

Bulletin

Rotary Club of Prahran



Meets Monday
Mt Erica Hotel
Corner High Street and Williams Road
Prahran
12.45 For 1PM Luncheon 6.30 for 7.00 Second Monday of Month
Website: www.rotaryprahran.org
Email: prahran@districtrotary9800.org.au
Prahran Chartered 27th December 1955

President	Graeme Newton
Vice President	Peter Angwin
Secretary	Helen Robbins
Treasurer	John Harris
Bulletin Editor	Pike Peters

Previous Meeting:

Guest Speaker: Jason Sprague – *Collecting Natural History*
Guests Lana Newton, Terry Russell, Margaret Plowright, Jan Rosenberg, Lynne Damman, Rosemary Heeps, Ruth Barton
Apologies Peter Angwin, Andrea Walton, Doug Crittenden, Hal Levy, Lewis Woolf, Richard Hardham, Reiner Klapp, Stephen Smith

Make Ups

Mt.
Erica



Sauvignon Blanc

750ml

13.5% Alc/Vol 8.3 standard drinks
Preservative 220 added
Mt Erica Hotel
Cnr High St & Williams Rd
Prahran Victoria 3181

No. 2368 – Monday 20th July 2009

12.45 PM for a 1.00 PM Start

Reception
Cashier:

H Robbins
P Peters



13th July 2009

Speaker

Jason Sprague

Chairman

John Plowright

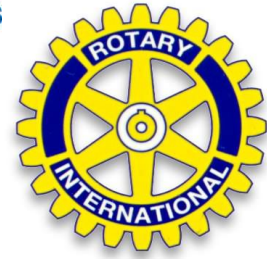
Collecting Natural History



Jason Sprague gave a fascinating and animated talk about his collecting bringing many precious examples for us to see (and use to prop up our computer – more on that later).

Jason's fascination with collecting started at age 4 with shells collected from the shores of Westernport and Port Phillip Bays. This early start saw his shell collection grow to some 35,000 samples before he sold his collection which has been split and is now housed at the Santa Barbara California Museum and the British Museum. He now collects fewer specimens from a wider range of objects from nature, as well as Biedermeier Furniture and antiques.

The tradition of collecting dates back to the German aristocrats who kept rare and expensive objects in their Wunderkammer (cabinets of wonder) in the 18th Century as the great explorers brought natural objects back to Europe. The English joined in with Sloane who made drinking chocolate with the Cadbury family collecting enough stuff to start the collection for the British Museum. This tradition of wanting to amass objects of beauty continues with Jason part of this rarified crowd.



Seashell collecting has been changed by deep sea fishing – once very rare objects are now more common. In fact the 19th Century Japanese ricepaper copies of some rare shells are now far more valuable than the shells themselves.

In Victoria we have one of the most desired bi-valves (centre of photo above) which collectors around the world pay top dollar to have in their collections.

There is a lot of money to be made (and spent) on collecting natural history. Shells can command huge prices, but the 'king' of all purchases was a nearly complete Tyranosaurus Rex skeleton which fetched \$8.6 Million at auction. Cowrie shells by contrast can command about 3500 Euro.

Other great collectables include plates made of animals during the late 19th Century – Jason shared one of a Pipefish from his collection. Jason also brought a 1628 edition of Roberto Bellamini's Psalms – housed in a large box that we unwittingly used to prop up Terry's computer for the slideshow!!



The Book....



2,800 year old bowl from the Indus Valley.



Jason works with the large auction houses in auctioning Natural History. He will be assisting Bonham's in New York with a seashell sale in December this year.

The question of provenance came up in questions – this is a very important area, especially with Internet trading of rare objects – and no doubt the subject of another talk. Jason was a fascinating speaker.



Stephanie Petrillo (Ambassadorial Scholar 2005-06) marries at the US Naval Academy. Pamela Buxton and Terry Russell attended Stephanie's wedding and shared these photos with the club. Great to see where Rotary can take us when we share with the young beneficiaries of our programs...





For the 2009/2010 Rotary Year
Night Meetings will be held on the following dates
So please update your diaries, iphones & Blackberries

2090

10th August

21st September with the DG attending

12th October

9th November

14th December Doug's 50th year in Rotary

2010

8th February (2010)

12th April

10th May

2010 ROTARY SUBSCRIPTION IS DUE!

\$310 TO JOHN HARRIS PLEASE!



Incoming Speakers

13th July - Jason Sprague – Collecting Natural History

Forthcoming Events

For District News, please go to: www.rotarydistrict9800.org.au

Bridge Club Roster:

<u>July</u>	<u>August</u>
	4 Hal Levy
	11 Helen Robbins
21 Eric Cohen	18 Andrea Walton
28 Geoff Heeps	25 Jim Smith

	<u>20.07.09</u>	<u>27.07.09</u>	<u>03.08.09</u>	<u>10.08.09 Night</u>
House	H Robbins	T McCarthy	J Mahon	P Angwin
Committee	P Peters	J Mahon	P Angwin	A Walton
Duty	J Smith	P Schneider	J Plowright	J Morey
Bulletin:	P Peters	P Peters	P Peters	P Peters

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