



The Rotary Club of Samford Valley Inc

ABN 93 585 159 023

Club Bulletin

March 1, 2011

<p style="text-align: center;">Leadership</p> <p>President John Broadbent Treasurer Paul Jackson</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Regular Meetings</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Homestead Restaurant Main St Samford Every Tuesday 6.30pm for 7pm</p>
--	---

Members: If you are unable to attend our next meeting, please advise your apologies to: Tony Freeman at 0412 373 381 or freemanmarketing@bigpond.com before 12 noon on the Tuesday of the meeting.

Last evening's meeting:

Rob Robertson asked me to do this Bulletin today as he was unable to attend. So here it is, plain and simple with no jokes or embellishment.

The guest speaker was Pantea Beigi, a World peace Fellow, born in Iran, living in Denver Colorado since she was 8 years old and now studying in Brisbane. (More of her inspirational talk later).

In attendance was a full house, thanks to Ian Spiller and Simon and of course to Pantea, who was a great draw card to Samford Rotary and all the people who were attracted to attend and hear her story. In particular we had the following visitors:

DG Eric Wood, Assistant governor Shaughn Forbes, Janet Lawrence, host area coordinator for UQ Peace Fellows program, Don Biffin, President of Mitchelton Rotary, Frances Hollywood, president of Kippa-Ring Rotary and six members of Mitchelton Rotary plus partners from all clubs. (Sorry for any omissions).

Ian Ruffles started the meeting requesting a minutes silence in respect of the terrible earthquake in Christchurch today.

Ian also mentioned the troubles and peace conflicts in North Africa, which were particularly poignant to the guest speakers talk tonight. He also welcomed back Warren from his leave of absence: timely as he desperately need people like him willing to inject enthusiasm to our club. (More of this later.)

Three birthday acknowledgments went to Warren, Brian and Susan, Ian's lovely partner.

Ian presented Pantea who gave a truly inspirational talk of her work with the Peacejam Foundation and Americorps and of the particular problems both in America and Iran, of injustices and inequality with regard to poor and homeless people and the unfortunate fact that amongst great wealth in both countries, a large percentage of people barely have enough food to eat; and that those who attempt to right the situation do so at great personal financial loss and even persecution.

As a Rotarian, It made me more aware of the need to step up and try to follow her example, as much as we can. We can and do make a difference. Tony made our club's acknowledgment and thanks and Pantea was presented with a special Samford Rotary badge as well as the obligatory coffee mug which it is rumored has special qualities.

Bob Dunn reminded us of the container stocking at 7am on the 5th of March. Please put this in your diaries.

A new bucket raffle was started tonight, with no less than three packs of cards, after two embarrassing weeks where we had no new pack. There was no Sergeant on duty tonight.

A great evening with only one sorry situation. In spite of the large attendance there were only, according to Lee, eleven (11) of our members in attendance, just over half of our total membership. I totally understand that all of us have other commitments that can conflict with Tuesday nights, including holidays and so forth. Also I know that many not there tonight are among our most hard working members, so this is *not* a criticism. Rather, I wish for us all to look at this situation and openly discuss how we can turn this around and boom this club. We are not a small village now: we have a wealth of intelligent and caring people who are aware that a club like ours can make a difference to our community and enjoy good fellowship at the same time. I am personally aware that times are tough, relatively speaking at the moment, for most of us. However I think we need to look at this malaise and see how we can turn it around. Is it not fun enough at the moment? Does the fact that we now have fewer members mean the "work load" is too imposing? I am too new in the club to have a realistic handle on this. Bob Millar suggested camping trips and the like, which I think could be a positive move for us to get together for weekends from time to time. I propose that we need to have some open discussions to see if there is some discontent or disillusionment with Rotary amongst members at present that could be addressed.

OK, after that, you deserve a joke:

An explorer is in the jungle, when he finds a dead elephant. It was the largest he had ever seen and standing next to it was a really small native, he asks him "did you kill this elephant", the native replies "yes, with a club". "it must have been a pretty big club" said the explorer

"yes there were 150 of us..."

See, there's strength in numbers.

Eric.

The Four Way Test

Of things we think, say or do

- 1. Is it the truth?**
- 2. Is it fair to all concerned?**
- 3. Will it build goodwill and better friend-ships?**
- 4. Will it be beneficial to all concerned?**

Rotary Grace:

**O Lord, and giver of all good,
We thank Thee for our daily food.
May Rotary friends and Rotary ways
Help us to serve Thee all our days.**
