A word from the President

As we often say our best speakers come from our own membership. Last week was no exception as one of our newest members Noel Sturgeon displayed fascinating skills with the brush as he showed us how to “Meditate via Asian Art’. A few willing members tried to copy, but I suspect that frustration was more the result, rather than a calming influence.

Our RYLA candidate, Ahmed Ibrahim also attended, introducing himself and told us what he was hoping to achieve out of the RYLA camp. What an impressive young man he was!

Peter Carr mentioned about a new website. At this week's AGM it will leave enough time for him to guide us through the site. Please give it some thought and if you have some ideas for items which can be added to keep it up-to-date please do so.

November is Rotary Foundation Month and it is 100 years since outgoing Rotary President Arch Klumph proposed setting up an endowment “for the purpose of doing good in the world”.

### We are still looking for a couple of extra helpers at the barbecue on Sunday 19 November at the Malahang Reserve. We are booked in from 11.30 till 1.00. Please call me if you can help.

President Tony
WHERE ARE THEY NOW

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ray:</th>
<th>Taipei, Taiwan</th>
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<tr>
<td>Laurie:</td>
<td>Van Diemans Land</td>
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DATES TO REMEMBER

- March 5: Annual Golf Day
- March 22 – 25: District Conference Yarrawonga/Mulwala

GUEST SPEAKER – Noel Sturgeon

Noel spoke to members on the ancient art of Japanese brush painting called Sumi-e, which was brought to Japan from China via Korea by early Buddhist monks and is an art deeply rooted in Zen and therefore embodies simplicity and the concept of maximum effect with minimum means. Such works are achieved with only black ink on washi (rice paper). Using the ground ink (sumi) to achieve several variations of tones.

Much is expressed through a combination of empty space and gradations of the ink, the objective being not to recreate the subject perfectly but to capture its very essence. As the ink is indelible you have only one chance to get it right. For Noel and many other practitioners the approach to Sumi-e is one of meditation from the very beginning, in grinding the ink stick on an ink stone, preparing the washi and then with a mind cleared of all extraneous thoughts put the inked brush to paper.

Many famous Sumi-e paintings are utilised as a focal point for deep reflection and meditation by Zen Buddhist practitioners.

Noel demonstrated the process of grinding the ink and creating simple paintings using the bamboo leaf as the basic stroke for many designs. Noel has utilised this ancient art as the base for some asian inspired coloured works also.

Thank you Noel for covering such a historical subject in such a short space of time.

ATTENDANCE 13 NOVEMBER

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<th>Members</th>
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<tr>
<td>Apologies</td>
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<td>Guests</td>
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The Artist at Work

Ahmed with Barbara
My name is Ahmed Ibrahim, 23 years old, I was born in Somalia in 1994, after my parents realised that the future they wanted for us could not be achieved in Somalia, they decided to migrate to Australia in the hope of giving their children the life that they did not have.

I’m currently studying in my 2nd year of Bachelor of Arts at La Trobe Uni. majoring in Politics. The reason I have decided to study Politics is to be a voice for those people who do not have a voice, for those who do not have anything but hope like my parents when they decided to give their kids a better life even though they did not know how to do so, that is why I applied for Rotary Youth Leadership.

My hobbies include doing volunteer work at community events, and I also volunteer at helping Hoops (which is a basketball organisation that helps keep young kids, mostly African, off the streets through basketball programs).

Ahmed Ibrahim
RYLA  19 – 25 November

Hello Peter,

I trust everything is going well at the club. I have been following activities via The Cog and Facebook and am now looking forward to the new website.

I am writing now to you in your capacity of webmaster. It seems that I have been omitted from the list of members, assuming that I am still an honorary one!

Please pass on to any members who may still remember me. Sorry not to be able to attend meetings these days.

Kind regards,
Ern Lee.
Works of Art