



# THE RIGHT WHEEL

## WEEKLY BULLETIN OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF CHATSWOOD

CLUB 18011 DISTRICT 9680  
CHARTERED 29TH JULY 1948

---

---

**VOL.62 Iss. 35 10<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2010**

**THE ROTARY CLUB OF CHATSWOOD  
INC.**

**ROTARY INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT 2009-2010**

**JOHN KENNY**

[HTTP://WWW.ROTARY.ORG/PRESIDENT/](http://www.rotary.org/president/)

P.O. Box 138  
CHATSWOOD N.S.W. 2057  
AUSTRALIA



**MEETS WEDNESDAYS AT 6.00 FOR 6.30**

**P.M. AT:**

**ROSEVILLE MEMORIAL CLUB  
64 PACIFIC HWY  
CNR MACLAURIN PDE  
ROSEVILLE N.S.W. 2069  
PHONE (02) 9419-6849**

**DISTRICT 9680 GOVERNOR 2009-2010**

**JOHN CAMERON**

<http://www.chatswoodrotary.org.au/index.html>

<http://www.rotarydistrict9680.org.au/>

<http://rotarynews.info/Club4202/r.i>

---

---

### ***HOSTING OUR GERMAN GSE FRIENDS***



***Bettina, Stefan, Sabrina, Carlotta, Steffen & Heinrich***

This past week has seen a tremendous effort on behalf of a large percentage of our Club to ensure that the visit to Sydney by the members of the *GSE Team* from Rotary **Distrikt 1830** based on Stuttgart, Germany has begun as successfully as possible.

**District 9680 GSE Chair,**  
our own Membership

Director, Rtn Michael MacQuillan, has been having a most busy year. It is good to see his Chatswood Rotary colleagues supporting him so strongly.

As well as the four Members and their families who have been hosting our German GSE Team, others have arranged the professional visits, chauffeured the Team members around our beautiful city and introduced them to many of the wonderful experiences Sydney has on offer. Even David Greenwood whose induction is in a couple of weeks' time used his WESTPAC connections in the CBD to ensure fellow banker Stefan Wiedemann met the right people.

## THE GROUP-STUDY EXCHANGE PROGRAM IN ACTION

Those of us during the past few years participating enthusiastically in the **Torheiden German Quiz** we have come to associate with Oktoberfest may have begun to believe that they were beginning to develop a substantial body of knowledge about **Deutschland**, as the locals know it, or **Germany** as we call it, following the Roman name, *Germania*.

The excellent Presentation delivered by the **GSE Team** to our Club last Wednesday night quickly demonstrated to us just how considerable our ignorance remained on the topic of **Germany**.

All they had to do was switch the focus one State west, from Bavaria [*Bayern*] and Munich [*Munchen*] to their own **Baden-Wurtemberg** and its capital, **Stuttgart**, to demonstrate just how much we still had to learn.

With great efficiency, and style, each of the six Members of the GSE Team took one aspect of their Presentation to tutor the Chatswood Members and their Guests in the world that is Baden-Wurtemberg. And very impressive it was.

Their State [*Land*] with about ten million inhabitants [*about half Australia's*] ranks eighth amongst Germany's sixteen States [*Lander*]. It is in the south-west of Germany, bordering France to the west and Switzerland to the south.



PP **Heinrich Reuss**, the GSE Team Leader, using concentric circles centred on Stuttgart, showed very clearly the compactness of Europe to Australian eyes whereby a 400 km sweep included Luxemburg and Austria as well as Switzerland, and the 800km circle [*Sydney to Melbourne*] embraced not only Paris and London but also Budapest, Zagreb, Rome and Copenhagen.

Heinrich emphasised how business is assisted by the easy communications and transport, not to mention the Euro-zone for those countries who are members with Germany.

In terms of Rotary, Germany contains fourteen Districts, 967 Clubs and 49 100 Members. His home Distrikt 1830 contains fifty Clubs and a total Membership of 2 850.

Like Australia, Germany is structured as a Federation with sixteen States rather than our six States and two mainland Territories. The Head of the German Federal Republic is President Horst Kohler and the Head of Government is the first female Chancellor, Angela Merkel.

Bettina Mueller, a social worker working with youth who are having an adverse time, spoke to the German education-system that sees early testing at ten years of age deciding on the child's placement in Grammar School for the most accomplished academically, leading to University, or in Basic Secondary School [heading towards apprenticeships] or Medium Secondary School [which can lead to a specialised Secondary School].

Children with significant handicaps can be placed in a Special School at six years of age until they are sixteen.

Bettina assured us that the System is not as rigid as it looks on paper and many children who do miss out on *Grammar School* at ten years of age do later have the opportunity of a university education. Certainly, if the testing at ten was the sole criterion for later university placement, then Germany would be squandering the talent of a significant portion of its nation.

Steffen Rothmer who has an automotive background took us on an overview of the Baden-Württemberg Economy. The main industries are automotive engineering, machinery and mechanical tooling, electrical engineering, and data processing.

He highlighted familiar logos such as those for Mercedes-Benz, Porsche, Bosch, SAP computer software and TRUMPF [Machine and Power tools, Lasers, Electronics and Medical Technology].

In keeping with her HR background in an automotive company with 40 000 employees, Sabrina Hassa took on the task of highlighting **firsts** in her home territory. She showed us the world's first television tower based in Stuttgart. It looked like our Centrepont with a TV transmitting tower stretching way above the observation deck.



**Our GSE Guests: Bettina Mueller, Steffen Rothmer, Sabrina Hassa, Carlotta Thumm, Stefan Wiedemann & PP Heinrich Reuss [Leader]**

Other impressive sights were the State Gallery with its mix of old and new architecture, the quite futuristic looking Mercedes-Benz Museum, the magnificent Hohenzollern Castle that once belonged to the Royal Family forced to abdicate in

1918, the fairytale Lichtenstein Castle, Ludwigsburg Palace [based on Versailles] and the Solitude Palace [with hints of secret pleasures].

Carlotta Thumm, Assistant City Manager in Local Government in Stuttgart drew our attention to the architecture of houses, some of them 13<sup>th</sup> Century, and the vineyards of the region. Famous cultural figures born locally were listed such as brilliant Frederick Schiller in Literature. Arts and Music are also very key elements of life in Stuttgart.

Stefan Weidemann at the cutting edge in electronic banking took on describing the role of Sport to us. He stressed the huge part Football [Soccer] plays in their leisure hours. Germany has not one but three national Soccer leagues. They won the World Cup in 1954, 1974 and 1990, making them one of the three most successful teams. Germany has hosted the Summer Olympics in 1936 and 1972, the Winter Olympics in 1936 and the Soccer World Cup in 1974 and 2006. Boris Becker and Steffi Graf, Michael Schumacher, and Franz Beckenbauer were mentioned as some of the sporting greats.

We were impressed!

**TEXT:** *PP Gerard Say*

**PHOTOS:** *Rtn Richard Binns PHF*