world's oldest service club organization. This is, of course, an accurate but necessarily incomplete response, for any true understanding of Rotary must include an explanation of how we in Rotary strive through our service to achieve more than the goal of each individual project. By working together in our clubs, our districts, and internationally, we strive to establish the simple foundations of a better society: friendship, trust, honesty, and hope.

The structure of Rotary, along with our international club projects, helps make friendly connections between Rotarians in different countries. Our emphasis on ethical and honest behavior works to build strong and open relationships between people and nations. Our service projects in water, health and hunger, and literacy help eliminate many of the practical obstacles to peace. And our Rotary Foundation and Rotary Youth Exchange

programs go a step beyond by training the leaders of tomorrow to be active builders of a more peaceful world.

These programs help shape responsible citizens of better communities -- people who will have a broad and nuanced perspective, enhanced by opened eyes and open minds. They will be indelibly marked by their experiences, and throughout their lives -- both now and in their later careers -- they will not keep the benefits of these experiences to themselves. These are the people who will help build the kind of future that we as Rotarians strive to create through our every action.

What is Rotary? It is a network of people who care -- people who are both realists and optimists. We recognize the challenges before us and our own limitations; we also recognize our abilities and our responsibility to use them to the fullest. If we are ever to realize Paul Harris' vision for Rotary as an organization that promotes goodwill among nations, then, as he wrote, "the hearts of men must be so touched and molded that mutual understanding and goodwill will take the place of fear and hatred." In this, World Understanding Month, we do well to remember these words -- and to remember as well that in all of our service, we reach for the larger goal of fellowship, understanding, and peace.

John Kenny

President, Rotary International

On the Back Page

Daddy, how was I Born?

A little boy goes to his father and asks 'Daddy, how was I born?'

The father answers, 'Well, son, I guess one day you will need to find out anyway! Your Mum and I first got together in a chat room on Yahoo. Then I set up a date via e-mail with your Mum and we met at a cyber-cafe. We sneaked into a secluded room and Googled each other. There your mother agreed to a download from my hard drive. As soon as I was ready to upload we discovered that neither of us had used a firewall and, since it was too late to hit the delete button, nine months later a little pop-up appeared that said: 'You've got male!'

Twilight Years

A group of 40 year-old buddies discuss and discuss where they should meet for dinner.

Finally it is agreed upon that they should meet at the Gausthof zum Lowen restaurant because the waitresses there have low cut blouses and nice breasts.

10 years later, at 50 years of age, the group meets and once again they discuss and discuss where they should meet. Finally it is agreed upon that they should meet at the Gausthof zum Lowen because the food there is very good and the wine selection is good also.

10 years later at 60 years of age, the group meets and once again they discuss and discuss where they should meet. Finally it is agreed upon that they should meet at the Gausthof zum Lowen because they can eat there in peace and quiet and the restaurant is smoke free.

10 years later, at 70 years of age, the group meets and once again they discuss and discuss where they should meet. Finally it is agreed upon that they should meet at the Gausthof zum Lowen because the restaurant is wheel chair accessible and they even have an elevator.

10 years later, at 80 years of age, the group meets and once again they discuss and discuss where they should meet. Finally it is agreed upon that they should meet at the Gausthof zum Lowen because that would be a great idea as they have never been there before.

Remember our Rotary theme for the year:

**THE FUTURE OF ROTARY
IS IN YOUR HANDS**