

the

# networker

April 2017 - Issue 18

rotarydistrict9800.com.au

## A Century of Doing Good

### INSIDE

Connecting Communities  
- Serving Humanity

Fellowship of Flying  
Rotarians

DIK's 500th Container

# Rotary

District 9800



APRIL IS MATERNAL & CHILD HEALTH MONTH

## DG Neville John's Message



***Rotary's Area of Focus for April:  
Maternal and Child Health***

### **District Conference 2017 – Connecting Communities – Serving Humanity**

The conference theme '**Connecting Communities – Serving Humanity**' focused on social cohesion, inclusion and community resilience. We know why these things are so fundamentally important to the wellbeing of our society, and we know that generations of Australians have worked hard over many years to build a reputation for being inclusive, welcoming people who give others a fair go and are generous in helping those less fortunate.

Pre-conference started with a choice of activities including a Community Connection Settlement journey conducted by local welfare organisation, Kildonan, an historical walking tour of Shepparton and the 'hysterical' walking tour at the Shepparton Golf Club. That evening we gathered at the McIntosh Centre for the 'Tastes of Harmony' welcome function, featuring seven different cultural foods and local wines provided by local sponsor, **Tallis Wines**. Many thanks to **Shepparton South Rotary** for their wonderful support and assistance with this event.

The conference kicked off with the **Victorian Minister for Multicultural Affairs, Robin Scott** declaring that Rotary has a leadership role to play in helping newcomers settle in our communities, and encouraged us to host more 'Taste of Harmony' type events locally.

**RI Director Noel Trevaskis** enlightened us on what Rotary needs to do to be more attractive to the next generation of future Rotarians, with his description of some incumbents bringing howls of agreement and laughter. **Human Rights Commissioner Kristen Hilton** talked about the importance of listening and looking at things through someone else's eyes. We learned that Kristen had been a Rotary Exchange student to Denmark and in describing how much that had meant to her, shared her emotion when she said 'thank you, you changed my life.' Sorry we forgot to put tissues in your conference bags. - **Continued** -



***DG Neville John and Rebecca***



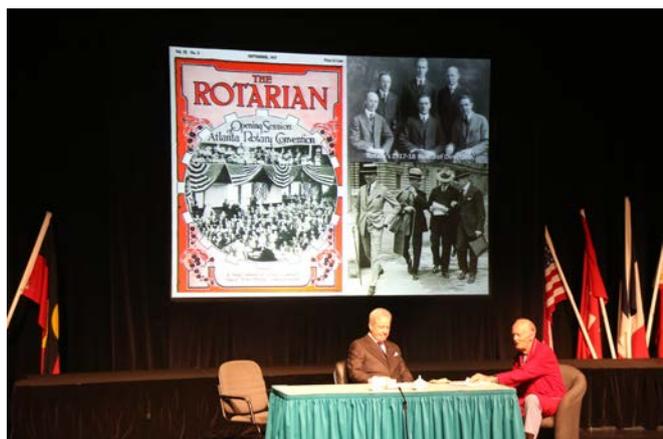
***"Welcome to Country"  
by Bouchier Street Primary School***

## DG Neville John's Message

Local entrepreneurs, **Andrew Fairley and Adam Furphy** discussed the collaborative partnerships that are being developed to provide positive outcomes on community issues, as did sponsor, **National Australia Bank**. There is no doubt that Rotary has a place in these partnerships and we should be talking to our local leaders to make that happen.

Journalist, **Hannah McDonald** interviewed the partners in the Cleeland United Soccer Club, where one person's idea became something that benefited the community, by leveraging that idea through Victoria Police, Chadstone East Malvern Rotary, Melbourne Victory Soccer Club and other community networks.

**The Rotary Foundation** was back on stage to highlight 100 years of 'Doing Good in the World', as they transported back in time, Arch Klumpf and Paul Harris, as we listened in on their plans for the Foundation from many years ago. Well done to **Greg Ross** (aka Arch) and **Gabe Hau** (the centurion) with a high commendation to scriptwriter, **PDG Dennis Shore**.



Former Foundation alumni, **Alexandra Ridgeway, Stephanie Woollard and Charlie Allen** were all keynote speakers who respectively shared their important work, which has benefited from their respective Foundation scholarships.

We asked you to note down your thoughts and ideas and share them throughout the conference using #Tagboard. These are your ideas to take away and develop into interesting projects, that engage your members, your community, and local stakeholders such as government, schools,

emergency services – any person or organisation who is at the coal face in the community.

The auditorium rose to give a standing ovation after hearing an inspiring presentation from **Marcus Akuhata-Brown** on how courage is about challenging your beliefs and stepping outside your comfort zone to grow and help others, and the importance of connection to community and place.



And then we watched and heard something else very special. The combined choirs of the **Dhungala Children's, St Paul's Lutheran and the Melbourne Singers of Gospel**, accompanied by Wiradjuri Soprano **Shauntai Batzke**, and led by **Michael Lapina and Deborah Cheetham AO**, filled with the stage with over 100 choristers for the finale. It looked the perfect picture to bring together two days of conversations and discussion about social cohesion and resilience.

= *Continued* -



**Photos: "Arch C. Klumph" and "Paul Harris"**  
**Exchange Students and Flag Ceremony.**  
**The Combined Choirs.**

## DG Neville John's Message

If we are here to serve; and if we are involved in Rotary to make a difference, then we need to find out the needs of our community. If we do, our projects will be interesting and people will be engaged and more will want to be part and remain part of what we do. Remember, every Rotary project starts with one person's idea!

**Thank you to Conference Chair, Kevin Love, our wonderful MC Koren Harvey, Artistic Director Michael Lapina, the Organising Committee, including members of Rotary Central Melbourne and Melbourne Park, plus two amazingly talented performers, Ian Hovey from Werribee and Peter Shephard from Altona.** The speakers and artists each made their contributions by expanding on the conference theme. and we all walked away with some work to do. Thank you to everyone who attended for supporting the future of Rotary.



**Photos: DG Neville welcoming DGN Grant and Melissa Hocking to the Conference Dinner. Our peripatetic photographer, Bronwyn Fanning.**

## The Rotary Foundation Centennial Celebration – 31 May 2017

Last edition I provided more information about The Rotary Foundation Centennial Celebration. Brochures and Bequest forms have been emailed to all Club Presidents. As you know, I am hoping that by the time we get to celebrate this event, and with your help that we will sign up more than \$1 million in bequest pledges. Maybe you have already identified the Foundation as a beneficiary in your Will but not advised them. This is the time to do so by completing a bequest pledge form and have your intentions included in the 100-year anniversary. Contact Foundation Chair Dennis Shore for more information.

We are well on the way to achieving our objective and with your help, it will become a reality. There won't be another 1000-year anniversary in our lifetime but we can ensure the wonderful work that the Foundation supports will continue for another 100 years.

## Youth Exchange Inbound Hosting – 2017 – 2018

Each July, the current inbound exchange students return home and the next group arrives. I have had the pleasure of getting to know all of this year's students and say without exception that they are a credit to themselves. We saw at the Shepparton Conference how Youth Exchange changed the lives of Kristen Hilton, Mandy Drury and Peta Credlin, all of them successful in their respective careers, and each of them saying how they owed a debt of gratitude to Rotary. In a world that needs more understanding between countries, Rotary Youth Exchange remains relevant. I hope that every cluster in the District might talk about hosting one inbound student. It should be possible if we think about what we heard from the people that I mentioned above. Contact Youth Exchange Chair, Gabrielle Morgan if you, your club or your cluster is interested in hosting.

*Neville John*

**District Governor 2016-2017**

***Lots of Conference photos are available at:***  
<https://goo.gl/photos/v2hzYd2ZCrXPG1hq9>

***The Conference Finale Video is at:***  
<http://www.rotaryconference.org.au>











## Rotarians impacting the lives mothers and children

By Melissa Willis, Rotarian Action Group for Population and Development

The **Rotarian Action Group for Population and Development (RFPD)** serves as a resource for clubs and districts around the world in the area of maternal and child health. The most challenging aspect of RFPD's work is the simple fact that this isn't an issue that can be resolved in merely five or ten years. It's an ongoing effort with limitless opportunities to impact women and girls worldwide.

RFPD has established and will continue to maintain a database of population based projects. A number of projects have already been completed and provide direct benefit to less developed parts of the world. Our pilot project *Improvement of Maternal Health* (2005-2010) in northern Nigeria, funded in part by the Rotary Foundation, the German government (BMZ) and the Aventis Foundation, was a comprehensive approach and has been scaled up in three additional states of Nigeria.

Our 5-year-pilot project focused on the two northern states of Nigeria, Kaduna and Kano, with a target group of five million women. Our goal was to identify main risk factors for pregnant women and address them through advocacy and raising awareness at the grass roots level. The elements of our comprehensive approach included radio segments, training of healthcare personnel, delivery of medical equipment, improving the quality of structure and process of healthcare facilities and providing routine HIV/AIDS testing to prevent mother-to-child transmission.

Improving the quality of structure and process in hospitals is a prerequisite to improve the health of women and children. Our activities were aimed to establish an Institute of Quality Assurance in Obstetrics by:

- 1 Analyzing the structure of the hospitals.
- 2 Raising the quality of obstetrical services by making operating theatre and delivery rooms functional.
- 3 Training doctors and midwives to improve the quality of process and outcome for maternal and child health.

We selected ten hospitals in Kaduna and Kano State to participate in data collection of maternal and child mortality, and maternal disorders during pregnancy and delivery. The data provides profound insight and continuous awareness. It also stimulates discussions among doctors and midwives on preventing maternal mortality. Once the quality of services in hospitals and staff is ensured, the next step is raising awareness among the population on the improved maternal health services. With the help of culturally sensible media campaigns, women will learn about the availability and advantage of improved health services. As a result, they will seek reproductive health services before and during delivery.

In addition, RFPD initiated and supported clubs working on a project in Pakistan that addresses family planning within its borders. Pakistan's opportunities for education, employment and access to good health care are being challenged due to the country's continuously growing population. Approximately one fourth of Pakistani women wish to delay the birth of their next child, and despite considerable demand for family planning, lack of services and contraceptives only contribute to the rising population crisis. This project is also being replicated in Ethiopia.

The main objective of RFPD in the coming year is to communicate the importance of sustainability. While many clubs and districts implement meaningful and worthwhile projects, they are unable to sustain the projects long term due to limited revenue streams and limited volunteers. RFPD has made it our goal to lead by example by ensuring that our projects are sustainable long term.



## Waging a lyrical war against FGM

By Renate van der Zee

**Rapper Sister Fa has helped end the practise in her home village, but her sights are set on the whole of Senegal.**

She doesn't remember how old she was when it happened. Was she four years old, or maybe five? She just can't recall. But 33-year-old Fatou Mandiang Diatta does remember the iron grip of the women who held her down, the blood that spattered her feet, and the terrible pain between her legs.

And it wasn't just the pain she felt. There was the shock and confusion. Why was she being punished so badly when she hadn't done anything wrong?

Decades have passed since Diatta underwent female genital mutilation (FGM) as a young girl in Senegal, but the pain and trauma have remained with her ever since.

Now an activist, rapper and singer, performing under the stage name Sister Fa, she is fighting back against a practise that, according to the World Health Organisation, violates the basic human rights of more than 125 million women worldwide in just Africa and the Middle East.

And one of the foremost ways in which she does this is simply by not keeping quiet about a subject which, in many countries, is still considered taboo.

Slender, energetic, and with a ready smile, Diatta talks openly about it. "The turning point in my life came when I was about 14 years old," she says. Two baby girls in her village had just undergone FGM. To disinfect their wounds they were wrapped in chlorine-soaked diapers.

"The mothers thought the babies cried so hard because they were cut," she says. In fact, the chlorine "was burning their delicate flesh away".

When the wounds became badly infected, the mothers didn't take their daughters to a hospital. Fearing that they would be imprisoned for a practise that is illegal in Senegal, they instead tried using the leaves from a tree believed to be medicinal. The girls died, Diatta says.

"We all cried when we saw the little dead body," she recalls. "It was the first time I saw a dead person. It made a deep, deep impression on me. And it made me think. I was only a teenager, but I realised something was seriously wrong. How could a tradition be honoured and respected if it made little babies suffer so much?"

This summer, Diatta worked with World Vision to help educate health workers, teachers, and local artists who will visit villages to talk about female genital mutilation. "They will continue my work because I can't change the world on my own."



"If I wanted to," she says, "I could have reconstructive surgery. There is a clinic here in Berlin that specialises in it. The health insurance pays the costs."

Apart from such surgery, women who've undergone genital mutilation also need to be restored psychologically.

"When it comes to this psychological reconstruction, I have been my own surgeon. I have healed myself by talking to people, by telling my story, by telling young girls: 'They have violated your rights; make sure you don't do this to your own children,'" she says.

"I don't need reconstructive surgery any more. I have accepted that I am an incomplete woman. I am okay now, and I truly believe that one day Senegal will be free of female genital cutting." She smiles. "And I will live to see it."

Full Story:

<http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/features/2015/10/fgm-senegal-sister-fa-151015113021192.html>

## ROTARY FELLOWSHIPS

*By Mike McFarlane, The International Fellowship of Flying Rotarians*

**Fellowship is a word very frequently used in Rotary circles but how many new, and even long-term experienced members are aware of the many "Rotary Fellowships" available?**

Perhaps another one of Rotary's best-kept secrets! Rotary Fellowships are very friendly, independent, social groups that share a common passion. Being part of a fellowship is a fun way to extend your Rotary friends around the world.

One such example is the **International Fellowship of Flying Rotarians**, or as it is more commonly known "IFFR", which has been facilitating Rotary aviation friendships all around the world for some 52 years.

The International Fellowship of Flying Rotarians was formally organised in Seattle, Washington, U.S.A. on 1st January 1965 through the efforts of Mr E. "Edison" Kennell.

IFFR is a group of Rotarians dedicated to promoting Rotary and aviation as an opportunity for fellowship and service. The goal of IFFR is to achieve a better understanding of Aviation among non-flying Rotarians and others, through appropriate Rotary Club programs, planned flying events known as Fly-Ins and flying activities.



***Member's front row general aviation parking Charters Towers***

Many IFFR members fly their own personal airplane often supporting local or international charities. Some members donate their time, funds and aircraft to provide help via "Angel Flight" to socially disadvantaged folk in regional areas requiring ongoing medical support.

Typically, there are two, regular Fly-Ins per year. These events incorporate Executive

meetings, an Annual General Meeting and a General Members meeting. They are normally brief, typically held on the Friday evening and followed by fellowship. The fellowship continues all day Saturday and Sunday, usually enjoying a coach tour of the local area and sharing the Saturday night dinner with a local Rotary Club.

In October 2016, an enthusiastic group of thirty-two Australian IFFR members, plus our future IFFR World President 2018-20 Phil Pacey and Judy, made their respective ways to the tropical city of Townsville in Far North Queensland. It was an action packed weekend full of fun and fellowship mixed with just a hint of frivolity with everyone enjoying the local sights, sounds and the many culinary delights.



***IFFR Members enjoying a bush "High Tea" in Far North Queensland***

IFFR members either drove, flew in the big kerosene canaries, or arrived in a cross-section of light aircraft from all around Australia. Six aircraft arrived in Townsville just before lunch on the Friday after flying in convoy around Queensland from Hervey Bay via Emerald and Charters Towers.

The Fly-Ins are held at different locations around Australia with the two 2017 events planned for:

- Wagga Wagga, NSW on 21 -23 April 2017
- Launceston, TAS on 13 - 15 October 2017

Flying in from Denmark for the Tassie Fly-In will be the current World International IFFR President Svend Andersen and Carina.

So, if you are a Rotarian, or a former Rotarian and have a passion for aviation then this is the Fellowship for you. For more information please see the website at [www.ifrr.org.au](http://www.ifrr.org.au)

## A family matter: saving Papua New Guinea's mothers

A doctor in Papua New Guinea finds that involving men in family planning is the key to reducing maternal mortality. [Report](#) courtesy of Aljazeera's [Women Make Change](#) series.

Dr Edith Kariko and her colleagues in Papua New Guinea are dedicated to bringing information about family planning options to villagers in the Highlands region.

In these remote villages, which lie many kilometres from a paved road, people have to travel long distances to find family planning assistance.



The result is that families are often larger than either the women or men want, and bearing more than four children presents a significantly increased risk of maternal mortality.

It also means that women are less able to obtain paid work, it becomes harder for children to go to school, and the land gets divided into ever small parcels between the kids.

Kariko's family planning team use creative techniques such as comedy theatre to get the message across about the options available.

Many of the men end up choosing to get a vasectomy, a simple five-minute operation. In the past few years, there has been a 7,000 percent increase in vasectomies and in this film we follow a man as he makes a choice about going ahead with the operation.

As we follow the work of Kariko and her team we also track the hard economic data and research that indicates the effects of family planning and its impact on the wider community and the country at large.



***When we talk about sex, or sexual reproductive health, it's a taboo and very sensitive area. What we try to do is add comedy, because there's a lot of dirty jokes in the society and people respond to it. - Dr. Edith Kariko***

## Birth for Humankind

By Lesley McCarthy, Rotary Club of Flemington

Twenty years ago, Olivia Mei Swan was a year 10 student at University High School in Parkville. She dreamt of becoming an Astro Physicist and studied hard at her science units.

She was introduced to Rotary Youth Exchange by a friend's father, a member of the Rotary Club of Flemington. After discussions with her parents, she applied for Rotary Youth Exchange and was sponsored by the Rotary Club of Flemington. Olivia was successful in her application and in July the following year, she began a year of exchange in Germany: in Bavaria, to be precise.

As all Rotary Youth Exchange students do, she became immersed in the language, culture, history, people and experiences of a different country. Through the Rotarians and other students, she met, she was able to travel widely in Europe, experiencing different ways of life, cultural experiences and behaviours, especially community service and tolerance.

On her return, Olivia completed her studies with outstanding results and entered Melbourne University to complete a double degree in science and Arts. With significant experience and skills in music - she was an accomplished violinist, Olivia also followed that dream and played in a number of groups and bands.

Youth Exchange had however, wetted her appetite for travel and Olivia returned to Bavaria and spent time with her host families again. She also travelled to South East Asia and spent time working with volunteer groups in disadvantaged communities. This experience had a significant impact on her beliefs and she was able to explore the social and humanitarian effects of volunteer work.



**Olivia with President Del King. Flemington Rotary Club has adopted Birth for Humankind project as a club project.**



Her Bachelor of Arts studies in humanities and social science disciplines had also opened her mind to working with aboriginal people and giving back to the community. Olivia spent several years in Alice Springs doing community and humanitarian work, utilizing her many experiences and skills assisting the indigenous community.

3 years ago, she returned to Melbourne with the idea of establishing an organization to assist young pregnant women. Through her research, she learnt about DOULAs. This concept appealed strongly to her so after much research and training, and with the assistance of 2 philanthropists, Olivia established Birth for Humankind. This is a charitable organisation which supports young pregnant women lacking family support. She gained the backing of staff at the Royal Women's Hospital as well as several community organisations working with disadvantaged women in the inner Melbourne area.

Presenting to current members of the Rotary Club of Flemington in January, Olivia explained the history and concepts behind Birth for Humankind, and how the program works.

Birth for Humankind is a nonprofit organization, which provides support for young pregnant women. Drawn predominantly from refugee, migrant and low SES families who do not have partners or family members to support them through their pregnancy and birth, these women are referred by a community group or through RWH. The women are allocated a trained Doula who provides education, support and care during pregnancy, during and after the birth.

The women who volunteer as DOULAs complete a comprehensive training program and are themselves supported through a mentoring group and ongoing training. As DOULAs provide practical support, emotional care and information during the birth, they are also key in ongoing communications between the mother, her family and the hospital staff.

In their first fundraising drive, the group raised \$15000, which allowed them to train additional women and employ another supervisor.

For more information see their website at <http://www.birthforhumankind.org/>

## Clarice's Comments

Didn't we all have fun at the District Conference in Shepparton? We had fun and stimulation from some thought-provoking speakers. I particularly enjoyed PDG Greg Ross' re-creation of Arch C. Klumph, in that most extraordinary presentation on The Rotary Foundation. (Not only a pretty face, Greg will sing or tap-dance at the drop of a hat) Thanks Greg and scriptwriter PDG Dennis Shore for something unexpected to brighten our day.

On the way home, we bumped in to Kate and Gerry Cross when we stopped at a "servo" for a comfort break. We had a lovely re-hash of the speakers and events, and agreed it was a memorable Conference. I hope you enjoy DG Neville's report, and Bronwyn and Gordon's photos elsewhere in this edition.

Of course you are aware that the Rotary Area of Focus for April is Maternal and Child Health, and we devote several articles in this "Networker" to the subject. However I was struck dumb by this exhibit in the Shepparton Gallery, when I slipped in for a few minutes break from the Conference. How life-like and thought-provoking: sometimes you miss beautiful things right under your nose. I hope other Rotarians had time to enjoy unexpected jewels in Shepparton. Did you have time to drop in to the Furphy Park or Museum?

We love receiving your feed-back: DG Neville had a laugh at his own expense, when he received this congratulatory note following the previous edition, in which he had not written a contribution:

*Neville*

*Congratulations to Networker Team*

*Excellent, interesting and absorbing issue March 2017*

*George Waters*

*President, Rotary Club of Bendigo Sandhurst*

DG Neville commented: "See what happens when I don't write something!"

That's all for now.

Clarice.

***Photos show "Arch Klumph" and "Paul Harris" being interrupted by Centurion Gabe Hau.***

***Life-size woman and child sculpture by Sam Jinks in the Shepparton Gallery.***

***The Furphy Museum.***





## Notices and Events

### A NEW ROUND OF MEMBERSHIP GRANTS

Earn a \$1,000 grant for your new members to invest in a new **Community Project for your Club**: Simply induct four members between 1 January and 31 March 2017 and the \$1,000 grant will be presented to your New Members to use as seed funding on a project of their choice!!! A maximum of 10 grants are available.

All clubs in our District are eligible to receive this grant including those clubs that qualified for the previous \$1,000 grants in 2016-17 Full details are contained in the attached flyer. [Download Membership Grant Guidelines](#)



### CELEBRATE WITH US IN ATLANTA

THE ROTARY FOUNDATION MARKS 100 YEARS OF DOING GOOD On behalf of The Rotary Foundation Centennial Celebration Committee, I'd like to personally invite you to the 2017 Rotary Convention in Atlanta, where we'll commemorate 100 years of Doing Good in the World.

When you register, purchase a ticket for The Rotary Foundation's 100th Birthday Party on **14 June** in the House of Friendship. Thousands of us will come together with President John F. Germ to celebrate our accomplishments and mark this important milestone in the city where it all began.

You've been to the Rotary Convention, but you won't want to miss this once-in-a-lifetime celebration.

Make it even more special by bringing a friend! Register by 31 March to take advantage of the preregistration discount.

- Spread the word! [Download promotional materials](#) for social media, posters, and more.



### Western Emergency Relief Network

accepts donations of good condition household items such as: **Bedding**: Doonas & Covers, Pillows & Covers, Linen i.e. Sheets, Towels & Blankets. **Kitchen Items**: Kettles, Toasters, Crockery, Glasses, Cutlery, Pots & Pans **Furniture**: Beds all sizes, Clean mattresses. Tallboys, Dressing Tables, Bookcases, Dining Tables and Chairs, TV's **White Goods**: Fridges, Freezers, Washing Machines, Dryers, Fans & Heaters.

If you'd like to donate items call Ross as above or 0476104736 to organise a pick up.



### The Rotary Fair Trade Store

in Camberwell Junction is a combined project of Boroondara Rotary clubs, raising funds for DIK, the D9800 Donations in Kind Store, and local humanitarian charities such as Camcare.

It is located at the **rear** of 654 Burke Rd, Camberwell, (enter from the car park). Open from 10 - 4.30, 7 days a week. Specializing in good quality collectibles and books, the store welcomes useful donations from Rotary members and families who may be downsizing, or spring cleaning.

Volunteers are always needed in customer service, any day. It also run sorting days on Thursday mornings and Monday afternoons for corporate or club involvement.

To get involved, please call Carl on 0418 328 499 or Jill on 9882 7724



## Notices and Events

### Donations-in-Kind OPEN DAY

An Invitation to a very special event, help us celebrate shipping the 500th container this century.

We are opening the Store on a Saturday to give the people who can't attend during the week the opportunity to see our Districts largest hands-on project and to get a full understanding of the volume and type of goods that are available for their Club Projects. Our focus is on giving working people and country Clubs the opportunity to visit, but everyone is welcome.

It's a major Rotary Foundation Centennial Event: the 500th container is your Rotary Foundation Centennial Container that will ship goods to Timor Leste.

- Come and join the party and inspect the container
- **Saturday 8th of April** 10.00 -3.00, official (very short) speech at 12.30
- It's a party so food and drink will be available.
- We hope you will be able to join us and share in the fun.
- For catering purposes please RSVP [dik.vic.rotary@gmail.com](mailto:dik.vic.rotary@gmail.com)

For more information Laurie Fisher. Telephone: 0428 550 574, Email: [dik.vic.rotary@gmail.com](mailto:dik.vic.rotary@gmail.com)

Website [www.rotarydik.org](http://www.rotarydik.org)



### ARE YOU A GOLFING ROTARIAN?

Did you know there is a fellowship of golfing Rotarians who, with their partners, play a golf tournament each year at some of Australia's premium golf courses? The great news is, the Rotary Club of Ascot is hosting the **39th Annual AGFR Golf Tournament in Perth** at The Western Australian Golf Club and Mount Lawley Golf Club from **2nd April until the 7th of April 2017**.

We provide fellowship for golf-loving Rotarians and their partners from all around Australia as part of the 4th Object of Rotary, and offer an opportunity to play at some of Australia's premier golf clubs while having lots of fun. Past events have been held in every state and territory and Rotarians come from all around Australia. It's a great way to see our beautiful country and make likeminded friends. But we are also not well known about.

For further information and a registration form visit either our dedicated website <http://agfirtournament.wixsite.com/2017> or the AGFR website <https://agfr.org> Our dedicated email address for all queries and completed registration forms is [agfirtournament@outlook.com](mailto:agfirtournament@outlook.com)



### Ride the Bellarine

**April 9**, Geelong and the Bellarine Peninsula. Last year more than \$23,000 was raised for *End Polio Now*. Run by the 15 Clubs of Geelong & District, on behalf

of D 9780 Website for Registrations and Donations:

[ridethebellarine.rotary9780.org](http://ridethebellarine.rotary9780.org)



### The Rotary Club of Flemington's 30th Birthday.

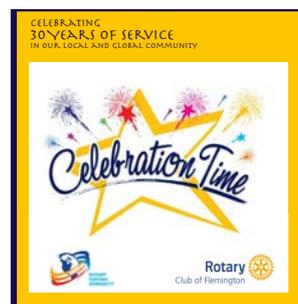
The Rotary Club of Flemington welcomes Rotarians and friends to come and celebrate the Club's 30th Birthday.

The Boathouse, 7 the Boulevard, Moonee Ponds

**Wednesday 19th April** 6.30pm for a 7pm dinner

\$50 per person for a 2 course meal, drinks at bar prices

RSVP by 10th April [superrelish@gmail.com](mailto:superrelish@gmail.com)



## Notices and Events

### Wedding Expo 2017 at Encore

**Sunday 30 April** - 10am – 4pm Gold coin donation

Encore Events Centre, 80 Derrimut Road, Hoppers Crossing.

An Expo for those planning a wedding in Melbourne's West is being held on 30 April. All proceeds raised are going towards the Rotary Club of Hoppers Crossing for use on their community and international projects.

We look forward to assisting you on the day with your wedding requirements and thank you for your support.

Find us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/rotaryclubhopperscrossing](http://www.facebook.com/rotaryclubhopperscrossing)

Visit our website at [www.hopperscrossingrotary.org.au](http://www.hopperscrossingrotary.org.au).



### Time To Draw the Line

Great news! Friends of Baguia (supported by Hawthorn Rotary) is hosting a special one-time screening of the film **Time To Draw the Line**, **Tuesday May 2<sup>nd</sup>**, 7pm at Palace Cinemas Como. This film is about the campaign for a fair go for East Timor and that nation's desire to settle its long running boundary dispute with Australia.

Friends of Baguia president Derarca O'Mahony will be introducing the film, which includes footage of our projects. It is a great film to update yourself on this issue.

To reserve your tickets, please visit the Demand Film Event Page

<https://tickets.demand.film/event/1539>



### Sumba Eyes in Your Hands

Dinner Dance is supporting the Sumba Eye Program with entertainment by the Backbeat Prophets Blues Band

**Friday 5 May** at 7:00pm Cost: \$70.00 (Drinks at Bar Prices)

MCG Kew, 397 Barkers Road, Kew (Melways Ref: 71 A9)

Enquiries: Trevor Mackey 0408 285 382 or [tm.bm@bigpond.com](mailto:tm.bm@bigpond.com)

RSVP: 01 May 2017 Please advise dietary requirements Full booking

arrangements on TryBooking at <https://www.trybooking.com/263117>

The Sumba Eye Program is totally voluntary with no administration fees. Its aim, in true Rotary fashion, is to set up an eye care system in Sumba. All proceeds of the Dinner and Auction event will be used to further the amazing work being conducted by dedicated teams of surgeons, optometrists and nurses



### Disaster Aid Conference 2017

Hosted by the Rotary Club of Endeavour Hills – at the Dandenong Club, Corner Stud and Heatherton Roads, Dandenong **Fri 5 – Sun 7 May**

It is a great opportunity to:

- meet the directors, staff, volunteers (including our Disaster Aid Response Team members – DARTs – who will give some “in field” reports) and fellow Rotarians;
- be updated on our activities and our plans, including more international partnerships with Rotary clubs and others around the world;
- see demonstrations of our aid items, the SkyHydrant™, Sawyer filters, and FlatPak tanks;
- become a DAA representative in your Rotary District.

\$100 registration charge includes two nights' accommodation, meals and refreshments from Saturday through to a light lunch on Sunday.

Registration on Disaster Aid Australia website. <http://www.disasteraidaustralia.org.au>



## Notices and Events

### Rochester RC PIE AND PORT NIGHT

**Saturday 6th May** 6:30pm for 7:00pm at the Old Court House Moore Street, Rochester \$30 per person

RSVP Monday 24<sup>th</sup> April

Please enclose payment with your snail mail reply to Secretary Heather Watson (Pie & Port), 80 Pascoe Street, Rochester, 3561

ph: 0439 842 177 email: [ghwatson1@bigpond.com](mailto:ghwatson1@bigpond.com)

or use electronic banking 633 108 ac 1321 85521 and please label Pie & Port



### Rotary Club of Footscray Dinner/Art Auction

**Saturday May 27<sup>th</sup>** 5.30-6.30pm Pre-dinner drinks and viewing of Footscray Art Prize exhibition Footscray Community Art Centre 45 Moreland St, Footscray

7.00 pm Anniversary Dinner and Art Auction:

Croatian House 72 Whitehall St, Footscray

Croatian House is a short walk from the Footscray Community Art Centre. A shuttle bus service will be available from 5-7pm between venues. Cost: \$75 Book online by 15<sup>th</sup> May:

[footscrayrotary80.eventbrite.com.au](http://footscrayrotary80.eventbrite.com.au)



### Comedy for a Cause

The Rotary Club of Melbourne Park have teamed up with Comedy for a Cause to bring you a fabulous night of fun and friendship!

**Saturday 27th May**, 8.00pm, at Melbourne Bowling Club, 138, Union St, Windsor.

Money raised will help us to continue to make a difference through our passion projects, RYLA sponsorships, birthing kits and much more! It would be great to share the evening with at least 10 people from your club. This is an incredibly accessible event at only \$35 a ticket!

Tickets can be purchased online at [www.comedyforacause.net/rcmp](http://www.comedyforacause.net/rcmp)



### The Rotary Foundation's Centennial Gala Dinner – 100 Years of 'Doing Good In The World' - 31st May 2017

Since the Rotary Foundation was established in 1917, it has spent more than US\$3 billion on programs and projects to improve the lives of millions worldwide.

In conjunction with District Foundation Chair, PDG Dennis Shore, Southbank

Rotary will be assisting with organising a major District event to celebrate 100 years of The Rotary Foundation.

More details will be widely circulated before the end of this month but for now, **Save the Date: 31st May 2017 at The Atlantic, Central Pier, Docklands.**



### Our Contributors



*District Governor Neville Jobn is a member of Central Melbourne Rotary Club.*



*Tony Thomas frequently contributes to "The Networker", and blogs at [quadrant.org.au](http://quadrant.org.au) (usually outrageously)*



*David Dippie of Keilor RC is a Rotarian who wants to change the world. Keep an eye on this man!*



*Dennis Shore was D9800 District Governor in 2012-13, and he is now District Foundation Director.*



*Our Glamorous Girl Friday Clarice replies to the letters we receive at "The Networker".*



*Mike McFarlane is the President of the Australian Section, International Fellowship of Flying Rotarians.*



*Lesley McCarthy is responsible for Flemington RC's excellent programme.*



*Kerry Kornhauser of Albert Park Rotary believes in "Women in Rotary" and that "Rotary is not just for blokes"*



*DG Nominee Bronwyn Stephens is just back from Cambodia where she does heaps.*



*Malcolm Baird of Brighton North is available for Club Presentations on Child Slavery.*