

THE UNLEY ROTARIAN: Meeting 3996 – 5 April 2016 Website: unley.rotaryclub.org.au

Our Last Meeting

Venue:	Damien on Fisher
Guest Speaker:	Ben Ernst
Chairman:	Stephen Westgarth
Apologies:	Valerie Bonython, Briony Casburn, Sheila Evans, Mavis Martin, Pam Trimmer
Returning Rotarians:	Suresh Kumar, David Payne, Nathan White
Departing Rotarians:	Geoff Hill
Guests:	Robyn Carnachan, Ali Mostaghim, Lachlan Reid
Attendance:	20 members and 4 guests

Rotary Club of Unley

District 9520 - Chartered 17 April 1935

President: Stephen Baker: 8377 7156

or 0403 687015

Secretary: Greg McLeod: BH 8223 3999

or AH 8271 8409 or 0417 811 838

Address: PO Box 18, Unley SA 5061

Email: unley.secretary@rotaryclub.org.au

Meetings: Tuesdays at 6.00 for 6.30pm

Venue: Damien on Fisher

123 Fisher Street, Fullarton SA 5063

President Stephen's Announcements

- 1. Reminder that our 4000th meeting celebration looms large and I want all members to think about who in their field of friends, relatives and acquaintances have the potential to become Rotarians so they can be invited as guests to the meeting.
- 2. At our Board meeting last Thursday:
 - a. Wendy volunteered work with Glenyss Steedman on the rosters and Joan will be convening the Thrift Shop Committee as an interim arrangement.
 - b. For our 4000th meeting it was resolved that a grant of \$5000 be made to assist with furnishing of accommodation at Catherine House.
 - c. We will need a working party which can hopefully include some of our Young Professionals to paint the front of the Thrift Shop.
- 3. Pam Trimmer is still recovering slowly, and Sheila Evans is receiving therapy at Hampstead Rehabilitation.
- 4. The schools presentation will be 7am tomorrow at Adelaide Royal Coach Inn.
- 5. The Salvos are having their annual door knock appeal set down for the last weekend in May and first weekend of June.
- 6. The Rotary Foundation dinner will be on Saturday 14 May at the Adelaide Convention Centre.



President Stephen Baker



Guest Speaker - Ben Ernst: The Unley Young Professionals Group

Stephen Westgarth introduced Ben Ernst, a native Queenslander who Banana was barely bent when he was transported to country SA and subsequently to Adelaide where he finished his schooling at Westminster. He studied Civil Engineering at Adelaide University and worked in that field for a period before turning to software development.

Some 18 months ago Ben was approached by Stephen Baker and Jerry Casburn to see if he would be interested in trying to inject some youthful enthusiasm into Rotary. So he asked around. He found that younger folk aren't all that interested in weekly commitments and meetings, they're happy to do stuff rather than talk about it and they don't think much of hanging around with a bunch of people who are old enough to be their grandparents. It's not that they dislike their grandparents, more the reverse probably; they just don't see them as their mates.

Kids, what's the matter with kids today? Well, nothing really; I reckon we were all pretty much the same in our late twenties and early thirties, it's just that back then no-one actually gave enough of a toss to engage us in a focus group to discover it!

Well, Ben and a few others grasped the nettle – good for them! They got some people together and raised a bit of money for projects in India and Kenya, and then they ran out of steam. In recent times they've had a go at injecting some energy

The Unley Rotarian 1 5 April 2016

back into the exercise. They got a group together in Ben's boardroom, brainstormed, got some white board action happening, and honed their ideas down to one big one they could all embrace; helping kids in the late primary school and early high school who, for some reason, aren't cutting the mustard.

Just editorialising for a moment, I think this is great. There have always been kids who don't fit, and in a less sensitive age they were expected to elevate themselves by their own bootstraps and somehow become something they weren't; caring about stuff they didn't care about. Some could make the transition and others couldn't, and you get the feeling that the resulting disassociation probably cost us all just a little.

So, Ben and his cohort have struck upon a plan their grandparents wouldn't have even thought of thinking of. They're going to buy a bus and fit it out as a mobile learning center replete with hardware and software where said dissociated youngsters can have a crack at creating video games. Mind you, Ben and the other young professionals acknowledge that not all dissociated youngsters will be turned around by this particular opportunity. But heck, in the two thousand and teens, one size doesn't have to fit all, you're allowed to specialise in your targeted disassociations.

Many of the cynical sexa-, septa- and octogenarians in the room were no doubt concerned about the detail; after all, buying and fitting out the bus is just the start. There are minor details like where the bus sleeps when it's not chockers with the disaffected? Who drives it around? Where do they drive it? How do they identify and isolate the disaffected that will be turned on by this opportunity? Who engages with them, motivates them, and trains them?

The young professional may be young but they are professional; they've thought through these issues in a modern way and they know that if they can create the opportunity there are Government grants and programmes that can be accessed to make it functional. Even us folk in the grandparent class kind of know this. Our mantra was 'if you build it they will come!' Rotarians aren't all that different to these younger people actually; they have often looked at outlandish ideas and wondered why not? The Rotary Foundation is built for impossible dreams. Get on with the meat and potatoes and let the broccoli find its own way onto the plate (or preferably not!).

The group have an initial goal to raise \$20,000 over the next 24 months and they have a novel idea that Grandparents would never have even know to think about thinking about. They're going to have a 'Ninja' tournament.

Ninja is a low impact, unisex game that involves people in a circle having turns at making appropriate physical contact with each other, following prescribed rules of movement. There is a process of attack and defense, and if an attacker is successful in making contact with the defenders hand, the defender is eliminated from the game. A demonstration was conducted with Ben and Stephen as the only participants and we got the general idea (although Stephen cheated). The rules are demonstrated in the video accessed via this link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Mtc70pk114

The current world record for the number of people engaged in such a tournament is 520, and the group plans to gazump this by 480. After a series of lead-up events the crescendo is planned for November when they expect to raise half of the money they need. Once again the grandparents in the room thought that if you could do this once, why you wouldn't do it every year? After all we have to incinerate 5,000 sausages to make that sort of money!

So this is the plan, and they hope to get their numbers up to the late teens or early twenties to pull it off. They may call on the grands for some top up funding if they fall short of their target, but hey, that's what grands are for!

After playing the game with Ben, Stephen discarded his impressive Ninja pose and gave Ben a Rotary pen by way of thanks (how last century is this idea). A standing ovation ensued.



Guest speaker Ben Ernst with Chairman Stephen
Westgarth

Spots

Geoff Hill advised the club that he a Jill are off on a four month holiday. They undertook not to miss us.

Trevor McGuirk told us how he had made contact with the CEO of the State Theatre Company and been successful in getting a fundraising flyer for his Peruvian project into the programme for the Company's upcoming production of the play Machu Picchu.

Wendy Andrews regaled us with the travails of finding volunteers for the Thrift Shop and outlined several strategies that included asking members to be alert to those who may be prepared to assist.

Stephen Westgarth advised the members directory on the website has been updated (although the date on it may not have been but Stephen has since rectified it; Ed.).

Sergeant's Session

John Russell again won the appalling squares. There were a number of excellent fines executed by Sergeant Heather Kilsby. Undoubtedly the best was for Jerry who organised a meeting of the Membership Committee with some difficulty and then failed to diarise it himself. Trevor was passionate about hearing his choir sing on Sunday. Reno had a really bad weekend. The wedding at which he officiated on Saturday at the Botanic Gardens was drowned out by the RAH helicopter and then at his service on Sunday, which had already experienced a number of glitches, a parishioner experienced a heart attack at the time his sermon was due.....but these two events are unrelated. The week has since improved.

The meeting closed at 8.05 pm

Rotary News

A wave of compassion

By Diana Schoberg - The Rotarian - 1 April 2016

It was 9:35 the morning after Christmas 2004. What Kerstin Jeska-Thorwart, a lawyer from Germany vacationing in Hikkaduwa Sri Lanka, remembers, is the silence. Then the tumult erupted with people running, crying and covered in blood......hit by a big wave.

The tsunami, as she later learned, was caused when an earthquake with the estimated force of 23,000 atomic bombs rattled the floor of the Indian Ocean. The seabed rose 10 feet, displacing 7 cubic miles of water. A wall of water, in some places up to 100 feet high, slammed into countries throughout Southeast Asia and as far away as Africa. All told, more than 230,000 people died in 14 countries, and 1.7 million were left homeless. More than half of the dead were in Indonesia, followed by Sri Lanka, where 35,000 people were killed.

Jeska-Thorwart, then governor of District 1950 (Germany), opened up her house as a makeshift first aid clinic and four days later, when the situation had stabilized, travelled with her husband and Sri Lankan friends to find out about the damage elsewhere. The first city they came to was Galle, about 12 miles south. The tsunami killed 4,000 people in the city and damaged 12,000 houses. "We were all shocked".

Mahamodara Teaching Hospital, the primary maternity hospital in the province of 2.5 million people was totally empty. Fortunately all the patients had been evacuated inland to Karapitya but this was totally unsuitable as a maternity venue. Conditions were appalling.

Jeska-Thorwart....."I'm from Rotary. I want to help you."

With the assistance of the head of obstetrics and gynecology, Malik Goonewardene, a list of needs for the Mahamodara Hospital was drawn up. By the time Jeska-Thorwart returned home on 6 January, her office was jammed with medical equipment, and by 10 January, German Rotarians had shipped the doctors 2 tons of supplies, including scalpels, drapes, arm slings, gloves, three ultrasound scanners, and 1,360 diapers. Less than a month later, they shipped another 7 tons.



Kerstin Jeska-Thorwart talks with a nurse at the Mahamodara Teaching Hospital.

In the past 11 years, this funding has helped renovate or build 10 departments and wards, and provided equipment worth more than €1 million to the hospital. The Rotary Club of Colombo, which partnered with District 1950 on the Foundation grant, designed and managed much of the construction. Since work started, 160,000 babies have been born and more than 2.5 million women have received gynecological care. In 2014, a year the hospital saw more than 12,000 births, not one mother died – a statistic many Western hospitals would covet. "That speaks volumes about what we have been able to achieve here," says RI President K.R. Ravindran, a member of the Rotary Club of Colombo.

Jeska-Thorwart, whom Rotary honored as a Global Woman of Action at the United Nations in November, says they plan to celebrate the completion of the project in January 2017.

Diary Dates

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Our Upcoming Meetings

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	28 Jun		6.30 for 7pm		TBA	K Haines	J Reed	D Middleton R Mills

Usual Meeting Venue: Damien on Fisher, 123 Fisher Street, Fullarton SA 5063

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

Meeting Chair Enquiries To: Secretary Greg McLeod on BH 8223 3999 or M 0417 811 838 or email to unley.secretary@rotaryclub.org.au

Venue Set-up/Bar Enquiries To: Bulletin Editor - David Middleton on BH 8377 7795 or M 0417 835 564

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

Saturday Thrift Shop Roster

Week	Dates	Early Shift: 10am to 12.30pm	Late Shift: 12.30pm to 3.00pm
2	9 Apr 16	Greg McLeod & Stephen Baker	Wendy Andrews & Mavis Martin
3	16 Apr 16	Joan Reed & Nathan White	Pam Trimmer & Ken Haines
4	23 Apr 16	Bob Laws & Pam Trimmer	Sheila Evans & Ken Haines
5	30 Apr 16	Bob Mullins & David Pisoni	Stephen Westgarth & Reno Elms
1	7 May 16	David Middleton & Jerry Casburn	Bob Laws & Stephen Westgarth

Rotarians, who are unable to attend as rostered, please arrange a swap or as a very last resort contact: Lindsay England (T) 8445 8552; (M) 0408 857 775; e-mail: lengland@senet.com.au

Bunnings Mile End Barbeque

ALL the Bunnings Mile End Barbeque dates are the last Monday of the month from 8am to 5pm

Next Date: Monday 30 May Morning shift: 8.30am – 12.30pm Afternoon shift: 12.30 – 5pm

Please Note: We will not be operating the Bunnings Barbeque on 25 April (ANZAC Day) as it will be operated by Bunnings staff to raise funds for their own charity.

The Back Page

Value for Money

"I can't believe that you've been visiting prostitutes for sex," screamed my wife. "I'm really disappointed."

"You can hardly blame me," I answered. "It's not like I was getting any from you."

"Well that's your fault," she replied. "You never told me you were willing to pay for it."

How to Live 100 Years

The Importance of Drinking Water: Interview with 101 year-old Hattie Mae MacDonald Reporter: Can you give us some health tips for reaching the age of 101?

Hattie: For better digestion, I drink beer. In the case of appetite loss, I drink white wine. For low blood pressure I drink red wine. In case of high blood pressure, I drink scotch. And when I have a cold, I drink Schnapps.

Reporter: When do you drink water? Hattie: I've never been that sick.

Wheel it Out

Hospital regulations require a wheel chair for patients being discharged. However, while working as a student nurse, I found one elderly gentleman already dressed and sitting on the bed with a suitcase at his feet, who insisted he didn't need my help to leave the hospital.

After a chat about rules being rules, he reluctantly let me wheel him to the elevator.

On the way down I asked him if his wife was meeting him.

'I don't know,' he said. 'She's still upstairs in the bathroom changing out of her hospital gown.'

The Best Cure

Morris, an 82 year-old man, went to the doctor to get a physical.

A few days later, the doctor saw Morris walking down the street with a gorgeous young woman on his arm.

A couple of days later, the doctor spoke to Morris and said, 'You're really doing great, aren't you?'

Morris replied, 'Just doing what you said, Doc: Get a hot mamma and be cheerful.'

The doctor said, 'I didn't say that. I said, 'You've got a heart murmur; be careful.'

