

THE UNLEY ROTARIAN

Meeting 3770 – 12th July 2011

Website: unley.rotaryclub.org.au

2011 - 2012



Rotary Club of Unley Inc.

DISTRICT 9520
CHARTERED 17TH APRIL 1935



PRESIDENT: Sheila Evans: 8266 7435 or 0432 047 711
SECRETARY: Janet Singh: 0458 052 893
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.	3770
Date	12 th July 2011
Occasion	Stephen Baker: "The Road to Jerusalem"
Venue	Tiffins on the Park
Chairman	Stephen Baker
Apologies	Bob Mills, Bob Mullins, Geoff Hill, Joan Reed, John Russell, Mavis Martin
Returning Rotarians	Colin Schirmer and Greg McLeod
Birthdays & Anniversaries	Birthday: Wendy Andrews on 13 th July Induction: Chandra Sluggett, 8 years in Rotary
Attendance	56%

President's Announcements

1. President Sheila stressed the need to find a new President-elect to replace Mavis Martin and a President nominee to follow on.
2. Stressed the need for a new bulletin editor to replace Stephen Westgarth and imparted that there would be no spots granted unless the substance had been conveyed in writing to the newsletter editor.
3. Again highlighted the need to lift membership.
4. Encouraged members to attend the "thank you" afternoon tea for Thrift Shop volunteers next Sunday.

Spots

Jerry Casburn promoted a book written by Val Wasley (who was a generous donor to the East Timor shipment) called 'Yabbies in the bathtub'. The book explores Val's early life on a fruit property on the river near Berri and life through the 1956 floods. Val is known to us as the sister of Chandra Sluggett and is a great benefactor to human causes particularly through our club and the Rotary Club of Berri. This incredible lady has raised thousands of dollars for charity. The book is just \$10 and all of the proceeds are being donated to Shelterbox. Please buy a copy, available from Jerry Casburn.

Bob Laws mentioned the Thrift Shop Committee meeting and culling next Saturday plus the afternoon tea for volunteers on Sunday.

Stephen Baker mentioned the Tony Fenelon concert at the Chelsea Cinema on 24 July in aid of OSSAA.

Alex Jonson reminded the International Committee of the forthcoming meeting.

Sergeant's Session

Sergeant-at-Arms Jerry Casburn managed to fine everyone for being vaguely related to the sins of the now defunct 'News of the World', except for three club members who were all fined for having surnames that were too hard to pun. David Mackrell displayed class/ass by winning the Lucky Square.



At last week's meeting President Sheila presented a cheque for \$10,000 to Carers SA. Pictured with Sheila are Rosemary Warmington, Natasha Unglaube and Emma Johnson

Guest Speaker – Stephen Baker: “The Road to Jerusalem”

Stephen Baker related a journey that he and his wife Beverley had taken to the Middle East last year. It had been a lifelong wish to visit the bowl of western civilization. SB first tested the members on their knowledge of ancient history and the more than 12 major civilizations that emerged from 3500BC to 1AD.....very few passed.

The early part of the trip was self drive and took in Gallipoli, Troy and Ephesus in the northern part of Turkey. Troy actually comprised 10 cities from 3000BC to 500AD. Istanbul was a treasure trove of sights and experiences including Topkapi Palace, The Blue Mosque, Basilica of Aya Sofia, the Cisterns and the Spice and Grand Bazaars. Heading south through Ankara, the Goreme Valley, Gaziantep, Harram and Mt Nemrut, highlights included the magnificent balloon ride in Cappadocia, the many stunning museums and relics of bygone days.

Syria was a pleasant surprise, being far more cosmopolitan than expected. Highlights included the San Simeon monastery, Apamea Victory Walk, Krak de Chevaliers, Palmyra and the outstanding Grande Mosque in Damascus. Lebanon was chaotic but there are magnificent Roman ruins in Baalbeck.

Jordan's two main attractions were swimming in the Dead Sea and the incomparable Petra which covers an amazing 40 kilometres of magnificent architecture and caves. Driving in Jordan was very easy.

In Israel, there are serious conflicts surrounding the importance of Abraham to the Hebrew, Christian and Muslim faiths. Jerusalem is a holy city to all three. Places of interest included the old city of Jerusalem, the Holocaust Museum, Bethlehem in the West Bank and Masada. There were a number of disappointing aspects to the Israeli occupation of West Bank. There are significant similarities in the texts of the Hebrew Bible, the Christian Bible and the Koran.

Finally, the most absorbing unanswered questions from the trip were why the Christian and Muslim religions had flourished, and what happened to the outstanding talents of the tribes which had inhabited the now Middle East.



Guest speaker
Stephen Baker

Rotary News

Melbourne club partners with homeless agency to provide shelter for city's poor

Rotary International News -- 11 July 2011

More than 65 people in Melbourne, Victoria, Australia, have a roof over their heads after moving into the newly built Elizabeth Street Common Ground, a facility that provides affordable apartments, mental health services, employment assistance, and medical referrals to the homeless.

In partnership with HomeGround Services, the city's largest homeless support agency, the Rotary Club of Melbourne raised US\$32,000 to furnish rooms in the facility. More than 40 club members each spent 35 days last year moving and assembling furniture and preparing apartments for the tenants.

"This project brings the community together in so many ways," says Philip Endersbee, 2010-11 president of the Melbourne club. "Businesses, neighbors, and tenants have all become involved. Everyone in the community feels a bit of ownership."

The Elizabeth Street Common Ground opened in August with 161 apartments on 11 floors, and a 24-hour concierge. The initiative, based on projects in New York City, provides housing for individuals who became homeless because of drug addiction, mental illness, physical disability, or job loss.

Endersbee says helping the homeless is now one of his club's top priorities, and will be a backbone of its community involvement for years to come.

"The cooperative partnership between the Melbourne club and HomeGround Services provides a wonderful opportunity for hands-on experience for members in contributing to the eradication of long-term homelessness," he says.

Under its 2009 agreement with HomeGround Services, the club has committed to

- Raising \$300,000 a year toward maintenance costs and operating expenses, including funds for care workers, rehabilitation specialists, and medical staff
- Assisting HomeGround in raising funds from individuals and corporations, and seeking funding from local, state, and federal governments to support the Elizabeth Street project
- Promoting supportive housing among local authorities, businesses, community organizations, and local Rotary clubs
- Exploring job opportunities for Elizabeth tenants

"This project has been a real positive for Rotary's public image," says Endersbee. "There is no doubt that Rotary is seen as a beacon among nonprofit organizations in our city."

The Melbourne club's work with the homeless was nominated as a ProjectLINK model project. ProjectLINK model projects provide examples of best practices and can introduce clubs to a variety of creative ideas.



Top: The Elizabeth Street Common Ground facility in Melbourne has provided more than 65 homeless people with affordable housing. Bottom: Members of the Rotary Club of Melbourne assemble furniture at the facility in 2010.

