



Bulletin 14 - 24 September 2015

“Gelignite Jack”

... he turned his entire life into an adventure.....



Our guest speaker for the night was Phill Murray, son of the legendary Jack “Gelignite” Murray of Bondi.

Phill is in the process of writing a biography about his famous father and told us about the many things from the past he already has uncovered and about the tedious process of double checking the facts., because, says Phill: “You cannot believe anything written in newspapers or on the internet until you have checked and checked...”

On the next page of this bulletin we copied an article published on the Australian

Dictionary of Biography website, written by Andrew Moore and which is - according to son Phill - reasonably accurate. The link with Port Stephens is the boulder on the Shoal Bay foreshore with a commemorative plaque reminding us of the happy holiday visits Jack made to Shoal Bay. Bill Michel even remembered all the ladies crowding the resort where Jack was staying.

Phill also had some very interesting slides to illustrate the colourful life of his father. He was accompanied by his wife Rhonda and his friends Derek and Roslyn Welsh.

Thanks for a very interesting presentation, Phill and all the best with finishing the task of writing the biography.



Roslyn and Derek Welsh.

Contents:

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Congratulations

Members birthdays

DeeGee Greiter - 29 Sept.
John Cropley - 7 Oct.

Partners birthdays

Scott Abrahams - 10 Oct.

Anniversaries

none in this week.

Lady Luck

Our experienced H&T “tossler” Bart kept the bottle for himself while raffle was won by Doug Bairstow

Next Week

Exercise Trail

by David Birss

Door

Bill Michel - Mike Mobbs

Meet and Greet

Judi Priestly

Toast

Chris Bartlett

Grace

John Stuhmcke

Introduce speaker

John Crump

Thank speaker

Ian Faulkner

Bulletin editor

Phill Smith

**Apologies and Extras, please phone or SMS
Ros Cribb (0401 450 239) before Wednesday noon!**

Murray, John Eric (Jack) (1907–1983)

John Eric Murray ('Gelignite Jack') (1907-1983), motor garage proprietor and car trials competitor, was born on 30 August 1907 in Port Melbourne, Victoria, third of four children of Melbourne-born parents Walter James Murray, orchardist, and his wife Alice Maud, née Carse. Educated at Albert Park State School, Jack left aged 14. His first job was in a bicycle shop, followed by farm work at Sea Lake and grape picking at Mildura, where he was also a diver's attendant. The internal combustion engine and speed fascinated him. By the

late 1920s he had begun competing in motor sports, hill climbs, acceleration tests and endurance trials. When he moved to Sydney in 1932 he was employed as a test driver for Chrysler cars. The company sent him to the United



States of America to inspect motor factories.

On his return to Sydney, Murray started a motor garage at Bondi with his brother Ray. Operated on eccentric business principles, it was largely a taxi service and repair facility. The premises were used to store a growing collection of memorabilia. When travelling in Europe in the late 1930s Murray witnessed the Nazification of motor sport at a racetrack near Berlin. He recalled, 'Hitler . . . presented the prize . . . a little guy who was all pomp and whathaveyou, I had to put my hand up in the air, too, otherwise I'd have got thrown off the course'. After World War II Murray immersed himself in open-wheeler racing. In a Bugatti-Ford V8, he came fifth outright in a Grand Prix event held at Bathurst in 1946.

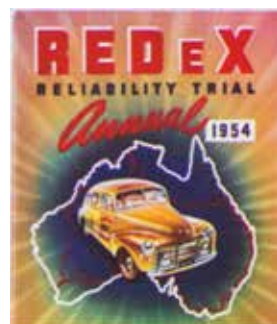
Murray became a national figure in the 1954 Redex Round Australia Reliability trial, in which he drove an ex-taxi painted in grey primer and nicknamed the 'Grey Ghost', a 1948 Canadian-made Ford V8 chosen for its generous ground clearance and robust shock absorbers. He and Bill ('No Relation') Murray, winner of the 1947 Australian Grand Prix, won without losing a single penalty point. At the concluding ceremony at the Sydney Showground, attended by 20 000 spectators, Murray embellished his reputation for larrikinism by donning a gorilla mask.

The sobriquet, 'Gelignite Jack', reflected Murray's use of the explosive to clear debris from outback roads and to mark his departure from (and sometimes arrival in) country towns during motor trials. A congenital prankster, he contended that 'Gelignite wouldn't hurt a flea out in the open. It's just the same as a cracker, only louder'; police officers around Australia remained unimpressed.

Given that he enjoyed but one principal sporting success, the outpouring of stories about 'Gelignite Jack' is surprising. The larger-than-life Murray encouraged and propagated hyperbole. According to Evan Green, a British Motor Corporation (Australia) Pty Ltd employee, he was a 'man

with a touch of Nuvolari, Ned Kelly and Guy Fawkes'. Professing to speak two languages—English and profane—he claimed some sporting achievements that are open to question. He was a pioneer of waterskiing in Australia and alleged that he had been the New South Wales welterweight wrestling champion for ten years. Of chunky build, he had an undoubted commitment to physical fitness. In 1964 he won the inaugural BP Ocean Classic for powerboats from Sydney to Newcastle and back. He survived some serious boating accidents: in 1955 he was burned; in 1956 he was knocked unconscious; and in 1965 his boat hit an unidentified fish or whale at high speed.

Though Murray's career straddled an era of growing professionalism and factory involvement in motor sports, his attitude was never one of 'win at all costs'. He enjoyed social interludes during which he could relax 'telling lies' with fellow competitors. Because of his public profile and his friendship with Evan Green he was engaged as a driver in the 1968



London to Sydney Marathon and the 1970 World Cup Rally from London to Mexico City. Before the former he annoyed the authorities by waterskiing on the Thames River past the Houses of Parliament.

Despite his devil-may-care, laconic attitude, few were as well versed in the harsh motoring conditions of outback Australia. He undertook several landmark crossings to

test automotive products and the reliability of newly released motor vehicles. Nonetheless, 'Gel' Murray was nowhere more at home than at his garage in his role as a self-proclaimed 'Bondi Bodgie'

A teetotaler and non-smoker, Murray had married with Anglican rites Ena May Byrne, a cosmetics demonstrator, on 3 July 1942 at the Church of St Jude, Randwick. In 1980 advancing arteriosclerosis caused the amputation of his right leg and the following year his Bondi garage burned down; he shrugged off both misfortunes. Survived by his wife and their two sons, he died on 11 December 1983 at Darlinghurst and was cremated. A special run of three hundred scale models of the 'Grey Ghost' perpetuated the memory of 'Gelignite Jack' (by Andrew Moore - 2012).



Pay your dues and special dinner fees by EFT:

Account name: Rotary Club of Nelson Bay Inc. - BSB: 637000 Account #: 781017418
(please, mention your name and what you are paying for.)

“Hat Day”

Thursday October 8 !!!!!



Australian Rotary Health is one of the largest independent funders of mental health research within Australia. They also provide funding into a broad range of general health areas, provide scholarships for rural medical and nursing students, as well as Indigenous health students. Australian Rotary Health provides funding into areas of health that do not readily attract funding, and promotes findings to the community. Australian Rotary Health is supported by a number of Rotary Clubs in Australia. They have a broad vision to improve the health and wellbeing of all Australians.



To raise awareness for Australian Rotary health and it's causes they organise an annual Hat Day - this year officially on the 9th but as Rotary Club of Nelson Bay we think it is a good opportunity to combine it with a club night. Bring your partners, family and friends and make sure you and your company all are wearing something interesting and eye-catching on your head. Special guest is the local Anglican minister and sometime comedian Kesh Govan. This is going to be a FUN(D) night - we'll surely enjoy ourselves and make a donation to Australian Rotary Health.



The next day - Friday and the official Hat Day” a BBQ crew will raise funds at Bunnings and the Bunnings staff have promised to wear funny hats. So... don't miss out!

Environmental Weekend

Last weekend in October!

A number of members and friends of Rotary are preparing for the annual environmental study weekend up the Myall River. A great opportunity to see something more of our local beautiful countryside and enjoy the company of others in an informal setting.

Contact Bill Michel for more details. You don't need a boat because transport is available.



Working with Children.



All members and partners that may come in contact with underaged children - other than their own - in the course of Rotary activities need to be registered and provide their registration number to our secretary.

You can apply on line by [clicking on this link](#).

END POLIO Film Night.

Another reminder: Wednesday 21 October at 6:15 there is a fund raiser film night at the Nelson Bay Cinema. Tickets are \$20 pp and can be ordered from Judy Mitchell. This includes admission, fingerfood and bubbly. All nett proceeds will go to the End Polio Campaign and attract the 2 for 1 dollar from the Bill and melinda Gates Foundation.

The movie is Tom Hanks “Bridge of Spies”

This night replaces the club night on the 22d.

Future meetings program

1 October 2015: David Birss: Exercise Trail

8 October 2015: Rotary Hat day

15 October 2015: Club Assembly

21 October 2015 End Polio Film Night Nelson Bay- Bridge of Spies

29 October 2015: Vocational visit to PCYC

3 December 2015: Our club AGM.

10 December 2015: Our club Annual Rotary Christmas Party.

October - Vocational Service Months.

Traditionally, Rotarians set aside October as the month to showcase our second avenue of service, Vocational Service. It is possibly the least understood of our five avenues of service and for this reason it is often overlooked as an area of activity within our clubs. In reality, vocational service is an avenue through which we serve so often that we don't always recognize it as service.

We assume that Paul Harris and his friends created Rotary to promote the noble ideas of humanitarian service, goodwill and world understanding. In the early days of Rotary this was not the case. These worthy pursuits came later. Rotary was started for business and professional purposes.

At the start of the twentieth century, business was aggressively competitive. Professional standards, customer service and business ethics were seldom topics of real concern. Simply making money was the goal. Paul Harris began to wonder if one person from each business and profession could meet as friends perhaps rivalries could be broken down and they could even help each other to achieve business success. Thus, the idea of a club combining friendship and business developed.

Over the decades the value of Vocational Service has evolved greatly. We now "recognize all useful occupations as worthy of respect" and we can use our "work as an opportunity to serve society". Every occupation serves a need. Whether we are serving customers, teaching students or treating patients, whether we're involved in commerce, research, the media, or any one of countless other fields – we are contributing to our communities and our society. As Rotarians, we should take pride in doing our work with competence and integrity.

Vocational Service also encourages us "to hold high ethical standards in our business affairs and our professional practices". During the early meetings of Rotary, the members frequently discussed techniques to improve their business practices. They gave one another wise and friendly counsel on misleading advertising, shoddy products, poor customer relations and so on. Members and their friends soon began to feel that when you did business with a Rotarian, you were always going to be treated properly, that their word could be counted upon, and that there was an ethical element in all transactions. The word "Rotarian" became a mark of distinction in the business world and remains so today.

The simple philosophy of the 4-Way Test was created by Rotarian Herbert Taylor in 1934, when he was called upon to take charge of a company facing imminent bankruptcy. He turned the company around by creating the test as a measure of the company's fairness, honesty and integrity in all its business transactions. In 1943, the Rotary Board of Directors adopted the "Four Way Test" of the things we think, say and do: Is it the Truth? Is it Fair to All Concerned? Will it build Goodwill and Better Friendships? Will it be Beneficial to All Concerned? The 4-Way Test is a simple and practical guide for all human relationships and has become firmly imbedded in Rotary's Avenue of Vocational Service. It has been displayed in clubs, schools, workplaces and public buildings all over the world.

Rotary's high ethical standards are also demonstrated in The Rotary Code of Conduct, formerly known as The Declaration of Rotarians in Business and Professions. This code defines a set of values that are appropriate for the personal conduct of Rotarians in business, as professionals, as community leaders and in retirement. This code is sadly not as well-known as it used to be but it can be found on page 4 of the 2014-2015 District 9800 Directory. It deserves to be read, discussed and debated during Vocational Service month.

Vocational Service now encompasses a wide variety of Rotary activities. Club members can use their vocational skills working on service projects, providing career guidance for young people, doing mock job interviews, mentoring students, creating vocational award programs and participating in vocational fellowship groups.

Since 1965, one of Rotary's most popular and rewarding programs - combining vocational service and international understanding- has been The Group Study Exchange (GSE) program. It enables young business and professional men and women to observe and learn how their vocation is practised in another country. Next March, District 9800 will send a GSE team to District 6840 in Louisiana and Mississippi. A team from District 6840 has already been selected and includes a lawyer, a meteorologist, a career guidance officer, an office manager and a media executive. Our team will be chosen next month.

More recently the Rotary Foundation has funded Vocational Training Teams (VTT) which consist of groups of professionals traveling abroad to either learn about their profession or teach local professionals about a particular field.

Vocational Service is basic to our organisation. When we join Rotary, our Rotary dinner badge notes our "classification." Rotary's classification principal assures that each club has among its members a cross section of a community's business and professional population. Each member brings unique skills, knowledge and abilities to their club and its projects. What do you know about the vocations of all of your club members?

Let's celebrate Vocational Service Month by promoting the ethical basis of Rotary and by gaining a better understanding of the diverse vocational talents of our fellow members. We may find untapped talents to enhance our club and our community.

(Editor's note: This article was written by Murray Verso, District Governor 9800 (Western Victoria) and a result of a Google search on "Vocational service month". It gives a good overview of the history of "vocational" and an insight how things are done in other districts - Not so much different from ours.