



Rotary District 9820

'Service Above Self

Rotary Club of Sale Central

Chartered 1977

**Meets Tuesday, &15 for 6:30 at "The
Princeton" phone 51446599**

Apologies by Noon previous day of meeting

District Governor -David Louden

Club President John Mowat - 5144 6487

**RI President - Glen E Estess Club Secretary Brian Norris -
51430230**

Club Bulletin



**CELEBRATE
R O T A R Y**

100 Years

2004-2005 RI Theme

**MEETING No. 1359 – Tuesday 1st March
February 2005**

**For good food, for good fellowship and the
opportunity to serve through Rotary, we give
thanks. Amen**

Chairperson:	01 March Kerrie Schmidt	8th March Max Wade	15th March Harold Watson	CELEBRATIONS: <u>Birthdays:</u> Di Rowarth March 9 <u>Rotary Birthdays</u> Viv Braham March 14 Leo Morrissy March 1 Geoff Pettifer March 07 <u>Partners Birthday:</u> - <u>Wedding Anniversary:-</u>
Registration:	Max Wade	Brendan Walker	Trevor Watt	
Fellowship:	Brendan Walker	Trevor Watt	Viv Braham	
Invocation	Leo Morrissy	John Mowat	Brian Norris	
B.T.B. (for partner)	Shane Chilcott	Doug Dyer	Bernard Goss	
Scribe:	John Castle	Stephen Chalmer	Eddie Graham	

Last meeting (Feb 15th)**Guest speaker – David Harrington**

David gave a very interesting talk on his stay in China. He presented the trip in a “story form” that was very interesting and I have included some of it in the scribe notes.

Big and important event at Jiangyan Middle School today.

I knew something was brewing over the last few days as the entrance to the administration, 5 storey building, was a real hive of activity.

I first was aware that action was happening when a new electronic noticeboard went up over the weekend. Well, weekend for me and no one else of Chinese origin at least.

This new neon type electronic noticeboard has all sorts of Chinese characters, flashing graphics scrolling horizontally, vertically and all directions otherwise. Very interesting and informative for all who enter the admin building, particularly if you can read Chinese but consequently is merely a flashing neon sign that looks incredibly flashy to me!

I’m sure this type of community noticeboard would be great at Wurruk but would have to be altered to Arabic I think!

Anyway, yesterday, as well, there were two new static noticeboard signs being erected outside the building but in the garden at the front. Very impressive being about 6 metres long by about 1.5 metres high with wonderful Chinese characters and stimulating pro China type graphics.

My Chinese friend, Stephen, attempted to translate them for me although I’m sure something important was lost in the quick translation, keeping in mind Stephen was heading off on his bike for lunch and a normal midday nap, as all staff do here. So he was probably thinking more about these activities rather than putting a great deal of brain energy into satisfying my Australian curiosity.

One sign was a very famous Chinese quote from a very famous Chinese ex Chairman of the Party saying something very wise and famous about all Chinese people being pebbles on the beach being swept along in the tide of economic development, whereas the second sign was more directly to do with the school being a pebble on the beach providing students to the tide of economic development.

Also yesterday a whole nursery of new pot plants appeared lining the steps up to the entrance, as well as two enormous expensive looking Ming vases standing over a metre and a half each guarding the entrance on either side. Well, I suppose they could have been Ming. Or Shang, Yuan, Qing, Han or even Jin but Ming is the greatest probability when I looked at them and related that to my very extensive knowledge of the many Chinese Dynasties going back to at least 2200BC.

Being incredibly observant I twigged that something was afoot!

Upon querying Mr Yok, Daisy, Tony and others I gleaned that the opening ceremony for this new admin block was taking place tomorrow!

What time was this taking place? Not really sure but maybe 8.30am. Great! Can I come? Definitely as “You are a V.I.P!!!”

Now I normally would not have my first lesson until 10.45am on Thursday so I decided I would walk to the school early and forget my normal trip in the black Mariah. I would also make sure I definitely looked like a VIP with my pink shirt, matching tie and matching light sweater as the weather has cooled off somewhat!

I arrived at 8.10am to see not too much happening at all except for the photocopying ladies sitting at tables either side of the main entrance and beginning their normal giggling whenever I turn up on the scene! I went in to the English teachers' staffroom where some of the staff were working as usual. Tony was looking very stressed and worried and having in depth talk with someone else I hadn't seen before because a female student had nicked off from school the day before and fast tracked herself to Taizhou because there is too much pressure and she wanted to escape. Daisy was looking a tad weary but they still weren't sure as to when the opening ceremony was to commence.

"Are the students going to be assembled and participate in the happy occasion?" I asked.

"No, of course not!"

"Are you all going and participating?"

"No, of course not!"

Daisy had received an invitation but no one else had so they weren't attending! Daisy seems to receive special treatment or responsibilities within the school hierarchy for some reason I have yet to ascertain but I'm working on it!

I inquired then as to whether this Australian VIP would be going?

Had I received an invitation?

No! "Well," said Mr York, "you definitely can't go either!"

"Why not?"

"Because only those who receive an invitation can attend!"

"Why aren't all the teachers attending since it is an important event for the school?" "Because we are only common teachers!!"

"Oh, really!" I thought in the privacy of my own mind, although the opportunity to express this opinion did arise later on when speaking more privately with Mr York and another young teacher.

"Well, if the students aren't attending, and the staff aren't attending, and this Aussie "VIP" can't attend, then who is attending?"

Members of the local Party of course! These are sometimes called the local government members but in actual fact it means the local members of the Communist Party.

So anyway this snubbed VIP wandered around outside, in and out of the entrance, past all the new pot plants, under the new neon sign and around all the black Mercs, Audis, Santanas and Passats plus drivers parked out the front of the admin building.

The ceremony was obviously not happening at the front of the school because all the black suited, cigarette smoking gentlemen were all taking the elevator to the fifth floor where the suitably decorated 200 seat auditorium is located after they had done the required cultural business at the two front tables manned by the giggling photocopying ladies who no longer seemed to be giggling at the black suits.

This business soon got my attention because I noticed that each of the ladies was very quickly accumulating great wads of 100 yuan notes. I initially thought the special guests were purchasing some sort of school brochure maybe specially produced for the opening ceremony day but they would have had to be very expensive brochures to be able to accumulate such wads.

These wads were really thick, some as thick as 20 centimetres or so. Not just one or two wads but quite a number that I could see. There seemed to be some sort of records being kept but at the time I wasn't sure what was happening. My friend Mr York later filled me in on what was happening.

Apparently all the party members who are invited actually bring money to donate to the school as part of the ritual of opening the school. This money is government money and all the local government offices are invited and then consequently as a matter of course are obliged to donate huge sums of money to the school.

Apparently, the government rep has to be very careful that the amount donated has to be a 'proper' amount so that the school does not take it as a slur and 'lose face' if the amount is too little and be careful that the amount given is not too large in case that it may appear to be a bribe for whatever ulterior motive that may be possible!!

Very intriguing I thought and very tricky to manage this cultural requirement so as to keep on side with all concerned!!

Mr. Yu then started to open up as far as living life with the Party.

A teacher, for instance, has to compete with influence and favouritism provided by Party members in favour of friends and relatives. Promotion within the school is exceptionally difficult if not impossible if one is not a Party member and is competing with other staff who have Party contacts and relationships.

Apparently 14% of the population are Party members. That doesn't initially sound like many but when it's 14% of 1.3 billion people, one could safely say the Party membership is quite high!

Anyway, enough rambling reflections from the not so important VIP from Australia on my non attendance at the official opening of the school Administration Block.

I might see if I can join the Party next week!

How can I do that I wonder?

I'll ask Miss Daisy!

100 Years of Rotary – Paul Harris Fellowship Highlight from Ron Gregory

Generally it's hard to nominate a Paul Harris fellowship however in this case it is long over due.

This sometimes-cantankerous, aging Rotarian started work as a public servant, in the Dept of Social Services, now Centrelink. He could have been the boss but chose the honest life & came to Sale rather than transfer to Canberra.

A keen cricketer but workload detracted from his ability to play on a regular basis, so he took up Ten Pin bowling & made quite a name for himself in the Ladies League!!

He drove the First Country cup team to Colac, having never driven a bus further than Maffra.

Loves playing cards, hates losing, especially to woman & will play all night rather than admit defeat.

Invited by Martin Adams he joined R C S C in May 1982. Became President 90/91. DG rep 91/92 (DG Michael Lee). Able assistant to Arthur Mc, over several years with NZ twinning programme.

He has attended many district conferences & in some cases provided transport to his other club members, all for the cost of a glass of wine on arrival!

His office has no wallpaper; it is covered with certificates & letters of appreciation. He provides many local sporting, school & service groups with either no or very low cost transport. In fact he brought the Vic Youth Orchestra to town for a Wedge fundraiser, quoted by others @ \$3k at no charge. Many times his drivers are thanked for their generosity the reply, is generally don't thank me mate I'm being paid!!

Sponsorship is also provided for several annual sporting events, such as, Sale Ag show, lawn bowls & golf comps & of course cricket.

Our "Go Youth" programme would not be viable without his support; Maffra & Sale Clubs have transported over 1000 disadvantaged young people to Mount Hotham over the last 5 years at **very- very** low cost!

No we don't see him often enough at dinner, to share his good company & a glass of red wine. He is a very busy man; time constrained but committed to his family, his work, Rotary & serving this community as best he can.

Margaret, you, Grant, Kathryn & Cameron can be very proud of what Kevin has achieved in this town. I am also honoured to call this man, a friend.

Rotarians & Guests I give you P.P Kevin Ridgeway. P H F

For the Diary

March 01	Fellowship post 100 year celebration/discussion/future/events
March 08	Hector Caruavana/CEO Budget Motel Chain
March 15	Wine & Cheese tasting
March 22	Peter Craighead/Administrator CGHS
March 25	Easter Weekend at Tandarra
March 29	TBA
May 3 rd	Peter McGauran MP/Multi-culturalism
July 21 st	24 th Boys weekend in the Snow, call RG for details.

Meals on Wheels Roster

May 14 th	Eddie Graham, Ron Gregory, David Hollands, Hugo Huygens
May 15 th	Les Jackson, Athol Jones, Peter Kluge, Rob McKimm
July 16 th	Arthur McPherson, Leo Morrissy, John Mowat, Bernard Goss
September 17 th	TBA
September 18 th	TBA
December 3 rd	TBA
December 4 th	TBA

- **NOTE:** Please inform the first named if you cannot attend to avoid last minute crises
- If you cannot attend a meeting, please call the Princeton 51 446599 or fax 51 445166 or email on prinsale@ozemail.com.au, on the MONDAY before the meeting!!

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