

ROTARY CLUB OF ALTONA INC. WEEKLY BULLETIN “PRESIDENT PETER’S PONDERINGS”

Meeting No. 2149 or PS 21, Tuesday 7th Dec 2010

July is Rotary Changeover Month

Apologies: John Boyle, John Bussey, , Therese McKenny-Campbell

Visitors: Chris Davies (Alt City)

Guest Speaker: Denis Shanahan



President’s Report

Rotarians & Friends,

So this is Christmas (well getting closer anyway) and here we are at the final meeting for 2010, the halfway mark for the current Rotary year, which makes it the quarter way mark for my current double term as President.

And what have we done in the Rotary year so far, well we started at Changeover by inducting two new members (who have among other things taken over desk duties from Doug), managed not to loose any other members, made a vocational visit to good friend of the club Andrew Miles at his company General laser, held yet another successful Art Show, seen the Uganda Water Project get funded by the Rotary Foundation, held yet another Bunning’s BBQ and along the way heard from a number of very interesting guest speakers all while having fun and enjoying fellowship. When you write it down like that no wonder we need a break to recharge the batteries.

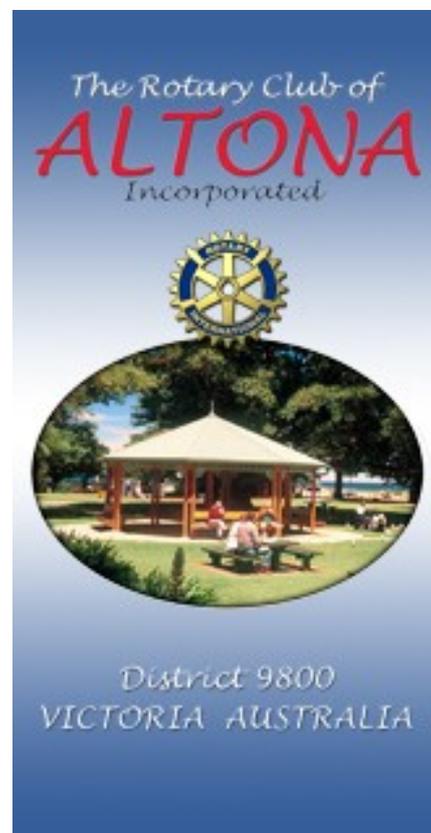
I am pleased to advise that we have found a local Christmas project with which to donate our funds from our Christmas Lunch. The Salvation army is running an appeal for kids toys and is taking a collection this Wednesday night at the Laverton/Point Cook Rotary Club weekly meeting. Several of our members will be in attendance where we will put the money we raised to good use for a worthy cause.

Final reminder for members planning to attend conference to get their bookings done by 31st December to get the early bird deal.

We will start 2011 with an informal lunch at Koorngal on 11th January, followed the next week with our annual visit to RC Sunshine and then meet for the first time back at the club on Australia Day Eve.

Best wishes to all for a very Merry Christmas and a safe and prosperous New Year.

P Peter Shephard



**Chartered 8th February,
1963**

**Weekly Meetings held at
Altona Sports Club
No 1 Altona Road
Seaholme**

**12.30pm for a 12.45pm
start.**

Visitors welcome

ROTARY CLUB OF ALTONA INC.

Other Reports:

- Chris Davies expressed his appreciation and that of Altona City RC for the opportunity to work with Barbara and Graeme on the Uganda Project. Feedback from District and Foundation is very positive. They were indeed impressed with the professionalism of the presentation.
- Pres Peter
 - indicated that District are looking at this presentation as a template for future funding requests. The \$60 000 will go a long way to providing fresh water in this area of Uganda.
 - asked members to volunteer for work on the fund raising bbq at Bunnings this coming Saturday. A list was circulated.
 - Next Tuesday is our final meeting and partners and friends are invited and members asked to confirm attendance by the end of the week.
- DIK:
 - Bert: \$1300 Cheque from Club for racks and rent
 - Pres Peter: Help required Dec 18 to ensure Uganda Container packed and ready for shipping
- RYLA
 - Clara: RYLA last Saturday transported Club representative Tracey Gibbens who is also interested in Rotary
- Ride To Conference:
 - Gus: Sponsorship forms out soon. Will be emailed to members. Coordinating Committee meeting tomorrow night involving Gus and John Boyle
- Sailing Program
 - Clara: Seeking representative to come from Spirit West.
- Uganda Project
 - Barbara: Looking forward to getting back home and working “on site” with project
 - She has been visiting many District Clubs who have been very generous
 - Thanks to everyone for the help and support during her visit here



Birthdays: May Wilson, Bert Dellosa

Fines:

- Given the weather and the effort GHG and FF have made, anyone not wearing shorts is fined
- Pres Pete, hairy lip now gone and Joan said in future, given the quality of moustache just removed, not to try a beard.

Sad Dollars:

- Frank only played 9 holes and missed out on traditional free drinks provided by “Hole In One” golfer.
- Jim Donnar, frustrated as every time David attends he has a massive golf score and now even GHG is impacting on Jim's score.
- Neil, for Ricky Ponting
- Trish, FIFA not accepting our bid
- David, for the incredible rains affecting Wagga Wagga

Happy Dollars:

- Clara, the 3 happy golfers.
- Chris, for the opportunity provided Altona City RC to join Altona RC in the Uganda project
- Clara for John Bussey with “Poms” doing so well and for one of their handsome players
- Bert, mother turned 81 yesterday

Cross Fines:

- Clara & Frank for Pres Peter not warning us about wearing shorts

Rotary Club of Altona Inc
PO Box 138
Altona, 3018
ABN 14942 0475 383
Secretary: Therese McKenny-
Campbell
Phone: 041231545



A WORD OR TWO FROM SEARGENT PETER

Christmas Prayers

A few days before Christmas, two young brothers were spending the night at their grandparent's house. When it was time to go to bed, and anxious to do the right thing, they both knelt down to say their prayers.

Suddenly, the younger one began to do so in a very loud voice.

"Dear Lord, please ask Santa Claus to bring me a play-station, a mountain-bike and a telescope."

His older brother leaned over and nudged his brother and said, "Why are you shouting your prayers? God isn't deaf."

"I know" he replied, "But Grandma is!"

The Three Stages of Life

Stage One: You believe in Father Christmas.

Stage Two: You don't believe in Father Christmas.

Stage Three: You are Father Christmas.

Danny had recently passed his driving test and decided to ask his clergyman father if there was any chance of him getting a car for Christmas, which was yet some months away. 'Okay.' said his father 'I tell you what I'll do. If you can get your 'A' level grades up to 'A's and 'B's, study your bible and get your hair cut, I'll consider the matter very seriously.'

A couple of months later Danny went back to his father who said 'I'm really impressed by your commitment to your studies. Your grades are excellent and the work you have put into your bible studies is very encouraging. However, I have to say I'm very disappointed that you haven't had your hair cut yet.'

Danny was a smart young man who was never lost for an answer. 'Look dad. In the course of my bible studies I've noticed in the illustrations that Moses, John the Baptist, Samson and even Jesus had long hair.' 'Yes. I'm aware of that...' replied his father '... but did you also notice they walked wherever they went?'

DIARY DATES

Saturday Dec 11	Final Bunnings bbq for 2010
Tuesday Dec 14	Final Meeting 2010
Saturday Dec 25	Xmas Day
Sunday Dec 26	Boxing Day
Friday Dec 31	Conference Early Bird closes
Saturday Jan 1	New Years Day
Tuesday Jan 11	Informal Lunch Koorungal Golf Club
Tuesday Jan 18	Joint Meeting with Sunshine RC
Tuesday Jan 25	First Club Meeting 2011 at Sports Club
Wednesday Jan 26	Australia Day Breakfast Altona Lions





GUEST SPEAKER—
Denis Shanahan
“Travels with Gwen”
— Part 2



Upon arrival in Istanbul at 11:30 pm they got a taxi to their hotel. Denis, being the gentleman he is, got out of the cab to help the driver

carry the bags. The driver was rather indignant about his efforts and ushered him away as it was his job. Unfortunately he ushered him away with some force and Denis fell down a hole. This was no ordinary hole as there were actually steps leading to the bottom that enabled some onlookers from a restaurant come to Denis's aid. The hole was as large as a table and they found similar ones elsewhere in the city. The folk from the restaurant were very concerned for Denis and encouraged the night porter to organise a ride to the local hospital. This was indeed another adventure in itself as the conditions were not quite what you would find in a western hospital. People on “life support”, blood from wounds and vomit from the ill surrounded them.

Back to the driver who kept calling Denis “Sir” to which Denis said “Call me Denise”. “Oh you must indeed be a Sultan as we had a Sultan called Denis”. Gwen became known as royalty as well as they previously had a queen with the same name. When Denise told them his age at the hospital they could not believe that “someone looking so young could indeed be that old.” An orderly by the name of Ramazan, collected their passport and seeing Denis was from

Australia asked if he knew Harry Kewell as Harry was the hero of their local football team. Denis not wanted to miss an opportunity said of course he did. The cry then became “Very injured Australian who knows Harry Kewell” as they queue jumped to get Denis to a doctor. He was discharged from hospital with broken ribs and drove around with Ramazan to try and find a pharmacy at 2 am. Staying next to a restaurant they then frequented it regularly for lunch. You must have this soup to help you heal. It was made of bones and he ate that most days at lunchtime in the restaurant. One day they decided to try somewhere different but the restaurant delivered some “bone soup” to their room as they hadn’t seen them at lunchtime.

Denis and Gwen presented the restaurant owners with some plants in appreciation for their care and concern. They replied with lots of hugs and kisses local delicacies and clothing when they left for the airport.

Fortunately they found an American hospital prior to leaving Istanbul and were quite amazed at the contrast to the local one. The influence of the Americans has been significant with the majority of people speaking English.

The Shanahan’s found Istanbul, formerly Constantinople, a remarkable secular place where cultures have successfully melded together overtime despite their country being invaded, destroyed and rebuilt.

Chairperson Pres Peter thanked Harry Kewell’s best mate for an extremely interesting trip through Istanbul.