



THE SPOKE



AN E-BULLETIN OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF JOHOR BAHRU
(District 3310 of Rotary International, Chartered on 27 June 1952)

Volume 60 Issue 08

24 August 2010

An Eventful Business Meeting



**Today's Programme:
Sen Gupta on Iskandar
Development Projects**

**Last Week : First Business
Meeting for Rotary Year
2010/2011**

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My Fellow Rotarians

This week was an eventful week with our first Business Meeting on the 17/08/2010. Various issues were discussed and it was resolved as follows :-

- i) The Installation Dinner Accounts was presented by our Treasurer Rtn Teoh Cheong Siang and was also agreed that the members need not pay for the deficit like previous years and the amount will be debited to the clubs account. The project account which includes proceed of advertisement shows a surplus of RM 27,025.00. Rtn Teoh Cheong Siang also presented the case for increase of Quarterly Dues and the members agreed to the proposed quarterly dues of RM 220.00 for the next quarter. The option to relocate our weekly meetings will also be studied periodically.
- ii) PP Leong Chee Woh also questioned the utilization of funds raised by Designated District Fund (DDF) for the last 4 years. It was agreed that three members of the club will discuss the matter and present a joint representation to the District. It was also agreed that PDG Mike Parry (Chairman of Council of Legislation) PDG Lim Hock Teik and PP Leong Chee Woh will constitute this Task Force.
- iii) The general body agreed that doors to membership for lady members to the Club is open as provided by the constitution. It was also stressed that potential lady members be "screened" and recommended by the Membership Committee.
- iv) Rtn Ranjeet presented a case for a fulltime executive secretary and presented a potential candidate's profile for the members attention.
- v) I presented a case for a DG nomination from our club as the last DG was PDG Mike Parry in 1996 but unfortunately there was no nomination.

For information of the members, please note that IPP Dr. Angamuthu and his team of Plastic Surgeons will be off to Iloilo City, Philippine from 25th August to 31st August 2010. PP Leong Chee Woh and I are accompanying the group.

Selamat Hari Raya.

Thank You.

DR. S. SIVAMOORTHY

PRESIDENT 2010 / 2011

ROTARY OF JOHOR BAHRU

EDITORS	
PP Jit Seghal (Chief)	
PP Tan Beng Sooi	
Rtn Chin Kuie Too	
Rtn Dr. Vishwadeep	
Rtn Francis Gopal	
Rtn Chua Tze Wei	

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Installation Dinner Accounts

INSTALLATION DINNER ACCOUNTS

Income

Ticket Sales	RM23,400.00
Dr.Siva Reimbursement	<u>RM 1,705.00</u>
	<u>RM25,105.00</u>
Hotel Dinner Billing	RM19,225.00
Banghra Dance	RM 3,300.00
Fashion Show	RM 2,595.00
Ticket Printing (Estimate)	RM 650.00
Tips for Palace Staff	<u>RM 250.00</u>
	<u>RM 26,020.00</u>
Deficit	RM 915.00

PROJECT FUND ACCOUNTS

Income

Advertisement (RM4,800 not received)	RM27,100.00
Donation	<u>RM 5,000.00</u>
	<u>RM32,100.00</u>

Expenditure

Souvenir Programme	RM 5,075.00
	(RM55,075.00)
Available Fund	RM27,025.00

Club Announcement



Attendance: Last week's attendance 17th August was 61.22%, Previous week's attendance 10th August was 71.43%.

Birthday Celebrants

25th August — Rtn. Ng Swee Poh
26th August — Rtn Raja Muthappan

Induction Anniversary

20th August — PP Mok Tai Dwan

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The 2010-11 RI Theme: Building Communities – Bridging Continents

“Rotary is the best in the world at linking people of goodwill around the globe and then gaining their cooperation and support to make the world a much better place to live and work.”

Ray Klinginsmith, RI President-elect
 2010 International Assembly, San Diego, California, USA



The 2010-11 RI Theme: Building Communities – Bridging Continents

“Is there any doubt this is a wonderful time to be a Rotarian? Can you think of any other organization in which you could make better use of your time and talents to make the world a truly better place?”

Ray Klinginsmith, RI President-elect
 2010 International Assembly, San Diego, California, USA

MEETING EXPENSES ESTIMATES PER QUARTER

13 meeting billings for 40 pax	X	RM 20		RM10,400.00
6 Rotaract meeting room use	X	RM100		RM 600.00
13 meetings beer consumption	X	RM44		RM 572.00
13 meetings juice consumption	X	RM33		RM 429.00
Meeting room —1				RM 132.00
Birthday Cakes - 2	X	RM40		<u>RM 80.00</u>
				RM 12,213.00
				/56 pax
Estimate Per Head				<u>RM 218.08</u>

From the treasurer: TICKKIE BOTTLE:

COLLECTION ON 10 AUGUST 2010 :

Tikkie Bottle : RM112

Happy Fund : - Nil -

Totaling : RM570 (Tikkie Bottle)

QUOTE: For us to succeed, all we need to do is to focus our best efforts on doing what Rotarians are passionate about and what Rotarians are the best in the world at doing, which is *Building Communities – Bridging Continents*

*RI President 2010/2011
Ray Klingensmith*

**FROM THE ATTENDANCE CHAIRMAN PP FRANCIS LIP :-
AS AT 17TH AUGUST 2010**

Membership	56
Excused	7
Effective	49
Present	30
Percentage	61.22%

MEMBERS CELEBRATE

AUGUST		Wedding	Induction
Name	Birthday	Anniversary	Anniversary
Tony Ong		1	
Leong Chee Woh			2
Singaraveloo		8	
Elendran			10
Jit Seghal			11
Francis Ng			12
Teoh Beng Hoe		13	
Mokkam Singh		15	
Teoh Cheng Siang	18		
Mark Chang	19		
Angamuthu			20
Sivamoorthy		20	
Ng Swee Poh	25		
Mok Tai Dwan			28
Raja Muthappan	26		

Absent Rotarians On 17th August 2010

1. PP Dato Francis Ng (Excused)
2. PP Dato Dr. Singaraveloo (Excused)
3. PP Dr. K.N Singh (Excused)
4. PP Jit Seghal (Excused)
5. PP Chang Teck Mark (Excused)
6. PP Lim Kay Hua
1. PDG John Cheah
2. PP Dato Mokkam Singh
3. PP Dev Chellam
4. PP Dr Roland Lim
5. PP Hj Mohd Noh Ibrahim
6. PP Ng Yew Mun
7. PP Yeo Ann Kiat
8. PP Datuk Kuthubul Zaman
9. PP Mok Tai Dwan
10. PP Chua Kean Num
11. Rtn Francis Gopal
12. Rtn J S Kwang
13. Rtn S Elendran
14. Dato Teo Shiok Fu
15. Rtn Dr Lee Kim Tiong
16. Rtn Liang Teh Hai
17. Rtn Alan Cheng
18. Rtn Datuk Freddie Long
19. Rtn Chua Tze Wei
20. Rtn Suki Dhillon

F&N DIGEST July 2010



Leslie Struys A Journey Well Travelled

When 22-year-old Leslie Struys responded to an advertisement for a Mercantile Assistant at F&N in 1959, little did he realize it would be the start of a 50-year relationship that would endure the test of time and is still going strong.

One of the first locals to be recruited at managerial level, Mr Struys also made corporate history when he was appointed the first local General Manager of Malaya Glass Products in 1973, eventually serving as Chief Executive of the MGP Board for a total of 24 years until his retirement in 1997.

Possibly one of the longest serving F&N employees, Mr Struys laments that the pace of today's working world has resulted in less interaction among employees after working hours. "In those days, we were truly one big family where the wives and children bonded with each other and families spent weekends together in social activities. Those days are largely gone as everyone rushes home after work."

A 'people' person, Mr Struys' philosophy in life is that one doesn't need to be ruthless or overly ambitious to get to the top. "Work hard, give your best and hopefully your efforts will be recognized and rewarded. For me personally, if those I have worked with feel I have made a difference in their lives and careers, then I am very happy."

Father of three girls, the youngest of whom is celebrity Jojo Struys, Mr Struys is enjoying retirement with his wife Irene in Johore where he resides, travelling to Kuala Lumpur for F&NHB board meetings where he serves as a Senior Independent Director, and also for judging sessions of the F&N Out-Do Yourself Award.

The following is an extract from a speech delivered by Leslie Struys at his farewell dinner in 1997 when he retired as General Manager and Director of Malaya Glass Berhad. He still maintains his Directorship of Malaya Glass and is Chairman of the Board of the Glass Operations in Thailand.

At a time when job-hopping is so commonplace and most people my age would have worked for at least two or three different companies during their lifetime, I take some pride in the fact that I have spent my entire 50 years' working life associated with just one Group of Companies, Fraser & Neave.

I remember responding to an advert for a vacancy with F&N way back in early 1959. I was only 22 years old at the time and Singapore was still a British colony. I was interviewed by Desmond Neill who was not even a Manager – he carried the modest title of Personnel Officer. The selection process was complex and protracted and required interviews with all the top five persons in the Company – Desmond together with the Company Secretary, a man called Norman Bithel, the Chief Accountant a man called Martin Richer and both General Managers (F&N had two General Managers at that time, Bill Vincent and Max Lewis). There were over 100 applications of which some 20 were called for interviews and then five were short-listed from which I was eventually the only successful candidate from that particular intake. The process took so long that it was not until the following year that I was informed that I was selected and I commenced work in River Valley Road, where Valley Park now stands, in March 1960.

My first boss, the manager of the Singapore operations, was an Australian called Walter Gawne who was a Master Printer – a



The Menteri Besar of Johor (now Deputy Prime Minister) at the opening ceremony of the Malaya Glass Sports Club on 24 June 1987.

final link to F&N's early days as a printing company. (I remember that the nickname of his driver was Ali Gawne). One of my early assignments was to organise the annual F&N Sports Day for several hundred members of the staff and their families – at that time, F&N enjoyed the rare distinction of being one of the few companies, if not the only one, in Singapore with its own sports field and stadium. During the lunch break, the caterer was dishing out the food to the staff from a large cauldron. Walter Gawne was carefully watching this and turned to me and said, "Leslie, he won't make it – there just isn't enough food!" When I asked him how he could be so sure, he replied that doling out food was his job as a prisoner of war in Changi Prison!

The reason I suppose that the selection process was so elaborate was because I belonged to the first batch of local recruits brought in at managerial level. Until then, all managers were recruited from London. The minimum qualification for local managers was a university degree – the expats had no such requirement!! I think that I was only the third such recruit. Jordan Yin was the first followed by Khoo Boon Seng and with the Head office located in Singapore, we were all Singaporeans. It was not until later, the early to mid-60's, that the first Malaysians were engaged and people like Viji Nair, John Lim, Christopher Mah, joined the company.

It was such a transitional period that there was actually some overlap between the two methods of selection. I was engaged together with the last three recruits from London, Bob Weir, Pat Baker and Robin Hill. We did our training together and we all carried that beautifully anachronistic title of Mercantile Assistant.

Those of us who attended Gerry Darwin's farewell will recall that he commented on this title which he also held. I remember telling Gerry at that dinner that we were in good company because Sir Stamford Raffles first came to Singapore as a Mercantile Assistant!

We were all on contract. Again, the term used to describe us was quaint and old fashioned – Covenanted Staff. One of the rules was that you were not permitted to marry during the first contract and when you eventually did marry, you had to first inform the Company. In 1963 I was working in Ipoh when I informed the Company that I was getting married. The then Assistant General Manager, Douglas Fraser, came up to Ipoh to have dinner with me and meet my fiancée. My colleagues who had been through

this process before warned me that this was no social event. They said, "Look here Les, he's checking your girl out". I remember warning Irene not to attack me violently during the dinner as that would have spelt the end of my career at F&N!

The contract for expatriates was even more stringent. They were not permitted to marry local girls, and if they did so their employment was terminated and they were sent back to U.K. The first F&N expatriate to be allowed to marry an Asian was Paddy Cronin who married an Indonesian girl. This time Desmond Neill who was Company Secretary at the time, had to fly to Indonesia to check her out and then report back to Head Office. In this modern day and age, it seems incredible that such bizarre practices could have existed.

It is worthy mentioning that F&N at that time was surprisingly quite a small company. The year I joined, 1960, the General Manager Max Lewis, opened a bottle of champagne in his office to celebrate the fact that F&N had reached, for the first time, an annual profit of \$2 million. If you were to chart F&N's progress on a graph over the past 127 years, since 1883, its growth would not be a straight ascending line. It would in fact be remarkably flat and unexciting until only the last 20 to 30 years when the graph would escalate steeply and go through the roof. The growth achieved by F&N during recent years had been nothing short of spectacular.

One of the greatest pleasures I have derived during the past 50 years has been to see how well so many of my Assistants have fared in life. In 1966, when I was Plant Manager in Singapore, my Assistant was Eugene Yap who became a Mayor and Deputy Speaker in Singapore. Indeed, one of those working for me at that time today carries the illustrious title of "Tengku Bendahara of Perlis". Not to mention that he is also the Chairman of F&N Holdings! Many of my former Assistants also stayed the course with the Company. When I set up the F&N bottling plant more than 40 years ago in Johore, my Sales Manager was Foo Mun Hoy; my Plant Manager was Fadzakhir and my Engineer was Lo Kien Sen. Others include Tony Low, Lee Kee Hock, Koh Ah Bah and Lim Teow Wan. They all served with distinction for many years and have made significant contributions to the growth of the Company.

One of the good things which has emerged from the restructuring of the Malaysian operations is the fact that F&N Holdings is



The young 29 year old Branch Manager of Johor with the late Sultan Ismail at the opening of the new Tampoi bottling plant in 1967.

A Journey Well Travelled — Continues

2010

nine...



Young Struys listening intently to the Chairman Tan Chin Tuan in this undated photo. However, from the old fashioned designs of the spectacles seen in the photo, it was obviously taken a long time ago.

now closely associated with PNB which is one of the biggest and most respected organizations in the country. Perhaps I am biased because the Chairman of PNB, Ahmad Sarji, now a Tun, is a very old friend – we were classmates over 50 years ago in University. I see great synergy between the two Companies and I haven't the slightest doubt that the F&N/PNB combination will

take the Company to even greater heights. Similarly, Temasek's investment in F&N Ltd is also personally most satisfying to me since its Chairman S. Dhanabalan is also a very old friend and university mate.

I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Irene who has been a perfect long-suffering corporate wife, very supportive and having to endure frequent changes and relocations to places like Ipoh, KL and Johor with small children in tow. It is not easy to up-root a young family, settle down in a new place, only to go through the process all over again a few years later. It has often been said, that "behind every successful man is a hysterical woman, tearing her hair out". My wife Irene certainly fits the bill.

There was one occasion when the family was really put to the test. At the height of the May 13th affair in 1969, we were staying at the Manager's bungalow in Tampoi, Johor. It was very isolated and surrounded by verdant jungle and some vegetable farms. I received an urgent call from the CPO of Johor warning me that they expected trouble and that I should immediately get my family out of there. Irene had to bundle the kids into her car in the middle of the night and go down to Singapore where she spent the next week in a friend's house until the danger had passed. As it happened, there was no rioting in Johor and indeed Johor was the only State during that time which never had a curfew. Also, the F&N Johor branch was the only one in the country that stayed continuously in production. The only precaution I took was to advise my mobile sales staff who usually covered the entire state to confine their activities to only the urban areas along the major roads, and to avoid remote isolated locations. Thankfully we encountered no trouble at all.

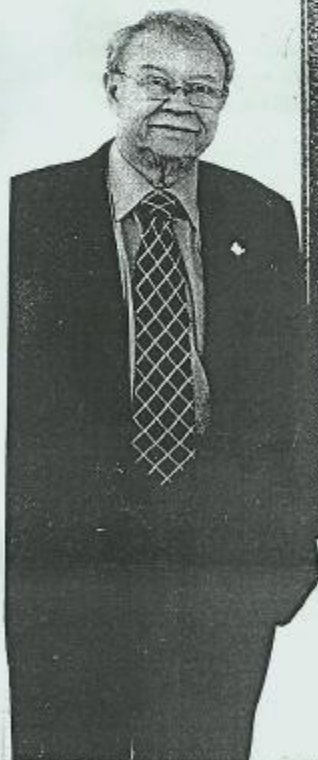
Earlier the Tampoi OCPD had called me to say that several hundred police personnel had been deployed to Johor Bahru from KL. He asked if he could house them in our large F&N warehouse near Tampoi Village. Of course I readily agreed to which he said that he was happy that I had agreed because he would have moved them into the warehouse regardless of whether I agreed or not – I never did ask him if he was serious or joking when he said this! These were certainly exciting times, the Police eventually vacated our warehouse and returned to KL happily without seeing any action.

Finally, if there is any message I can leave behind, it is this – F&N has painstakingly over the years built a hard earned reputation for being caring and people-orientated. It would be a great shame if we should lose this. I refuse to accept the premise that a Company grows too big to be able to continue to maintain its sense of humanity. Some of the largest corporations in the world, like IBM, are renowned for being people-orientated so if they can do it, so can we. I have always believed that the three greatest assets that any company possesses are people, people and people. You forget this and you are reduced to a cold, uninspiring, money-making machine. You must never let this happen to F&N.

I will always watch the progress of F&N with much pride and affection and I wish those of you entrusted with guiding this great Company through the 21st Century, good luck and every success in the future.



An antique Fraser & Neave signboard which Leslie Struys bought for RM400 from Jonker Street, Melaka.





Blood Donation Drive At Sutera Mall



Every three seconds someone needs blood; perhaps one day that someone will be you or someone you love. Those of us blessed with good health can share it through donating blood to enable a premature baby to live, a burn victim to recover, a cancer patient to be treated, an accident victim to survive, or a transplant candidate to have a life-giving surgery. This ongoing need is felt by our area hospitals and patients.

Therefore, Rotary Club of Johor Bahru, Rotary Club of Johor Centennial and the Red Crescent Society Johor Bahru Branch had lend a hand by organizing a Blood Donation as well as Organ Donation on the 8th August 2010. 258 donors signed in for Blood donation but 188 bags of blood was collected and channeled to the Blood Bank of Sultanah Aminah Hospital Johor Bahru. 30 people pledged their organs on that day as well.

The primary motivation for the Rotarians to organise this blood donation drive came as a result of appeals from the Blood Bank of Hospital Aminah for people to donate during the fasting month to replenish its stock. The Hospital normally needs 70 – 100 pints of blood daily and the amount needed would increase if there was a dengue outbreak.

The marketing blitz by Rotarians was by word of mouth and distribution of specially designed brochures with Rotary symbols to all factories, government agencies and NGO's. Five banners were put up at strategic corners around Johor Bahru which added to the visibility of Rotary's involvement in community service.

General requirement to be a blood donor is as follows:-

- * Age between 16 and 60 years old;
- * Weigh at least 45 kg;
- * Have a haemoglobin level of at least 12.5 g/dl;
- * Are in generally good health;
- * Have not had any symptoms of infection for at least 1 week e.g. sore throat, cough, runny nose, diarrhea;
- * and Have not had a fever in the last 3 weeks.

The event was officiated by our Member of Parliament Gelang Patah Division YB Tan Ah Eng. The objective of this project is to ensure adequate and clean blood supply is provided to government hospitals for the benefit of the General public. The event kicked off at 10 am in the morning and ended at 5pm. The overwhelming response from the public was the key success factor of this project. "In these tough economic times, sometimes people don't have the dollars to donate to a worthy cause. However, with these blood drives, we ask our community to give something more precious than money. Said Dinesh Shanker , President of Rotary Club of Johor Centennial.

It's important for everyone to understand that each pint collected can save up to 3 lives. That's potentially 126 lives that will be changed by the recent actions of our members, employees and local residents." Said Dr Sivamoorthy President of Rotary Club of Johor Bahru.

Meanwhile, Paliative Care of Johor Bahru had also exhibits lined up to create awareness to the people. A free medical screening was also done the blood donation side sponsored by Wellness Laboratory Sdn Bhd.

This is the first joint project done by both Rotary Club of Johor Bahru and Rotary Club of Johor Centennial. A good co-operation between both clubs and tireless effort from their members' collaboration with the Red Crescent Society brought remarkable success to this project.

