

the networker

March 2016 - Issue 16

rotarydistrict9800.com.au

Golden Bendigo Conference!

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MARCH IS ROTARY'S WATER AND SANITATION MONTH

DG Julie Mason's Message



March Area of Focus: Water and Sanitation



The Conference Themes of **Our Youth Our Future, Golden Rotary Moments, Joined up Partnerships and Innovative Leadership** set the direction for some memorable speakers and in turn some thought provoking messages.

The presentation from the Vocational Training Team that did some amazing work in Cambodia, the Group Vocational Exchange Team from the Philippines and the Youth Exchange students certainly showed the internationality of Rotary at its best and those in attendance will never forget "Pray for Paris". Renowned speaker Phil Ruthven reminded us that organisations like Rotary will thrive in the future if changes are made to accommodate the needs of the next generation and we are fortunate that we have articulate young Rotarians who can show us the way forward.

Engaging speakers, Saroo Brierly, Jeremy Scott and Michael Smith impressed us with their resilience, persistence and sense of hope in the face of adversity. Do keep an eye out for the movie **Lion**, that will be released later this year and that tells the story of Saroo's life as a lost young boy in India, who after a happy life in Tasmania returns to India to find his birth mother.

Margot Spalding kept us smiling as she described her life as a business woman in her home town, Bendigo, and her commitment to family values. Two amazing young people Georgia Retallik and Luke Owen showed us all that can happen when compassionate young people are confronted with community issues such as homeless youth and inappropriate placement of young people in aged care facilities. In both instances sheer determination has created a better outcome for the future.



A memorable session for all was the segment on **Family Violence** where we explored the solutions to the problem. It was interesting listening to Mary Claire Landry telling us about the work done in New Orleans, and edifying to know that the marvellous work done through the **Violence Free Family** program is having the desired effect. Kathleen McGuire and the No Excuses Choir, a group of women who once experienced family violence, completed the segment with a very moving performance that ensured a standing ovation.....their first ever!



DG Julie presenting gifts to RI President's Representative Virgilio "Jun" Falcon and Zenaiday.

When you add a Rotary Rich Market place, lots of entertainment, food, new friendships and fun it was a wonderful two days in Bendigo! Now if you were not one of the 920 who attended, soon we will be able to provide you with a copy of all the conference sessions that were recorded for future reference, and let's see **you** in **Shepparton** in 2017.

The next big Challenge for Rotary

Now that we are reliably informed that the **End Polio Now Campaign** is likely to have achieved the goal of eradication, it is time to think about what comes next. To commemorate the District Conference in Bendigo, a survey was developed and sent out to all conference delegates. The survey had questions related to the Rotary Foundation Areas of Focus. Whilst the responses were varied the top four items that attracted support were adult literacy programs, toilets for school children, control of mosquito borne diseases and the **top priority** was the **provision of clean water** to all. The results of the survey will be sent to the Rotary International Board for consideration and at the very least show that we are a forward thinking District.



Impressive Club projects

At the start of her Presidential year in June 2015, President Sue Jones from Brighton North Rotary announced the establishment of a program to promote awareness of family violence within amateur football and cricket clubs. The pilot program commenced in 2015 with Luke Ablett, former Sydney Swans player, presenting information to two clubs, the Ormond Amateur Football Club and the Melbourne Cricket Club. Luke has a passion for prevention of family violence and currently does presentations at conferences and conducts workshops for many organisations both in Australia and overseas. The funds needed to conduct this program are provided by a fabulous initiative called the Fed-Up Club and are raised by the annual Fed-Up Lunch. This initiative was started by an amazing group of young men who met at school and have maintained a friendship and decided to do something about Family Violence.

This year I was delighted to be able to attend the Fed-Up Lunch and with all the fun activities arranged on the 20th of February at Flemington Races, an amount of \$60,000 was raised to fund this excellent program. Sue's son Michael is one of the Fabulous Five who started the Fed-Up Club. Someone sign them up to Rotary please!!

Now if you have a story about young people making a difference in our District and beyond send us their stories to share.

Enjoy Rotary as you are..... a Gift to the World.

Ubuntu: I am, because you are.

Julie Mason District Governor



***Photos: Top: Luke Ablett at the Fed-Up Club lunch.
Below: DG Julie with Brighton North President Sue Jones and her son Michael.***

District 9800 Conference Keynote Speakers



MC Tracey Curro introduced the Conference Keynote Speakers



Saroo Brierley - "A long way from home . . . Hope and determination"



Dr Kathleen McGuire – "Music as a Means for Change"



Luke Owens – "From little things, big things grow"



Mike Smith – "Journeys – The Sun and this Planet"



Georgia Retallick – "Young people should not be living in Aged Care, it's that black and white"



Phil Ruthven AM – "Australia's Optimistic Future to 2050"



Jeremy Scott – "The long road from a broken heart"



Margot Spalding – "Around the life of Jimmy Possum"



***DG Julie Mason and Conference Chairman Gary Wilson welcome us to Bendigo.
RIPR Virgilio Falcon with TRF Major Donors PDG Bernie Walshe and Chris Don.
PDG Don Jago receiving a Rotary Distinguished Service Award***

*Socialising may well be the best part of a Rotary Conference.
Everyone here seems to be enjoying themselves!*



*The Market Place is where Rotary's best wares are on show.
You can go window shopping, or stop for a chat and buy something.
And you can see more Conference photos at:*

<https://picasaweb.google.com/106224275621582639712/RotaryConference2016?authkey=Gv1sRgCNvkk6eBjq6CtwE>



Vox Pops

By Matthew Scott, Regional Networker Correspondent

Regional Networker Correspondent Matthew Scott sought the opinions of attendees at the conclusion of the conference:

Ian Ellis - Bendigo South

"The conference for this year in Bendigo was excellent, the guest speakers were fantastic and it's surprising how small the world is getting. I've really enjoyed this year's conference."



Max Coster - Wyndham

"I thought it was a really enjoyable weekend... Lots of really interesting ideas. Very exciting young people doing good in the community."

Peter Shephard - Stage Manager

"It was sensational, it ran extremely well. The stage manager was excellent, the District Governor was excellent, everyone was excellent."



PDG Murray Verso - Williamstown

"The program was well thought out, excellent, engaging. There were the youth sessions today, sessions on domestic violence, absolutely sensational. You can tell from the reactions of the audience how engaged they were."

Sean Pearson - Bendigo Next Generation

"I had a terrific time. I think a lot of the Rotarians had a lot of fun. We had great acts, great speakers. I am looking forward to the one coming up in Shepparton."



Haley Forge - Melbourne Park (fourth from left)

"Fantastic conference and it was great to see the future of Rotary going forward."

Jacinta Walker - Melbourne Park (second from left)

"Great to see a focus on youth during the conference... Great to see that!"

Matthew Scott - Bendigo South RC (centre)

"The highlight of the conference for me was to have it hosted in my hometown, the heart of District 9800, Bendigo. I also enjoyed the cluster presentations and seeing the myriad of activities which are undertaken in our district in the name of Rotary International.

The sessions and guest speakers were inspiring, especially hearing Saroo speak, which struck a chord with me after having only been to India myself back in January.

The opportunity to meet new people from all over the globe is my favourite part of Rotary... I even met a fellow chalkie from the Philippines who was a part of the GVE team. Everyone in Rotary has such a goodwill about them and that makes belonging to this organisation such a special part of my life."



Glenferrie Rotary Club breaks the weekly meeting shackles

By Tony Thomas, Networker Correspondent

The Glenferrie Rotary Club has broken with long-standing Rotary tradition and moved to a trial of fortnightly rather than weekly meetings.

In February this year, the Club, with about 45 members, held a vote on moving to fortnightly meetings for a trial period to mid-2016. The move was overwhelmingly supported. The meeting format will be reviewed mid-year, but there's a strong feeling at the Club that the meeting format will continue into 2016-17.



President Robert Winspear and Boroondara Mayor Coral Ross

Right: Robert Winspear driving Santa (Ian Willmott) around the farmers market.

Asked about the move, President Robert Winspear remarked: "Our club has a number of projects that see many members coming together on a weekly or fortnightly basis, in addition to normal meetings. Our new meeting schedule re-balances our activities towards service in the true spirit of Rotary. Within an active Club with good internet, Facebook, email and social media communication channels, weekly face-to-face meetings are increasingly likely to be things of the past. Weekly meetings can be a turn-off for new members, and are expensive. Our Club runs the Boroondara Farmers' Market two or three times a month, each time needing 20 Club volunteers, together with other weekly service activities."

Like many other clubs, Glenferrie needs reinvigoration as membership has been static and ageing. He says, "The average age of our Club was 60 in 1998. Now it's 70. Busy younger professionals nowadays aren't interested in attending club meetings for the sake of fulfilling meaningless attendance requirements."

The club now meets on the first, third and fifth Tuesday evenings. Members also meet informally on 'off' weeks.

Immediate Past President Jeremy Romanes says the Rotary International constitution, which appears to require weekly meetings, is obsolete and in the absence of a Rotary police force, can be regarded as irrelevant. The word "meet" can now mean many things, he says, even including email exchanges.

"RI had a trial from 2007-13 with 200 clubs meeting fortnightly. The results appeared overwhelmingly positive but no constitutional change resulted," he says. "Our view is that a strict view of Rotary meeting requirements doesn't provide clubs with the flexibility to adopt strategies that get more people contributing to community more often, which is one of Rotary's central aims."

The club has a ditty to remind members which are 'on' and 'off' weeks: "One three five keeps the club alive" – ie no meetings second and fourth Tuesdays.

"We would encourage other clubs to review their meeting structure and make sure that they have a structure that makes them attractive to new members, and strikes the right balance between service and club fellowship" Jeremy said.

To join Glenferrie Rotary please see the Club's website at www.glenferrierotary.org.au.



World Toilet Day

One Billion People Have Nowhere to Go

From NBC News

Nov. 19 is the U.N. declared [World Toilet Day](#), created to raise awareness about people in the world who don't have access to a safe and sanitary place to relieve themselves.

Some 2.4 billion people around the world don't have access to decent sanitation and more than a billion are forced to defecate in the open, risking disease and other dangers, according to the United Nations.

The U.N. says that while there is sufficient fresh water on the planet for everyone, "bad economics and poor infrastructure" mean that every year

millions of people - most of them children - die from diseases linked to poor sanitation, unhygienic living conditions and lack of clean water supplies.

Even where there are toilets around the world, some hardly warrant the name.

"One out of three women around the world lack access to safe toilets," U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon said in a statement. "We have a moral imperative to end open defecation and a duty to ensure women and girls are not at risk of assault and rape simply because they lack a sanitation facility."



Some of the best and the worst: Top - Toilets donated by Unicef and World Vision stand near tents at a Syrian refugee settlement camp in Qab Elias in the Bekaa Valley, Lebanon.

Posters, including those advertising treatments for sexually transmitted diseases, are stuck to the walls of a public toilet in a residential area for migrant workers near Beijing

Below - A toilet cubicle stands in a fenced off garden at Itabu railway station east of Tokyo. Dubbed "the world's most spacious public toilet" by local media, the high fence surrounding the toilet can be locked from the inside, giving the user the experience of both privacy and space.

Urinals inspired by the Rolling Stones logo are seen in a bar in Paris.

Adopt-A-Highway

By Matthew Scott, Networker Regional Correspondent

They say the early bird gets the worm, so while some said it was too hot, the Rotary Club of Bendigo South was out and about on Sunday morning tidying up a stretch of McIvor Highway.



Between Longlea and Axedale, the Rotary Club members were out there picking up all manner of things littering the landscape. Rotarian Ian Ellis said that it was the 17th year in which the Club had been out cleaning up their adopted stretch of road. "It's our longest running project," Mr Ellis said. Most members reported finding the usual suspects, bottles, cans and coffee cups. However, there were a few surprises out there like rusty screwdrivers and pillow cases.

The Adopt-A-Highway roadside cleanup is just one of the many local, national and international community service projects that the Rotary Club of Bendigo South undertakes every Rotary year.

Our photos show Rotarians Bernie Young, Gary Pinner, George Ellis and Ian Ellis, and their worksite.

Creating peace in Myanmar

Rachel Hall Beecroft spent eight weeks in Myanmar as part of her applied field experience as a Rotary Peace Fellow at the University of Queensland, Australia. Beecroft worked with an organization that is training civilians to act as ceasefire monitors and witnessed how regular people's lives were being transformed by the peace process.

Read more of her story on the blog, [Rotary Voices](#).



Photo: Rachel Hall Beecroft with local youth on a field visit to Hpa-An, Karen State.

A poster describes the villagers' desire to live in peace.

Rotary In Action

By Jill Weeks, Hawthorn Rotary



Women In Rotary Founder, Kerry Kornhauser, was a guest on the 'Rotary In Action' program on 96.5Inner FM.

Kerry talked about why she became a Rotarian, some of the many projects in which she has been involved, how and why she founded 'Women In Rotary', the upcoming breakfast to be held at Crown Casino to celebrate International Women's Day..... to name but a few of the topics that were covered.

The Rotary In Action program is broadcast every Tuesday from 4-5pm on 96.5InnerFM.

March 2016 | Countdown to Korea

Join thousands of Rotarians in Korea 28 May--1 June at the Rotary Convention. Register before 31 March for extra savings. After you register, be sure to sign up for a memorable host committee event: the Welcome Festival, a night at the symphony, or an evening of contemporary ballet. Connect with old friends and make new ones, and be a part of the best that Rotary has to offer.

- Learn about convention highlights. [Review the schedule of events.](#)
- Plan some fun. [Learn about the Welcome Festival and other host events.](#)
- Prepare to take the stage. [Sign up for the Rotary Family Talent Contest.](#)

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

Choose from more than 100 convention breakout sessions to develop leadership skills, learn ways to strengthen membership, and find out how to partner for success. At the general sessions, hear from some of the world's best athletes at a panel on ethics in sports, learn from a world-champion of public speaking, and be captivated by the president of the National Geographic Society.



- Prepare to be inspired. [Learn more about our speakers.](#)
- Build an effective schedule. [See a list of breakout sessions.](#)
- Still not convinced that you should go? [Read reasons to attend.](#)



Sensory Gardens Make-Over

By Tony Thomas, RC Central Melbourne-Sunrise

It's hard to find lovelier gardens than those at Royal Talbot Rehabilitation Centre in Kew, Melbourne. A decade ago the grounds were brownish grass and concrete paths; today a riot of shrubs, flowers, succulents, green pergolas and natural timber textures have been established by Austin Health's garden guru Steven Wells.

These gardens continue to thrive It's all thanks to what he calls "the fantastic support" of a cluster of Rotary Clubs that for 12 years have descended on the grounds for a massive annual working bee. On Saturday February 27 another 30 Rotarians and friends slaved at digging, re-potting, trimming, and spreading 7 cubic metres of mulch.

The 90 patients mostly have brain, strokes and spinal injuries. They can rest their eyes on thriving and shady plants and arcades, take lunch outside and get away mentally from the wards and beds. Some can't talk, other can't use a limb, few can foresee a career. But they feel they can do small stress-free tasks or just sit in a pretty spot.

The working bee inspiration came 12 years ago from Lyn McBain, wife of former Central Melbourne-Sunrise RC member Bruce McBain. Lyn worked there as a nurse for eight years from 2000 and felt sorry the patients had such sterile surroundings and. She saw the opportunity for the Rotarians to support Steven and make a difference in the gardens for the patients.



This year's working bee included two Melbourne Park RC youngsters and three friends, two from Melbourne RC and 23 members and friends from Central Melbourne-Sunrise.

Last year's similar party of 26 opened up a new section of tired brown grass, which Stephen has planted during winter with low-growing and drought-tolerant native lomandra, and dianella and various succulents. He's topped it off with a metal artwork of symbolic leaves. "A new group of patients can now look out from their bedrooms to banks of green and the distant trees," he says.

"It's been such a sustained program over the years, with so many Rotary hands getting so much done in just a morning. They bring tools galore. I have my work cut out keeping everyone busy, but I make sure my list of tasks is big enough."

Steven heads off to the UK and US on a Churchill Fellowship in May for seven weeks to study how sensory therapeutic gardens in at hospitals are kept productive sustained beyond the initial establishment – which involves staffing and long-term planning.

Photos show the workers among some of the garden's features.

Extending Helping Hands and Closing the Gap

By Rosemary G. Kinyua, RC Laverton Point Cook

It's so exciting to see progress finally happening after years of planning, fundraising, and preparing for our joint International project, which will benefit the Open Hands Children's Home in Kitengela, Kenya.



The planning process of implementing sustainable humanitarian changes is intensive, and possible when you have committed partnerships with the right organization. We, the Rotary Club of Laverton Point Cook, alongside our partner club Rotary Club of Nairobi, Muthaiga North, know about this commitment firsthand.

When we first partnered together, we came up with a threefold purpose to help these children, whose situations made our hearts ache. First, we saw the necessity to create a safer environment for the children by building a secured perimeter stone fence, to protect these children from kidnapping and wildlife—two significant threats they face daily. Secondly, there is an obligation to help these abandoned children live in a highly nurturing and educational environment where they can develop the skills necessary to have better opportunities for their lives. And lastly, we needed to provide opportunity to make the home more sustainable so more staff can remain on-site to work more diligently toward showing these children that they are important to this world—they do matter.

We still have quite a long way to go. There's a gap between the goal and the current funds available of just over \$50,000.00. By showing our compassion for these children through donations, we are sending a powerful message of what Rotary and friends of Rotary can do, when we come together, by extending a helping hand and closing the gap of tough circumstances that are beyond our control.

On behalf of the children and ourselves, we are grateful for all donations in whatever amount that can be given to this great cause.



Top: Rotary Club of Laverton Point Cook in partnership with Rotary Club of Nairobi Muthaiga North at Open Hand Children's Home

Lower: Project Contractor - Charles Karanja with his team

How did your club celebrate Rotary's anniversary?

Clubs worldwide marked the 111th anniversary of the first Rotary club meeting in February by holding an event, hosting a fundraiser, or lighting a notable building.

See a selection of the photos, let us know how your club celebrated, and share your images on social media. [See the gallery](#)



Catiana Doufi bathes in the Rio Bajabonico, which runs beside her home in La Grua, Dominican Republic.

The community participated in an educational session earlier that morning taught by members of the Rotary Club of Puerto Plata Isabel de Torres, Puerto Plata, who introduced the bio-sand water filter as an in-home water treatment option.

The project is part of an effort funded by Rotary Foundation Matching Grants and more than 200 clubs in Canada, the United States, the Dominican Republic, and other Caribbean countries.

IPTC - Creator: Alyce Henson© Rotary International

Clarice's Comments

In our last Issue we mentioned the Rotary Club of Werribee/RCH Paediatric Palliative Care 200KM Charity Walk which made a total of \$190,912 in the five walks over the eight years.

My old pal **Cherrie Osborn** completed the 200Km with flying colours: she says the mornings were really chilly, and the afternoons really hot. How nice to see Assistant Governors really involving themselves in their club's activities. Would you do it again Cherrie? Don't ask!

Our photo: Cherrie showing a leg, second from the left.



What fun we had at the District Conference in Bendigo: those who never ever go, have missed Bendigo!

RIPR Virgilio Falcon and Zenaidy were really nice, and had time to chat to everyone. Their visit will be long remembered. We bumped into the **Group Vocational Exchange Team** after the Welcome Cocktail Party, and walked back to the hotel with them. They are so nice and easy-going, and are really enthusiastic about the exchange program.

But the highlight for me was to see **PDG Don Jago** receive a Distinguished Service Award for his continuing support for Rotary, particularly the Rotary Foundation. DG Julie's introduction and description of the Award was a real hoot! Don and Margery are among the nicest people I have met, and everyone I speak to are thrilled about this recognition.

What a great effort by **Gary Wilson and his Team**, and the local Bendigo ushers who were always ready for a chat and a joke. Well done, each and everyone!

Photos of the Conference - speakers and Rotarians just being themselves, are available at <https://picasaweb.google.com/106224275621582639712/RotaryConference2016?authkey=Gv1sRgCNvkk6eBjq6CtwE> You may use them for your bulletins: I know you will use them responsibly.

And now we can start planning to visit Shepparton next year: I recall **DG John Davis'** Conference there in 2008: the weather was warm and we had a lot of fun. There was an Elvis impersonator who won the hearts of all the exchange students: they all crowded around the stand and cheered.

Don't forget to send me your news and photos. I really love when you send me photos of your new members, and I look forward to meeting them ASAP. Send them to: clarice@rotarydistrict9800.org.au

Have you heard any jokes about German sausage? They're the wurst!

See you later - Clarice.

Welcome New Members



Brighton Rotary Club has a new member Catie Kirke. She not only attended the Rotary Conference in Bendigo, but was active in a stall in the Market Place. Here she is, explaining something to PDG Ian Knight



John Lane was introduced to Hawthorn Rotary by Simon O'Donoghue, seen here pinning on a Rotary pin. John's Classification is "Art Installations".

Notices and Events

Eddie the Eagle

The Rotary Foundation and 20th Century Fox will be teaming up again to do a special POLIO PLUS screening programme with Hugh Jackman's EDDIE THE EAGLE to celebrate the film's release in cinemas on April 21.

Special pre-release access to the film is available on **Wednesday April 13** for Rotary group bookings in support of the Polio Plus Foundation.

Inspired by true events, EDDIE THE EAGLE is a feel-good movie about Michael "Eddie" Edwards (played by Taron Egerton), an unlikely but courageous British ski-jumper who never stopped believing in himself and his dream to attend the 1988 Calgary Winter Olympics.

This is a true underdog story and one not to be missed in cinemas everywhere.





2016 INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY
BREAKFAST
THURSDAY 10TH MARCH 2016



THE ASCENT OF
A WOMAN?



Thank you

With the help of our partners, speakers and a sell out crowd
we raised over \$50,000 for our supported charities!

"A great breakfast! Polished and sophisticated. A more meaty
treatment of the issues than in previous years, in my opinion. More
men in previous years too!!! Congratulations!"

Read a message from
The Honourable
Linda Dessau AM
Governor of Victoria

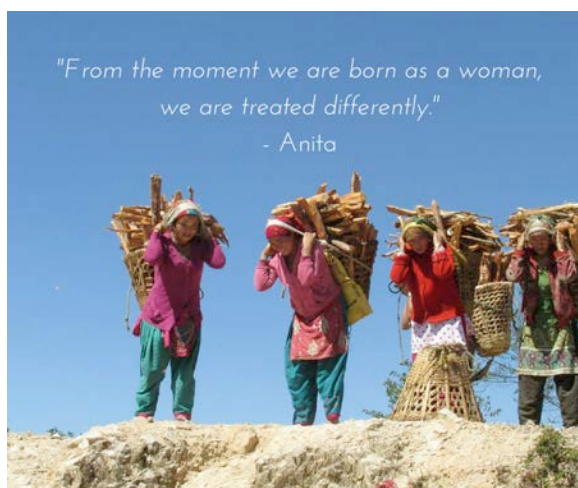


Read a message from
Lucy Hughes Turnbull AO
Chief Commissioner
Greater Sydney Commission





Photography by Charles Wale



Bringing the Light: the Movie of "Seven Women"

"Seven Women" began in 2007 as a grass roots development project to create change for seven women who were found operating out of a tin shed and enduring harsh discrimination as a result of being disabled. Seven Women founder Stephanie Woollard first met these women and invested in training in the hope that gaining a skill would give them a means to earn an income.

ACMI Cinema, Federation Square. 6.30pm, **Thurs 28th May**

Tickets at <http://www.trybooking.com/KLFK>

If you can't attend the documentary, catch the promotional video at: <http://www.sevenwomen.org>

2016 Rotary International Convention, Seoul 28th May to 1st June, 2016

**EARLY REGISTRATION SAVINGS END
31 MARCH**

The countdown to the Rotary Convention is on! Join the more than 40,000 Rotarians who have already registered and experience the biggest event of the Rotary year, the convention in Korea.

Convention Committee Chair Ian H.S. Riseley has helped secure an outstanding group of [speakers](#), including a world champion of public speaking, a famous spiritual guru from India, and the CEO of an organization that works to keep children out of institutional care and living with families. Watch the [video](#) to learn more about the [convention program](#).

Come to Korea to get inspired to do more good and Be a Gift to the World.

Take advantage of early registration savings until 31 March.

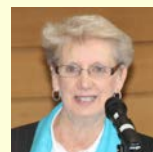
<http://www.riconvention.org/en/seoul/registeroday!>



Stay informed on Rotary events:

http://www.rotarydistrict9800.org/notices_and_events_future

Our Contributors



District Governor Julie Mason of Wyndham RC always writes a lovely column for "The Networker"



Despite his recent illness, Tony Thomas is still contributing controversial material to Quadrant.org.au



David Dippie of Keilor RC is a Rotarian who wants to change the world. He admits he may need your help!



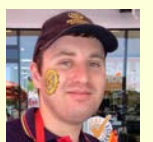
Anthony Langley, of RC Brighton Beach, knows all you need to know about the Shrine of Remembrance.



Our Girl Friday Clarice was asked why she writes a column in "Networker". "Well, why not?" was her reply.



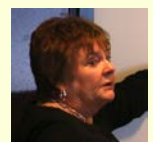
Dr. Murray Verso of RC Williamstown was our DG in 2014-15, and he is still a busy Rotarian.



Matthew Scott sends us regular reports from the Deep North, in between episodes of face-painting.



District Image Guru, Adrian Nelson has a new image. Check out the new set of specs he got for Christmas.



Bronwen Scarffe is District Learning and Development Chair. She loves the country air at Porcupine Ridge.