



News from around the Club

Raffle

Week

April 19th
April 26th

Group 1

No. 1 David Kennedy
No. 2 Mick Leahy

Group 2

No. 1 Dean Kennedy
No. 1 Dean Kennedy

RC Carlton

Peter Johnstone recently attended an RC Carlton meeting, where there were 28 members, of which he was one of the youngest!

Drought Breaking Festival

RC Mansfield and Eltham are holding a drought breaking festival on 4th, 5th and 6th May in Mansfield. See details attached.

President Elect Training Seminar

Cheryle reported the PETS weekend in Shepparton (21 and 22 April) was good. Our club has some of the youngest members, with several in their 30's. The need to encourage women to join was discussed... despite this, the incoming presidents were being referred to as "he," and their "wives' duties!"

Dance Into Autumn

David Earley and Barry will be organising the spot and door prizes for the dance.

Upcoming Guest Speakers

A reminder that this week is a night meeting at Curly Joe's, with a special presentation from Br Doug, Max and Ron, providing our club with a review and an update on the Magnificent Manila Project.

Br Doug will also be filling us in on what the future may hold for our involvement.

This will be a great meeting to invite guests along to, so lets make it a big meeting.

Guest speakers

April 19th

Our guest speaker was Commodore Dacre Smyth AO RAN (Ret) a recognised speaker on ships and the Navy. In 2004, Commodore Smyth was awarded France's highest honour - Knight in the Order of the Legion of Honour, by President Chirac. It is the highest award given for meritorious service to France, to citizens of France or other countries, without regard to rank.

The Legion of Honour decoration was awarded in 2004, in recognition of Australia's contribution to D-Day operations during World War II. Cdre Smyth was one of four representatives of Australia's veteran community (representing all Australians who served in the Navy, Army and Air Force during D-Day) at 60th anniversary commemorative ceremonies in France in June 2004, attended by Prime Minister John Howard.



His father Major-General Sir Nevill Smyth VC was awarded the Victoria Cross at Khartoum in 1898 and commanded the 1st Australian Brigade at Gallipoli (including Lone Pine). His courage at Gallipoli won the respect of Australian troops that was never lost, he then commanded the 2nd Australian Division in Europe. He moved to Australia in the 1920s. He was a first cousin to Robert Stephenson Smyth Baden-Powell (1st Baron Baden-Powell) OM, GCMG, GCVO, KCB, the founder of the Scouting movement.

After leaving the navy nearly 30 years ago, Dacre now follows his passion for painting. He's held 26 1-man exhibitions, and written 14 books. His fellow artists think he's not that good!

In 1940, not expecting to be able to live up to his Dad, Dacre, along with 7 others, gained "special entry" and trained for the navy. Most young men went into 4 years of training at the very young age of 13, but Dacre's training in navigation, gunning, signalling etc., was only 6 months long. He came out of the 6 months nearly ahead of the 4 year training boys, who were not very impressed!

Dacre was first assigned to the HMAS Australia, an 8" cruiser (ie 8" diameter guns!), escorting the Queen Mary, Queen Elizabeth and the Aquitania to the far east, then into the Indian Ocean for 6 months, where there was no fighting. Once the Japanese entered the war, Dacre's ship hurtled home, then took troops to Papua New Guinea in 1942. The jetty in Port Moresby was too small for the Aquitania, and Dacre found himself ferrying frightened soldiers ashore. One of these soldiers asked a question of Dacre, saying "Sir?" and Dacre replied "Yes, son?" Dacre being 18 years old! The soldier's comment was that he had signed up to fight on Aussie soil, however it was soldiers like himself that first stopped the Japanese.

Dacre was part of the first group to stop the Japanese at sea, working with 2 US aircraft carriers, the biggest in the world, and had his 19th birthday during a steady 4 day attack. At one stage Dacre was below decks in the transmitting station, inside an armoured hatch and shut off from the rest of the ship. One brave chap asked what a wooden mallet beside the ladder was for, and was told that, if the ship sunk, and while they still had their own air for 2-3 hours, if anyone became nervous or crazy, they could be knocked out with the mallet!

Dacre was sent to the Royal Navy in 1943, to the Danae, replacing the first lieutenant. Prior to this move he'd only been first lieutenant for 3 weeks, and was now in gunnery control. At times they would recover other ships' crew in life boats, some of whom were emaciated or deceased. One chap they'd picked up, asked when he woke "what ship am I on?" When he was told he was on the Danae, he promptly passed out again! It turned out, during WWI, his ship had been torpedoed and he'd been picked up by exactly the same ship!

On returning to the UK, the king came aboard and was introduced to Dacre. The king commented "another colonial!" and Dacre's cheeky response was "Not a colonial sir, you should know that!" Despite a date with a Scottish lass, Dacre had to stay onboard his ship, which was to go to Normandy. They sailed in bad weather, were told to hold off for 24 hours, so they sailed back to England, then left again, the weather being worse. They only had a small window of 3 to 4 hours, between 3 weather fronts, to reach their destination.

All up, during the Normandy attack, there were 6800 ships at sea. Dacre, up the mast for action stations, could see all of them. The bombing of German targets started around 5am, in conjunction with the air force, to clear the beach and allow the soldiers to land. Dacre's ship spent most of its ammunition within 12 hours, at which time they withdrew, and returned to Portsmouth, where they unloaded their ammunition and filled up with supplies, to act as the mother ship. Dacre went ashore to assist the army in clearing wreckage and bodies, dug trenches and dodged bullets, and ended up being successful in finding two camembert cheeses which the captain had requested, and which Dacre had barely heard of! When he gave the captain the cheese, the captain sent it quickly off to England. Later the captain explained that camembert was the one thing the king had been missing... and the captain received a CBE after Normandy!

In August 1945, near Japan, an officer called Dacre to the deck to see the sunset, which was a fantastic display. The very next day Dacre wrote his first poem.

April 26th

Our guest speaker was Charlie Camilleri, discussing passion in our lives, or the lack of it and how it relates to business.

Charlie gave us the example of an experiment with (cute and playful) monkeys – you put 5 monkeys in a big cage, tie a banana at the top of some stairs in the middle, and when a monkey goes for the stairs and the banana, hose it down! (Sounds cruel, but let's pretend the experiment's never been done!) This is repeated each time a monkey goes for the banana, then you replace one monkey who goes for the banana and the other monkeys beat it up (no hosing down anymore, that was for the first 5)! (The example doesn't get any worse than this!) Keep substituting monkeys and eventually you have monkeys who don't know why they're beating up the new monkey... it's just always been that way.

Charlie worked for Telstra for a while, where he and others worked a 9 day fortnight, each day having 2 breaks plus lunch. Everyone would drag out their breaks, getting an extra coffee just before they went back to their desk, or going to the toilet. Tools would be downed before 5pm, and they'd wait until right on 5pm to walk out the door, so the exit time showed as 5pm. Even the manager was keen to get out the door on time Decisions were made based on what was done in the past.

People need the desire to get up and go to work, and need some oomph! Otherwise the result can be disengagement, which costs \$31.5 million per annum in Australia. People who have more motivation and passion benefit their customers, spouse, children and themselves. A lack of passion can lead to the boiled frog syndrome (yes, a bit more animal cruelty!), leaving them too lethargic and lacking passion and oomph.

Charlie said that people need to be empowered, their work needs to be worth their while, which in turn will achieve good results.

Upcoming Club Program

Thursday May 3	Dinner meeting	Brother Doug, Ron Paoli & Max Fremder Magnificent Manila Project
Thursday May 10	Lunchtime	TBA
Thursday May 17	Lunchtime	Hands on Health
Thursday May 24	Lunchtime	David Hyde: Successful Business Succession / Transition Planning
Thursday May 31	Lunchtime	TBA

News from elsewhere

“Rotary Drought Breaking Festival”

Saturday May 5th 2007 in Mansfield

The Rotary Clubs of Eltham and Mansfield are putting on a drought breaking festival for the community of Mansfield Shire.

The MAIN EVENT will occur at the Mansfield Football Grounds.

Saturday 5th of May starting at 3.30pm

IT'S FREE!!! AND EVERYBODY IS WELCOME

What's on !!!

MUSIC with **DEBORAH CONWAY & WILL ZEIGER** accompanied by local music from **CHUMPY PULLIN** and **EARTHBOUND**

SPECTACULAR FIREWORKS

At **6.30pm** donated by the Eltham Rotary Club and organised by Sue Schreiber from **Advanced Fireworks Australia** (The only female pyrotechnic owner in the country. She loves to make a big bang!!!)

FOOD AND WINE STALLS FABULOUS SURPRISE BALLOONS WITH PRIZES

DEBORAH CONWAY and **WILL ZEIGER** will do a second gig at the **Mansfield Produce Store** after the fireworks so if you would like to come along contact Dean or Gill Belle on 5779 1404.

All funds raised at this event are going to the local **Mansfield Hospital** for an urgently needed isolet crib .Any body who would like to make a donation please make it out to the Mansfield Rotary Club. PO Box 352, Mansfield 3724

We would like to thank our major sponsors the new Community Bank of Mansfield and the SKI Club of Victoria for all the support they have given to us for this event

For any further information contact Mike Irwin, Festival Co-ordinator

Ah: 03 5779 1651 Mob: 0432 324 052.

Email: mike.irwin@optusnet.com.au

ROMAC Bulletin # 6

Publicity for Rotary is hard to get but ROMAC stories appeal. Publicity attracts new Rotarians and keeps Rotarians as members as it makes them feel proud to wear the Rotary wheel.

Recently publicity includes the Melbourne Sun Herald running a major story, Channel Ten News featuring a story and ROMAC receiving a mention in the TV show RPA.

Many suburban newspapers carried stories plus a recent case of a blood condition patient, Samantha Ata, was featured on the front page of The Solomon Times.

Political figures from many countries have indicated appreciation of the vital work of ROMAC in bringing hope to disadvantaged people including East Timor's Ramos Horta and the Minister for Health in Nauru. In Australia the Governor General is our major patron.

Please contact your local district ROMAC representative for publicity material including brochures and DVDs for use by your club or personally.