



## Rotary Club of Unley Inc.

**District 9520 - Chartered 17 April 1935**

**President:** Ken Haines: 0407 696 184

**Secretary:** Greg McLeod: BH 08 8223 3999 or AH 0417 811 838

**Address:** PO Box 18, Unley SA 5061

**Email:** [unley.secretary@rotaryclub.org.au](mailto:unley.secretary@rotaryclub.org.au)

**Meetings:** Tuesdays at 6.00 for 6.30pm

**Venue:** Damien on Fisher, 123 Fisher Street, Fullarton SA 5063



President Ken Haines

## Our Last Meeting

Venue:	Damien of Fisher
Event:	<b>Kirsty Lithgow (RYPEN), Nicholas Burton (RYLA)</b> <b>New n Old in Rotary - Rachel Harding, Geoff Hill</b>
Chairman:	Sheila Evans
Returning Rotarians:	None
Departing Rotarians:	None
Guests:	Judi Corcoran, Greg Marlow (DGN – District 9550)
Apologies:	Stephen Baker, Leonie Kewen, Graham & Patsy Beckett, Vera Holt, Alex Jonson, Marlene Small
Attendance:	16 Members and 4 Guests

## President Ken's Announcements

1. President Ken was pleased to advise that the first Mitre 10 barbeque organised by our newer Rotarians made a profit of \$333.90.
2. Advised the club that we had enough volunteers for the Bunnings BBQ on Monday.

## Guest Speaker - Kirsty Lithgow: Rotary Youth Program of Enrichment (RYLA)



**Heather Kilsby** introduced **Kirsty Lithgow** as our first speaker. Kirsty was our sponsored attendee at the recent RYPEN weekend which provides a group of young people, aged 14-17, an opportunity to develop valuable leadership skills. The weekend was run over April 21<sup>st</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Woodhouse Activity Centre, Piccadilly.

Kirsty spoke enthusiastically about her attendance at the weekend where some 80 youths were managed in two groups. The main groups were then split into teams consisting of five members. There were many activities with presentations from speakers on key subjects related to leadership, team activities where they learned how to work

in teams and lots of entertainment and opportunities to have fun. Kirsty thanked the club for the sponsorship and when asked about the best she named the skills which boosted her confidence and the worst, the food.

## Nicholas Burton: Rotary Youth Leadership Award (RYLA)

**Nick Burton** was also introduced by Heather Kilsby. The 2016 RYLA camp was held from 24-30 September at Nunyara and Nick was our attendee. RYLA is a 7 day residential leadership seminar for aspiring leaders aged 18 to 25 years. Young adults keen to exercise their leadership potential participate in a range of formal and informal activities, which promote leadership skills as desirable qualities.

Nick has just completed a degree in Civil Engineering and is currently working at Adelaide University where he is about to commence a Master's degree. Prior to this he has been travelling overseas.

Nick's foray into RYLA began when he heard about the programme from friends and applied to join. The week allowed coverage of many different aspects of leadership with a variety of speakers including Chris Lloyd, a cheesemaker, a Dale Carnegie session on personal presentation and self-improvement and many others. Highlight for Nick was a Creativity session which as well as getting the creative juices going, allowed participants to talk about personal issues and to exorcise ghosts from their past. The whole week was lots of fun with team exercises, great food and lots of fun. The biggest difficulty, divesting oneself of the mobile phone, surgery was almost needed.

Nick concluded by thanking the club for their sponsorship.



## Rotarians Young & Old

This was a club opportunity to be able to find out more about our members. **PP Sheila Evans** introduced new member Rachael Harding and old member Geoff Hill.

### Rachael Harding

Rachel was the first cab off the rank.

A clever lass, Rachel has a PhD and post-doctoral studies in Chemistry. She is a migrant from the UK and hails from Manchester, you know them with the funny accent. Could be worse she might have been from Birmingham.

On a more serious note we all acknowledge the sadness, stupidity and horror of the Manchester bombing. Why do such horrors happen?

Rachel worked for a major UK multinational and in a chance encounter was given the opportunity to work in Australia. She came to Adelaide, loved it and is now employed here. Originally involved in teaching corporations to complete chemical analysis, the worst job she worked on was analyzing brain samples from Colorado.

The club is fortunate to have Rachel as a member.



Rachael Harding PhD

### Geoff Hill

With 42 years in Rotary, Geoff is our longest serving active Rotarian. Geoff joined Rotary as a charter member of the Burnside club back in a time when Rotary insisted on members living or working in the suburb of the club. A move to a job in Windsor Gardens resulted in a need to move clubs and he was invited to join Unley and transferred on the 7/7/1977 (7 must have been a lucky number).

Changes in jobs but within the same industry meant lots of changes in classification. Geoff also held many jobs in Unley Rotary culminating in becoming President in the 2001-02 year, theme "Mankind is our Business". Geoff was grateful it was not the following year when it was "Sow the Seeds of Love". Within the club, Geoff has supported the activities at the Thrift Shop for many years.

Geoff has also held District roles primarily on Youth Exchange. In this role he found that his daughter had applied for Youth Exchange without telling parents. He only found out when a call to him advised he hadn't signed the application. But all was well and she eventually went to Germany.



Geoff Hill displays the "Mankind is Our Business" theme banner from his year as club President in 2001-02.

## Spots

**Valerie Bonython** reminded the club that on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> June there is a visit to Udder Delights in the Adelaide Hills. Cost is \$25 and Valerie would like payment by June 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Heather Kilsby** advised the club that she is working on committees for her year and asked that if members have a particular preference to let her know as soon as possible.

**Reno Elms** gave an update on the Red Shield Appeal and reminded members that if they would like to contribute that he could take donations at the meeting or when convenient. Member donations will be matched by the club, so “Double Your Money”, EFTPOS facilities are available. Rachel was also praised for her support at the Mitcham Shopping Centre.

**David Middleton** sought support for the Bulletin next week as neither he nor **Jerry Casburn** would be able to attend. **Valerie Bonython** offered her help and will provide a report on the meeting to David. **Can members please advise Valerie of attendance next week when the club has a joint meeting with daughter club, Prospect?**

**Jerry Casburn** Reminded club members that on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> May the District Assembly would be held at Murray Bridge. A must for incoming Board members and a good opportunity for new and seasoned members to be advised/reminded of what we do in Rotary. The session is free and lunch and morning tea will be provided. All members will have received a personal invitation from **DGE Bob Cooper** via incoming **District Secretary Peter Hammond**.

Bunnings have extended an invitation to the club and members to attend a Community Recognition Evening from 6.30pm to 8.30pm at the Mile End Bunnings. Light refreshments will be served. **Can members please advise if they will be attending by midday on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> of May!!**

Accommodation will be in short supply for next year's Barossa conference. 16 beds have been secured very near the conference centre (5 mins by car, 20 to walk). 10 spots have already been taken up, please advise **Jerry** if you would like to attend.

## Sergeant's Session

**Ali Mostaghim** won the squares and donated the money to the Days for Girls collection, and for his luck carried the pot. Several happy dollars. **Wendy Andrews** for securing free advertising in the Courier, for the forthcoming community grants programme. **Sheila Evans** a sad dollar for eye surgery which has not been totally successful, she said she could now be a Port supporter as she can't see straight. **Bob Mullins** for attending a fair on the Mornington Peninsula, **Genese** was holding a cup and someone put a dollar in. **Lindsay England** for his grandson kicking two goals and finally **Jerry Casburn** a sad dollar for his grandson being awarded a day of suspension from school also for kicking. Unfortunately another kid.

## Rotary News

### 8,000 Kilometres to Peace

By **Ryan Hyland** | Produced by **Andrew Chudzinski**

**Rotarians in a small town of Nova Scotia, Canada, took action to bring two families from war-torn Syria to their country, where the refugees are starting a new life.**

This explosion was close – much closer than the others that had rattled the village on the outskirts of Homs, Syria, where Sultanah Alchegade lived with her four young children. This one hit the school next door, blasting out one of the walls of their house.

Alchegade grabbed the children and ran into the night and the choking smoke and dust. A neighbour helped her carry her three-year-old twin boys, Mounzer and Kaiss; another drove the pickup truck they all clambered into. Over the next several days, as bombs continued to fall, the family – including daughters Kawthar, age six, and Roukia, a baby – took refuge in a nearby forest, sleeping under the trees as Sultanah tried to figure out their next move.

In neighbouring Lebanon, Sultanah's husband, Mazen, frantically tried to contact his wife. For years, Mazen had shuttled back and forth across the border every few weeks to do construction work on high-rise buildings in Beirut. While the jobs provided an income for his family, he says, the separation was hard. But their situation had just gotten much harder.

With the Syrian civil war now engulfing his village, Mazen couldn't return. And it would be four months before his wife and children could cross into Lebanon.

Eventually, the family was reunited. They were alive. But they were refugees, seeking asylum in any country that would take them, hoping to get far away from the violence that had driven them, along with millions of other Syrians, into foreign lands.

The Alchegade family registered with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the agency responsible for resettling Syrian refugees, and waited. They were still in Lebanon nearly three years later.

Meanwhile, 8,000 kilometres away, Rotarians in the small town of Amherst, Nova Scotia, were watching images of Syrian refugees on television and looking for ways to help.

### A new culture

In September 2015, members of the Rotary Club of Amherst were thinking about their next international project. Over the years, the group has helped build and equip a school in South Africa, provided educational materials to students in the Bahamas, and raised funds for disaster-stricken areas around the world, but their thoughts turned to Syria as the plight of refugees dominated the news.

“We as Rotarians couldn't ignore what we were watching each and every day,” says Ron Wilson, a semiretired civil engineer. “Families dying while making their journey to Europe or other places. Families desperately trying to flee war and, sadly, their homes. The heart-wrenching images were the impetus for our club to do something.”



Ann Sharpe had joined Rotary specifically to get involved with projects to help refugees. In May 2014, she had attended the wedding of some friends in Turkey, which has taken in nearly 3 million Syrian refugees since 2011, more than any other country. While in Istanbul, Sharpe saw refugee children on the streets begging for food or money.

"I felt so guilty because I couldn't do anything. It really touched me in a way that I never felt before," Sharpe says. "We are fortunate that we don't see those types of things in Canada. For me, Rotary was the best way to do something about this."

In November 2015, Canada's newly elected Liberal government began welcoming Syrian refugees in larger numbers. The country pledged to grant asylum to 25,000 refugees by the end of February 2016. By February 2017, the total had surpassed 40,000.

Bill Casey, a Liberal member of Parliament for Cumberland-Colchester district and an Amherst resident, endorses the move. The country's willingness to accept refugees, he says, will lead to a multicultural renaissance in communities and neighbourhoods across Nova Scotia.

"We're excited to have exposure to a new culture because there hasn't been much immigration here in Nova Scotia for the last 100 years," Casey says. "When Syrians come to Canada, many start a business. I think opening our doors to refugees will be something we can be proud of and learn from."

At Sharpe's first Rotary club meeting, members started to put together a plan to bring a Syrian family to Amherst. Her enthusiasm about the initiative led the international committee to make her a co-chair of the refugee project that night.

The club began by gauging the community's interest in the project. They learned that two local churches, First Baptist and Holy Family, were also looking for ways to support refugees.

There was a logistical benefit to working with the churches: Both are sponsorship agreement holders, meaning they signed an agreement with the government to bring refugee families into the country – something that would take the Amherst club two years to obtain. In return, the club handled administrative tasks, communicated with the Canadian government, and led fundraising efforts. It also donated \$5,000 in seed money to get the project off the ground.

"Because of the organization that Rotary offered, it was a no-brainer for us to partner with them," says Frank Allen, a member of the Holy Family congregation and of the project's steering committee. "This took such a weight off us; we were able to concentrate on other parts of the project. It was a gift."

Sharpe says the club members did their due diligence but didn't overthink things.

"Just take a leap of faith and do it," she advises clubs considering a similar project. "If we had thought it through too hard, we might have convinced ourselves not to move forward. But we all knew we were doing this for the right reasons."

The Canadian government administers the Blended Visa Office-Referred Program, which matches refugees identified by the UNHCR with private sponsors. The program provides up to six months of financial support, while private sponsors provide another six months' worth of funding as well as up to a year of social support, including translation services, language training, and employment counselling.

Within a few months, the partnership between the Rotary club and the two churches raised enough funds to sponsor one family – a minimum of \$27,000 per family is needed, the government estimates – and they filed the paperwork to be matched with a family. The group raised more than \$72,000.

The Canadian government and the UNHCR conduct an intense vetting process for refugees being considered for potential resettlement in the country. It includes biometric and fingerprint checks, health assessments, document verification, and several in-person interviews.

But successfully integrating a refugee family into a community takes more than paperwork and tests; it hinges on the community's acceptance. The Amherst group held a public meeting in November 2015 at a local school to inform residents about the project, answer questions, and gauge opinions.

"There was zero resistance," says Sharpe. "We didn't know what to expect. There were many people in the country wondering if there was a security issue with bringing in refugees from Syria. I can honestly say I can't believe how much the community embraced the project. They came out with donations, in-kind support, furniture, and anything we asked of them."

With the Amherst community firmly behind them, the club welcomed its first Syrian family, the Latifs, in January 2016. The success motivated the group to work on bringing over a second family.

In August of that year, the Alchegade family boarded a plane for Canada to become group's second family. Their long journey to a new home had ended. Their journey into a new life was just beginning.



Mazen and Sultanah Alchegade are building a new life for their children in Nova Scotia after being forced to flee their home during Syria's violent civil war. More than 11 million people have been displaced since the conflict began in 2011.

## Rebuilding a life

Amherst is a sleepy Canadian town of about 9,000 that lies on the eastern boundary of the picturesque Tantramar Marshes, one of the largest salt marshes on the Atlantic coast. The streets surrounding its five-block-long main thoroughfare are lined with ornate Victorian homes. The nearest fast-food and grocery chains are two miles away.

While many Syrian refugees prefer to settle in Toronto or Montreal where there are more resources and jobs, the Alchahades wanted a smaller community, like the one where they had lived in Syria. There, they had land where they grew almonds and olives, and raised cows, goats, and sheep.

The family arrived in Amherst with what they could carry. Most of the furnishings in their new home, a two-bedroom apartment in a modest house on a street that dead-ends at the marshes, are donated. The four children are energetic and open with one another and the Rotary members who visit. They love playing in the snow and singing the alphabet song, which they quickly learned from English tutors who regularly visit their home. They sing it while watching TV, while playing outside, when guests come over.

The Rotary club helped connect Mazen with a job at Fundy Landscaping, which does stonework and builds retaining walls and decks. There, he is using the skills he learned doing construction in Lebanon.

"He does great work," says business owner Peter Michels. "I don't need to tell him anything twice. Everything we ask him to do, he runs with it. His skills and work ethic are very impressive."

Michels, whose parents immigrated to Canada after World War II, says he sees a little of himself in Mazen and his family.

"Everything you had is completely gone," he says. "Trying to start a new life in a place where you don't know if you're going to be accepted or if you're going to be rejected. I try to see things through his eyes. That's probably what my family went through – hoping that when they came to this country, there would be somebody to help them."

The town has rallied behind the refugee families, with teachers volunteering to tutor the kids and dentists offering free care. Mazen has earned his driver's license, and Sultanah has joined other mothers in the community for cooking classes, even leading a class on preparing Syrian dishes.

The kids are learning to ice skate, Canada's national pastime. These are small steps in the long process of integration that the club hopes will help them find their place in Canadian society. "We want them to be able to help improve this community and the country," says Wilson.

The Alchahades don't know if they will ever return to Syria. But right now, Canada is their home. This is where they want to see their children grow up.

While Mazen still struggles with English, he has no trouble finding the words to describe his dream for his children: "I want them to be pioneers."

## Upcoming Events

**Sunday 28 May: District Assembly Office Bearers Training** (Unity College, Murray Bridge)

**Sunday 18 June: OSSAA luncheon** (Glenelg Golf Club)

**Sunday 25 June: Udder Delights outing at Hahndorf**

**Tuesday 27 June: Club Changeover at Kooyonga Golf Club.**

## Our Upcoming Meetings

Date	Venue	Time	Speaker/Occasion	Chairman	Set-up & Welcome	Sergeant	Attendance
30 May	Damien on Fisher	6 for 6.30pm	<b>Hosting of Prospect Club GS - Tracey Dixon</b> (Public Trustee)	R Mullins	R Harding	TBA	G Hill
6 June	Damien on Fisher	6 for 6.30pm	<b>Debate with Hyde Park</b>	K Haines	G Hill	TBA	A Jonson
13 June	Damien on Fisher	6 for 6.30pm	<b>Sheree Dunsford</b> (Udder Delights) & <b>Stephen Bone</b>	V Bonython	A Jonson	TBA	D Liddle
20 June	Damien on Fisher	6 for 6.30pm	<b>To Be Advised</b>		D Liddle	TBA	T McGuirk
27 June	Damien on Fisher	6.30 for 7pm	<b>Changeover</b>		T McGuirk	N/A	R Mills

**Usual Meeting Venue:** Damien on Fisher, 123 Fisher Street, Fullarton SA 5063

**Apologies to:** Valerie Bonython as early as possible by e-mail [val.bony@bigpond.com](mailto:val.bony@bigpond.com) or 0499 030 945

**Meeting Chair Enquiries to:** Secretary Greg McLeod on 0417 811 838 or email to [unley.secretary@rotaryclub.org.au](mailto:unley.secretary@rotaryclub.org.au)

**Venue Set-up/Bar Enquiries to:** Bulletin Editor (substitute) David Middleton on 0417 835 564

**Attendance Desk Enquiries to:** Wendy Andrews by e-mail to [wendyjoyandrews@gmail.com](mailto:wendyjoyandrews@gmail.com) or in an emergency on 8377 7830

# Saturday Thrift Shop Roster

Week	Dates	Early Shift: 10am to 12.30pm	Late Shift: 12.30pm to 3.00pm
1	3 June 17	David Middleton & Jerry Casburn	Bob Laws & Robyn Carnachan
2	13 May 17	Greg McLeod & Pam Trimmer	Wendy Andrews & Mavis Martin
3	20 May 17	Nathan White & Vera Holt	Pam Trimmer & Ken Haines
4	27 May 17	Bob Laws & Stephen Baker	Sheila Evans & Ken Haines
5		Bob Mullins & David Pisoni	Jerry Casburn, Lachlan Reid, Reno Elms

**Rotarians, who are unable to attend as rostered, please arrange a swap or as a very last resort contact:**

Pam Trimmer (T) 8293 2612; (M) 0415 238 333; e-mail: [pamela.trimmer@bigpond.com](mailto:pamela.trimmer@bigpond.com)

## Bunnings Mile End Barbeque

**ALL the Bunnings Mile End Barbeque shifts are from 8am to 5pm (But no longer last Monday in month)**

**Next Date: Monday May 29**

**Morning shift: 8.30am – 12.30pm Afternoon shift: 12.30 – 5pm**

## On the Back Page

### 18 Goodish One-liners

1. I hate Russian dolls, they're so full of themselves.
2. I asked my North Korean friend how it was there, he said he couldn't complain.
3. I haven't talked to my wife in three weeks, I don't want to interrupt her.
4. People used to laugh at me when I would say "I want to be a comedian", well nobody's laughing now.
5. When my wife told me to stop impersonating a flamingo, I had to put my foot down.
6. My wife and I were happy for 20 years, then we met.
7. I haven't slept for three days, because that would be too long.
8. When I first got a universal remote control I thought to myself, "This changes everything."
9. My grandfather has the heart of a lion, and a lifetime ban from the zoo.
10. Say what you want about deaf people....
11. I've spent four years looking for my ex-wife's killer, but no one will do it.
12. I saw a sign that said, "Watch for Children," and I thought, "That sounds like a fair trade."
13. I refused to believe my road worker father was stealing from his job, but when I got home, all the signs were there.
14. I recently decided to sell my vacuum cleaner, all it was doing was gathering dust.
15. People say I'm condescending. That means I talk down to people.
16. You can never lose a homing pigeon – if your homing pigeon doesn't come back, what you've lost is just a pigeon.
17. Whiteboards are remarkable.
18. I was at an ATM and tis old lady asked me to check her balance for her, so I pushed her over.

