

VOLUME 58 No. 36
EDITOR: DAVID FIRTH

SPOKES

OUR PROGRAM THIS WEEK - April 3rd

CEREBRAL PALSY ALLIANCE FUNDRAISERS

GUEST SPEAKER: GLEN DEUTSCHER

Head of Events & Community Fundraising



Glen is the son of a past president and past member of our Rotary Club, Lou Deutscher. Lou was president in 1985-86. Glen is involved in a range of fundraising events throughout the year with Cerebral Palsy Alliance, formerly known as the Spastic Centre of NSW.

Chairman: David Firth

Reporter: John Ellis

NOTE THE FOLLOWING CHANGE OF MEETING VENUE

At our meeting last Monday evening, President Pam suggested that we accept the invitation from the West Pennant Hills & Cherrybrook Club to attend their 30th birthday celebrations on Monday May 8th and this was agreed to by all present. More details in The Forward Program on page 4.

NEXT WEEK'S PROGRAM - April 10th

AN EAST TIMOR UPDATE

Guest Speaker: PP DAVID BOYCE

of the Rotary Club of Dili

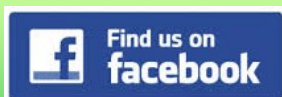
Chairman: David Firth Reporter: John Ellis

CLUB CONTACT INFORMATION

PHONE ENQUIRIES: 9484 4889

TO NOTIFY MEETING APOLOGIES & GUESTS: 9294 2107

EMAIL: rotaryclubpennanthills@gmail.com



Rotary Meeting – Monday 27th March, 2017

Good evening chaps (he means fellows! Ed).

Well, Corporal Jimbo opened up the meeting on time. I noted that. Exactly at 7:00pm. And that was the last good thing he did all night.

What is it with Sergeants? They all start out making nice, being friendly and generally trying to sneak up on everyone's good side, then not too much later, out comes the sneaky snarky money grubbing behaviour. All except for one, known to all as The Good Sergeant [™].

Chapelli brought us some information on The Muster for Mental Health. He reckoned it went from 16 July 2017 'till 2 August 2018. I'm thinking this is a tad on the extended side... so I checked it up for you all here <https://www.muster.org.au/>. Damn it, he was almost right!!!! A series of 12 car touring events spread all over the country – starting 16 July 2017 in Parramatta and finishing in Parramatta on 3 June 2018. It's a series of organised touring drives – varying in length from 13 to 31 days, and covering pretty much all of Oz in the process. Seems like a good gig – surely someone's going to give it a go.

Then Theodore talked about the Rotary Club of North Rocks and their Days For Girls fundraiser. I tried to check that out on their Facebook site, but was blocked by some weirdo security system. That's what you want – high tech security to keep the riff-raff donors out of your advertising to raise money. Apparently there is an advert in Spokes.

The re-organisation inside The Salvos seems to have landed us with a good dude when it comes to the planning for the Red Shield Appeal. There is to be a breakfast on Fri 28/April for supporters of the Appeal... **be there!!** Don't ask me where – I missed that bit.

And then it was the Corporal. He might only be a Junior Sergeant, but he's gaining an awful gleam in his eyes these days when it comes to wrangling hard earned dollars from poor old Rotarians. I'm sure I heard him saying something along the lines of “we need a bigger container for the money”.

Post dinner and coffees, President Pam (no, not Polythene Pam of Beatles fame) sought to educate us on the benefits of using Facebook. She must be one of those New Age Grannies, all hip to the new tech and all. No matter how she tried, she ain't convincing Theo or Jack that this new App thingy is going to supplant the Telstra Phone book and a good old Bakelite phone with a rotary dial. Always one to be supportive, Theo “just doesn't get it”. Even though, as it turns out, he already had it – his very own Theo Glockemann Facebook Page. Gotcha.

Then 'cause we were having a good time, we ran late and had to have a quick Advance Australia before we all went home.

Sorry, it's not been up to standard this week. My excuse is that I've been crook. Even the big Wookie has been doing a better job.

Reporter: The Good Sergeant [™]

(I'm sure you can all guess who this is!)

THE GOOD LIFE: What makes a life worth living?

Hugh Mackay, psychologist, social researcher and writer, blogs about the basis of his wonderful new book 'The Good Life'.

What comes to mind when someone says 'the good life'? Comfort and prosperity? A chance to cash in your chips, retire to the coast and put your feet up? A life enriched by the love of your family and friends? A life where dreams come true?

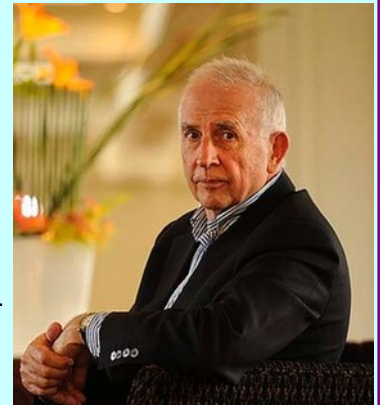
How about a life lived for others, a life devoted to serving the neediest members of society, or a life of self-sacrifice? Those are equally valid ways of interpreting 'good' – giving it a moral spin rather than an economic or emotional one.

Given our society's current obsession with feel-good definitions of happiness, and the damage we're inflicting on our kids by teaching them that self-esteem is their most precious possession, it's not surprising that our minds tend to leap to self-serving interpretations of 'good'. This, after all, is the Age of Me – an ugly blip in our cultural history where competition usually gets more marks than co-operation, and self-interest is rated more highly than self-sacrifice. *Look after Number One!* – that's the slogan we like to chant. *Winners are grinners!* and 'loser' the ultimate insult.

But that's not the whole Story of Us. In a civil society, where most people are quite interested in upping the goodness quotient in their lives, we can learn to tame (not slay, just tame) the savage beast of self-interest. Yes, we humans can be ruthlessly competitive, aggressive and violent, but we have nobler impulses as well: we're also the kind of people who fight off a shark to save a mate; jump off a river bank to rescue a stranger; return a wallet full of cash, anonymously; help a frail person cross a busy street; defend the victims of prejudice; volunteer to take refugees into our homes.

Deep within us, we know the survival of our communities – the survival of the species itself – depends on paying more attention to that insistent message that comes to us from every religious and moral tradition of East and West: *treat other people the way you'd like to be treated*. (Some people find the so-called Golden Rule makes more sense in the negative: never treat others in ways you would not like to be treated.)

If we fall for the idea that the good life is *only* about having a good time, or 'doing well', or even being 'happy' (in the superficial emotional sense), our moral compass is bound to wobble. As I say at the end of the book: 'No one can promise you that a life lived for others will bring you a deep sense of satisfaction, but it's certain that nothing else will.'



Three men were relaxing and having a discussion. The subject turned to death and one of them asked what the others would like to have said about them at their funeral.

The first man said "I would like people to say what a successful businessman I have been and how I have looked after those who worked for me."

The second man said "I would like it said that I was a caring husband who loved and cared for my children so that they got an excellent start in life."

They then asked the third man what he would like said at his funeral.

His reply - "I think he's still breathing!"



PRIDE OF WORKMANSHIP AWARDS NIGHT

MONDAY, 15th MAY

Guest Speaker: Russell Zimmerman

This is one of the highlight events for our club which will showcase the project for which we are known around Australian Rotary Clubs.

Do you know someone who is deserving of an award? Perhaps you know or deal with someone who deserves such recognition? Please contact David Firth who is inviting organisations to nominate awardees.

THE FORWARD PROGRAM

DATE	PROGRAM	SPEAKER	CHAIRMAN	REPORTER
April 10th	East Timor Update	PP David Boyce Rotary Club of Dili	Theo Glockemann	Jim Fraser
April 17th	NO MEETING	DUE TO	EASTER	HOLIDAY
April 23rd	ROTARY DISTRICT	ASSEMBLY AT THE	KINGS SCHOOL	COMMENCING 8.30 am
April 24th	Australia's contribution to the Great War on the Western Front in 1917	Brig. David Leece (Ret.)	Combined meeting hosted by Beecroft	John Ellis
May 1st	My Visit to Israel & Palestine	Jim Mein	David Firth	Alex Thomas
May 8th	30th Birthday Party of West Pennant Hills & Cherrybrook Club	President Rosemary Clarke at Springfield House, Dural	President Rosemary Clarke	David Firth



THE FOUR-WAY TEST

OF THE THINGS WE THINK, SAY AND DO

- I. Is it the TRUTH?
- II. Is it FAIR to all concerned?
- III. Will it build **GOOD WILL**
and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
- IV. Will it be **BENEFICIAL** to all
concerned?

ATTENDANCE AT OUR LAST MEETING

Member attendance 72.2%

Apologies: David Walsh, Claude Rigney,
Alex Thomas, Phil Stanton

Guest Speaker:

President Pam

Guests: Nil

Leave of Absence: Nil

MEMBER NEWS

BIRTHDAYS

Ian Huckel - April 5th

Peter Hudson - April 8th

ANNIVERSARIES

Pat & Sandra Parker - April 7th

INDUCTION ANNIVERSARIES

George Green - April 3rd

Bill Woodman - April 6th

Graeme Ashdown - April 7th

Thought for the Week

“If you haven't got any charity in your heart, you have the worst kind of heart trouble.”

- Bob Hope