

THE UNLEY ROTARIAN

Meeting 3700 – 16th 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.	3700
Date	16 February 2010
Venue	Salisbury Wetlands
Occasion	Vocational Visit
Sergeant	N/A
Chairman	Stephen Baker
Guests	Glenyss Steedman, Genese Mullins, Margaret Payne, Jill Hill, Linda Sellers, Beverley Baker, Jenny Casburn, Susan Westgarth, Leena Kasurinen, David Mackrell & Farida Mackrell, and Guest Guides Stephen Hains, Bob Batty, Stephen Edward & Chris Butcher
Visiting Rotarians	Stephen Hains (RC of Adelaide)
Apologies	Natalie Bowen and Peter O'Neil
Make-Ups	None
Anniversaries	None
Attendance	64%

President's Announcements

1. The RC of Marion is holding a fundraising Gold Day at the Blackwood Golf Club on 21 May 2010 in aid of the McGuinness McDermott Foundation. Registration is at 12.30pm and there will be several prizes including Best Rotary Club. A dinner will follow the golf, with partners invited. It will be a meeting of the Marion Club with a guest speaker/presenter. The cost will be \$95.00 for golfers and \$35.00 for partners attending the dinner. Corporate sponsors are encouraged at a cost of \$800.00 which includes 4 players, hole naming rights, etc. If interested, let Jerry know.
2. Next week is our meeting at the Unley Civic Centre for guest speaker Tony Pilkington and the Membership Familiarisation and recruitment evening. In the hope that we will have a number of prospective members we need as many members on deck as possible. If you have not already done so please arrange to invite someone you believe would welcome an opportunity to see what Rotary is about.

Jerry's Jottings

It was great to have a meeting at the Salisbury Wetlands and Stephen Hains makes an impassioned speaker on the subject. The result was amazing if a little full of mozzies.

Next week is an important one for the future health of our club. New members are our lifeblood and we need to encourage suitable friends along to the meeting. The format will be different from past recruiting sessions. I am hoping that we will be able to run a meeting roughly in normal format to give a more accurate view of the normal night. We will have few short sections which cover what Rotary and our club are about but I hope to keep these punchy.

Please, please try to bring guests, we are unlikely to get more than two or three to consider joining, that's assuming a good roll-up, but that will represent a nearly 10% increase in active membership.

Jerry



President Jerry

Vale – Robert Birnie

Robert Burns Birnie died on 11 February 2010. Robert joined the Club in 1983 with the classification of Education Primary. He served in many offices of the Club and became Club President in the 1992-1993 year. During his year, membership was declared open to male and female and Bridget Youngs (now of Bury-St Edmunds Club in England) was admitted as the Club's first female member. Appropriately, the birthday of the Scottish bard Robert Burns was celebrated during Robert's presidential year in fine style and pageantry, with haggis, at the Naval and Military Club.

Robert became a Paul Harris Fellow in April 1999.

Following his resignation from the Club several years ago due to other commitments, he and his wife Evelyn continued to offer their services as volunteers in the Thrift Shop. Throughout the period of his Rotary membership, Robert served as both a Councillor and an Alderman on the Unley City Council. He had also been active in the affairs of Malvern Uniting Church where he and Evelyn worshipped.

Robert's funeral service was conducted at Malvern Uniting Church on 16 February 2010 and was attended by many Rotarians and past and present Councillors and members of staff of the Unley Council and the Mayor of Unley.

Robert leaves a legacy of outstanding service to the Club and to the community.

The Club extends its condolences to Evelyn.

Visit to Salisbury Wetlands

Members convened at the Salisbury Wetlands Reception and Function Centre off the Salisbury Highway and were introduced by Stephen Baker to former Club member Stephen Hains who is the CEO of The City of Salisbury.

Back in the 1970s, the Council saw a need to create stormwater retention basins in order to deal with stormwater that fell on the greater Salisbury area. Over time, it recognised the potential for wetlands development of what was essentially derelict land off the Salisbury Highway. In the early 1990s tests were performed on the detained water and it was found to be relatively clean. This with proper management made it suitable for storing underground. The current site which collects Dry Creek stormwater is but one of 60 detention and storage areas. Water stored in the aquifers is retrieved and sold to industry in Salisbury and used for watering all reserves and ovals etc.

The site we visited was developed with the introduction of appropriate trees and plantings and a boardwalk was installed to provide supervised access to the area for interested groups, schoolchildren, etc. A very successful bird and fish habitat was the result and this led to the realisation that the wetlands themselves were doing a great job of cleaning up the much degraded water that was held there. The Council developed the expertise of improving water quality and the technologies involved in the underground storage of water for the dry times.

Much of the general water run-off in the metropolitan area was channelled out to sea which in turn caused environmental problems in the Gulf. Industry was also a great user of treated mains water. The Council saw an opportunity to reduce the volume of lost water and the environmental problems attaching to that while addressing its own water needs and the needs of industry and in the 1990s started to market its wetlands-treated water to the wool merchants G H Michell & Son who had great need of quality soft water for its wool washing processes. This proved very successful and now the Council markets to a wide range of applications and is hoping to retrofit piping for domestic non-drinking applications within its municipality.

There are now some 60 wetlands areas that Council has developed within its own boundaries and has assisted neighbouring Councils to develop similar areas and even provides many of the wetlands plants and grasses to third parties.

Some 33 gegalitres of stormwater flow through Salisbury. The Council currently captures about 1.5 gegalitres for wetlands storage and remediation, increasing to about 5 gegalitres and hopefully to 15 gegalitres over time. While being environmentally responsible, the Council is also ensuring good financial returns for the betterment of the amenity and quality of life of its residents in years to come.



Highlights of the guided tours by the volunteers included:

- Outline of the interaction with the tidal plains
- The widespread on-site use of solar panels for lighting and other purposes and recycled materials in structures and seats
- The 160 different species of bird life, a number of which were identified on tour - plenty of pelicans, egrets and ibises
- The water enclosed areas were planted with native saltbush etc by boat until the mid 1990s when the boardwalks were installed
- Mosquito fish handle the water shallowness and temperature variations well – carp survive in deeper water
- After heavy and winter rains and after a settling period, water is taken from the top and pumped into the underground aquifer

- The aquifer is huge, stretching to Port Augusta
- Recycled sewage from Bolivar is too salty for commercial use – it is cocktailed on-site with the stormwater
- Extensive testing is conducted on water quality

Stephen Hains donated a case of recycled water called Recharge, confident it was of good quality. The CSIRO has partnered on water quality testing and water purification; this batch was processed in Melbourne.

Our Upcoming Meetings

Date	Venue	Time	Occasion	Chairman & Scribe	Venue Set-up/Plaque Board	Sergeant	Attendance Desk
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	Sinclair's Gully	TBA	Sinclair's Gully Winery Visit – Sue Delaney	H Kilsby	N/A	N/A	TBA
09/03/10	Tiffins on the Park	6 for 6.30pm	NYSF and Interact – Rachel Sweet & Diane Gomez	A Hill	N Bowen	D Middleton	C Sluggett & A Wehr
17/03/10	Mitcham AFA BC	6 for 6.30pm	Unley v Mitcham Lawn Bowls	J Casburn	N/A	N/A	A Wehr & S Westgarth

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: Greg McLeod on 8223 3999 or 0417 811 838

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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 - March 2010

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

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

On the Back Page

Politics Made Simple?

I asked my friend's little girl what she wanted to be when she grew up. She said she wanted to be Prime Minister one day.

Both her parents, Labor supporters, were standing there, so I asked her, "If you were Prime Minister what would be the first thing you would do?"

She replied, "I'd give food and houses to all the homeless people."

Her parents beamed, and said, "Welcome to the Labor Party!"

"Wow...what a worthy goal!" I told her. I continued, "But you don't have to wait until you're Prime Minister to do that. You can come over to my house, mow the lawn, pull weeds, sweep my drive and I'll pay you \$20 when you're finished. Then I'll take you over to the grocery store where that homeless guy hangs out. You can give him the \$20 to use toward food."

She thought that over for a few seconds, then she looked me straight in the eye and asked, "Why doesn't the homeless guy come over and do the work and you can just pay him the \$20?"

I smiled and said, "Welcome to the Liberal Party!"

Remember our Rotary theme for the year:

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