

# Networker

We care. We share. We all gain.

Issue 1 July 2007



## The District Governor's message

**“We Share”.** What a magnificent, simple pronouncement. This Rotary message for 2007-08 doesn't require explanation or further depiction. “We Share” has defined Rotary and Rotarians since 1905 ... sharing is a fundamental tenet of what we do.

Welcome to our monthly newsletter – part of what I hope will be a great Rotary year and another way that we can share the aspirations and achievements of 70 vibrant Clubs throughout District 9800.

We will aim to make the newsletter interesting, topical and relevant. The history of Rotary's accomplishments and the diversity of its members, past and present, provide a rich vein. Be proud and share the experience – you are part of something that will continue to provide



inspiration, support and relief within the local community and on the international stage.

All District Governors are prone to adornments and, therefore, I would not want to disappoint any predecessors.

My adornment is the “Rotary Shares” badge. I have found that this distinctive

pin has stimulated curiosity among non-Rotarians and has provided a platform for further discussion. Obviously, it can be an ideal catalyst for introducing new members. I would urge everyone to obtain one of these ‘up to the minute’ badges (obtainable via your club or independently through Rotary merchandise centre in Parramatta).

Rotary International has also produced another distinctive badge. It is to recognise Rotarians who have sponsored new members, thereby building our future.

I would be delighted if, on Club visits over the next few months, there are many members wearing this special pin. Investing in a person can have all sorts of outcomes for the community and Rotary over a sustained period. What an exciting prospect ... and very worthy of recognition.

Over the next few months Joan and I will have the opportunity to see first hand the ‘Service Above Self’ contributions that individual Clubs are making to the wider community. It's very exciting ... ‘hands on’ projects with wonderful outcomes. As Rotarians, we choose to make a difference. We choose to help.

## Introducing Clarice...



*Rotary embraces all manner of things  
Its power is diversity  
Our newsletter ought to mirror our strengths  
In good times or adversity.*

*So here I am to crack the whip  
As they say, “No pain, no gain”  
I'm the editor ... female ... and hard as flint  
Not some shrinking Lois Lane.*

*A power-dresser, I'm straight from ‘Vogue’  
Pushing Rotary's contemporary view  
Cheeky, ‘out there’, making the call  
Topical ... with it ... and new.*

*No long-winded tales from long-winded males  
No tomes like “War and Peace”  
No excuses or jokes ... and although they're just jokes  
They'll answer to me ... I'm Clarice.*

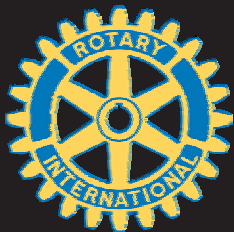
### Did you know?

Which ex-president of the United States is an active member of Rotary?

Go to page 3 to find out...

## Club profile

This week your intrepid editor Clarice popped into the Rotary Club of Daylesford whilst touring the beautiful spa country in the area. I caught up with the most charming President Darryl Shields (quite a lad!) between a pedicure and new age hot rock massage.



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Clarice: *When was your Club formed?*

Darryl Shields: 21st September 1953  
(Sponsored by Ballarat)

C *What differentiates your Club from all others?*

DS Absolute dedication to service above self, a passion for fellowship and engagement with the local community.

C *What past project would rank in your Club's 'Hall of Fame'?*

DS A literacy and numeracy project targeting children 4-6 years of age who were given a package of tools to help improve their literacy and numeracy skills.

C *What have you got brewing for the coming year?*

DS An extension of the literacy and numeracy program is on the horizon, however an absolute blockbuster fundraiser that all Rotarians should consider coming along to is the Glenlyon Food and Wine Festival to be held between the 27th -30th of July. Four of the region's best gourmet sausage providers will showcase their sumptuous products in a cook-off for the festival's Gold Medal event sponsored by the Rotary Club of Daylesford. Come along for a great festival of fun and say g'day to Darryl and the team!

C *Why would others visit your local area? Any local features of note?*

DS Daylesford is the "Spa Capital of Australia", great for a weekend of romance, indulgence and therapeutic enjoyment.

C *What is your Club's passion?*

DS Community and youth projects along with our members' passion for fun and fellowship.

C *If you had to liken your Club to an animal, what would it be and why?*

DS A big cuddly bear that nurtures its family and friends.

C *Do you have either a butcher, a baker or a candlestick maker in your club?*

DS No, I wish we did, however we do have Garry Rodoni who is the refrigeration guru in the District.

C *Who is the longest serving member of your Club?*

DS Colin Lelean who joined three months after charter in Christmas of 1953.

C *What's the weirdest thing that has happened at your Club?*

DS Some very reliable club sources inform me that ten years ago The Rotary Club of Daylesford bottled, sealed and labelled their own wine and port for a Fundraiser. Unfortunately, one club member couldn't recognise the difference between red wine and port. About half of the sixty dozen bottles were re-opened and sampled. Some members may have been a little liberal in their taste testing, resulting in some fuzzy heads the next morning.

C *If Bill Gates was feeling generous and donated us \$1 million, we'd probably spend it on...*

DS Our local community, improving the lot of our youth and the elderly particularly.

C *If I wanted to get involved with your club, how would I?*

DS Clarice, we would absolutely love you to join our club! You sound like a hell of a gal! But if your friends or others in your audience are interested, just call President Dazza or my beautiful wife Kim (who is the Club Secretary) on (03) 5348 1369, or get in touch with our membership coordinator Jim Swatman. Our Club email is [daylesford@rotarydistrict9800.org](mailto:daylesford@rotarydistrict9800.org) - we'd be happy to welcome you and have you involved immediately!



tary International, The Consul General of China, a former Governor General of Australia, a former Victorian Premier and The Winner of the 2007 Puccini Awards for Opera....and the month isn't even over yet!

More news inside...

## We Share.Taking a closer look at our drought

Passions are often invoked when we think of the current drought besetting Australia. For some, the drought might represent a clear demonstration of the consequences of inaction in building new dams or desalination plants.

Others might point to the effects of global warming and argue vigorously for political change on greenhouse emissions. But for some farmers, the drought has meant seeing their very passion, their land itself, wilt before them.

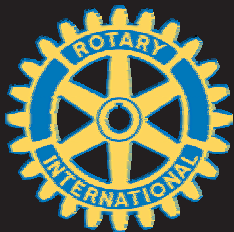
Seeing your profession, your means of feeding your family, and the object into which you've poured blood, sweat and tears reduced to dust before you is something that, fortunately, most of us will never have to deal with personally.

We won't have to deal with the unfair self-recriminations, the undermining feelings of inadequacy, the lonely isolation, the abject hopelessness, nor the unwarranted ruminations about 'letting down those around us'.

## News in brief

Well what a month it's been so far!

Rotarians in District 9800 have welcomed visits from the President of Ro-



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## The human face of the drought

Many farmers though are dealing with just this plight; their agricultural devastation worsened by the added burden of depression and mental illness.



Families also suffer, not just through financial hardship, but through the emotional turmoil brought on by

dealing with such difficult issues in isolation. They have little respite from the daily reality of the precipitating cause of the tension and turmoil – the drought itself.

These are the human faces of the drought. But in such troubling circumstances however, passion can make a difference.

## Lessening the impact of drought

Many Rotarians have been asking themselves “what can we do?”.

This is where your passion kicks in. Beyond Blue reported that there were over 90,000 farmers involved, with thousands more in surrounding communities reliant on farming to sustain their communities. The opportunities are endless for Rotarians to get out and connect with and help farming communities. “What we can do” might include:

- Connect with and ask partner organisations what help they need. Such organisations include local CWAs, Beyond Blue, Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal, Aussie Helpers, Red Cross, Shire Councils even local Rotary Clubs.
- Host a forum or brainstorming / planning session with locals in these regional communities to find out ways of helping.

- Organise Club weekends away to pitch in, help out and experience first hand what the needs are on a regional farm.
- Sponsor junior sport, school camps, youth camps or fund excursions.
- Organise Community events that create opportunities for those in regional farming areas to interact with others in the social arena.
- Subsidise women's and men's lunches/dinners at the local pub or club.
- Adopt a rural towns

What else?

It's a matter for us all in changing the face of the drought to one which is resilient, optimistic and once again, passionate.

## District 9800 launches new website

District 9800 is proud to announce the upcoming launch of the new D9800 website! Developed with partner Komodo CMS, the new website provides a portal into the world of Rotary, not just for Rotarians, but for the public curious to know what we're all about.

*To page 4*

## Lend an ear

Our 2006-2007 Rotary District Governor General, Bernie Walshe recently attended a conference conducted by Beyond Blue, which outlined both the struggles our farmers face and how aid can best find those in need.

Bernie reported back that while aid and support is available, when dispensed arbitrarily efforts tend to overlap and sometimes miss the mark. What is re-

*...from page 1*

## Did you know?

The 39th President of the United States, Jimmy Carter, is an active member of Rotary.

quired is a willingness to work with locals and lend an ear to the farmers out there – this act in itself is often far more valuable than just throwing a material donation toward what we think is needed.

To find out how Rotarians can put practical actions behind their passion, see page 4.

## ...so what do you think so far?

We want to make Networker the type of publication that you pass on to your friends and colleagues, the sort of publication you avidly read while at the water closet, the sort of publication that you tell your partner not to use when putting down bedding for pets.

So how are we doing? What would you like to see?

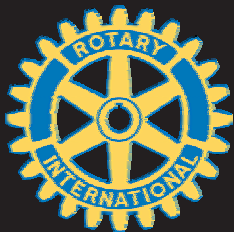
We welcome your feedback! Simply address your email to [clarice@rotarydistrict9800.org](mailto:clarice@rotarydistrict9800.org), and address all your applause, compliments, cheques and congratulatory bottles of bubbly to “Clarice”.

## Contributions

Want to be my friend? I'd love to receive your contributions on a whole range of topics, but especially those that would be of interest to non-Rotarians.

Like the sorts of things you're doing or have done in your community, or events you're organising, for example.





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Love, *Clarice*.

## Featured Events

Every week we'll feature Club events as we get to hear of them.

### The Bayside Art Show

The Rotary Club of Brighton are holding their 37th annual art show.

Now called **The Bayside Art Show**, the Brighton Recreational Centre has traditionally been the principal beneficiary, and the funds raised have been used



primarily to provide equipment for the centre.

This event is something of an institution to artists and patrons alike, being the second largest art show in Victoria. Many local charities and community initiatives, such as those providing for disadvantaged youth, also benefit from the proceeds.

Held at the historic Brighton Town Hall, there will be a grand opening night on Thursday August 09, starting 6:30pm.

More information, and opening night ticket sales are available online from [www.thebrightonartshow.com.au](http://www.thebrightonartshow.com.au).

### Host Parent and Counsellor training

Over the years we have had a number of issues come up about managing students as well as questions about the roles of counsellors and host parents. There are also, from time to time, questions about the District role.

Even though some of your assigned club counsellors and host parents may be experienced, we believe that if the program is to get back on its feet properly we need to make sure there is no room for doubt, that there is a strong network operating and that we have clear procedures and processes for managing potential issues before they ever become a source of concern.

For this reason we are taking a different approach this year and will be running a session on Sunday 8 July as follows:

Meeting hall, St Pauls Anglican Church, 22 Yaldwin Street West, KYNETON

The session starts at 10.30am and we will finish by 3pm. Lunch will be served.

This is not a "stand and tell" session, but will be highly interactive and explore issues, potential issues and different ways of managing these. We will also agree the different roles and talk about the programme for the year.

Please join us and make sure that you have good representation from your club for this important event. It is also useful to remember that this workshop session is important to fulfil our obligations under the youth exchange protection and certification policy. Non attendance risks our District losing its certification and therefore its right to participate in the program.

### ... New Website from page 3

With a live launch date of July 2, some of the features of the new District Website include:

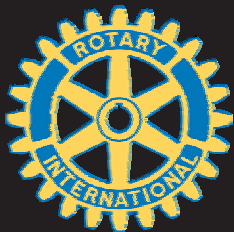
- Easier to use interface that is inviting for non-Rotarians to understand and navigate;
- Incorporation of the District's "Project Shout" campaign;
- Up-to-date information on what's on in the District;
- Easy to access information on how prospective members can join Rotary.
- Information on how corporate partners and supporters can get involved
- Members section detailing information important to Rotarians in our District
- Consistency with the Rotary International 2007-2008 Theme "Rotary Shares"



The website address is [www.rotarydistrict9800.org](http://www.rotarydistrict9800.org). Pay us a visit!

### Thought for the week

*One of the greatest pleasures in life is achieving what others said I could not.*  
Wes Truscott (2007)



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## Rotary Club of Hawthorn Grand Concert

Some of Australia's most celebrated performers will give their time for CAMCARE with spectacular and memorable performances at our Grand Concert.

Featured performances are:

- The Australian Children's Choir
  - Tony Gould, jazz pianist
  - Joshua Hu, violinist
  - Rebecca Chambers, vocalist
  - Nehama Patkin, pianist
  - Greg McMaster, vocalist
  - Blackburn High School Senior Stage Band, conducted by Andy O'Connell
  - Siobhan Stagg, soprano, accompanied by Jonathan Bradley
  - Geoff Conrau, Magician and illusionist extraordinaire
- with MC Tony Charlton AM

Please put Sunday 19th August in your diary.

The Grand Concert will be held from 2.30pm, at the James Tatoulis Auditorium at Methodist Ladies College, Barkers Road, Kew.

The Rotary Grand Concert will raise funds for CAMCARE, which provides a number of essential and community support services to the City of Boroondara community.

A study has found that Boroondara has one of the highest rates of homelessness in Melbourne! Amounts raised will go to aid Camcare's Family Fund, which provides basic items for families with young children. This includes baby respite costs for parents, payment of school camp fees, travel tickets to school, school uniforms and school books.

This is an Ideal opportunity for you to sell / buy tickets for your family, friends, clients and business colleagues.

360 Concert Tickets Must Be Sold!

Tickets and flyers will be available very soon.

All ticket enquiries are to be directed to Geoff Dumayne Mobile: 0402 862 749 or email: [geoff@dumayne.com.au](mailto:geoff@dumayne.com.au)

Ian Macfarlane, Director  
Grand Concert Committee

## Club Announcements

### Rotary Club of Gisborne - meeting change

Tuesday 31st July meeting is changed to Wednesday 1st August due to function:

Venue: Macedon Family Hotel, Smith Street, Macedon.

Rotary Club of Gisborne invites you to a presentation on "The Truth About Climate Change" by Angela Nicholls, who was trained by Al Gore.

Time 6.45pm, Cost \$9 to cover warm, light supper. Limited seating.

To secure a reservation please forward your name, telephone number and cheque made payable to Rotary Club of Gisborne, to P.O. Box 46, Gisborne 3437.

For further information contact Pat or Jacek on 5428 3474.

Note that the content of this presentation is more suitable for high school aged children.

### Rotary Club of Port Melbourne

The provisional Rotary Club of Port Melbourne meets on Monday evenings, 6 for 6:30 PM each week at Life Saving Victoria, corner of Todd Road and the Boulevard, Port Melbourne 3207 (Melways reference 56 F3).

To confirm attendance and/or advise dietary requirements please contact Mark on 03 9682 2888, alternatively by email on [southmelbourne@packsend.com.au](mailto:southmelbourne@packsend.com.au)

*I think that this is going to be my favourite club. Lifesaving types rather appeal. I feel a pre-charter make-up coming on! Clarice*

## 40+ Rotarian

### Norm Phillips, Rotary Club of Bendigo

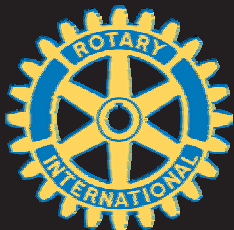


Norm Phillips has been in a member of the Rotary Club of Bendigo for over 42 years and was the District Treasurer in PDG Gordon McKern's year – 1992/93. During that time he has served on countless committees, been involved in a myriad of projects and has enjoyed the great fellowship of Bendigo members and Rotarians throughout our District.

A World War Two veteran and a self-confessed sports nut, Norm has a rich store of memories. Clarice was delighted to catch up with him last week for a quick chat ....

C *How did you get involved with Rotary?*

NP I was invited to join by Alan Sandow and Ernie Granger (Past District Governor – 1962/63) and



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inducted in March 1965 under the classification "Hospital Administration".

C *What was the biggest project you've been involved with as a Rotarian?*

NP The establishment of the Youth camp at Axedale. It has been a vibrant centre for many years and has been the venue for many conference weekends. Lately, it has had disabled facilities installed. It is managed by Rotary and will continue to give great service to a variety of groups for a long time.

C *What superpowers have you gained as a Rotarian?*

NP No real superpowers...but I've gained enormous experience in engaging a host of different Rotary projects. There is also much learning in working alongside people with different ideas. The experience gained and people met have been wonderful.

C *What historical event would you have liked to witness?*

NP The 1948 Ashes series in England. I believe that Bradman's tea, "The Invincibles" was the best team to ever represent Australia. There was enormous talent and some great characters. On the other hand, the team that whitewashed England in the 2006/07 series is not far behind.

C *What is the biggest change in Rotary that you've seen?*

NP The introduction of women to our ranks. This was momentous and instantly changed our perspectives. Women have added another dimension to Rotary's endeavours and I'm very glad that the step was taken.

C *If you had to liken being in Rotary to a movie or song, which would it be?*

NP Singing in the Rain.

C *Who killed JFK?*

NP Lee Harvey Oswald.

C *What do you enjoy about your particular club?*

NP Great fellowship, the participation in projects and the opportunity to get involved and make a contribution. I'm a 'hands on' person and really like the variety and the challenges that Rotary projects offer.

C *What's one reason that Paris Hilton would make a good Rotarian.*

NP Membership. The male membership in Rotary would rise dramatically.

C *What are your passions outside of Rotary?*

NP I love all sports and had a long involvement in football. I played at North Bendigo and Sandhurst Football Clubs and I was on the Committee and, ultimately, president of the Sandhurst club.

C *Why is being a Rotarian special to you?*

NP Fellowship, fellowship, fellowship... I really enjoy going to Rotary functions.

C *Complete the following: Life is ...*

NP .....to be enjoyed.

C *My secret talent is ...*

NP ... cooking roast dinners.

C *The way to my heart is...*

NP ... through good music, especially jazz and classical.

C *I am ...*

NP ...happy, at 83 years, to talk about doing things next week...

C *Rotary is ...*

NP ... an organisation of great people...

C *Rotarians are ...*

NP ... a mixed bunch.

(Amen to that - *Clarice*)

been a member of Southbank for all of 4 weeks.

C *Welcome aboard the good ship "Rotary"! Who encouraged you to join?*

TG I was selected by DG John Davis and the Rotary Club of Footscray as their candidate for Group Study Exchange in 2002. I was fortunate to be selected and went to Norkopping, Sweden and Riga in Latvia on a team led by John McCausland.

C *What puts food on the table?*

TG I work in operations. I'm the manufacturing manager at Olex in Tottenham.

C *What sort of projects would you really like to "...make a difference through Rotary"?*

TG Projects that involve youth, environment or developing communities.

C *What are your passions outside of Rotary?*

TG I really enjoy cooking and I love to travel. It's great that I can combine the two. I have a particular interest in Asian cuisine

C *A cook and a traveller ... I think that this 'maiden' is very interested. Before joining, had you been steeling yourself for the iron grips of the secret Rotary hand-shake?*

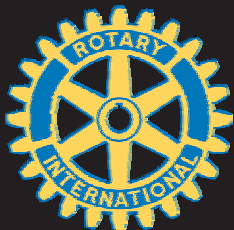
TG I have the hands of a cook ... nothing phases a cook.

## New member profile

I love new members, and I had the chance to meet with Troy Gay, who's







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C *What's another misconception that you had about Rotary before joining?*

TG I certainly had the classical 'old guys, with reefer jackets and bad ties' impression before my GSE experience. That all changed, of course, and my later positive impressions have been vindicated

C *Aside from me and other foxy media personalities, what other women ... they don't have to be famous ... do you admire?*

TG My girlfriend, Danielle. She's bighearted, caring and always puts others first.

C *Danielle ... eh? Oh well. Tell me what song describes you best?*

TG It's a Long Way to The Top.

C *Where do you think Elvis is these days?*

TG No question. ... he's still in Las Vegas.

C *What in particular do you enjoy about the Southbank Rotary Club? (Don't say "It's on the right side of the river")*

TG I like the culture of Southbank club. It's vibrant, proactive and it has a great mix of people

C *What's been the best thing so far about joining Rotary?*

TG Meeting new friends and the ability to help others.

C *Complete the following: Life is ...*

TG ... Better with Rotary.

C *The way to my heart is ...*

TG ... through my stomach...

C *My secret talent is ...*

TG ... being ambidextrous. For instance, I'm left handed at golf and right handed at tennis. And there are many more examples ('I'm sure' -C)

C *I am ...*

TG ... looking forward to a long association with Rotary.

C *Rotary is ...*

TG ... an organisation of quiet achievers.

C *Rotarians are ...*

TG ...generous, caring and committed.

## Speaker Bank

The Speakers Bank is a service provided by D9800 for the benefit of clubs in the district. It comprises a list of guest speakers who have been recommended by Rotarians / clubs in the district.

Here is just one example. For others, visit [www.rotarydistrict9800.org](http://www.rotarydistrict9800.org), go to the Members Section, and click on "Resources for Clubs".

### Disabled Diver's Association, Mike Letch

Lyn Mortimer of the Rotary Club of Brighton North has recommended Mike Letch as a Rotary Speaker. Mike was nominated by Lyn's Club for a Rotary 'Shine On Award', and was one of 8 nominees, (from 35 nominees), who received a Rotary 'Shine on Award'.

Mike has a remarkable story to tell of his life after becoming a paraplegic some 30 years ago. He has many achievements to his name and is a strong advocate for people with disabilities, in helping them see that life can be full after a life changing event.

Furthermore Lyn says: 'Our Club has been very pleased to have met Mike through the Shine on Awards and continue to have him involved with our Club'.

Mike founded the Disabled Divers Association in 2006...read on.....about this inspiring person!

Contact: Mike Letch Telephone: 0407 353 696.

### What Mike has to say

"I competed as a professional motorcycle racer in British Speedway League before being injured in a racing crash that ended my career and resulted in paraplegia. Happily, I woke up alive the

next morning and I now tend to regard the wheelchair as just a legacy of having fun and not really a problem!

A licensed pilot before 'the crash' I was one of the first Australian wheelers to get a pilot's license with hand controls and flew in Royal Victorian Aero Club competitions for many years.

Over a 15 year career, I raced over 100 wheelchair marathons in Europe, Japan, USA and Australia. I won 11 Australian titles on road and track, including four Melbourne Marathons, and still I run the odd race overseas to keep myself honest and catch up with my old mates!

Former skin diver, surfer and life saver as a teenager, I re-discovered diving 7 years ago and have spent the rest of that time playing catch up! I became an Assistant Scuba Instructor with the Professional Association of Dive Instructors (PADI) in 2002, the same year I sat and passed my Instructor's Exams, only to be told that the examiner didn't like the way I looked in the water so wouldn't certify me!

However in 2006 I qualified as an instructor with the International Handicapped Scuba Association in USA. Diving passions include wreck and free diving.

My personal mission is to redefine the expectations of disability to include not only outstanding achievement, but also adventure!

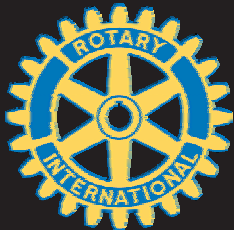
In 2006, I established the Disabled Diver's Association as a not-for-profit organization aimed at creating opportunities for many people with a variety of disabilities, to access snorkeling and scuba diving."



### Today's Quote

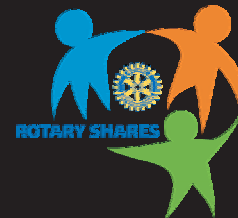
"Rotary has taught me how an ordinary citizen from a small town can be a world citizen.

*Raj Ghuman, India*



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Issue 2 July 09 2007

## New Rotary Year Resolutions

There is something about a 'new beginning' that makes us sit back and take stock, revisit our goals and make resolutions. It's exciting to declare New Year resolutions and there's no doubt we all start out with great gusto and with good intent. Maintaining the momentum and motivation however, becomes the difficult part!

Having a game plan is one effective way to achieve those well-meaning resolutions, as is not 'biting off more than you can chew.' Our hectic schedules and the heavy demands we as Members of Rotary take on, often make time a real challenge. So, it's difficult to put time aside for the necessary planning and goal-setting required to achieve our resolutions. However, goal-setting and pursuit gives us a method by which to maintain motivation and take control of our journey towards attaining our resolutions. Some tips to achieve this are:

- Make sure you are really committed to your resolution
- Visualise yourself achieving this resolution
- Put steps/goals in place that will lead you toward your end game
- Put measurements and time-lines around these steps/goals
- Write these down
- Celebrate each time a step/goal is attained
- Review your steps/goals regularly and adjust according to your current workload
- Be realistic and be flexible!

Successful people from all walks of life have in common an understanding that taking responsibility for their actions, planning and being focused brings rewards. No matter how hard things may get, they know that success will only come from their own efforts. Resilience, tenacity, flexibility and an unswerving

belief in a vision are the qualities and principles by which these people operate. They create their own luck and sound planning ensures they achieve it.

Rotary, as a volunteer organisation, means that maintaining a balance between its demands, our families and our vocations can be delicate. For membership of Rotary to be meaningful, we need to work out what's possible and what isn't. This is where 'not biting off more than you can chew' becomes critical, especially if you are not to let others down. If you are asked to do something that simply isn't possible for you to achieve, then say "no", but do remember that participation is what membership of Rotary is about.

Below is a list of Resolutions for the new Rotary year that you might like to consider:

- Participate in Club programs
- Seek qualified people to join your Club
- Take pride in Rotary – wear your badge
- Accept and fulfil tasks to the best of your ability
- Extend the hand of fellowship to all new members
- Respect the letter and spirit of your vocational code of ethics
- Consider your vocation as a service opportunity
- Extend fairness to all those with whom you share a vocational relationship
- Offer vocational talents to extend opportunities and improve your community
- Avoid using Rotary to leverage advantage.

Choose 3 resolutions and really commit to them. Write them down, plan how you will implement them, review them regularly and assess your level of achievement. By doing this you will not only gain greater satisfaction from achieving your milestones and enjoyment in Rotary membership, but you will also demonstrate that ROTARY

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SHARES its ethics and values with the wider community..

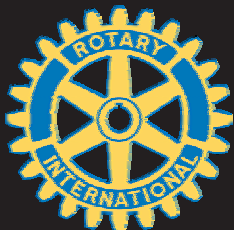
*John Davis, District Governor*

## Club Profile

Over the Westgate Bridge on a cold swirling July afternoon, your intrepid editor, warmly rugged up in high Gucci Malibu boots and dreaming of a warm drink in a far flung chalet, was delighted to arrive at the sumptuous Sanctuary Lakes Golf Club and catch up with the Rotary Club of Laverton Point Cook's new and irrepressible president, Julie Krause.







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C: *What differentiates the Laverton Point Cook Club from all others?*

JK: The Rotary Club of Laverton Point Cook represents 34 years of Rotary history within the Laverton Area. The Club's name was formerly 'Laverton'. The new name reflects the huge change in demographics in the area and our efforts to grow the club into a new Greenfields land development within Melbourne's West. The membership of the Club is small (currently 20 members) but there is commitment, passion and enthusiasm within the Club to 'make a difference' and to support and encourage the youth within our community. The 2007/08 message "Rotary Shares" accurately reflects the Rotary Club of Laverton Point Cook.

C: *What past projects would rank in your Club's 'Hall of Fame'?*

JK: Restoration of the original one room Laverton school and subsequent "back to!" celebrations:

- Provision of the Rotary clock at the central roundabout in Laverton
- Rotary centennial project
- Tree planting at back of airfield reserve Laverton
- Youth exchange, which we enthusiastically embrace

C: *What has Laverton Point Cook got brewing for the 2007/08 Rotary year?*

JK: The development of a new playground within the Point Cook Coastal Park with financial support from our Club, the Wyndham City Council and Parks Victoria.

- Community Fashion parade with funds directed to our International projects.
- At the end of July the Club will welcome a new daughter – Anna-Celina Hann from Germany. In January the Club will welcome home two Club exchange students – Nick Duxson and Edward Negus –

## Clarice speaks her mind



### THE RUMOUR

*As an erudite newshound ... (top shelf, of course)  
I do stories with consummate skill  
I'll sometimes 'give legs' to a rumour  
But here's one I just have to kill.*

*It could be 'Revenge of the Troglobytes'  
Or some mischief-makers around  
Who are saying, "eighteen hundred dollars  
For the website ...and each Club is bound".*

*So let's isolate fact from fiction  
Lest we all succumb to a daze  
Club Treasurers ...please stop spluttering  
It's dear old District that pays.*

*You know that Dom Perignon fits with me  
And Veuve Cliquot brings good cheer  
But each Club .. 1800 for the website? ...hah  
...About as likely as me drinking beer.*

Clarice

who are currently in Denmark and Finland.

- Club fellowship – a memorable weekend away!

C: *Tell us about your area, why people visit and any local features of note.*

JK: Laverton and Point Cook are important areas for the RAAF with active bases located in both suburbs. They are both in a significant growth corridor within Melbourne's West.

Both suburbs have appreciable environmental areas including the Point Cook Coastal Park and Cheetham Wetlands. There are noteworthy historical plants growing within the Laverton area.

We also have the RAAF Museum. Housed at Point Cook, it is the birthplace of the Australian Flying Corps and the Royal Australian Air Force. The museum tells one of Australia's most important aviation stories ... that of the second oldest air force in the world.

C: *What is the Laverton Point Cook Club's passion?*

JK: To provide opportunities for youth through Rotary projects such as International Youth Exchange and RYLA. We're also committed to increase membership and thus provide more hands to work on projects.

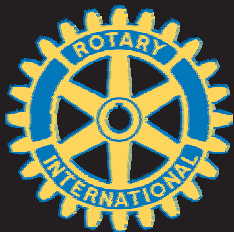
Finally, to enjoy Rotary and service to our area and the wider community.

C: *If you had to liken your Club to an animal, what would it be and why?*

JK: A Lion – ready to take a bite at new projects within the area whilst supporting its cubs.

C: *In your Club ... any butchers, bakers or candlestick makers? If not, anyone with an exotic vocation?*

JK: Electricity management – a meter reader. This member is so fast on his feet that our Rotary meal doesn't quite fill up ... due to his high level of activity during the day! He is our Youth Exchange guru - very committed to the program and the



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magnificent outcomes that it achieves.

C: *Who is the longest serving Member in your Club?*

JK: Bob Hawkins – who was inducted on 4th Oct 1973

C: *What's the weirdest thing that's happened at Point Cook Laverton?*

JK: The Club headed off to Echuca on the long weekend in June. Somehow our group became friendly with the Maritime Police on the Murray! The member who was driving the "speed" boat was asked for his postcode. "3030" he blurted. "It figures," said the officer, "we've caught lots of people from Hoppers Crossing!!" Can any Rotarians out there provide an insight?

C: *If Bill Gates donated a \$1 million to your Club, where would you spend it?*

JK: Youth projects within the area. There are growth corridors within both Laverton and Point Cook with extraordinary numbers of future students. The opportunities are endless.

C: *If I wanted to get involved with Laverton Point Cook, how would I do it?*

JK: Join us for a meeting at the Sanctuary Lakes Golf Club – we can absolutely guarantee a warm welcome and a fun night!

You could also come to Carranballac College on Election Day in November. The Club will be sizzling sausages from 8:00am at both campuses on that day! Fundraising will be a focus this Rotary year and we need everyone's support to carry out the exciting projects that we have in the pipeline.

## On Being A Leader

A runner wanting to complete a marathon in two hours needs not only to know that two hours is the goal and how much improvement is required from the

current time, but also what changes in race style are needed to achieve it. Effective leaders take a similar approach. They look at what behaviours will make the difference between where they are now, and where they want to go.

The reality for most leaders, however, is that the team's performance often takes precedence over their own individual performance. The question here though is, how much of the team's performance relies upon the effectiveness of the leader as an individual?

### Gaining Perspective

For those leaders caught up in the moment rather than watching from a distance, finding appropriate points on which they can compare their performance is critical to gaining perspective. By selecting an appropriate benchmark, they can establish where their performance is at currently, and where they need to go to improve it.

### Benchmarking Best Practice

A simple question to ask might be "If I were on top of everything and at my best, what would I be doing in my role as a leader?" Upon working out what optimum performance really is, realistic, individualised expectations can be built, and the factors preventing the achievement of this performance level understood.

### Trying To Do Too Much

For many leaders, a common trap is simply trying to do too much, which more often than not, means sacrificing other areas. Instead of accomplishing more, they perform below their best in the areas that really count.

### Redefining Your Best

By recognising their limitations and the factors that get in the way of achieving their 'ultimate performance', leaders can redefine a more realistic idea of what their best performance looks like. Areas to think about might be:

- Redefining 'personal best' to include attending to the team's needs;
- Redefining 'personal best' to recognise the inevitability of obstacles;
- Attending to less and doing a better job within those areas;
- Attending to more and recognising that one's best is subject to parameters (e.g. how much assistance you can give in the hour you have assigned);
- Recognising and concentrating on the core areas upon which performance is rated, and reducing attention to non-core areas;
- Recognising more efficient ways of doing tasks;
- Recognising unnecessary obstacles that can be easily overcome;
- Redefining the leadership role itself, recognising areas better served through delegating or empowering team members to accomplish them independently.

### What A Team Needs From Its Leader

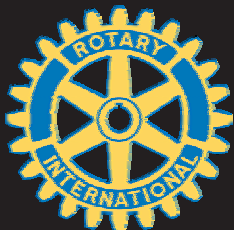
Before 'best' performance benchmarks are set, the wise leader will ask what the team needs from him/her and is the leader's 'best' helping them? Going back to our original question, "how much of the team's performance relies upon the effectiveness of the leader as an individual?", it is evident that if the team's needs have been taken into account, a leader's effectiveness as an individual should be benefiting the team as well.

### What Does The Leader Need?

To operate at optimum level, a leader needs to be mentally present. Maintaining a healthy life balance allows leaders to achieve this.

### Setting SMART Goals

Knowing where a leader's best performance is, and the behaviours required to achieve that performance level, it's



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time to make a 'SMART' goal around each one.

A SMART goal is:

- Specific – It is clear and leaves no doubt what is to be achieved.
- Measurable – It is evident whether the change has occurred/how much change has occurred.
- Agreed – All parties are behind this goal, or where it is the individual leader's solely, the goal has that person's commitment.
- Realistic – It is something capable of being achieved in the real world, not just the ideal world.
- Time Oriented – There is a date of completion or follow up at which goal attainment is assessed.

When caught up in leading others, common tendencies for many leaders are to either neglect to compare their work to any benchmark or to compare their work to that of the people by whom they are surrounded. Taking the time to step back and re-assess is critical. By maintaining a focus on how 'best' is defined, what 'best' can be, and how it can be achieved, leaders are able to benefit their team at the same time.

## Some Practical Tips For Bringing Out Your Best

- Know where you are going – define your best before you try to chase it down.
- Recognise your limitations including sleep, personal commitments, hours you have available during the day, and time you need to assess your own performance.
- Know what your team needs from you.
- Step back and gain perspective.
- Consult your team.
- Keep balance in your life.
- Set yourself SMART goals and follow up on them.

## Club Initiatives

### Literacy Month



Their literacy and numeracy project ranks as the jewel in the crown of **The Rotary Club of Daylesford's** "Hall of Fame".

Every newborn in the shire is supplied with a book, and the parents a pamphlet outlining the importance of early reading to their newborn.

All four-year-olds are given a package containing fun ways with numbers and also a pamphlet for the parents outlining how through fun they can teach their children the importance on mathematics in their everyday life and prepare them for school.

### PNG Water Initiative

The **Rotary Club of Woodend** has embarked on an international project to provide water to villages in Tufi District, Oro Province, PNG.

International Director, Eb Friedrich is departing on July 28th to take a group on the Kokoda track (his second trek) and then onto various villages in Tufi, to make an initial survey of the water needs and bring that information back to engineers here to come up with an action plan.

On a visit to the area last year, Eb and his 15 year-old son, Luke, were shown how, during the dry season, villagers have to walk 40 minutes each way to source water from a permanent spring. The villagers asked if we could assist in

bringing this water to their village. No promises were made, but the Woodend Rotary Club has decided to help. Initial fundraising has commenced with an amount of \$3000 in the kitty, including a generous donation by Daylesford Rotary Club.

We are on a steep learning curve but consider the provision of clean water to be an essential and worthy project. We are looking for any Members or Clubs that have water project expertise or who wish to be involved. We are fortunate to have one new member who is a pump expert and we have sourced a water engineer who is willing to come on board. We envisage further trips to Tufi to implement the action plan in the following years and will post details on the RAWCS website once we have firm details.

We have also received a request from a Woodend resident lawyer who is with RAMSI in the Solomons asking for assistance with airfare and incidental expenses to bring an indigenous lawyer to Victoria for a three-month bar course.

The course is being funded by the Victorian Bar Association and he will be hosted by lawyers here. We are looking for small donations from clubs in our cluster. Airfares are approximately \$2000, plus minor living expenses. AusAid funding is not available.

Queries can be directed to Eb Friedrich, International Director, Woodend Rotary Club. Mobile: 0438 537 139.

## Featured Events

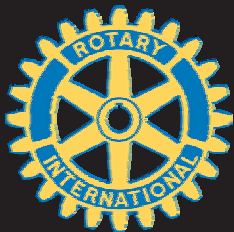
The **Rotary Club of Toorak** will be holding a Business Persons Breakfast on Wednesday, August 29th at Lincoln

### Quote Corner

"Thanks to Rotary, my efforts to make the world a better place are multiplied. I'm no longer alone"

*Fernando Aguirre Palacios, Ecuador*





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of Toorak, Level 2 Trak Centre, 445 Toorak Road, Toorak.

Guest Speaker will be The Hon. Julie Bishop MP, Minister for Education, Science and Training, and Minister assisting the Prime Minister on Women's



*International Services Director, Garth Symington RC North Balwyn and PDG Ian Knight, from RC Werribee inspect one of the water tanks installed at the McMahon High School at Tulagi in the Solomon Islands.*

## Issues.

Time: 7:00am for 7:15am sharp - \$50.00 per person, \$500.00 for tables of 10. All proceeds for The Ardoch Youth Foundation.

For advance bookings contact PP. Alan Freedman on 0419-357-864.

## District Award

The **Rotary Club of North Balwyn** (RCNB) has won the 2006/07 D9800 District Award for International Service for a program called "Adopt the Community of Tulagi". This needs-based program is directed towards the development and welfare of people living in Tulagi in the Central Province of the Solomon Islands, and it addresses quality of life and standards of living. The project is a partnership with the **Rotary Club of Honiara** (D9600) and supported by the **Rotary Club of Werribee**.

The primary focus is on health and education. The program is broadly based and RCNB wants to leave the commu-

nity of Tulagi with a new sense of confidence and security.

The primary target areas are the McMahon High School and the Tulagi Community Hospital and Medical Centre.

The high school has an enrolment of about 500 children from kindergarten to elementary secondary level. However, the facility is inadequately funded, under-resourced and run down.

The Hospital and Medical Centre services the 20,000 people living in Central Province. It is too small to adequately meet community health service needs and quality medical equipment is in short supply.

The **Rotary Club of North Balwyn** has developed a multi-pronged approach to address these priorities, including seeking support and funds through the Rotary Foundation (TRF) and other Rotary Clubs in Australia and elsewhere in the world.

During 2006/07 several projects at the McMahon High School were completed with funding through a Matching Grant provided through the Rotary Foundation (TRF). Total expenditure was \$US30,320 (approximately \$AU39,000)

The Matching Grant was supported with District 9800 Designated Funds (DDF), and by the **RC of Balwyn** (D9800) and the **RC of Goksu** (D2420) in Turkey.

The Matching Grant funds were used for:

- 250 student desks.
- Toilets and a septic tank.
- Water tanks (3 by 1000 gallons and guttering). These materials were sourced in the Solomons and installed by local contractors.
- Ceiling fans and lights, sourced in Australia and installed by a local contractor.

The **Rotary Club of North Balwyn** is now developing an application for a second TRF Matching Grant for the "Adopt the Community of Tulagi" project. We envisage this application will



*PDG John Reddish from RC North Balwyn on a recent visit to Tulagi in the Solomon Islands.*

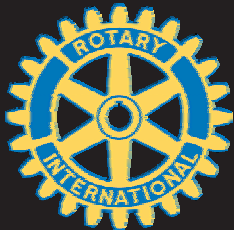
cover projects with total expenditure of up to \$US50,000 (approximately \$AU60,000).

Work on the second application is advanced and we already have indications of support from the **RC of Werribee** (D9800); US Rotary Clubs, including **Batesville, Clarksdale, Corinth, Memphis East** and **Oxford** (all D6800); and the **RC of Goksu** in Turkey (D2420), adding to their support for the first Matching Grant.

Funds from a second Matching Grant will be used at the Hospital and Medical Centre for:

- A security fence around the premises (there is no security currently, particularly for drugs in the hospital dispensary);
  - An emergency 38 KVA generator to back-up the non-dependable local power supply;
  - Water tanks and guttering;
  - Medical equipment, including bed nets.
- The "Adopt the Community of Tulagi" project is very much a work-in-progress, and there is much more to do, including:
- Volunteer team projects;
  - Technical trades training facility at the high school;
  - Integrated farming projects;
  - Potential micro credit programs.

The **RC North Balwyn**, along with **RC of Honiara** have committed with enthu-



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siasm to "Adopt the Community of Tulagi" in the Solomon Islands, and are continuing to seek to widen support throughout the Rotary organisation.

"Adopt the Community of Tulagi" is a project that already is making a difference for a community that finds itself in less fortunate circumstances than we take for granted in Australia. It is a good example of Rotary at work.

## 40+ Rotarian

Being a lady of vast experience ... worldly and "worldly" ... it's a rare thing to find me wide-eyed and a little intimidated.

But I now admit to all this as I stood on the cliff at Point Lonsdale and looked out on the entrance to Port Phillip Bay. A big intake of air and I was admitted to the weekend retreat of Footscray Rotarian and revered Club philosopher, Bob McNish

*C: How did you become involved with Rotary?*

**BM:** Like most people in the 1960's. There was a formality and a process ... I was invited to luncheon and 'observed'. My proposer was Ian Rowe (still a member at Footscray). My interview was conducted by Ian and esteemed president Tom Osborn ... remembered as the Club's 'Poet Laureate'.

I conducted a business in Yarraville for over 30 years and was inducted under the classification of Footwear Retailing.

*C: What is the biggest project you've been involved with as Rotarian?*

**BM:** There have been a few ... helping the organisation District conferences - 1981-2 at Gosford - PDG Doug Mills and 1989-90 at Canberra - PDG Lawrence Atley ... the organisation of the 75th Anniversary performance at the Sidney Myer Music Bowl; the organisation of the RC of Footscray's 50th birthday dinner at the National Arts Centre; and the establishment of

the Footscray Community Trust and House of Friendship Inc., which is still in place today.

*C: What superpowers have you gained as a Rotarian?*

**BM:** As a western suburbs boy from a working class family, Rotary gave me the environment and confidence to mix easily with Knights of the Realm and captains of industry.

*C: What is the biggest change in Rotary that you've seen?*

**BM:** There are two. Firstly, the move from elitism to egalitarianism and, secondly, the introduction of women into Rotary.

*C: If you had to liken Rotary to a movie or song, which would it be?*

**BM:** "Seems To Me Like I've Heard That Song Before".



*C: What do you particularly enjoy about the Footscray Rotary Club?*

**BM:** The ability to, once a week, mix with a group of intellectually like-minded individuals who are making society a better place to live and striking a blow for the common good.

*C: What historical event would you have liked to have witnessed?*

**BM:** As an historical event and without political prejudice - it would be the dismissal of the Whitlam government from the steps of Parliament House.

*C: What are your passions outside of Rotary?*

**BM:** Family, live theatre, the arts, gardening and good conversation.

In retirement, the absence of compulsion and the ability to pursue

those things which provide satisfaction and fulfilment.

*C: Why is being a Rotarian special to you?*

**BM:** It accords me membership to a worldwide organisation focussed on goodness, not financial gain.

*C: Where is Lord Lucan?*

**BM:** Lord Who? ....just kidding. Heavens above knows ...

*C: Complete the following: Life is*

**BM:** ...not a rehearsal.

*C: My secret talent is ...*

**BM:** It's incorrect, of course ... but I'm told that I'm able to talk underwater with a mouthful of marbles.

*C: The way to my heart is ...*

**BM:** ...through my family and a dinner party with stimulating conversation and a few bottles of red with 'oomph' ... the Wagner and roast beef type.

*C: I am ...*

**BM:** ...an iconoclast and a Devil's advocate ... yet I'm a shy individual at heart.

*C: Rotary is ...*

**BM:** ...a wonderful forum for goodness in a troubled world.

*C: Rotarians are ...*

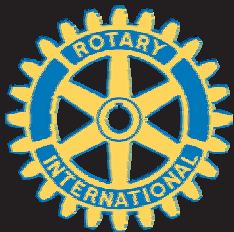
**BM:** ...contributors not collectors.

We said goodbye and as I 'descended from the mount' I have to admit to a bit of un-Clarice-like reflection. Thanks Bob.

For a while my beautiful black Beamer seemed, well, a little 'worldly'. However, as the lights of Toorak Road came into view I am happy to report that I felt my 'cultural predispositions' returning.

## New Member Profile

I have always thought that 'dressing up' is essentially a guy's thing. Women like to dress well. But, and I can say with some authority, it's the boys whose eyes light up when the notion of 'dressing up' is proffered.



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Anna Fitzgerald is the owner of Melbourne Fancy Dress & Costume Hire and has just finished organising and outfitting a huge costume night for the Essendon Football Club (I told you. Boys!!).

Anna joined the **Rotary Club of Footscray** in December 2006 and I was delighted to meet her at work...a veritable factory of fantasy and fun.

C: Welcome to "The Wonderful World of Rotary". Who encouraged you to join?

AM: I guess it started around 2004 at the Moonee Valley Festival. I met Maria Kouppos from the Essendon Rotary Club. She inspired with the notion of community service. However, it was later at a business network meeting that I met other Rotarians. John Dobinson from Footscray was instrumental in my joining the Club.

C: How did the Fitzgeralds come by their millions?

AM: If you mean population, then it was the enthusiastic Church-driven Irish procreators. If you mean money—I'm still waiting.

C: Mind if I try on the Cleopatra head-dress ... er, what sort of projects would you really like to "make a difference through Rotary?"

AM: Youth is my passion. There are so many opportunities through Rotary to foster, nurture and encourage youth ... opportunities that are not usually available.

C: Wow, look at me! Oh Anna ...um, what are your passions outside of Rotary?

AM: My children. My music – I'm a member of the Brunswick Women's Choir. Oh, and back in 70's a gorgeous blue-eyed Italian actor called Franco Nero. Even now, the heart skips a beat.

C: Before joining Rotary did you think that a seminar on "Bloke Culture" would have been helpful?

AM: Yes, possibly. I was one of a family of four girls with a strict Italian father. I went to an all girl Catholic school and I was a Catholic girls school teacher for 23 years. I have to say that the Rotarians are wonderfully mild compared to some parents I encountered.



C: What's another misconception you had about Rotary before joining?

AM: I must have been like a lot of people, and thought they all might be boring and old ... 'you know'. But that's not true ... there are also boring young you-knows – *don't print that* – of course, I'm just kidding.

C: Who are two famous people that you admire .... living or dead ...male or female ... historical, theatrical (whatever 'ical' you'd like) – and why do you admire them?

AM: Monty Python – I know it's not one person. I loved their off-the-wall humour. It goes right back to school where we had a Secret Society of Pythonophiles. Violetta Para, Spanish composer artist and singer, who was a freedom fighter and activist for women's causes in the 1960's.

C: What song describes you best?

AM: I'm a Believer.

C: Do you have any of that 1930's Marlene Dietrich gear? What do you

enjoy, in particular, about the Footscray Rotary Club?

AM: I was made to feel very welcome and, in such a short time, I have met such great sincere friends. I also love email contact which has been another enjoyable outcome of my membership at Footscray.

C: Look at that feather boa ... can I? ...Now, what's been the best thing so far about joining Rotary?

AM: My business, while occasionally stressful, is very enjoyable. People relax and talk excitedly about their costume choices. It's very social and I am amazed how often Rotary comes into the conversation ... acquaintances, friends, children of Rotarians. Rotary is a big family ...just like the Fitzgeralds! And I'm part of it.

C: Complete the following: Life is ...?

AM: ...a gift

C: My secret talent is ...?

AM: ...juggling

C: The way to my heart is ...?

AM: ...to take me travelling anywhere

C: I am...?

AM: ...courageous often — sometimes — well, usually

C: Rotary is ...?

AM: ...an opportunity to do so much for so many

C: Rotarians are ...?

AM: ...very behaved (Of course they are, dear, of course they are – C)

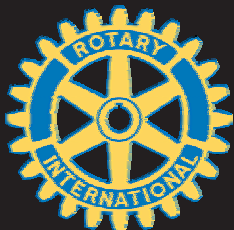
A bit of girlie gossip, and the interview drifted to a close. While Anna got back to some real work, your intrepid scribe worked her way through Mata Hari, Queen Victoria, Margaret Thatcher (*just kidding*), Wonder Woman, Wilma Flintstone, Madonna and – wait for it – Charlie Chaplin.

Anna had to work late and we finally left together at 10 o'clock. Why can't every day be like this?

How often do you see the bad in things rather than the good? In life people who have a sense of optimism are rarely disappointed. They find the good - even when it's tough! - Wes Truscott







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Issue 3, 16 July 2007

## Strong Clubs

One of the most compelling television programs that I have watched is Granada Television's "Seven Up" series. It chronicles and updates, every seven years, the lives of children first interviewed in 1964 ... at the age of seven.

Viewers are engaged by the directions that each subject's life takes in the ensuing seven years. There are the predictable structural family adjustments, but it is the attitudinal changes which provide the most interesting contrasts.

All of us experience a redefining of our values, ethics and our sense of humanity to others. The redefinition can be inspired by events or people and the outcomes can be profound.

There are many people who have helped to shape my life in Rotary. Because of commitment and dedication to helping others, one that stands out is Past Rotary International President, Bhichai Rattakul.

Bhichai's capacity to speak, with a unique combination of strength and humility, about how Rotarians can make a difference to the lives of others never fails to inspire both Rotarians and non-Rotations alike.

At the start of this Rotary year I would like to reprint Bhichai's message on strong clubs because it does convey the feelings and message that I also would like to convey to all clubs in our District in the 2007-8 year.

Bhichai says:

"Nothing is more essential to the success of Rotary International than the work of its clubs. It is the club and its members- not the District Governor, not the directors, not the President of Rotary International- that do the work of Rotary. It is the clubs that create and uphold our image as a network of volunteers dedicated to local and international humanitarian action.

"You have heard the expression: The whole is only the sum of its parts. And in Rotary's case, the whole of Rotary is the sum of its clubs and all the work they do to serve communities and the world. Any club that doesn't perform to the best of its ability diminishes the whole, at the same time diminishing Rotary's power to do good.

"If our clubs are strong, our organization will grow both in membership and prestige. Strong clubs carry out dynamic service projects that bring a better life to hundreds, and even thousands of people. Strong clubs present a vibrant public image that attracts men and women to their ranks.

"In recent years, Rotary has introduced many new ideas and new programs- all for the good of those who are less fortunate than us. But have we done enough to strengthen ourselves at club level? Perhaps we should pause here for a while and look back to the basics when the ideal of Rotary service first emerged. There is a saying that "A cow that has forgotten its own footprint tends to lose its firm grip on the next step." Certainly, you and I do not want Rotary to go in this direction. Our clubs are the heart and soul of Rotary, and when we neglect them the entire organization's image suffers. When clubs are weak, members have less reason to be committed to Rotary's ideals and the community does not reap the benefits that come from meaningful Rotary Service."

"This year we have added extra resources to the District 9800 structure. One of these is the "Oomph" team which seeks to assist clubs who have identified weaknesses in certain areas. We have also introduced the Secretarial Elect Training Seminar and strengthened the District Secretarial group by appointing a Club Liaison Officer to help clubs with their administration. We believe that the selection of positive focus programs for the District Assembly, Pre-PETS and PETS seminars will equip each club President to lead their club with confidence for the 2007-8 Rotary year.

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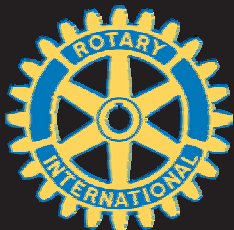


"If the various resources available from District can be used by clubs to become stronger and more effective, we will be able to achieve our vision and mission statement for Rotary in our District, as described on our new web site [www.rotarydistrict9800.org](http://www.rotarydistrict9800.org).

*John Davis, District Governor*

## Club Profile

Here's one for the record – I took the train!!! I guess it was memories more than anything else. The last time I arrived at Camberwell station I was in school uniform! Imagine me – just one of the 'gals' at school – 17 and trying to be 21. Unfortunately, I was more inclined towards the beautiful Palace Hotel than I was to the 'jolly hockey sticks'. Ah ...so long ago, that would have been 19?? Actually, you don't need to know.



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Camberwell Club President, Peter Matthews and I 'rendezvoused' and got straight down to business.

*C: What differentiates the Camberwell Rotary Club from all others?*

PM: Camberwell Rotary does things well. Our Herald Sun Camberwell Rotary Art Show is regarded as the best realist Art Show in Australia. We run a very successful 'Business of Winning' luncheon and are proud of the District Conference the Club hosted in Adelaide.

*C: What past projects would rank in your Club's 'Hall of Fame'?*

PM: The building of the Araluen Centre. Donations of \$100,000 each towards the Chatham Lea and Bass Care refurbishments.

Provision of funds to the Multiple Myeloma Foundation from proceeds received from the 'Business of Winning' luncheon.

Funding of a research project into Youth Suicide through the ARHRF, again from proceeds received from the 'Business of Winning' luncheon.

The provision of a major cultural event – the Herald Sun Camberwell Rotary Art Show.

The donation of a soup kitchen van to St. Vincent de Paul.



Camberwell Station, circa 1920. Long before my time.

*C: What has your Club in the pipeline for the 2007/08 Rotary year?*

PM: Investigating support for Eva Tilley Memorial Homes refurbishment. We also have a weekend visit to

RC Horsham early October fulfilling a longstanding relationship with between our two clubs.

Our 2007 'Business of Winning' luncheon on 30 November, followed by the Herald Sun Camberwell Rotary Art Show 18 - 26 April.

*C: Tell us about your area, why people visit and any local features of note?*

PM: Camberwell is a great suburb – period homes, leafy streets and a fabulous shopping centre with lots of fine dining. The Rivoli Twin is an art deco icon and Maranoa Gardens, which is over 100 years old, provides a superb area where there is an emphasis on Australian flora.

*C: What is the Camberwell club's passion?*

PM: A strong community culture, as shown by our large local projects, and a willingness to do things well.

*C: If you had to liken your club to an animal, what would it be and why?*

PM: A kangaroo, because it progresses in leaps and bounds and doesn't go backwards.

*C: In the Camberwell club does anyone have an unusual or exotic vocation?*

PM: Yes...Distilling. David Baker (Baker Hill Distillery) has been winning international awards for his fine single malt whiskies. We also have two members who are former brewers.

*C: Sounds like the club is rolling along beautifully. By the way, who is the longest serving member in your club?*

PM: Les Brown and Les Dale are charter members ...between them they have enjoyed 100 years of Rotary service. The club was chartered in November 1956 – a few weeks before the opening of the Melbourne Olympic Games.

*C: What's the weirdest thing that's happened at the Camberwell Club?*

PM: In the early days the club was hosting a District Conference at the Dallas Brooks Hall when a major blackout occurred. The problem of

supplying electricity was overcome by hiring generators!

*C: If Bill Gates donated a \$1 million to your Club, where would you spend it?*

PM: I believe that we'd invest the money and use the income to fund community projects.

*C: If I wanted to get involved with the Camberwell Rotary, how would I do it?*

PM: Visit the our Club's website at [www.camberwellrotary.org.au](http://www.camberwellrotary.org.au).

I will visit the website one day. But today I had to visit the Palace Hotel. I made the best entrance I could but the patrons seemed preoccupied. After two 'desert dry' martinis and a chat with two lovely local ladies, I figured that my 'in crowd' reputation at the Palace in 19...you know, may have dissipated. The station looked lovely and I had a wistful trip back to the office.

*Camberwell Rotary Club was chartered on November 2, 1956.*

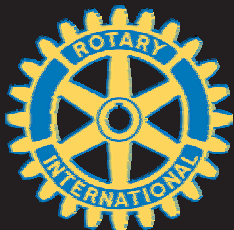
## 40+ Rotarian

Ah Richmond .... any Melbourne resident who is female and over 14 years knows that Richmond is a little bit special. Factory outlets and sales!!! Let's not be coy girls, we love going to Swan St and Bridge Rd and getting amongst the bargains. So I was totally unfazed when I was asked to gun the Beamer down to Cremorne Street, Richmond to interview the venerable Melbourne Rotary Club member, David Wittner.

David is the principal at Wittner Shoes ... a 95 year old Melbourne icon. After being welcomed into his delightful office, I had to resist the urge to open up with, "So I guess you're the 'sole' of Melbourne". But I knew that David would have handled that with ease, so we settled straight down to business.

*C: How did you become involved with Rotary?*

DW: When Wittner shoes first started it was based in Footscray and my



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brother, Arnold, became a member of the Rotary Club of Footscray under the classification of "Footwear Retailing". Later we moved the head office to South Melbourne and then, for the last 15 years, Richmond. When we moved from Footscray, Arnold lost his classification. However, he was subsequently invited to become a member of the Rotary Club of Melbourne and I was invited to join, in 1964, as an "Additional Active" member.

*C: What is the biggest project you've been involved with as Rotarian?*

DW: Undoubtedly, the 1992-93 World Conference. It was a great event, with a superb World President (Cliff Dochterman), 23,000 people and a wonderful showcasing of Melbourne. It was the biggest event to be held in the city since the 1956 Olympic Games.



*C: What superpowers have you gained as a Rotarian?*

DW: Absolutely none.

*C: Imagine that you are condemned to live in one place outside Australia for the rest of your life. Where would you choose and why?*

DW: I should preface my remarks by declaring that I would hate to leave Australia. No question - this is the best place to live. However, if I have to choose then it would be New York City. Vibrant, exciting

and cultured. For all sorts of reasons, it is truly one of the world's great destinations.

*C: What is the biggest change in Rotary that you've seen?*

DW: Without doubt, the introduction of women into Rotary. I always favoured the move....women bring a completely different perspective and, without question, Rotary has gained enormously through their endeavours.

If I may, Clarice - an interesting aside. In 1980, during my presidential year, DG Jack Nankervis 'wanted to test the water'. We conducted a plebiscite at the Rotary Club of Melbourne - the result 67% YES, 21% NO and 12% abstained.

Remember this was 1980! I guess it showed too that the Rotary Club of Melbourne had less fuddy-duddies than was generally assumed.

*C: Tell me about an exciting or unusual event that you've been involved with?*

DW: In 1953 South African golfer Bobby Locke (British Open champion 1949, 1950, 1952 and 1957) arrived in Melbourne to play a series of matches against Australia's Ossie Pickworth.

On the day they were due to play at Royal Melbourne, Locke's caddy was unavailable and I was asked to fill in. What a game - on a day of sensational head-to-head golf - Pickworth 63 defeated Locke 64. I had a ringside view, and I'll never forget it.

*C: What do you particularly enjoy about the Melbourne Rotary Club?*

DW: That's easy - it's people ....wonderful people, wonderful fellowship and great friends.

*C: What historical event would you have liked to witness?*

DW: Not a particular point in time ... rather an era. I would have liked to have witnessed all the intrigues and shenanigans that led to Australia becoming a federation. Excit-

ing times and great characters such as Parkes, Deakin, Fisher and Barton—and, of course, a great result!

*C: What are your passions outside of Rotary?*

DW: My family, my business, the theatre and golf. (David's too modest, but I'm not. I feel that we should acknowledge a golfer who held a single figure handicap for over 50 years!!! -C)

*C: Why is being a Rotarian special to you?*

DW: It opened my eyes to service projects throughout the world.

*C: You are compelled to go to a rock concert and you have 3 choices - Abba, The Rolling Stones or Madonna. Who would you choose and why?*

DW: Definitely Abba. Easy on the ear ...easy on the eye!!! (Rogue - C)

*C: Complete the following: Life is...*

DW: ...good. The alternative does not appeal.

*C: My secret talent is...*

DW: ...knowing that others have more talent than me.

*C: The way to my heart is...*

DW: ...through my chest !! (I love a man who's direct - C)

*C: I am...*

DW: ...humble. And I have much to be humble about.

*C: Rotary is...*

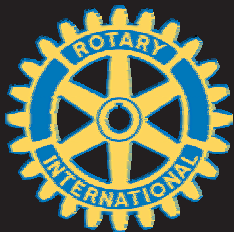
DW: ...a unique service organisation.

*C: Rotarians are...*

DW: ...a committed lot.

A few pleasantries and I was back on the streets (figuratively speaking) in Richmond. It's the first time I've interviewed a Paul Harris Fellow with double sapphires. (The Melbourne RC has only ever awarded two). David's time in Rotary has been star-studded and he has the bearing and manner of a more gracious era. Talking about grace (and style), it is Richmond ...I think I'll buy some shoes.





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## Notices & Events

### Rotary Club of Footscray

**T**he Rotary Club of Footscray has been 'kicked out' of our meeting venue at the home of the Western Bulldogs for at least six months (probably more like twelve, if the truth's known), while extensive renovations are carried out.

Until further notice, regular meetings (Thursdays, 12:30pm for 12:45pm) will now be held at Croatian House, 72 Whitehall Street, Footscray.

### Laverton Point Cook

**T**he club will have representatives from Parks Victoria at the 25 July meeting to announce a \$50,000 new playground project for the Point Cook Coastal Park. This is a **Laverton Point Cook Rotary Club** initiative and will be jointly funded by the club, Wyndham Council and Parks Victoria. It is due for completion in March 2008.

A committee will be formed to oversee the project made up of the various representatives and a detailed works program has been completed. The playground will be called the "Point Cook Coastal Park Playground". Further information can be obtained from John Ray from the **Laverton Point Cook Rotary Club** on his email address [jray@parks.vic.gov.au](mailto:jray@parks.vic.gov.au).

The official opening of a rotunda, a **Rotary Club of Laverton Point Cook** "Rotary Centennial Project", is to be held on 28 July, 2007.

Rotary Club of Laverton Point Cook were proud to donate approximately \$25 000 to the community for the supply and erection of the rotunda adjacent to Skeleton Creek (west side of Point Cook Road adjacent to Carinza Avenue).

## Clarice Speaks



*I'd love to have photos to put in each letter  
Words are my business but pictures look better.  
So when you send items and things you're to tell  
As far as you're able add snapshots as well.*

*Send different photos for me to review  
I will select those that work best for you.  
Attach pictures a-plenty, when items submitting  
and I will include some, enough space permitting.*

*One special request, though - please just attach  
as a file with your email the photos that match.  
When part of a document they're hard to retrieve,  
and quality's lower, you'd better believe.*

The rotunda will be officially opened at the club's weekly meeting on Saturday, 28 July at 11:00am. Various groups and representatives have been invited to join us at the meeting.

### Altona Art Show

**T**he Rotary Club of Altona is holding their annual Art Show on Saturday, August 18 and Sunday, August 19 at the Williamstown Town Hall, Ferguson Street, Williamstown.

There will be a preview evening on Friday, 17 August. For more information and to make a booking, contact George on 9398 2490.

### Sports Night - Essendon

**T**he Rotary Club of Essendon is holding a Sports Night on Thursday, 2 August, at the Essendon Football

Club, Upper Level, Napier Street, Essendon.

Tony Shaw, Terry Daniher and Damien Fleming, sporting personalities all, are featured. Admission is only \$35 per head, which includes a full smorgasbord dinner and drinks.

All proceeds go to cancer research. For more information call Pat O'Connell on 9370 8926 or Richard Lawrence on 0418 369 290.

## Solomon Island Rural Teacher Wins Rotary Scholarship

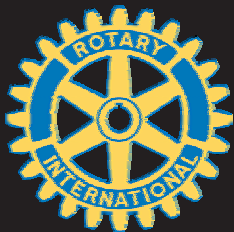
**A** Royce and Jean Abbey Agricultural Scholarship has been awarded to a teacher from the Don Bosco Rural Farm at Tetere in the Solomon Islands. This follows a successful application by the **Rotary Club of North Balwyn** in Victoria and the **Rotary Club of Honiara** (the capital of the Solomons).

### Quip Corner

When the Professor said that though in English a double negative means a positive, a double positive does not mean a negative, the student at the back of the class shouted out: "Yah, Right!"

The only thing that stands between a man and what he wants in life is the will to take action and the faith to believe that anything is possible.

Wes Truscott



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The teacher is Joseph Aaron who will study rice growing and animal husbandry in Australia.

The **Rotary Club of North Balwyn** has a humanitarian aid project in the Solomons called "Adopt the Community of Tulagi" in partnership with the Don Bosco Technical Institute, which is based at Henderson near Honiara. Don Bosco has been providing technical advice and expertise for the Club's various projects in the Solomon Islands.

Grants up to US\$10,000 from the Royce and Jean Abbey Endowed Fund are available to men and women from developing countries working in research, extension, teaching, in agriculture, food processing, forestry, fisheries and related activities.

Funding from the Royce and Jean Abbey Scholarship will allow Joseph Aaron to spend two months on the job training on rice growing farms in the Riverland area in NSW. He will also spend another month on specialised courses at rural training centres in Sunbury and Geelong in Victoria.

Rice was once a significant crop in the Solomons, but in recent years much of the original cropping area has been turned over to palm oil production. Today there is recognition in the Solomons of the need to re-develop rice growing as a low cost sustainable food source as well as providing employment opportunities for local people. The Don Bosco program in the Solomon Islands in partnership with Rotary is helping meet this need.

The President of the **North Balwyn Rotary Club**, Ian Adams, says the Royce and Jean Abbey Scholarship to enhance and develop Joseph Aaron's skills in rice growing and general farming is an excellent example of Rotary providing support for education, humanitarian and health projects in the Solomon Islands.

The **Rotary Club of North Balwyn** is committed to providing opportunities for local communities in the Solomon Islands.

lands so that they can look forward with confidence to the future.

## Speaker Bank

One of the secrets to attracting and retaining members is to ensure that your club has top-notch speakers.

Speaker Bank is a resource for Program Directors in the D9800 Rotary District to access a range of speakers from varied backgrounds. There are over 120 speakers listed with the Speaker Bank in a number of categories.

Having engaging and interesting speakers has been shown to be vitally important to the health of a Rotary club, helping to attract and retain members, therefore strengthening your club.

Members and prospective members are more likely to attend a Rotary meeting if the Speaker is of interest and value.

We welcome recommendations for 'deposits' from Rotarians, of good Speakers who have impressed with their content and presentation. We like to hear when Program Directors have 'withdrawn' Speakers.

Watch 60 Minutes on Channel 9 this Sunday to see the story of one of our recent Speaker Bank deposits...the *Choir of Hard Knocks*. The Co-ordinator, Esther Coleman-Hawkins, is delighted to be included in the D9800 Speaker Bank.

*Jill Weeks is on the D9800 Speaker Bank Committee. She has been a member of the Rotary Club of Hawthorn for six years.*



## New Rotarian

I haven't been to the airport for some time and, wouldn't you know it, they've changed the road. At Essendon (and being 'directionally challenged') I clung to the left side and, in no time, I was sailing past open fields and on my way

to Bendigo. After some devious and dextrous manoeuvring, and I found myself at the Keilor Hotel.

I'd like to think that the cute guy there was impressed by me and not the Beamer ... but I'm not sure. His directions were good and in ten minutes I'd pulled up outside Digital Ink Technologies Pty Ltd in Tullamarine, ready for my interview with managing director and new Essendon Rotarian, Michael Mahoney.

*C: Welcome to Rotary. I believe you joined last March – what circumstances led you to joining?*

**MM:** I have had many excuses for not joining Rotary over the past five years. A time comes in your life when you need to honestly consider giving rather than receiving.

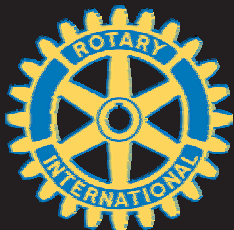
In 2006 I was diagnosed with Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma. As part of my treatment I was given access to a world wide clinical trial at Box Hill Hospital testing new monoclonal antibodies as first line treatment. Now in remission after receiving many thousands of dollars in new drugs, and seeing first hand the tireless work of the many hospital doctors and nurses, I felt it was time to give something back to the community that has given so much to me.

One of my best friends is now the President of Essendon Rotary and I have over the years been amazed at the effort he has put into Rotary over the years.

Rotary provides a wonderful outlet to access both the local and business communities.

*C: Vocation. What do you do now and how did life's twists and turns get you there?*

**MM:** My background is in the Australian packaging industry. In the early 80's I was fortunate to be exposed to new emerging inkjet printing technologies printing use-by dates and batch codes on a multitude of products and applications. Since



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then I have been involved in a number of new emerging inkjet technologies and my business now supplies many companies with digital inks both locally and internationally.

C: *What sort of projects would you really like to "make a difference through Rotary?"*

MM: Providing a vision for youth careers and also assisting Essendon Rotary to progress the Bahah Tulyan project in Manila, immediately come to mind. Also, given my health issues, there are a number of projects in Rotary focused on providing funding for ongoing cancer research.

C: *What are your passions outside of Rotary?*

MM: All activities involving my wife and children. I was an avid tennis player until my illness, one day I would like to get back into playing competitive tennis again.

C: *I trust that you've mastered the secret wink and the sumptuous Essendon Rotary lunches. What other 'pre-Rotary' instructions do you think would assist new members?*

MM: Bring your Members Directory, it's invaluable for remembering Rotary Grace! Read as much Rotary literature as you can, but more importantly speak to the long serving members of the club to ascertain their thoughts on the world of Rotary.

C: *What's another misconception you had about Rotary before joining?*

MM: Not sure if I had many misconceptions. It is clear though that whatever efforts you personally put into Rotary you will receive back many times over in other forms such as friendship and new experiences.

I was pleasantly surprised to see that Essendon Rotary shared the work load broadly across its members and that many women took an active role in the club.

C: *Robin Hood was a common thief and the Sheriff of Nottingham was a much*

*maligned public servant in the Tax department. What are your thoughts on this?*

MM: It's nice to protect the poorer people from the nasties in life, but that's life. If you can afford to, give to the greater community.

C: *What song describes you best?*

MM: For the past ten years my life has been an amazing saga, thus this song seems very appropriate: Elton John's - "I'm Still Standing"



C: *What would you rather do? a) Hold aloft the Cup as captain of an AFL Premiership side? OR b) Enjoy the roar of the crowd as you enter the Olympic Stadium with a 2 minute lead in the marathon? Why?*

MM: This is a hard one – imagine an unbelievable team effort to achieve a premiership, but the hard work and dedication mentally and physically to run a marathon, a single self achievement – all alone. It's a close call!

C: *What do you particularly enjoy about the Essendon Rotary Club?*

MM: Essendon Rotary is an amazing club with a long and proud history of achievement. The level of professionalism and friendliness is very high and, more importantly, the majority of the Rotarians be-

lieve that together they can make a difference.

C: *So far, what's been the best thing that's happened since you joined Rotary?*

MM: Being made to feel extremely welcome. Already I have been able to make some worthwhile contributions in the form of new ideas and also some small contributions to some amazing projects that Essendon Rotary is currently working on.

C: *Complete the following : Life is...*

MM: ...full of choices, you need to sometimes make the right ones.

C: *My secret talent is...*

MM: ...my energy.

C: *The way to my heart...*

MM: ...is golden Labrador puppies – can't resist the Kleenex tissue commercial! I come home each night to a wagging tail and a big lick.

C: *I am...*

MM: ...now a proud Rotarian.

C: *Rotary is...*

MM: ...a way to truly make a difference.

C: *Rotarians are...*

MM: ...people to be looked up to in many ways.

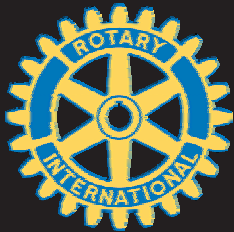
I must have been thinking about some of Michael's answers as I misread the directions once again and swept onto Bulla Road and an eventual, undignified battle through Moonee Ponds Junction.

Michael's interview touched many areas and I couldn't help feeling that Rotary, and this District in particular, will hear much more from Michael Mahoney.

## National Drug and Alcohol Award

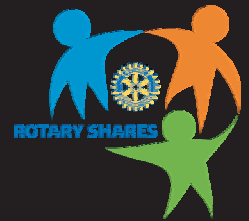
A tireless Rotarian and a founder of Odyssey House in Victoria – Nigel Dick AM – has won the 2007 Prime Minister's Award for Excellence and Outstanding Contribution in Drug and





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Alcohol Endeavours at the National Drug and Alcohol Awards.

Nigel has worked tirelessly for 30 years to help people with drug and alcohol issues and his life long dedication to the field has earned him the top honour.



Chairman of the Australian National Council on Drugs, Dr John Herron said "Nigel Dick is an incredible man. Over 10,000 family members and 8,000 clients have been helped during his time at Odyssey House. His dedication is inspiring. He cares deeply about making life better for people and is an extremely worthy recipient of this award. Not only has Nigel made a 30 year contribution to reducing the impact and negative effects of drug and alcohol use in Australia, he was instrumental in founding Odyssey House in Victoria in 1979 and has served on its board for 29 years with 22 years as Chairman."

"During Nigel's time with Odyssey House, more than 5,000 clients have significantly reduced their drug use and crime and over 3,000 long-term unemployed people now work full time. What a remarkable result. We need to remember these are not just numbers and statistics. These are individuals ... people whose lives have changed significantly for the better."

"Nigel has gone above and beyond the call of duty and contributed much more to society than is generally expected of individuals. He has had a significant and positive impact on numerous people's lives, all in a voluntary capacity."

Nigel Dick is a former chairman of HSV 7, Southern Cross Communications and the RACV as well as Chief Executive of GTV 9, TCN 9 and the Broadcasting Corporation of New Zealand.

Dr Herron said "Nigel's younger son faced addiction problems and this was one of the reasons why Nigel became interested in helping out. He read an ar-

ticle in a newspaper about Odyssey House in New South Wales in early 1978 – just after the centre had opened. On the strength of that, Nigel went to Sydney and met with chairman Walter McGrath and executive director Milton Luger. He also met the staff and residents and inspected the facilities. As a result he was instrumental in bringing together a small team of caring citizens to meet with Walter McGrath, and Milton Luger, in Melbourne to start a foundation."

"Without Nigel's involvement, Odyssey House Victoria would not exist as it does today. While he accepts his leadership role he emphasises he shares Odyssey's success with all those who have served as board and staff members over the years.. Back in 1978, Nigel and others found a property – an ex-monastery in Lower Plenty – and despite having no funding negotiated its purchase (with the help of the ANZ Bank) and approached the then Premier (Rupert Hamer) with a submission and secured 3 years' worth of funding. Nigel organised major promotional campaigns and thanks to the efforts of the board, the debt on the monastery (\$934,000) was repaid in a few years. In the early days, Odyssey House Victoria was the only treatment program in Melbourne of its kind. Odyssey had as many as 165 residents at one time in its Lower Plenty site. Nigel, the board and the staff never turned anyone away."

"Along with other board members he sat in on groups and generally took part in Odyssey activities. He became a "role model" counsellor for senior residents. He spent considerable time talking about Odyssey to various groups such as Rotary and Lions. He has undertaken countless speaking engagements over the years talking about the Odyssey methodology. He has travelled overseas to study drug and alcohol programmes."

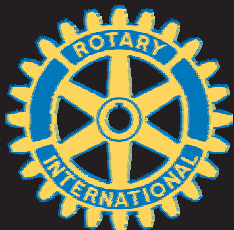
"In the mid 1980s following interest in an Odyssey programme from a group in New Zealand he supported Milton Luger in the setting up of Odyssey House

across the Tasman. He is totally 'hands on'. Nigel has helped secure \$59 million to operate Odyssey. This \$59 million has returned over \$200 million benefits to Australians in reduced health costs and crime impact."

"His work in bringing residential drug treatment to the bush in regional Victoria has been amazing. Under his chairmanship Odyssey fought to get a permit for Odyssey to use a property near Benalla for drug treatment, taking Odyssey's appeal to VCAT. He sat through every session and was involved in the long and drawn out legal process. An amazing commitment from a man with absolute dedication."

Dr Herron added, "Nigel is pro-active and 'hands on'. His philosophy is simple, "A Hand Up, Not A Hand Out." He remains incredibly humble and full of praise for the input and involvement of his colleagues in what he has achieved. He has made an outstanding contribution to drug treatment in Australia, helping to transform the lives of thousands. He is truly a very worthy recipient of the Prime Minister's Award For Excellence And Outstanding Contribution In Drug And Alcohol Endeavours."





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Issue 4, 23 July 2007

## Stamina

Stamina is great word.

Naturally, people have their own ideas as to what constitutes the epitome of stamina and many of us see it as a wonderful sport's attribute .... Grant Hackett, Chris Judd and the unforgettable Makybe Diva spring to mind when the notion of 'stamina' is mentioned.

In traditional parlance it may have been described as "the ability to stay the course". That aside, there's no doubt that stamina is a 'feel good' word and there can often be other very positive elements linked to it ... such as courage and nobility.

One dictionary definition of stamina is "...the physical or moral capacity to withstand hardship or difficulty".

Individual stamina can vary greatly from person to person. I guess, too, that one's capacity or degree of stamina is best judged by others ... subjective assessment, by definition, is flawed.

Why is it then, that some people are thought to possess large reserves of stamina while others tend to be lacking a little? People that have stamina, when faced with a challenge, seem to be able to draw on innate reserves to see them through.

They tough it out, refusing to be defeated by something that they believe can be conquered. Others, with limited stamina, shrink from the thought of challenge or confrontation ... they procrastinate and hope that the impediment to their quiet life will just go away.

Is stamina something that is inherited or learnt?

I believe that it is learned behaviour, and that it's no coincidence that people with good stamina also possess values and defined convictions accrued over a long period. In Rotary, I have noticed that people with real stamina have the following qualities in generous amounts:

- A strong sense of responsibility to themselves and others
- A pride in their ability to overcome challenges and achieve positive outcomes
- A skill in assessing the essence of a problem and focussing on it
- A self motivator
- Good mental and physical health
- A good team player
- A strong commitment to the Rotary motto – "Service Above Self".

It is always easy to say yes when asked to undertake a project. However, only people with stamina will follow through and achieve the desired outcome.

Take a moment to reflect on what number you'd be given out of 10 if someone from your club was asked to assess your stamina rating.

*John Davis, District Governor*

## New Members

Each week we'll endeavour to list new members as we get to hear about them.

**Elle Alihos**, Southbank, under the classification of **Business Development**.

**Zan Akter**, Chadstone/East Malvern, under the classification of **Banking**.

**Barry Feldman**, Chadstone/East Malvern, under the classification of **Real Estate**.

## 40+ Rotarian

Jack Cathie is a Charter member of the Rotary Club of Hawthorn (chartered 24 August 1954). Jack has had a distinguished involvement with Rotary in general and with the Rotary Club of Hawthorn in particular. He is seen as an elder statesman and a wonderful source of Rotary knowledge ... knowledge gained through decades of Rotary associations in Australia and overseas. He has held every significant post at Haw-

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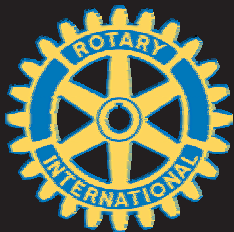


thorn and is a Paul Harris Fellow with five sapphires.

Not as spry as in former years, and with club meeting attendance more difficult, Jack has, in 2007, accepted honorary membership. He is also over 90 years old!



*Hawthorn Road, 1954, when Jack Cathie was a founding member of the Rotary Club of Hawthorn*



# Networker

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Absolutely intimidated, Clarice sought and was granted an audience with the formidable, but very charming Jack Cathie.

**C:** *How did you become involved with Rotary?*

JC: I was nominated for membership by Horace Bedgood who was later, in 1959-60, to become District Governor in our District (then, District 280).

I joined the Rotary Club of Hawthorn as a Charter member. I owned a newsagency in Glenferrie Road and was inducted under the appropriate classification.

**C:** *What's the biggest project you've been involved with as a Rotarian?*

JC: It was the chartering of two new clubs – the Rotary Club of Kew in 1967 and the Rotary Club of Glenferrie in 1975. It is very involved ... lots of people, lots of decisions to make and we wanted to make sure that both would be successful. Both Clubs have remained strong and have made great contributions to our District.

**C:** *What superpowers have you gained as a Rotarian?*

JC: Rotary changed my way of thinking. It made me community-minded and it exposed me to a host of different viewpoints. I have had to weigh different ideas and this has made me realise that you need to consider many things before you make decisions involving people.

**C:** *Jack, you've lived through 15 US Presidents ... from Woodrow Wilson to George W Bush, who was the best?*

JC: I think Roosevelt (FDR). He had to make some big decisions during the War. He was also a great organizer and created programs that got America out of the Depression.

**C:** *Speaking about the Second World War, where were you when it was declared?*

JC: At home ... we heard it announced on the wireless.

**C:** *What is the biggest change in Rotary that you've seen?*

JC: Two really ... the increased scope and the variety of involvement that Rotary has today – it's quite amazing. And, of course, the introduction of women to the membership of Rotary has been very significant.

**C:** *What do you particularly enjoy about the Hawthorn Rotary Club?*

JC: The friendliness of the members and the great social events.

**C:** *Your involvement in the Hawthorn community has been a long one?*

JC: That's true – even with football. A long time ago I used to follow Melbourne, but as I had become a member of the Hawthorn business community, I switched to the Hawks.



**C:** *I'm no football buff, but I think that would have been a good time to start supporting Hawthorn. Who was your favourite player?*

JC: It was a good time ... lots of success. And my favorite player was Leigh Matthews.

**C:** *Imagine you have the opportunity to be an eye witness to any event in history. What would you choose?*

JC: The first time men landed on the moon, I saw it on television but I would have loved to have been

there. Marvellous ... we never imagined it would ever happen.

**C:** *What are your passions outside of Rotary?*

JC: My home, my family and gardening. The family is most important. I have nine grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren.

**C:** *Jack, let's suspend time and imagine it's 1946. Your wife has made other arrangements, but you require a partner for an important function. Three ladies are available ... Rita Hayworth, Mae West and Vivien Leigh. Who would you have chosen?*

JC: Vivien Leigh. (There was no hesitation ...not even a "...frankly I don't give a damn" –C)

**C:** *OK, quick quiz. Complete the following. Life is...*

JC: ...Great!!

**C:** *My secret talent is...*

JC: ...Organising. I've been told that I'm a very good organiser.

**C:** *The way to my heart is...*

JC: ...through Rotary.

**C:** *I am...*

JC: ...a confirmed Rotarian.

**C:** *Rotary is...*

JC: ...good for everyone.

**C:** *Rotarians are...*

JC: ...my best friends.

Even urbane female editors can overstay their welcome, so I thought it best to tender my farewells. Jack, ever the gentleman, wished me well. After a few pleasantries, I left and ventured out into nippy Melbourne winter afternoon.

But I did think of Jack and had a little chuckle. Vivien Leigh, eh?

## Quip Corner

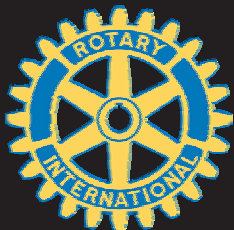
On arguments:

*All generalisations are false.*

I once wondered why someone didn't do something; then I remembered that I was someone.

Wes Truscott





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## Shine On Awards

The Rotary **Shine On Awards** honour the abilities and service of people with a disability for their outstanding achievements in the community. It is rotated annually among the five Rotary Southern Districts of 9780, 9790, 9800, 9810 and 9820. The prestigious ceremony will be hosted by Rotary District 9790's Wangaratta based Rotary Club of Appin Park in May 2008.

Nominations are invited in 2 categories: Youth (15 – 20 y.o.) or Adult (21 years and over).

You will need some time to think about a wonderful person you would like to nominate, so be prepared – start thinking now! Talk to your club members about Shine On. Maybe they would appreciate having a guest speaker to talk about Shine On to your club. Each club will receive two sets of brochures, guidelines and nomination forms in the mail in late August. Nominations officially open in September 2007.

When you get the information read the guidelines and the nomination forms; think about people who your club would want to recognise and nominate as a candidate. Once you have identified a candidate(s), conduct the interview(s) and submit the nomination(s), ensuring the original documents are properly signed and witnessed where indicated, then post with the attachments to:

The Secretary,  
Rotary Southern Districts Shine On  
Awards Committee  
PO Box 1037, Niddrie, Vic 3042.

Although the closing date is 25 February, 2008, why wait – be an early bird!

For further information or additional forms contact PP Dawn Watson, D9800 Vocational Shine On Awards Committee Chairperson on 03 9337 4710.

## Notices and Events

### 89th Anniversary of the Battle of Amiens



The **Rotary Club of Melbourne** will celebrate the 89th anniversary of the Battle of Amiens at 8:00am on 8 Aug 2007, at The Shrine of Remembrance, Melbourne.

At the Battle of Amiens, all Australian Forces were united for the first time under Australian Commander, John Monash.

Their victory significantly changed the course of World War 1 leading directly to the German surrender.

This year the 0808 Ceremony at The Shrine at 8.00am on the morning of 8 August 2007 is open to all Rotary Club of Melbourne members, family, friends and colleagues as we prepare for the 90th anniversary next year.

Later that same day, Major General Jim Barry AM MBE, businessman, citizen soldier and sports administrator, will address the Club at our luncheon meeting. His topic will be - "Planning the Australian Victory - Hamel to Amiens".

The Amiens flag, being restored for The Shrine by the Rotary Club of Melbourne, will be on display.

You can learn more about the background to 0808 on the Club's website [www.rotaryclubofmelbourne.org.au](http://www.rotaryclubofmelbourne.org.au).

## Donations In Kind

District 9800 **Donations In Kind** has over \$100,000 worth of donated brand new babies' and children's clothes, to be sorted and packed.

All Rotarians, friends and partners are invited to help every Tuesday and Thursday between 10:00am and 2:30pm.

The venue is at the rear of Woolshed 37, 400 Somerville Road (opposite Whitely Parade), West Footscray (Melways map reference 41 E7).

All you'll need are warm work clothes, a BYO lunch and a sense of humour.

You can get more information from Bill Dagg on 0425 741 045 or via email on [bdagg@tpg.com.au](mailto:bdagg@tpg.com.au).

## The Truth About Climate Change

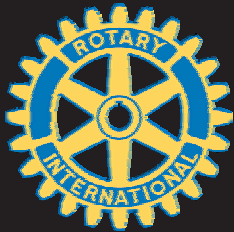
The **Rotary Club of Gisborne** invites you to a presentation on *The Truth About Climate Change*. Presented by Angela Nicholls, who was selected from 1700 applicants and trained by Al Gore.

Date: Wednesday, 1 August. Venue: Macedon Family Hotel, Smith St, Macedon, at 6:45pm. Cost \$9 per person which includes a warm, light supper.

To secure your reservation please forward your name, telephone number and cheque (made payable to R.C. Gisborne) to P.O. Box 46, Gisborne 3437.

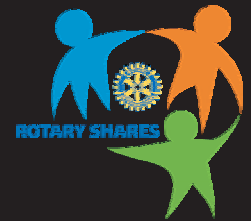
Please note content of this presentation is more suitable for high school aged children. For further information contact Pat or Jacek on 03 5428 3474.





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## Thanks to ROMAC



Young Tongan patient in ICU after a life saving heart operation

Below is a note from the Tongan Ministry of Health, and is typical of those ROMAC receives.

"Dear John,

Thank you for the update on Sione. Yeah, I was surprise seeing Sione for the first time with no sign of having (heart problem). Cause normally with heart patients they do have sign sometimes and you can tell.

For the first time knowing how ROMAC involve with funding of patients from Tonga - I find it a blessing to the people of Tonga especially these lucky kids!

Who can not afford the \$.

Am sure the Lord Himself will bless the ROMAC Rotary in different way! for their helping hand and not only for Tongan but to other country as well.

'Ofa atu,

Sesi"

## District Foundation Seminar

District Foundation committee chairman Chris Don invites all Presidents, Presidents Elect, Foundation Chairmen, International Chairmen and new Rotarians to our 2007 District Foundation seminar and workshop.

All aspects of our district's Foundation programs will be covered by District

Committee Chairman & Regional Zone Executives. Active participation from delegates will be encouraged.

This will be held on 23 September, 9:30am to 12:30pm at International House, Royal Parade, Carlton.

Contact Chris Don on 03 9312 6933 or via email on [chrisd9@bigpond.com](mailto:chrisd9@bigpond.com).

## New Rotarian

As you can imagine, I'm more of a creature of the night than an 'early to bed early to rise' type. As a journo I had to tack some very 'full-on' days onto some 'more than full-on' nights. Imagine my joy when my project only involved a mere ten minute drive from my recently refurbished, authentic neo-Georgian dwelling in Far East Prahran. Today I was linking with new Chadstone-East **Malvern Rotary Club** member, Barry Feldman, who has only been terrorising the nightly club meetings for 3 weeks. Caulfield Racecourse flashed by (...ah, the memories) and, after checking the parking signs, I pulled up at Barry's office, Sandy Anderson Real Estate in Glenhunting Road, Caulfield South.

**C:** *Welcome to Rotary. What circumstances led you to joining?*

**BF:** Being a previous member of a breakfast club, I found that I missed the fellowship of Rotary and the good work that Rotary does for the immediate and international communities. Therefore, I decided it was time to join again and a dinner club was more to my liking.

**C:** *Vocation. What do you do now and how did life's twists and turns get you there?*

**BF:** I am a Real Estate Agent, but don't hold that against me (*I wouldn't...in fact. I have a recently refurbished a neo-... sorry, back to Barry -C*) I have been in real estate for 15 years, and like many established real estate offices, this is a family business I took it over when my father passed away 13 years ago.

**C:** *What sort of projects would you really like to see "make a difference through Rotary?"*

**BF:** I think that building the school and hospital in PNG is an amazing project as well as helping in the local community. The local community is where most of the funds are raised, therefore it is my belief that most of the funds and time should be given back to them.

**C:** *What are your passions outside of Rotary?*

**BF:** My wife, my family, my work and the Richmond Football Club (*Oh dear ... well, good for you Tiger -C*) I will let you choose the order in which to put them. (*No problem, Barry ...why don't we put Richmond in their recently acquired position - Clarice does not follow Richmond!! -C*)

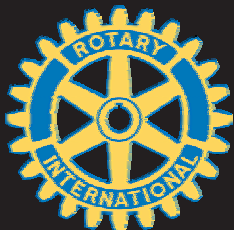
**C:** *I bet you wish you'd had more formal culinary training now that you've sampled the exquisite Chadstone/East Malvern Rotary dinners. What other 'pre-Rotary' instructions do you think would assist new members?*

**BF:** I think that new members should be shown the good that Rotary does in the community. Ideally, they should have the opportunity to speak to people that have received help from Rotary to appreciate first hand the scope of Rotary's activities.



**C:** *What's another misconception you had about Rotary before joining?*

**BF:** That it was a stuffy, old boys club. That is something that's certainly



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not true about the Chadstone/East Malvern Club.

**C:** *Imagine you're acknowledged as John So's Bro. He allocates you \$50 million to make a significant change to Melbourne's inner city environment or streetscapes. What would you do?*

**BF:** Make the city car-free and a more friendly environment for families. I would also try and clean up the drug culture.

**C:** *What movie title describes you best?*

**BF:** "Rocky" – never give up!

**C:** *Imagine you're 16 again. What boyhood dream (heroic, sporting, showbiz...whatever) would you like to have achieved and why?*

**BF:** I would have liked to have been in a Broadway show. (Yeah ... me too –C) Unfortunately, with my singing voice that will never happen!!

**C:** *I know that you've only been there for two minutes but what do you particularly enjoy about the Chadstone/East Malvern Rotary Club?*

**BF:** The food, the fellowship and the Sergeant's session.

**C:** *Describe your favourite Christmas.*

**BF:** Anywhere that involves travel. This year my wife and I will be having Christmas in New York. (Stay away from the Broadway stages –C)

**C:** *Complete the following : Life is...*

**BF:** ...Fun.

**C:** *My secret talent is...*

**BF:** ...Laughing.

**C:** *The way to my heart is...*

**BF:** ...Good food.

**C:** *I am...*

**BF:** ...Happy and funny.

**C:** *Rotary is ...*

**BF:** ...Good fun.

**C:** *Rotarians are...*

**BF:** ...Good fun.

And Barry was good fun too. Interview over, we launched into a discussion on real estate ... my 'refurbished' neo-Georgian number in Far East Prahran and the classical 'Melbourne Spanish' designs of the 1970's. Chats about real es-

tate fascinate me and I lingered too long. Thank you, Barry.

And big 'thank you' to the Caulfield parking officer who did what Caulfield officers do brilliantly. The Beemer is now—officially—a felon.

## Featured Club

The bustle of Flinders and Swanston Streets seemed a world away as I cruised along the Calder Highway on a cold July morning. A quick touch of base with some Bendigo Rotary notables, a 'drop in' to a couple of favourite wineries and, in what seemed like no time, I arrived at Echuca. A touch of mist as I neared the mighty Murray River made a couple of paddle wheelers look as though they were trapped in time.

But the coolness of the morning was beautifully counter-balanced by a warm welcome from affable **Echuca-Moama Rotary Club** President, John Stuckey. A steaming cup of coffee and President John braced himself for a grilling a la Clarice...



**C:** *What differentiates the Echuca - Moama Rotary Club from all others?*

**JS:** Our club takes in two states with Echuca in Victoria and Moama in New South Wales. We also own Rotary Park outright. This is a large park in Echuca which is similar to a showgrounds facility where we have our clubrooms. It is also the site for a miniature train which runs most weekends.

And, very importantly: This is the site for our major fundraising project each year, the "Echuca Steam, Horse and Vintage Rally".

**C:** *What past projects would rank in your Club's 'Hall of Fame'?*

**JS:** In the Centenary Year 2004-05 our club donated \$10,000 so that a Court Network could be established at Echuca courthouse. This is a personal support service in which highly trained volunteers assist people attending court. They provide information and try to lessen the anxiety and intimidation of a court appearance. Victims of domestic violence have been especially grateful and often express their thanks to us. This project has now been taken up in many other areas, including:

- The Steam Horse and Vintage Rally
- Hopwood Gardens which includes a rotunda at the entrance to the Historic Port of Echuca
- Establishment of Meals on Wheels in this area.

**C:** *What has your Club in the pipeline for the 2007/08 Rotary year?*

**JS:** Our major projects for this year are increasing membership, upgrading facilities at Rotary Park and increasing our support for the Rotary Foundation.

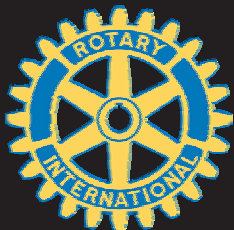
At present our park is under-used. We believe that when we upgrade the rooms and facilities they will be viable for use for an increased number of Rotary and community activities.

**C:** *Tell us about your area, why people visit and any local features of note.*

**JS:** Echuca has the largest fleet of operating paddle steamers in the world. They operate from the historical Port Of Echuca on the Murray River.

It is recognised as a significant tourist centre and has the attraction of being only two hours from





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Melbourne. There are many tourist-related activities including the Southern 80 waterskiing event and the Food, Wine and Jazz Festival in February each year. Moama has many large Clubs and resorts including the Rich River Country Club. Golf, bowls and other sporting facilities are a way of life in this area, which is blessed with a wonderful climate.

**C:** *What is the Echuca-Moama Club's passion?*

**JS:** The Echuca Steam, Horse and Vintage Rally which is held on the Queen's Birthday long weekend in June is staged by our Club.



This year over 8,500 people attended over the two days. It started out 46 years ago as a steam rally but has now grown to include a huge number of attractions for the whole family. Of course, steam engines still play a big part.

**C:** *If you had to liken your Club to an animal, what would it be and why?*

**JS:** An ant which is technically an insect but, describes our club perfectly. We are not that big but constantly punch above our weight in serving both the Rotary and the community.

**C:** *In the Echuca-Moama Club does anyone have an unusual or exotic vocation?*

**JS:** Rotarian Chris Parks manufactures and markets lecterns throughout the world.

**C:** *Who is the longest serving member in your Club?*

**JS:** John Jones who is a former Physician/Surgeon.

**C:** *Could you give us an update on the rainfall, river level and town water situation?*

**JS:** Because it's controlled by dams the water level is normal – I guess that's something we'd like to impress on potential visitors. Like everyone, we've had water usage restrictions and farmers don't water in winter. We've got some rain and the average tourist wouldn't notice a change.



One weird thing, though ... when the last Melbourne Grand Prix was on, it was reported that the Murray had run dry at the Port of Echuca. That was nonsense, of course! A plane had to be hired to fly over the crowds with sign saying that all was OK.

**C:** *If Bill Gates donated a \$1 million to your Club, where would you spend it?*

**JS:** On Rotary Park. We would purchase the property adjoining the park to give us clear access to it with increased parking. We could then upgrade facilities to make this park the centrepiece of Echuca and provide a much needed venue where Rotary and the community could stage major outdoor events.

**C:** *If I wanted to get involved with the Echuca-Moama Rotary Club, how would I do it?*

## Thought of the day

"The more I learn about Rotary, the more I love Rotary."

Michael P Slevnik, USA

**JS:** Contact our Secretary, Peter Mangan, P.O.Box 199 Echuca, Victoria, 3564 or email us at [echucamoama@rotaryd9800.org](mailto:echucamoama@rotaryd9800.org).

Before I left President John impressed on me what a great spot the Echuca-Moama area is. There is tremendous pride in what's been achieved and if this humble ('Hah') scribe is any judge, it's a superb place for a conference or a lazy weekend away.

It won't help to tell them "Clarice sent me", but let's think of the country and support Echuca-Moama – and our steam-driven Rotary friends.

*The Rotary Club of Echuca-Moama was chartered in September 1948.*

## Visiting This Week

Every week I'll try to list clubs that have draw-card speakers, many of whom will be from our own Speaker Bank.

If you're planning to visit it would be courteous if you would let the Club Secretary know, so that where appropriate, catering arrangements can be made.

Visiting other clubs is a great way to increase your own enjoyment of the incredible fellowship that Rotary offers its members. Plus, of course, visiting other clubs encourages their members to visit yours.

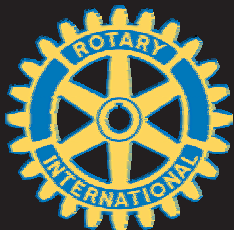
**Rex Hunt**, raconteur, fisherman, personality and sports commentator.

**Rotary Club of Brighton**, Thursday 26 July, 6:30pm at Milanos Hotel, 4 The Esplanade, Brighton Beach.

[secretary@rotarybrighton.com.au](mailto:secretary@rotarybrighton.com.au).

When you have good speakers scheduled, simply email me on [clarice@rotarydistrict9800.org](mailto:clarice@rotarydistrict9800.org) so that I can include it in the next newsletter.





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Issue 5, 30 July 2007



## August is Membership Month

### Volunteerism

Volunteerism—Is it contagious or inherited?

Volunteerism is a serious concern for around **20%** of our population. The origins of this affliction are somewhat vague ... some say it is inherited while others say it can be caught by working too closely with people who wish to improve or support the lives of others.

In Rotary we are all volunteers. Our time is given freely ... and with a sincere hope that our actions will enable people to build a better life for themselves, their families and for future generations. I have often pondered why only certain people have the desire to volunteer. Often we see the same group of people involved with civic responsibilities such as St Johns Ambulance, Scouting and Guiding, school groups and kindergartens.

Is it that people don't have the same desire to be involved in community activities? Have they become too preoccupied with the "Me" society ... concerned chiefly with issues surrounding their immediate family? I don't think so. One only has to consider the overwhelming community compassion and support arising from a series of recently experienced natural hardships – tsunamis, droughts, fires and floods – and targeted causes such as the Royal Children's Hospital Appeal, to realize that the community has a heart and is prepared to **volunteer** its resources.

I'm sure that the will to support others is etched deeply into our psyche and it only requires a cause ... a need ... for this attitude to be expressed.

*Continued on page 2 ...*

### Mel Gray's Membership Corner

Imagine what you could accomplish if your Club were to have 2, 5 or 10 percent more members! As they say, "many hands make light work," but for Rotary, many hands increase the work we can achieve on numerous fronts.

When looking at increasing Club membership, important areas to consider are to ensure:

- Your classification system incorporates all business and professional interests in your community.

- All open classifications are filled.
- Diversity – international understanding and goodwill are the core principles within your club. Does your membership represent the ethnic, gender and age diversity of your community?

Membership growth and development have three equally important elements: 1) retention of existing members; 2) proposal of new members; and 3) organisation of new clubs.

With August focussed on Membership, each Club should strive to look internally at what systems are in place to retain members, where in the community can potential members be targeted, and how you can reach and attract those potential members.

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Membership is the primary resource that builds and maintains strong and healthy Clubs. Every new Rotarian brings a range of personal and professional resources and knowledge that greatly strengthens a Club's ability to serve its own community as well as the world at large.

For further information on Membership, visit our [District website](#), or email Mel at [membership@rotarydistrict9800.org](mailto:membership@rotarydistrict9800.org)

### New Members

Each week we'll endeavour to list new members as we get to hear about them.

**Anthony Jones**, Altona, under the classification of **Education**.

How often do you see the bad in things rather than the good? In life people who have a sense of optimism are rarely disappointed. They find the good - even when it's tough!

*Wes Truscott, 2007*



## Volunteerism – from page 1

Some questions are begged:

- Why do first world countries like Australia still require volunteers, such as Rotarians, to identify community problems and to find solutions?
- Have the service organisations become too structured and uninviting to the wider community ... especially to the 'other 80%'?
- Have service organisations, such as Rotary, failed to adequately translate what we stand for and our pivotal role in volunteerism?

Rotary's growth, and indeed its survival, will depend on its will and ability to engage and adapt to a changing world. If we wistfully hold on to the world of the 1960's we will stagnate. Through our personal lives and our vocations we must continue to revitalize our organisation. Each year should be a rebirth ....setting new targets, looking at different and more stimulating ways of doing things and making the role of a volunteer a position of pride and status in our community.

As volunteers we cannot, nor are we expected to, fix every problem in the world. We cannot cure poverty or eradicate every disease. There will always be suffering we cannot change. But there will be suffering we *can* change. Volunteerism is not inherited, it is an affliction. It is up to all of us to 'afflict' others so that future generations in our community, and around the world, can live with hope and dignity in their daily lives.

John Davis, District Governor

## 40+ Rotarian

The Calder Highway. Beemer country. I must have looked like one of the TV ads ... you know, perfect day, shiny car, violins playing etc.

What a beautiful drive - things have become greener and I think there just might be a little 'country' in me ... all of 2%!! Last week my newspaper 'fell' open on the sports page. I briefly glanced at an article which said that Melbourne Storm player Cooper Cronk

had the coolest name in football. If so, then your editor was about to interview the coolest name in Rotary – Spencer Bock – sartorially splendid legal eagle and **Castlemaine Rotary Club** stalwart. Ten minutes after the turnoff, and I was ensconced in Spencer's office and surrounded by heavy books, weighty legal tomes and pink ribbon.



**C:** *How did you become involved with Rotary?*

**SB:** I was chosen as a member of the first GSE team to represent this District (280 at that time) in 1965 -1966. I was 10 weeks in District 707 Canada. PDG Jeffrey Bird was also a team member. District 707 was in the Toronto area, but we actually visited most of Canada. The hospitality was fabulous.

But that wasn't all... we continued on around the world and spent some time in Europe. Incredibly, this great group of people has had annual reunion every year since. Forty-one years! Would I do it again? In an instant.

**C:** *I'm stunned ... ten weeks!! District 707, eh? Sorry to date you, Spencer ...but you probably flew on a 707.*

**SB:** Sadly ... yes!

**C:** *What is the biggest project you've been involved with as a Rotarian?*

**SB:** Chair of the Castlemaine Tourist Information Centre Construction Committee – a 50th Anniversary Project of the Rotary Club of Castlemaine.

**C:** *What song title best defines Spencer Bock?*

**SB:** The song - "If I Had My Life to Live Over". The second line reads "... I'd still do the same things again". That's me to a tee.

**C:** *Imagine that it's 1863 ... you're in Castlemaine. The word on everyone's lips is "gold". What strategic moves would you have made to ensure that the Bock dynasty survived and flourished?*

**SB:** In 1862 Captain Holford of the British Regiment was stationed in the area. He observed all the social and community consequences of the gold rush and also his long term prospects as a military officer. So he resigned his commission and opened a general store which sold food, wine and clothing to the diggers.



*Castlemaine Chinese leading the procession welcoming HRH the Prince of Wales in Castlemaine in 1868.*

The diggers' fortunes were varied and precarious. The captain prospered and, in 1870, built a 10-roomed house which stands today as the Bock family residence. So my answer is ... I would do what Captain Holford did!

**C:** *What is the biggest change in Rotary that you've seen?*

**SB:** There are three that I think are significant. The introduction of women into Rotary; the easing of attendance requirements by turning a blind eye to some members' attendance records; and the ageing of Rotary's membership.

**C:** *Tell me about an exciting or unusual event that you've been involved with.*

**SB:** The Rotary Club of Castlemaine Truck Show. I have to admit to being an initial opponent. But frank, open discussion is one the refreshing things about Rotary. Thankfully, a couple of heavy equipment-oriented Rotarians persisted.





It has now become a major event on the Rotary calendar netting approximately \$30,000 per annum for our Club.

**C:** *What do you particularly enjoy about the Castlemaine Rotary Club?*

**SB:** The opportunity to meet people from a broad spectrum of the community at least once a week and share with them the Rotary objective of 'Service Above Self' through four avenues of service.

**C:** *You have the opportunity to spend a day with 1) a famous singer and 2) a famous sportsperson. Who would be your two choices and why?*

**SB:** Andrea Boccelli – a brilliant singer who ignores his visual impairment; and Pat Rafter – brilliantly unpretentious unlike most current sporting champions.

**C:** *What are your passions outside of Rotary?*

**SB:** Family, golf, tennis, food and wine.

**C:** *Tell me about the golf.*

**SB:** I enjoy it and play at the Mt Alexander Club, Castlemaine and at Flinders Golf Club. I've stumbled out to 16 which I'm not too happy about, but with golf — there's always another day.

**C:** *And the wine?*

**SB:** Ah, yes ... the wine. Do you know, Clarice – I didn't touch alcohol until halfway through my university course? There was a "corruption of sorts" after that. *(In time for the GSE trip, I trust – C)* My Rotary friends, over many years, have ensured that the corruption is now complete.

**C:** *And your taste in wine?*

**SB:** We're very lucky. Within easy driving distance of Castlemaine there are some great wineries. Like many others, I love the big reds. I have a particular favourite – Blackjack 2004 Shiraz. The Blackjack winery is at Harcourt ... actually I've just had another dozen sent to me.

*(As Spencer waxed lyrical about the virtues of his favourite drop, I found myself becoming rather attracted to Mr Black Jack .... cold night, good Stilton and a glass of BJ. I rather hoped there*

*might be a " ) ... Clarice, you must take one and let me know what you think". (The moment passed and we moved on).*

**C:** *How would the Castlemaine Rotary Club incorporate Lola Montez as a member? What would be her classification and what would you see as an ideal first job in the Club?*

*(Internationally renowned dancer Lola Montez performed her very erotic 'Spider Dance' at Castlemaine's Theatre Royal in 1856. She was rapturously received, but turned on the audience after some mild heckling. Later she chased the editor of the 'Ballarat Times' with a whip after receiving a bad review).*

**SB:** Her classification would be "Entertainer" and her first job would be Public Relations Officer. In her second year, I would encourage her to be Club Service Director.

**C:** *Nice one, Spencer. I'm sure that would 'whip' (sorry) the recalcitrant non-attending Rotarians into shape. Now, moving on - could you complete the following: Life is ...*

**SB:** ... my responsibility.

**C:** *My secret talent is ...*

**SB:** ... not making the same mistake too many times

**C:** *The way to my heart is ...*

**SB:** ... to speak the truth and not try to impress with disclosure of material possessions.

**C:** *I am ...*

**SB:** ... a person who reflects on my present blessings and not my past misfortunes.

**C:** *Rotary is ...*

**SB:** ... my chief extra-curricular activity and in a sense my conscience, by virtue of four way tests, of things we should all think, say or do.

**C:** *Rotarians are ...*

**SB:** ... generally well balanced citizens who as a result of their successful business and professional careers have resolved to give something back to the community which has contributed to their success.

Just before we parted ... I looked at Jack. Spencer looked at me. I looked at Spencer. Spencer looked at Jack. Nothing!!

A great morning, in a Lovely town. Castlemaine, Spencer and Jack, I'll be back.

## Notices & Events

### District Foundation Seminar

District Foundation Committee Chairperson, Chris Don, invites all Presidents, Presidents-Elect, Foundation Chairpersons, International Chairpersons and new Rotarians to our 2007 District Foundation seminar and workshop.



All aspects of our District's Foundation programs will be covered by the District Committee Chairperson and Regional Zone Executives. Active participation from delegates will be encouraged.

This will be held on 23 September from 9:30am to 12:30pm at International House, Royal Parade, Carlton.

Contact Chris Don on 03 9312 6933 or via email on [chrisd9@bigpond.com](mailto:chrisd9@bigpond.com).

### Quip Corner

Not to be outdone in quippery, Frank Lean in Bendigo asserts that "It's bad luck to be superstitious".

Thank you Frank!



## Fishing boats for Sri Lanka

The **Rotary Club of Melbourne South**, together with the **Rotary Club of Colombo**, Sri Lanka has just completed delivering six motorized 6.1 metre-long fishing boats to fishermen in Sri Lanka that were wiped out during the Boxing Day tsunami on 24 December, 2007.

The **Melbourne South Rotary Club** raised \$30,000 which was forwarded to the **Rotary Club of Colombo** which in turn sourced the boats and delivered them. Each boat cost \$5,000 and had a 15 hp outboard motor and fishing gear as part of their package. The motor runs on diesel fuel.

The reason it took a year between the delivery of the first three boats and the final three boats was due to the security situation in Sri Lanka.

As a result of this cooperation both clubs will undertake a formal sister club relationship.

## Rotary International Youth Exchange Program Information Night

The **Rotary Club of Laverton Point Cook** is having the Chair of the District Youth Exchange Committee, Stephanie Reynolds, attend as a guest speaker on Wednesday, 22 August 2007 at the Sanctuary Lakes Golf Club in Point Cook starting at 7.00pm.

Stephanie has her own business running corporate training seminars, and is a very dynamic and interesting speaker.

Stephanie is dedicated to revitalising the Youth Exchange program. She has tackled head on the issues that have faced the youth exchange program in the past. The cornerstone of her approach is education and training for inbound students immediately upon their arrival, proper selection of outbound students, and a new seminar for host families and counsellors for clubs intending to host a student.

To add variety to the evening, **Laverton Point Cook** will also proudly introduce their newest inbound exchange student, Anna-Celina Henn from Germany, who

will be making her maiden speech on the night.

The evening will be of specific interest to:

- Clubs who have not been involved in this program for some years but are receptive to having another look;
- New Generations Directors and members who are reasonably new to Rotary and would like to learn about another aspect of Rotary.

There is a plethora of youth exchange programs around, but many Rotarians are not aware of the unique features that make the Rotary Youth Exchange such a high calibre program.

It has been the stand-out success story for this club in the last couple of years and has contributed to renewed enthusiasm and membership growth.

Come along and see what it is about!

## Camp Getaway

Ongoing maintenance is an ongoing project, but the big news from Camp Getaway is that the second 28-bed dormitory is well under way.

Neither rain, hail, sleet nor shine (or mud, it would seem) gets in the way of District 9800 Rotarians!



## D9800 RAWCS

The D9800 RAWCS Committee invites you to learn of opportunities for international service that will enable you to share in the joy of:

- Saving lives by providing safe water;
- contributing to the fight against malaria;
- making it possible by delivering donations in kind;
- supporting or becoming a RAWCS volunteer;
- undertaking meaningful projects that assist the needy.

Join the RAWCS workshop and share the joy of building peace and goodwill.

Camp-Get-Away Sunday, 12 August 2007 at 9.00-9.30am;

International House Sunday, 26 August 2007 at 9.00-9.30am.

Your Club President has all the details.

## Rotary Club of Carlton Change-over Meeting

**Rotary Club of Carlton's** meeting at 12.30pm Tuesday 31 July is cancelled and being replaced by a Change-Over Dinner on Friday 3 August 2007 at Graduate House, 220 Leicester Street, Carlton from 7pm.

Inclusive cost is \$65 per head. Bookings are essential; please contact the Secretary, Victor Sullivan, by email on [v.sullivan@unicol.unimelb.edu.au](mailto:v.sullivan@unicol.unimelb.edu.au)

## As Seen On TV ...

The popular ABC program, *The Collectors*, invited Rotarians and friends to be a part of the audience during filming recently of two On Tour programs in Queens Hall at the State Library of Victoria.

The Collectors only periodically venture outside the relative convenience of a studio environment, but when they do, it's a major production. The SLV is an iconic Melbourne institution, 'dripping with heritage'.

Host Andy Muirhead and panellists Gordon Brown, Nicole Warren and





Professor Adrian Franklin were joined by six Melbourne collectors and their treasures, including, among other things: 19th-century telephones; Mexican and Japanese wrestling masks and figurines; vintage clothing; and Georgian shoe buckles. The program will feature a tour of the Library, its exhibitions and collection treasures, similar to the well-attended Sunday afternoon tour organised by the Friends of RCR early last March.

The State Library sessions of *The Collectors* will screen at 8pm Friday 3 August and Friday 10 August 2007.

[Click here for more information.](#)

## Elmore Driver Education Centre

A driver education complex in Elmore has taken a step closer to fruition with the recent arrival of a classroom.



*A classroom being delivered to the new driver education complex.*

The classroom, trucked in from Bendigo, will be used to teach secondary school students the theory side of safe driving.

The brainchild of **Rochester Rotary Club**, the complex will teach students the basics in driver education and discipline. The complex will also give hands-on experience and training behind the wheel of a car.

Using existing roads in the area, roundabouts, traffic lights and various signage will be added to help simulate normal driving conditions.

Rochester Rotary Driver Education Complex chairperson, Graeme Nelson, said it was hoped that the complex would be operational next year. It will be available for use by secondary schools throughout the region, including Roch-

ester, Bendigo, Echuca-Moama, Kyabram and East Loddon.

## New Rotarian

North Melbourne is one of the city's gems. A brisk stroll to the CBD, a rich history, close to the Queen Victoria Market, great pub meals, restaurants, and coffee shops. After a couple of 'cross-town' tram connections, I alighted at Errol Street and made my way past late breakfasters and mid-morning coffee types.

It's all about food here. Lovely aromas wafted past me as I arrived at the stylish unit of food tragic and new Melbourne North Rotarian, Christine Koehn. After a steaming cup of real coffee, I was delighted when I was asked to stay for lunch.

Not a 'whip up a sandwich' job – this was going to be wonderful, serious eating. But first I had to work ...

**C:** *Welcome to Rotary. What circumstances led you to joining?*

**CK:** I was delighted when I was asked to join. James Long played an active part, for which I'm very grateful. I've always been interested in making a contribution to the community and promoting understanding and goodwill.

**C:** *Vocation. What do you do now and how did life's twists and turns get you there?*

**CK:** Twists and turns? Absolutely! I have worked in many fields in three states.

I was involved with spastic centres and the promotion of the 'Miss Australia' competition. Many interesting stories there. I became an Executive Housekeeper and worked in the banking sector as a mortgage consultant. My present position is with the Red Cross as the National Regular Giving Co-ordinator.

**C:** *What sort of projects would you really like to see "make a difference through Rotary?"*

**CK:** The encouragement of more of the younger generation being involved in leadership and humanitarian roles in the community.

**C:** *What are your passions outside of Rotary?*



**CK:** Clarice, it's all about FOOD! Discussing it, shopping for it, reading about it, preparing it and, best of all, sharing it. I love the way that the Italians enjoy their food – a number of small courses – more of a celebration, I guess.

Bike riding, travelling and adventure all figure in my passions, but it's food and all the related things that really interest me. (...already starting to think 'lunch' – C).

**C:** *You saw how that coffee 'sorted me out' ... I am a night creature, but very impressed that your Club meets for breakfast. How do you manage it?*

**CK:** It's not too difficult. When you look forward to meeting up with like-minded generous, caring, fun-loving people who are all there for the same reason as you. OK ... it's also a bonus when you live close by.

**C:** *What's a major misconception you had about Rotary before joining?*

**CK:** Stuffy business men in suits – how wrong I was. Now its business men and women who know how to celebrate life.

**C:** *North Melbourne has undergone significant changes over the last 20 years. If you had control of its design and direction ... and, say \$30 million ... for the next 20 years, what would you do?*

**CK:** Demolish the high rise living areas and redesign the area to accommodate community facilities, and short-term housing. Free parking areas around Errol Street would be a 'real winner'.





**C:** *Looking around I can see that you're a reader ... hmm ... your tastes are eclectic, but I note a preference for biographies. What biography have you tackled lately?*

**CK:** You're right. Recently I read about Edith Piaf. Fascinating woman and a great story. I also saw "La Vie En Rose" and am convinced that Marion Cotillard will win the best actress Oscar in her role as Piaf. I recommend the film to everyone.

**C:** *Which six words beginning only with "F" best describe you?*

**CK:** Fashionable, Free, Fun-loving, Friendly, Fortunate "Foody". Yes ... food again. I should pay tribute to my mother who was not only a qualified physio but also a great cook. I love wine too (*Oohh ... good* -C) and prefer the cold climate fruity types, such as the sauvignon blancs from Marlborough Sound.

**C:** *What do you particularly enjoy about the Melbourne North Rotary Club?*

**CK:** I am proud to be part of a small group of dedicated, diverse people who are welcoming and friendly and who love to have a joke. At the same time they're contributing to the community, in many different projects, and obviously having fun as they're doing it.

**C:** *Think of all the places you've travelled to ... in this case, you have the opportunity to return to one and spend a month there. Where would you choose and why?*

**CK:** I arrived in Australia at the age of three, the daughter of a Czech father and a German mother. Many years later I made my return to Europe ... partly to seek out my roots and partly as a voyage of discovery. I found Lake Bled.

It is the jewel in the crown of Slovenia. It's one of the most picturesque and breathtaking places that I have ever visited. It weaves a magic spell with its ancient church in the middle of the lake and towering castle on the cliffs. I would like to spend two weeks in the summer- exploring all the caves and castles, and sailing on the lake. Then I'd like two weeks in the winter ( in the snow), participating in winter sports and partaking in the

local food and wine, with friends old and new.

**C:** *Complete the following: Life is ...*

**CK:** ... full of opportunities.

**C:** *My secret talent is ...*

**CK:** ... cooking.

**C:** *The way to my heart is ...*

**CK:** ... romance and flowers.

**C:** *I am ...*

**CK:** ... an individual.

**C:** *Rotary is ...*

**CK:** ... part of my life.

**C:** *Rotarians are ...*

**CK:** ... at Melbourne North, a diverse group of inspirational of people who serve the community.

More about this talented lady ... she recently completed her Certificate in Kitchen Operations – this means that she is qualified to run a commercial (restaurant) kitchen. We talked about cooking and implements. Christine showed me her knives ... magnificent, shiny, expensive (*I remember reading about Jack the R... no, Clarice*).

The food was gorgeous. I kept thinking of restaurant terms such as 'infused' and 'drizzled'. We had wonderful pasta, fresh sardines, an olive 'something' (sensational) and, my favourite – Christine's orange and fennel salad. All this, with a lovely bottle of Cloudy Bay Sauvignon Blanc.

The chatter was non-stop and when the possibility of a 'second bottle' was considered, I thought about the 'responsible editor' taking a tram home to Far East Prahran.

What a great idea – thanks Christine, I will!!

## Featured Club

I remember when Altona was first established as the chemical refinery centre of Melbourne - you know, the sort of place that you looked at sideways as you hurried past on the way to Geelong.

I was a touch apprehensive as I ventured out to 'the western suburbs' meet Therese McKenney-Campbell, President of the **Rotary Club of Altona**.

And what a pleasant surprise I got ...

**C:** *When was your Club formed?*

**TM:** It was formed on 12 October 1962, and Chartered 8 February 1963.

**C:** *What differentiates your Club from all others?*

**TM:** Our flexibility to assist unexpected guests (*ha! - do I sense a message there? - C*). A very strong emphasis on local needs and assisting our youth and culturally diverse community with the High Challenge Youth Camp in partnership with local Police. Good friendships, and we are prepared to grow and accept change where warranted.

Our members, too, (which would be like other clubs) participate in other local community groups or service clubs as volunteers. Our network is very local, positive, ready to share, listen and take action.

We meet at lunchtime and despite limited time we always manage to make room for fellowship.

**C:** *What past project would rank in your Club's 'Hall of Fame'?*

**TM:** The Early Childhood Intervention program that enables parents with children up to four years of age with disabilities to participate in a playgroup, run in partnership with Yooralla. Nominated club members sit on the management committee and our club donates \$18,000 per year to support a physio, speech therapist and co-ordinator. We were successful in 2006 with a Rotary matching grant to support this project.

**C:** *What have you got brewing for the coming year?*

**TM:** To increase membership and the inclusion of members' families. We want to increase family participation so that the Rotary family can expand.

Another goal we have is to create a higher awareness of the works and services performed by Rotary, therefore a stronger marketing strategy is to be implemented. This, of course, requires a higher profile and more fundraising to assist with projects.



I have participated for 11 years as a volunteer (6 years as President) on the local Altona's Bayside Festival, which attracts more than 15,000 people. Our marketing to over 85,000 people was crucial for this festival to compete against more tourist locations. This was successful with showcasing on TV's *Postcards*, weekly full page coverage in *Presidents Letter* and radio. So I can see that Rotary has a place to be in local media, so that we can get the word out!



**C:** *Why would others visit your local area? Any local features of note?*

TM: Nestled on the beautiful west side of Port Phillip, our club meets for lunch overlooking one of the best scenes of Altona – our bay. We meet at the Altona Sports Club in a newly renovated room and hopefully this year will see an increase in family attendance during school holidays or when grandparent duties are inevitable. There is a readily accessible child-friendly play area for this purpose. Lunch costs \$15 for two excellent quality courses and are of excellent quality with the selection from 3 varied dishes.

Visit Pier Street any Tuesday, and grab a deal or special gift from the weekly street market, or visit our Art Centre in Sargood Street that exhibits local artists and craftsmen.

Altona Beach – lined with Norfolk Island pines – has a 70 metre pier to stroll along and admire our sea friendly sculptures. Spend a day in Altona and share good fellowship.

**C:** *What is your Club's passion?*

TM: Our passions are the 'ideals' of Rotary. Everyone has a story to be

told, everyone has something that has happened or has touched them. That through Rotary we can assist in alleviating some pain, displacement, isolation. To make our community stronger with assisting with local issues, youth empowerment and a higher awareness of health and mental health issues. Also to be part of worldwide changes and assistance.

**C:** *If you had to liken your Club to an animal, what would it be and why?*

TM: We have a strong 'Bulldogs' following in our club and I would not take that dangerous step as President to state anything other than that! Personally, though, I would go for something with a growl and stripes, or one that hops!

**C:** *Do you have either a butcher, a baker or a candlestick maker in your club?*

TM: We have a butcher, soon to have a baker (new member) and I have turned my hand at candlestick making in my craft days!

**C:** *Who is the longest serving member of your Club?*

TM: James Mann, our Charter Member, who is still with us.

**C:** *What's the weirdest thing that has happened at your Club?*

TM: As I have not been with the club for long (4 years) I have not seen anything that has stood out except, a few faux pas. I've heard stories from the heydays of fellowship involving late nights and weekends away, but they are club secrets. You must join to find out!

**C:** *If Bill Gates was feeling generous and donated \$1 million, how would you spend it?*

TM: Housing for displaced youth and young families; a mentoring and education program and facility for 14 to 25 year-olds who fall through the cracks in the more institutionalised education system; large donations to mental health programs, ovarian, cervical and urology research.

**C:** *If I wanted to get involved with your club, how would I go about it?*

TM: Give me a call on 0412 315 450 and meet with me and one of our members at one of our great loca-

tions in Altona. Or come and visit us at Altona Sports Club, 1 Altona Road, Seaholme for one of our meetings – on the house for a prospective member.

So if you're a candlestick maker come along but we wouldn't mind a builder, plumber or carpenter ... mmm... sounds like we might be brewing something for the future!

**C:** *Therese, what is your favourite café or bar in Altona?*

TM: Pier One, Pier Street, opposite Logan Reserve and 10 meters from our bay. Great coffee and an excellent menu. My favourite is the Chicken breast stuffed with Lobster and Brie formed like a mignon and served with medley of seasonal vegetables topped with a clear seafood sauce – yum!. Enjoy the meal then take a walk along our beach to work it off!

At that, I realised it was time to eat. Therese had a meeting to attend, so I decided to go it alone and try her recommendation.

She was sooooo right!

## Visiting This Week

Every week I'll try to list clubs that have draw-card speakers, many of whom will be from our own Speaker Bank.

If you're planning to visit it would be courteous if you would let the Club Secretary know, so that where appropriate, catering arrangements can be made.

Visiting other clubs is a great way to increase your own enjoyment of the incredible fellowship that Rotary offers its members. Plus, of course, visiting other clubs encourages their members to visit yours.

When you have good speakers scheduled, simply email me on [clarice@rotarydistrict9800.org](mailto:clarice@rotarydistrict9800.org) so that I can include it in the next newsletter.

