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Making a Difference in 2018—District Governor Peter Frueh

As we return from our holiday break, with family and friends, we restart the next step of our Rotary journey. Hopefully we are refreshed and are ready to make our own Rotary resolutions for 2018? Maybe to offer to help an existing project or start a new one? Maybe to seek out an interesting speaker? To look for a community organisation to partner with? To bring along a friend who might be wondering what all this Rotary stuff is about? Make a note to yourself and follow up when you can.

Anne and I have just had the opportunity to welcome home our outbound Youth Exchange students from 2017. They are very happy and have gained so much from their year overseas.



We have also bid farewell to our outbound Youth Exchange students for 2018, who were excited and perhaps a bit nervous in heading overseas to a new culture, new host families and immersion into another language.

What a great opportunity that Youth Exchange provides for the students, their parents, host parents, host and sponsoring clubs, schoolmates and the wider communities. Is your club considering sponsoring or hosting a student during 2018-19? If so, please contact Youth Exchange Chair Gabrielle Morgan.

Another innovative shorter term youth exchange has been undertaken by North Balwyn. They currently have a group of students plus two Rotarians from Mongolia here for two weeks, after a similar outbound trip to Mongolia in July 2017.

Initiated by Bill Oakley through his international Camping association colleagues, it is one that could be conducted club to club in other countries. President Rob Head, Youth Services Chair Estelle Kelly and Bill undertook a scoping visit to Mongolia two years ago and all aspects have been very well planned.

After this visit is completed, potential future Vocational exchanges will be considered with Mongolia for example in Aged Care. Our District Vocational Service Chair Alan Seale is the person to contact if you are interested in any vocational exchanges. These might consist of sending out or supporting one or two young professionals for 2 to 4 weeks, with home hosting and arranging a suitable vocational exchange visit program to suit their individual needs. Alan and his team are well experienced in this and can work with clubs in establishing a suitable exchange. January is Vocational Services, so support your club Vocational Service chair in mentoring, business awards, vocational visits and other activities the club undertakes or could start.

Rotary International is different from other service organisations, in that members join with their vocational skills (classifications) and can utilize them in the projects and programs undertaken. This makes Rotary a great partner to other organisations, in the skills and connections we bring.

Peter Frueh
District Governor 2017-2018



North Balwyn President Rob Head, with DG Peter, AG Jonathan Shepherd and visitors AG Tsevelt Delgertsoo (left) and Deputy AG Munkjargal Ayurzana. Both are from the Ulaanbaatar Rotary Club.

Connections and opportunities along a DGE journey

We understand connections, opportunities and fun are what Rotary offers. Please may I share this seemingly little but very important vignette of Mark and I experiencing it while travelling to International Assembly for DG leadership development? We had a few days on our hands and thought to visit a Rotary club. Rotary San Francisco - the second club chartered in the world who had a service evening instead of a meeting evening. So we took the leap and registered to attend.

There are 12 clubs in the wider San Francisco area and they combine to purchase dictionaries for children in schools who ordinarily wouldn't be able to afford them. The members shared with us new words that have been added this year. Eg "**schmuck**. someone who is stupid"



Our project was to add 2 stickers to the fly leaf of each book. One sticker with the 4 way test and the other letting the child know that this book is specially given to them and from whom ie Rotary Club of San Francisco! With the rest of the team we got through this fun chore in no time flat. 2 pallets of books. They will be distributed by the club members to the students.



The side benefit of volunteering is chatting while you work. Rowan McClean (RC North Balwyn) you are going to be one very happy vegemite from down under. Within 15 minutes of arriving it and connecting I discovered that a certain San Franciscan Rotarian is also passionate about project work in Vietnam and believes that they are "this close" (like eradicating polio this close) to chartering a club in Vietnam. The club has a global grant in progress with pepper plantations. They soooooooo want to connect with you dear friend.

This club inducts 20-25 new members each year. Yes, true! There is a competition for the person who brings the most new members each year. One member has a holiday house in Hawaii and the winner enjoys a week in that holiday house.

President John tucked me under his wing right from the moment we met. We chatted about him volunteering 3 days a week with "hospice". ie spending time professionally with people who are dying. He sits with them and listens, shares, entertains or whatever they require. He has also written a book about leadership after retiring from his career in management. What a fascinating man. Mark connected straight away with another John - he is facilitating the global grant in Vietnam.

I must admit we were nervous about just arriving at a Rotary club on the other side of the world without knowing anyone there, but there was no need. We were so welcomed and it was such a joyous experience to be of help, while having fun, and to make a connection for a club member back home...what more could we have wanted to do?

So, if you are travelling and think to add Rotary to journey we would highly recommend it. It isn't just fascinating and fun to meet wonderful people. Opportunities for added service are exciting, and Rowan it will be so wonderful to charter that club in Vietnam - certainly San Francisco Rotary are excited at the possibility to engage and combine efforts with you.

Bronwyn Stephens, District Governor Elect 2018-2019

Give of yourself and the world will be a much better place

I awoke on Friday morning rehearsing the eulogy for my mother's funeral later in the afternoon, mentally making a note – thank those contributing to the service. Then I choked on my toast as the headline leapt off the page, "Volunteering often does more harm than good" (5 Jan, 2018).

Oh, no! A complete re-write required in a couple hours? Too late! I'll just have to proceed with the telling of her 80-plus years of community service and wrack my brains for the bits that did harm and skip over them. What a relief – no edits required.

My first memory of Mum's volunteering was at primary school tuck shop - once a week, pies and sausage rolls instead of home-made sandwiches. Then school fundraising, along with other mothers who became known as "auntie", with children in our classes who became our "cousins". Some of these came to the funeral 50 years on.

Joining Brownies at age 8, in 1932, Mum never ceased her involvement with the Guides until she was physically no longer able and had to go into aged care. Countless girls and women gained practical skills and self confidence through the organisation either directly or indirectly from her commitment and service to the Guiding movement over 85 years.

Through **Rotary** she became known as "mother" to some 20 international exchange students and these also became additional "cousins" to our family around the world.

My parents were at the forefront of local fundraising for the **Rotary polio eradication program** which was launched in 1985. At that time there were an estimated 400,000 cases of polio diagnosed every year. Last year there were fewer than 100. This program was taken up by the World Health Organisation in 1988 and substantial additional funds have been contributed by world governments over the past 30 years, and more recently by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. But these funds are still not enough without the hundreds of thousands of Rotary and other volunteers required to deliver to 2 million children a year, in India alone. A volunteer initiative that has changed the world. My mother raised funds by a sponsored bike ride.

An international project of my Rotary Club was to fund a mobile medical clinic vehicle in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa, where tribespeople had to walk for up to three days to get to a medical centre. The local government agreed to cover the operating costs for one year. After that trial they set up 70 more vehicles. An amazing leverage on an initiative from volunteers to demonstrate "value for money". The same can be done here. Leading by example can change government thinking and policy.

Recently I retired as a volunteer director of a community-run aged-care facility in South Melbourne. After merging two smaller organisations, a new 150-bed facility was completed in 2015. A combination of local government, community fundraising and bank loans funded the \$27 million construction. Now that it's fully occupied and the debt paid off, I considered I had done myself out of a job.

But the elderly, disabled, and the homeless still need continuing care, not just that roof over their heads. The ongoing operations of such a facility are sourced from residents' fees and government subsidy. Care staff and management are all paid; some volunteers support outings and activities.

This model has worked because there is no profit-making incentive and no directors' fees. Any surpluses are directed towards improved services and future upgrades. Far from "winning" government contracts due to tax-deductable status, this is working in partnership with the government's model for providing these services, which it recognises it cannot set up and deliver as efficiently itself.

Many similar examples of community-based services can be found. And whilst there may be instances where small community groups resort to not quite "politically correct" methods of fundraising, this should not be applied across the board as an argument to not contribute at all, whether financially or by volunteering.



Yes, all costs should be accounted for and recognised, especially in the caring and education sectors, but recognising where real value is being provided is much more important.

The real solution to a problem, as my mother would advise, is to "do something about it". Get involved and generate change from within if necessary. Yes, there are inefficient charities, but better results can be achieved by looking more closely at what they do and how they do it – target your donations and volunteering to organisations that do achieve results. The competition will sort out the incompetent.

Community-service volunteering builds friendships and more cohesive and resilient communities, which are desperately needed in a big-city environment - now more than ever, to assist with the integration of migrant community groups. It is true democracy at the grass-roots level. We need more, much more – everyone contributing - not less. Don't just "give at the office" via your taxes, give of yourself and the world will be a much better place.

David Gorman

David Gorman is a member of the Rotary Club of Albert Park, and a Past President. He is a former treasurer of District 9800 and previously Chairman of the Ambassadorial Scholars Sub-committee of the District Foundation Committee.

This article was published in The Age, on January 8th 2018.

<http://www.theage.com.au/comment/give-of-yourself-and-the-world-will-be-a-much-better-place-20180108-h0exu5.html?btis>

Ashley Eadon, United Nations Youth Delegation, Thailand

Ashley Eadon, a LaTrobe University Bachelor of Laws student from Woodend was sponsored by the Rotary Club of Eaglehawk to attend the United Nations Youth Delegation in Thailand. Ashley was selected as the Macedon Ranges Young Citizen of the year in 2017 and is following in her father's footsteps in volunteering and humanitarian work. She has commenced a blog about her adventures which Eaglehawk have shared with us.



Beginning in Bangkok

Bangkok has certainly delivered in my first week of living here!

I have moved into my new apartment which is a part of a gated community. My apartment is very comfortable, as is the community I am now a part of. The closest shopping mall is complete with a 24/7 coffee shop, a ball pit, reading nook and lots more still to be discovered. The view outside of my apartment looks down onto a soccer field, in which the locals are enjoying playing a game of cricket.

The hustle and bustle of Bangkok is not to be taken lightly! Traffic here is very full on with 19km distances taking up to an hour to drive in ubers/taxis. However, there is always something to see whichever way you look, which explains why I have a bit of a sore neck!

I just finished my first three days of training that occurred at the United Nations. It was intense training covering various topics such as leadership, logistics, legalities, my role and responsibilities, goal setting and qualifying for the **Global Youth Award** at the end of my placement.



Each day we were required to give motivating presentations either about ourselves or our work, I enjoyed presenting about the **Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) number 4, Quality Education**. Day one of the training we met the Regional Project Manager of the United Nations Development Program and he spoke to us about the activities of the UNDP and highlighted some of the challenges they face. He spoke of how the **University Scholars Leadership Symposium** (run by Humanitarian Affairs Asia) will help combat some of these challenges and get more young people involved in the work that the UNDP does.

Later on, we had a private tour by the Conference Centre Manager and were able to see all over the ESCAP building. One of the Conference Rooms was set up for a UN meeting in the coming week and country placards were placed on each desk. Seeing the "behind the scenes" of the UN was something I won't quickly forget. The United Nations library was just as powerful with texts in various languages, topics and authors lining the walls.

The final day of the training went into depth of what my role will specifically be. One aspect of my role is that I will be working on recruiting delegates to attend the **University Scholars Leadership Symposium** from all around Australia, New Zealand, Europe and the USA. I have my work cut out for me over the next 7 months but I am very excited! There are seven 'Youth Advocates to the UN' in total, all women and all extremely capable to succeed in their position.

Tonight, I am going out to China Town to have dinner with the girls and today I have enjoyed unpacking and decorating my new home. Thank you to all for your messages, prayers and support! I greatly appreciate the encouragement.

Bye for now! พบกันใหม่ (póp gan mài)

Fun Fact: I get unlimited internet for 588 Thai Baht which is about \$24 (AUD) per month.

Rotary International President Ian Riseley

January 2018

In Rotary, our diversity is our strength. This idea dates back to the earliest years of our organization, when the classification system was first proposed. The idea behind it was simple: that a club with members who had a wide variety of backgrounds and abilities would be capable of better service than one without.

In the years since, the idea of diversity in Rotary has come to be defined more broadly. We have discovered that a club that truly represents its community is far better able to serve that community effectively. Looking ahead, it is clear how essential diversity will remain in Rotary: not only to strong service today, but to a strong organization in the future.



One of the most pressing aspects of diversity to address in our membership is the age of our members. When you look around at almost any Rotary event, it becomes immediately obvious that the age range in the room does not promise a sustainable future for our organization. Our membership is near a record high, and we are bringing in new members all the time – yet only a small minority of those members are young enough to have decades of Rotary service ahead of them. To ensure a strong and capable Rotary leadership tomorrow, we need to bring in young and capable members today.

We also cannot discuss diversity in Rotary without addressing the issue of gender. It is difficult to imagine that just three decades ago, women could not join Rotary. Although we have come a long way since then, the legacy of that misguided policy is still with us. Far too many people continue to think of Rotary as an organization only for men, and that idea has had a detrimental effect on both our public image and our membership growth. Today, women make up just over 21 percent of Rotary's membership. While this is certainly a great improvement, we have a long way to go to meet what should be the goal of every club: a gender balance that matches the balance of our world, with as many women in Rotary as men.

Whatever brought each of us to Rotary, we stay because we find value in Rotary membership and believe that our service has value to the world. By building clubs that reflect that world in all its diversity, we will build even more enduring value in *Rotary: Making a Difference*.

Ian H.S. Riseley
President 2017-18

WHAT PAUL HARRIS SAID:

Now as the Rotary New Year begins

I wish you all of the prosperity which your good deeds merit.
May all things you ought have be yours.
May your charities rank among your necessary expenditures.
May you not fall into the popular error of thinking that happiness is to be found in outdoing your neighbors.
May it always be yours to look beneath the veneer of life to the solid substance which lies beneath.
May you be builders, not mere climbers.
May you be able to appraise life's blessings at their real worth.
May you be free to act in accordance with the dictates of your own conscience and good judgment.
May you not be slaves to meaningless customs, social or otherwise.
May you shun the groove followers.
May you have vision to discern the right and health, strength and will to do it.
THAT IS TO SAY, I wish you a happy New Year."

<https://www.rghfhome.org/harris/rotarian/1916future.htm>

Vocational Training Team in Cambodia 2018

As I sit here a wonderful group of Australian educators are on their way to Cambodia to work with teachers from remote village schools in Kampong Speu and Siem Reap. This trip is the second such adventure that is fully funded through a **Rotary Foundation Global Grant** although previous trips have been funded privately and supported by a District Grant. The idea of this initiative really occurred as a result of people being involved in a **World of Difference Humanitarian Tour**. That experience enabled us all to see the immediate need for children to have the opportunity to increase literacy skills in both their language and the English language. It was obvious that, with the limited training that teachers have, help and support is needed to increase the development of the skills needed for children particularly in remote village schools to be able to have opportunities for future meaningful work that stop the poverty cycle.

So just who are these generous teachers who are giving up their holidays to go to Cambodia?

Louise Matthews has been a school teacher for many years and is currently Deputy Principal at Sacred Heart Primary School in Croydon. Leadership in the areas of literacy and student wellbeing have been particular focuses of her work for the past 15 years along with working with small groups of students with special needs. As a member of the **Rotary club of**

Chadstone East Malvern for seven years she has been privileged to see the difference Rotary can make both within the local community and overseas and she is passionate about the importance of education and the benefits that it can bring in developing communities.



Matthew Scott is a member of the **Rotary Club of Bendigo South** and a teacher at St Joseph's College in Echuca. His teaching experience includes placement in many primary and secondary schools where he has developed learning activities and resources catering for varying student abilities. He participated in the World of Difference Humanitarian Tour and experienced the problems that teachers in the remote village schools endure on a daily basis.

Patimavanh Sourivong is a respected teacher at **Baden Powell College** where she has had extensive experience teaching children from diverse cultural backgrounds with many also victims of generational trauma. She has a Master's in Education specialising in Computer Education and a Post Graduate Certificate in Teaching English as a Second language. She has delivered programs to support children and families across an age range from five to fifteen years. Pat has taught in England for four years, travelled extensively and is fluent in English, Lao and Thai.

Audrey Bugeja is the Team Leader and accepted the invitation to take on this role when the idea of a Vocational Training Team was in its infancy. She, along with the support from others, developed and trialled the program that is now to be delivered to yet another two hundred teachers and leaders. This program is a four stage program with a focus on teaching literacy strategies. The program shows how teaching can be delivered with a focus on differentiated learning for students, group work, the use of effective assessment tools through teacher centred coaching. As well as providing individualised teaching and learning to a range of students at **Baden Powell College**, Audrey has done voluntary teaching at schools in Nairobi and New Delhi. A stint working with the Salvation Army in their Soup Kitchen in 2014/2015 enabled her to help homeless people.

We are delighted to have **Linda Sok** join the team this year. Linda currently teaches English and Khmer at the **Srey Vibol Kei Secondary College** and at the **Florida International School** in Siem Reap. She completed her Regional Teacher Training at Battambang where she was trained to be a government secondary teacher. She also has a Bachelor Degree Arts, Humanities and Languages from the University of South East Asia in Siem Reap. She is committed to helping people from a disadvantaged background.

So what exactly will this experience look like?

Well having experienced this myself last year, it will be delivered in schools that have very basic facilities namely four walls and a roof, windows that allow for some ventilation in very hot and dusty conditions. No running water, very basic toilet facilities, literally a hole in the ground! Forget about the air conditioning! Our teachers will bring all their own resources as the teachers in the remote schools do not much at all and place great value on any donated pencils, paper and chalk. The Team will deliver four half day workshops to approximately one hundred teachers and then go back, debrief and plan for the next day. This regime happens at a remote village school about two hours from Phnom Peng and then a few days later in a similar venue forty five minutes out of Siem Reap.



So far the feedback from the participating teachers notes statistics such as 100% believed the workshops were useful and relevant, 98% believed the content of the program was well presented and engaging and 99% believed that the materials used, demonstrated and received was useful their work.

We do have big plans for the future and hope to further develop a partnership with a teacher training institute in Kampong Speu. The aim is to support the local people training the future teachers and humbly offer some ideas and teaching strategies that are seen as successful in our local schools in Victoria.

The Vocational Training Team of teachers are truly making a difference in the name of Rotary and with funds from The Rotary Foundation.

Julie Mason
Past District Governor
Rotary District 9800
District Governor 2015/16
VTT Cambodia 2016/2017



Rotary Strikes for Stroke Survivors – LIFE AFTER STROKE

Each year 12,000 to 15,000 Victorians have a stroke, with a growing number of working age and many still students. Every Victorian will at some time in their life have someone close to them experience a stroke, and it only then that the lasting impact is realised.

Every stroke is different, with differing physical and cognitive effects. For most, institutional clinical rehabilitation lasts only two months, followed by outpatient rehabilitation for up to a further 12 months with lasting effects beyond. Commonly when stroke survivors return home the realisation that life has changed markedly can lead to withdrawal, anxiety and depression. Because progress is slow, carers play a vital role both physically and psychologically.

Rotary has initiated a **vocational mentoring program, Life After Stroke**, in conjunction with Stroke Association of Victoria (SAV), to assist stroke survivors to return to useful engagement including paid work and involvement in Rotary programs as FORs. LAS is a RI D9800 DEP.

Stroke Association of Victoria has, over 35 years, formed and encouraged 30(+) volunteer Stroke Support Groups across Victoria that have provided invaluable peer support for stroke survivors and carers to help them regain confidence and avoid social exclusion. However the Stroke Support Groups have not had their own meeting places so there have been no aids to cognitive or physical improvement, and there has been no provision to assist stroke survivors back into the workforce or useful engagement.

With Rotary leadership, and vital funding support from government, corporate, philanthropic trust and community sources, SAV is now establishing Hubs that are permanent meeting places with equipment and paid staff to assist post-clinical stroke rehabilitation. These Hubs will be the centres for Rotary Life After Stroke activity.

In the past two years Hubs have been established in Kew (Boroondara Hub) and Geelong (Barwon Hub), and one is being established at Eaglehawk (Bendigo Hub). There is a need in all parts of Melbourne and Victoria and it is planned to develop more Hubs wherever there is local interest shown in developing them.

Each Hub has developed in its own individual way.

The Bendigo Hub is a model for how future Hubs around Victoria could develop. Project Manager Bob Slater arranged for the (then) President of Eaglehawk Rotary (Ron Payne), Head of Bendigo Health Rehabilitation (Assoc Prof Marc Budge), Executive Director SAV (James Garland) and members of the Central Victoria Stroke Support Group to meet at the RI D9800 Bendigo Showcase on Australia Day 2016.



David Dolman, Ron Payne RC
Eaglehawk, Carly Stephens,
PDG Neville John,
Bob Slater, James Garland SAV

From that meeting:

- All agreed that a Hub would be highly beneficial for stroke survivors in Bendigo.
- Eaglehawk Rotary had space that could be used for the purpose.
- Kew Rotary/SAV would seed funds to assist the Hub to become established.
- Bendigo Health would support the project by introducing stroke survivors to the program and provide support for an approach to Greater City of Bendigo Council for their support.

As Marc Budge said: "We clinicians have been concerned for a long time about what happens to stroke survivors once they finish formal rehabilitation. We are extremely happy to support this initiative because we can see the benefit it will bring, particularly in self-esteem and self-confidence."

Since that time:

- An MOU has been drawn up and agreed to between Eaglehawk Rotary (Current President Alison Bacon) and SAV.
- SAV (\$7,500 donated to SAV by Kew Rotary) and Central Victoria Stroke Support Group (\$2,500) provided seed funding which was matched as a RACG project by RAWCS with funding from Dick Smith.
- The facility is now being prepared, equipment purchased, and a part-time coordinator will be appointed in early 2018.



Alison Bacon RC Eaglehawk with James Grland & Bob Slater. Cognitive Group Exercises at Booroondara. Blokes with stroke.

The next stage is for:

- stroke survivors and carers to be contacted by Central Victoria Stroke Support Group with the assistance of Bendigo Health.
- Social and confidence building support to be provided at the Hub.
- Rotarians prepared to become Vocational mentors to register with Bob Slater, Kew Rotary, and agree to undertake mentoring training (developed by Justin Wibrow, Melbourne Rotary, and Yarra Bend Rotary).

This is a big venture in its early stages, and assistance is needed from all quarters to ensure success.

Information on how to support the Eaglehawk/Bendigo Hub project financially can be found on the following RAWCS linkages:

<https://donations.rawcs.com.au/Default.aspx?ProjectNo=86&YearRegistered=2016-17>.

Tax deductibility is granted through "Rotary Australia Benevolent Society" – ABN 54 563 288 318.

Future Hubs

Hubs provide focal points for stroke survivors and carers to interact with structured programs and tangible rehabilitation benefits.

Hubs are ideally a partnership between Rotary (at District level), SAV, a local Stroke Support Group, the local municipal council/shire and local MPs, the closest regional health unit, and a local Rotary club that acts as the lead club for surrounding cluster clubs.

For more information and assistance in regard to establishing a Hub or support a local Stroke Support Group, contact Bob Slater on 0418 317 057 or bob_slater1@outlook.com

St Albans Interact Club's Double Recognition

The Interact Club of St Albans Secondary College held their first Presidential Change Over function in September 2017. At this lunchtime function, Jane Watters, Rotary District 9800 Metropolitan Interact Representative presented Interact Charter President Tony Micallef with a 2016/17 District 9800 Citation

Of the 12 Victorian District 9800 Interact Clubs – St Albans Secondary College was one of four to be successful and receive their certificates.

At the same time that I had submitted an application to District 9800, on behalf of the Interact Club, I also submitted an on-line submission to Rotary International, which closed August 2017.

Late in September, I emailed to check the status of my application. I received a reply to say that my application was successful and indeed the Interact Club of St Albans Secondary College had achieved another Presidential Citation – this time signed by John Germ, President of Rotary International.

There are 501,170 Interactors in 21,790 Interact Clubs in 498 districts in 161 countries worldwide. Rotary International informed me that about 525 Interact Clubs had successful 2016/17 Presidential Citation applications.

I also received email confirmation from Rotary International – that the **Interact Club of St Albans Secondary College** was the only **Australian Club** to achieve a **2016/17 Rotary International Presidential Citation signed by John Germ, RI President**.

Congratulations to the Interact Club of St Albans Secondary College for achieving a 2016/17 District 9800 Citation and a 2016/17 Presidential Citation signed by John Germ, President of Rotary International, for helping Rotary make a difference in the lives of people all over the world.

The 2016/17 **Rotary International Presidential Citation** was presented to the Charter President, Interact Club of St Albans Secondary College, by Rotary Club of Brimbank Central President John Youings, on November 1st, at a **Community Leadership Recognition Awards Night** which acknowledged students from the 4 local schools that have worked on projects in conjunction with the Rotary Club of Brimbank Central.

Barbara Rafter
Rotary Club of Brimbank Central



Brimbank Central Community Leadership Recognition Awards

The Rotary Club of Brimbank Central is committed to serving the community locally and internationally. Developing young people to do the same, and become leaders in the community, is our vision. The young people of today are the future Rotarians supporting the Brimbank Community to flourish.

In the 2017 school year, our club offered 4 **local secondary schools** seeding grants for a student led fundraising project in partnership with our club. Our members have had a working relationship with these school communities, and we decided to build on these relationships in collaborative community projects. The schools are: St Albans Secondary College, Victoria University Secondary College, Taylors Lakes Secondary College and Keilor Downs College.

The club offered schools a \$500 grant to support a fundraising program or project, which supported our club's work with the elderly at Grantham Green Aged Care Nursing Home, adults with disabilities at SCOPE, and young children at our local Bicycle Education Centre.

Students at each college were nominated for a Community Leadership Recognition Award, and were invited along with family and school members to a special evening at the end of the school year where they were recognised for their efforts in community leadership. Our category of awards were as follows:



Awards Selection Criteria:

The **Unsung Hero Award** recognises people who work tirelessly behind the scenes to achieve everyday success.

The **Change Maker Award** celebrates people who have taken an innovative or creative approach to supporting programs, people and/or initiatives to seek positive change to make a real difference.

The **Making an Impact Award** recognises people who have made a significant impact on the work of their school team through demonstrating enthusiasm, hard work or, making contributions that are effective, sustainable and have a lasting effect

The **Above and Beyond Award** celebrates people who demonstrate and champion superior service that delivers a specific, significant and sustained benefit to a program, person and/or initiative.

The **Building Culture Award** recognises people who demonstrate effective or consistent effort that achieve greater outcomes by promoting the values of their school, and respective community organisation.

This was an excellent way to engage the entire community and put the work of Rotary on show. It was also an opportunity to promote new membership in Rotary.

by Athena Vass

Donations in Kind's 2018 Open Day

Saturday 24th February is the date set for this year's OPEN DAY at Donations in Kind Store at 400 Somerville Road West Footscray.

As everyone is aware we have moved from **Shed 40 to Shed 39** and given lots of work by many people, the store is looking terrific.

The **Open Day** is a great opportunity to showcase the store but more importantly show you the many opportunities for you to use the store to assist your Community and International projects. We will take the opportunity to use the day as the **"Official Opening"** for the new location and will have the ribbon cutting ceremony at 1.00pm.

The day will run from 10.00am to 3.00 pm with tea and coffee throughout the day and a traditional sausage sizzle for lunch.

The **Open Day** gives every Rotarian the chance to see the store – many for the first time and particularly for new Rotarians to see some easy "hands on" opportunities.

The move gave us the opportunity for a big "spring clean" and enabled us to put in place a better layout for the store. It also gave us the opportunity to provide better facilities for our volunteers and for Clubs to use the store for their meetings.



It was not all easy as we had a big surprise when we were advised that some of our existing racking could not be reinstalled as it was no longer of the "approved" type.

Consequently we had to purchase quite a few new "approved" uprights so we could provide at least the same volume of racking capacity.

This unforeseen expense has given our available funds a significant "hit" so we are using the **Open Day** as an opportunity to ask for your financial assistance.

You can help us by **"buying" a full bay of racking for \$1500 or a double pallet space for \$150**. Our objective is to replenish the coffers with the \$10,000 that this additional racking cost us.

We would love to close the day with the knowledge that we had achieved this.

So mark the date in your calendar and join us at Shed 39 on Saturday 24th February.

Bob Glindemann

A simple project to help DiK— and children.

As most people know at Donations in Kind we collect lots of school desks and chairs to send to needy locations. We are always asked for exercise books and pencils so try to send some with each shipment of desks

Our stock of exercise books is always under pressure so we are always looking for more.

Right now, **Back to School** sales are in full swing and offer a great opportunity for Rotarians and Clubs to make a very easy contribution to the store. There are lots of opportunities for exercise books, pens and pencils at Office works, Kmart, Big W and Target at super prices.

Check at your local store.

Here is a great opportunity for a very easy Club project that you can complete .

Organise your mates, family and Club members to purchase some – any quantity large or small. Make it a Cluster project and consolidate into a larger quantity for the store – pool some funds and if the amount is large enough, the store will deliver to DIK. We received a delivery this week from Office works for a large project in Timor Leste.

But act quickly – schools back soon and the sales will be over!

BIGW 25c

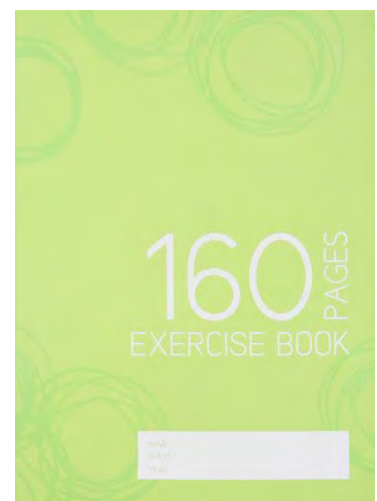


ALDI 47c



OFFICEWORKS 15c

KMART \$1



John was well known and loved throughout District 9800 but it is as a club man and a generous, genial, gracious and kindly friend that we remember him best. After attending meetings with his wife Judy, (President 1998-1999) she inducted John into the club at our Christmas breakup on 22nd December 1998. Until then John had gallantly been chairing the Ladies Group, later the Partners, and eventually the Friends of Richmond Rotary.

John threw himself into club affairs and agreed to be On to Conference chair for the 2003 D9800 conference in Bendigo. I was President and Des Hosking was the DG. John organised an outstanding pre- conference tour which was inventive as Bendigo is only 2 hours from Melbourne. For this reason I was eternally grateful.



It was a very busy Rotary time for John as Judy was Assistant Governor 2001-2003 for the Hobson's Bay cluster. John never missed a cluster club meeting and showed genuine enthusiasm, never forgetting names and significant details about all he met. This continued throughout the year (2004-2005) when Judy was D9800 District Governor. John visited all 74 clubs with Judy and all the other occasions required of a DG and was a marvel at setting everyone at ease during these important visits.

Judy described her life with John as a forty year adventure.

In 2004 just before Judy and John were to leave for San Diego for District Governors' training it became clear that Rotary International was not keeping up with modern mores. They required that only married couples be accommodated at San Diego. A quiet wedding took place and it was not long before the club became aware of this. Not to miss out, the club planned, with a great deal of secrecy, a "wedding reception". This took place at the lovely home of David & Traude Bibby at Kyneton. The "ceremony" was conducted by the "Rev" Doug Wysham and the ladies prepared a wonderful wedding breakfast. John revelled in the occasion and as always lots of wine, song and stories made for a beautiful day.

John was an eager conference attendee. His hospitality at all D9800 conferences was legendary as many a drink and a nibble took place in John and Judy's rooms. My first experience of this was at the Canberra Conference in 2001. John and I had a passion for martinis! John also organised a post conference tour following the Perth Conference in 2010. He was so proud that we were visiting the state of his birth.

The pre and post conference tours organised by the club gave us a chance to spend more time with John. I never tired of his fascinating stories. Douglas Mawson, as a lecturer at the University of S.A., his part in the rebuilding of Darwin after Cyclone Tracey, his 4 year visit to Tanzania, chief engineer for the ACT, his underground visit in the Sydney Harbour Bridge, his explanation as to why it was more difficult to tunnel under the Yarra than the English Channel. His knowledge was prodigious and his interests more so. Every activity was attacked with gusto. Some of us were lucky enough to travel through some of the outback with John.

He was always enlightening about the engineering marvels that we came upon: the Old Ghan track, the copper mines at Moonta, the first stage of the Black Arrow rocket at William Creek, the huge trestle bridge outside of Coward Springs. He was lovely to be with. It did not matter where or when, John was always impeccably dressed whether it be for dinner at Government House, or an outback picnic.

John's devotion to Rotary was highlighted by the fact that he travelled the not insignificant journey from his farm at Romsey to Richmond on a weekly basis. As Sergeant, the meetings he ran were always well organised and productive. His fine collecting was based on good humour, unfailing politeness and fun.

John was made a Paul Harris Fellow in 2005 and this was followed with a sapphire in 2013.

John's passing will be mourned by all who knew him. The members and friends of Richmond Rotary express their deepest sympathy to his wife Judy.

Sue Bolton
Rotary Club of Richmond



We were all shocked and saddened to hear of the sudden and unexpected premature death of larger than life Stanislaw {Stan} Gawel.

Although Stan had only been a member of the Rotary Club of Balwyn for 4 years , he has had a profound impact on the club.

His personality was bright, smiling and challenging. His organisation of social events was competent and invariably successful. The twilight golf games, the BBQs and other Social events

As Membership Development Chair in 2015, he was instrumental in finding new members for the club, using his expertise in sales and marketing from his wine wholesaling business, and before that his career in banking.

His time as Sergeant at arms was eventful --- and expensive!

A skill that not many of us perhaps were not aware, was his ability to build fashion furniture. The classic chairs, side boards and tables he built, were master pieces. He built 3 grandfather clocks, one for each of his children.

His three children, Sophia, David and Anna live in New South Wales, and he was visiting them when he passed away.

Stan was only 70, (his birthday would have been this week) and he was still busy running his wholesale wine business.

Of course his membership drive for our Club was outstanding. The following item written by Tony Thomas was published in Rotary Down Under in November 2015.

A tribute to Stan from Rotary South Branch of Rotary International

<https://gallery.mailchimp.com/cebab87b6bd61fb7f1effd16d/files/471c3ee6-97bc-4c82-877e-096c9cad2740/Stans.pdf>

The family are planning a funeral service in New South Wales.

There will be a Memorial Service for Stan on THURSDAY January 25th between 2.30—5.30pm at the Greenacres Golf Club located at 51 Elm Grove Kew East.

You will be sadly missed Stan --- may you rest in peace

Keith Carrol

Care Coordinator

Rotary Club of Balwyn

Rotary and Health

Rotary has so many good health projects that I don't know where to begin. We all know about **Polio** and how it is nearly eradicated, and how our Rotary International President Ian Riseley is encouraging the **End Trachoma 2020 Project**. Your club may be supporting a clean water and sanitation, **Rotarians Against Malaria**, a research grant or scholarship through **Australian Rotary Health**, or a maternal and child health project.

It is very easy to become engrossed in health programmes, but we still need to keep an eye on the big picture: as each new generation of teenagers emerges, programmes to prevent AIDS, and to immunise the new babies, need to be refreshed and continued. Infectious diseases still afflict much of the world.

So it was with some pleasure that I read this encouraging article in the New York Times. The world is slowly gaining on the common infectious diseases that we in Australia rarely think about.

Dr. Gordon Cheyne
Rotary Club of Hawthorn.



Measles Deaths Fall to a Record Low Worldwide

By DONALD G. McNEIL Jr. DEC. 26, 2017 New York Times

For the first time in history, annual deaths around the globe from measles have fallen below 100,000, the World Health Organization announced this year. As recently as the 1980s, measles killed 2.6 million people a year. The decline — a public health triumph, as measles has long been a leading killer of malnourished children — was accomplished by widespread donor-supported vaccination that began in the early 2000s.

Because measles is so contagious — one child can infect a dozen others in a classroom or at a playground, even before the telltale rash appears — outbreaks in any community or school can be prevented only by pushing vaccination rates to 95 percent.

In wealthy countries, deaths from measles are rare — only about [one case in 5,000 is fatal](#). More common complications include encephalitis, which can cause brain damage in about one in 1,500 measles cases, and pneumonia, which occurs in about one in 16 cases. About one child in 12 with measles will get a related ear infection; some lead to deafness.

The disease kills up to 6 percent of malnourished children in poor countries, the World Health Organisation estimates, and up to 30 percent in some outbreaks among refugees. Half of the world's unvaccinated children live in six countries: Congo, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Nigeria and Pakistan. In unvaccinated pregnant women, the virus can kill the fetus, leading to miscarriage.

Full Story: <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/12/26/health/measles-deaths-vaccination.html?smid=fb-share>



*Image: A child receiving measles vaccine in a refugee camp in Bangladesh last month. Annual deaths from measles have fallen below 100,000 worldwide, according to the World Health Organization.
Credit Mohammad Ponir Hossain/Reuters*

Why the Rotarian Action Group for Multiple Sclerosis Awareness (RAGMSA) was formed

When my son Jacob, a budding musician, was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis (MS) at age 20, my wife Diana and I didn't know anything about the disease.

Our world changed when our son became one of 2.5 million people worldwide diagnosed with this neurological condition in which the body's immune system inexplicably turns on itself, attacking the protective sheaths that surround nerve fibers. Depending on the type of MS, symptoms range from tingling or numbness, visual impairment, mobility restrictions, loss of coordination, independence and eventually paralysis.

The disease most commonly impacts adults ages 20-40 and three times as many more women than men. MS has no cure, but our family wanted to take action. We felt frustrated that no one could tell us what causes MS and what plans there were to find a cure. Now we realize this disease is very complex.

Before Jacob was diagnosed, Diana and I joined the Rotary Club of Gisborne to give back after our daughter went to Sweden on a Rotary Youth Exchange. Since then, we have hosted ten exchange students. Our club's members had empathy for Jacob's condition and started a club project, which later became a district-endorsed program. This encouraged us to gather together Rotarians internationally with an interest in finding a cure for the disease and form the [Rotarian Action Group for Multiple Sclerosis Awareness \(RAGMSA\)](#) to help clubs organize projects to assist individuals and families impacted by MS, promote MS awareness and urge Rotarians to work with their local MS societies to get involved.

In the early days of RAGMSA, Jacob played the piano and performed at MS fundraisers hosted by Rotary clubs in District 9800. Being involved in these events encouraged him to join Rotary himself and he has served as club president of the Rotary Club of Essendon North. With the support of a public disability grant and his club, he was able to get a new wheelchair that allows him to be more independent. Jacob received university degrees in arts, business and music prior to his diagnosis. Today, with the help of his care giver, he uses a specially-equipped computer to realize his dream of gaining a master's degree in music composition and writing. Before being diagnosed with MS, Jacob could sing, play many instruments and wanted to be a music composer.

We urge Rotarians to support those impacted by MS through projects enhancing their access to resources, become involved with their local MS societies, host events to spread awareness of the disease and support efforts to find a cure. Put it in club plans and objectives, so it becomes public. Let clubs know MS is a major health problem, especially among our rising leaders.

Learn more about the Rotarian Action Group for Multiple Sclerosis Awareness (RAGMSA) through our [website](#) and [contact us](#) to start a project and get ideas about fundraising events and grants related to MS. Follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) for daily information regarding MS research, societies and symptoms management information.



Dr Murray Verso with Dianne and Martin Taurins.

*By Martin Taurins,
Chair of the Rotarian Action Group for Multiple Sclerosis Awareness (RAGMSA)
and member of the Rotary Club of Gisborne, Victoria, Australia*

SEWAid and Days For Girls with Rotary— Certainly Making a Difference

What started as a visit by a member of the Rotary Club of Brighton North to the Fiji highlands has helped to further stimulate the local Ba Women's Community Forum sewing centre and the introduction of Days For Girls sustainable feminine hygiene products and awareness to schoolgirls in the highland region.

SEWAID was founded by Tony Castley PDG 9680 and is a registered RAWCS project. <http://www.sewaid.com/>

In May 2017, they provided 6 new domestic sewing machines and 2 overlockers along with a training programme of teaching sewing skills to 16 ladies at the **Ba Fiji Women's Community Forum**. There were 6 volunteers from several NSW Rotary clubs and **Days For Girls** groups helping to teach how to make gift items such as bags and purses, basic dressmaking and Days for Girls (DFG) hygiene kit contents. The Centre is aimed at being a local community sewing enterprise and is open for business. A follow up training visit in September provided further enhanced sewing skills along with hygiene awareness for DFG kit introduction for distribution events. A local lady qualified to be a DFG Ambassador trainer for kit distribution. Following the initial visit to the Fiji highland schools in the Ba region the Rotary Club of Brighton North decided to provide suggested support to the forthcoming visit in November by Margaret Hamilton from the Rotary Club of Melbourne South who has assisted in making DFG kits in Bayside and with the delivery of several DIK containers and their contents to Fiji.

Margaret and her husband (with heavy cases) coordinated with the headmasters of two High schools, Nadarivatu and Ra, for local menstrual cycle and hygiene information sessions along with the distribution of 100 DFG kits between the 2 schools. The kits last for 3 to 4 yrs. Transport for the school visits was provided by Valami Naloga from the Ministry of Youth and Sports. The programme and kits were enthusiastically received in the remote communities with very appreciative feedback. A subsequent local industry leaders meeting was held in Ba with local support prompting donations of Fiji \$1000- and NZ \$ 1000- in support of the DFG kits production locally and for the procurement of the suitable materials. More donations to the Ba Women's Forum would be most appreciated and used to conduct hygiene awareness classes, along with making and distributing more kits to Fiji remote highland schoolgirls.



The DFG programme has been supported and promoted across the world, and by many Rotary Clubs in Australia. In many developing nations not having sanitary supplies can mean days without school, days without income and days without leaving the house. Girls can miss up to 2 months of school every year. To address this issue and give girls across the globe education, safety, and dignity, Days For Girls international was founded in 2008. DFG has provided approximately 1 million washable feminine hygiene kits to girls and women who would otherwise go without, enabling them not to miss valuable days from their education or employment. They also have a local Enterprise and Ambassador training program.

www.daysforgirls.org/
www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=1&v=u4K3Y255NYc

The Days For Girls Melbourne Victoria Chapter Director Inc, Margaret Cunningham who organised the 100 kits for Fiji, is known by and has supported several District 9800 and 9810 Rotary club projects, plus many Church groups and NGO's and the Salvation army. Margaret currently has a volunteer group of 46 and has coordinated the making of thousands of kits for poor communities in developing countries. Margaret helped with the introduction of DFG into Australia via the Rotary International Convention in Sydney in 2014 and prior supported SEWAID as a sewing trainer in Tanzania and Uganda.

Margaret is willing to assist in any relevant capacity, with presentations and kits for Rotary club projects, to spread the word and work of Days For Girls. If you or your Club can foresee the potential to help girls in developing communities with a need for washable hygiene kits, then SEWAID and DFG can help, with Rotary making a difference.

Email : margaretdccunningham@gmail.com 0417532847

Malcolm Baird
International Chair, Rotary Club of Brighton North

Getting There is Half The Fun

Getting a primary school toilet built in the remote Kalinga Province of northern Luzon is one thing; arriving on the spot is another. The toilet block consisting of three-cubicle toilets with hand-washing stations is at Pantikian Elementary School in mountainous Kalinga Province. At a total budget of A\$ 4,600, this sanitation project was funded by the Rotary Club of Hawthorn.

Finished in December, the job was organized by Dr Cecily Neil through RAWCS District 9800 and implemented on the ground by Sinangpad Association, a local Kalingan NGO. Cecily is from the Central Melbourne Rotary Club. The trip, which she did twice last year (2017) involved two bone-shaking trips by bus and car from Manila Airport.

"I'm a short person with a bung knee and couldn't even get up the bus steps for the 11-hour trip. People lugged me on like a sack of potatoes," she says.

"We had the opening ceremony but the toilet was not finished till the next week because of massive rain. My trip back to the airport got us stuck behind rice lorries going over the mountains and masses of tricycles in the towns. I was sure I'd miss my flight."

The project is small but the principles are vital – community involvement and ability to keep the toilet operational. For example, the children chose the wall and door colors and through organised games were taught handwashing and not to block the pipes, waste the water or damage the taps. Pantikian men provided the unskilled labour on a voluntary basis. The local Municipal Engineer supervised the work at all key construction points. The Parents and Teachers Assn members worked with and helped supervise the skilled laborers. Mothers took turns cooking and serving workers' lunches. Others planted gardens around the toilet.



Work at the school started in October, with the septic pit often flooding from rain. The store kept running out of materials and villagers lent nails, tiles, pipes and timber from their own homes.

"Ensuring spare taps is important because taps are the first things to get broken and often don't get replaced," she says.

This year she also visited Georgia, Azerbaijan and Armenia as a relaxing holiday – although she was disconcerted on arrival at the hotel in Yerevan to find workmen replacing a bullet-ridden front door. The previous day there had been a shoot-out between two criminal gangs outside the building.

Sinangpad NGO implements a Healthy Village Project which has worked in more than 60 isolated rural communities, helping residents to identify and remove local environmental risks to community health. The changes include construction of sanitary toilets to eliminate open defecation, improving drainage, planting vegetable gardens and building concrete-floored pens for pigs that normally roam through the villages, contaminating the ground on which children play. Small grants go to enable the purchase of materials while the community provides the labor and maintenance.



Cecily's career has been in aid projects including years on AusAid and the Asian Development Bank projects. Her main health and sanitation jobs included projects in Kiribati, Timor Leste, China, Vietnam and Philippines.

Cecily has worked with Sinangpad in Kalinga for 17 years. She says, "There's lots of schools there with no proper toilets or toilets without a water supply. A few thousand dollars is all that's needed. We go for very inexpensive jobs."

Tony Thomas
Rotary Club of Central Melbourne

History made as Rotarians march in Midsumma Pride for the first time

Rotarians will make history at this year's Midsumma Pride March when club members march with the LGBTIQ community in an Australian-first. On Sunday 28th January, Rotarians from all over Victoria will don hot pink vests with rainbow hearts to march behind the **Rotary Club of Prahran** banner, making it the first club in Australia to take part in Pride.

They will be joined by LGBTIQ advocate and 2017 Young Australian of the Year for Victoria **Jason Ball**, who is a proud **Prahran Rotarian** and among several gay members of the club.

Ball said it would send a powerful message about the organisation's commitment to diversity and inclusion, and turn the Rotary stereotype on its head.

"Rotary clubs were once seen as for old white men, but the modern Rotary really does reflect the communities it serves, and I'm so proud to be part of this exciting movement," he said.

"The organisation has a long history of community involvement and service as well as an open door for people of all races, religions, abilities, vocations, sexualities and gender identities."

Ball said that since joining Rotary he had been embraced by club members of all ages and from all walks of life and that their willingness to take part in Pride only showed how inclusive the movement is today.

"It is just so heartening to see Rotarians from all over Victoria coming out in bright colours to march in Pride and show that Rotary really is for everyone with a heart" he said.

Rotarians and Rotaractors of all ages, from Prahran, Southbank, Daylesford, Bendigo and other Rotary clubs near and far, will take part in the annual march which turns Fitzroy Street, St Kilda, into a sea of colour, life and fun.

Ball said they hoped it would attract more people to get involved in the important work Rotary does serving communities.

"At Prahran, like Rotary clubs all over the world, we are looking for more members to volunteer on more community programs at home and abroad. Join us Sunday?"

If you'd like to march in the Rotary Prahran cohort or for more information go to www.rotaryprahran.org.au or the Rotary Prahran Facebook page.

Members are marching at position T11 so must assemble at Ian Johnson Oval (cnr. Lakeside Drive & Fitzroy Street) before 2.30pm. Entry to the oval is via Canterbury Road, trams will cease in the area between 1.30pm & 4.15pm (approx) and the march will process from the oval down Fitzroy Street to the Catani Gardens where there will be post march festivities & a bar.

If people want to order a \$20 hot pink high vis vest that we are having made for the event, they should visit our website www.rotaryprahran.org.au. Numbers of vests are limited for cost reasons, numbers of marchers are quite simply "the more the merrier" and all marchers should wear their own Club branded shirts, hats etc.



Contact

Past President Susie Cole 0414 907 263

scole16@hotmail.com

www.rotaryprahran.org.au



Diversity, Equality, Acceptance and Social Inclusion In Rotary: LGBT Rotary Fellowship

In the spirit of our Rotary International Theme this year: “**Rotary Making a Difference**”, I wish to share with you some exciting news about a new global fellowship that is in the process of being chartered with Rotary International and how you can be part of this opportunity for a more diverse and inclusive Rotary.

Our Rotary clubs across the world comprise of committed, passionate people of all sorts of backgrounds, cultures, faiths, political beliefs, personalities and vocations with the common motivation of doing good in the world through service above self.



Amongst us are the LGBTIQ+ Rotarians and Rotaractors (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex, Queer, Questioning and other sexualities) who are a part of this diverse and rich tapestry of our membership.

The new “LGBT Rotary Fellowship” is being established and chartered with the aim of supporting and promoting the diversity, inclusiveness and equality of our membership across the LGBTIQ+ spectrum. The LGBT Rotary Global Fellowship serves to bring together LGBTIQ+ Rotarians, Rotaractors and our allies and supporters across our Rotary family, raising awareness and taking action to meet the needs of our community both within the membership of our clubs and districts and also outside of Rotary across the local and international communities we serve.

First here are the important web addresses and emails:

Group Page: <https://www.facebook.com/RotaryLGBTFellowshipFormation/>

Discussion Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/RotaryLGBTFellowshipFormationGroup/>

Email: rotarylgbtfellowshipformation@gmail.com

For those of you who identify as a part of the LGBTIQ+ community or would like to show your support as an ally and friend of the community, I would encourage you to visit our Facebook group, sign up as a charter member, join the conversation and help promote diversity, inclusiveness, acceptance and equality across our clubs, projects and communities we serve.

In addition to the new global fellowship group being chartered, there has been a lot of discussions and planning of other initiatives within our district and others across Australia promoting LGBTIQ+ local engagement led by Jason Ball and Suzie Cole (RC Prahran), DGE Bronwyn Stephens (RC Melbourne South), Grant Godino (RC Strathmore D9790), myself (RC Southbank) and others across our district and beyond.

On Sunday 28th January, Rotarians, Rotaractors and friends will be marching with Rotary Club of Prahran at the annual Melbourne Midsumma Pride March. All Rotarians, Rotaractors, family and friends are welcome to join us at this fun filled colourful celebration of diversity, equality, acceptance and love in our community! This will be a first for Rotary in Australia, following other Rotary clubs and districts who last year marched in pride marches in San Francisco and London.

Stephen Aquilina
RC Southbank

See the full story at http://rotarydistrict9800.org.au/latest-news-item/28050/diversity-equality-acceptance-and-social-inclusion-in-rotary-lgbt-rotary-fellowship/?type_fr=4

Spreading the Christmas Spirit in Bayside

On Wednesday December 13th 2017, the **Rotary Club of Brighton** in conjunction with **Hampton RSL**, and with the support of Hampton Rotary, and members of Bayside Police and Bayside City Council joined forces in the Christmas spirit to host the 2017 **Bayside Family Christmas Event** for socioeconomically disadvantaged clients of **BayCISS and Family Life**. During one of the hottest mid-December days on record, a merry little band of Santa's helpers including special guests Tim Wilson - Federal Liberal Member for Goldstein and Cr Laurence Evans, Mayor Bayside City Council, worked tirelessly together spreading some Christmas cheer, to one and all.

Although the temperature reached 39 degrees, there were lots of happy faces enjoying a variety of activities from face painting, carpet bowls, giant games of Connect 4 and Snakes and Ladders, plus an amazing art class facilitated by Irena from www.awaken-creativity.com.

With kids aged between 1 to 16 years old, and their families joining in some fun and games, engaging with our volunteers, Bayside Youth Services and some of Bayside's finest from Victoria Police; then sitting down to a traditional Christmas dinner conjured up by Mike Anglim (Hampton RSL's Catering Manager), it made for a very enjoyable and unforgettable evening. However, our Christmas party would not have been complete without a very special visit from Santa, who arrived bearing gifts for each of the kids.



The evening was an amazing show of Christmas Spirit, and made possible by a dedicated bunch of volunteers (Rotarians and other Baysiders wanting to make a difference) and other members of Bayside Community together who have helped with donating their time and expertise – with hands on help with planning and organising the event, securing donations, sourcing presents plus much more. A massive thanks to Moose Toys, Bunnings Mentone, and Bayside City Council, Brighton and Hampton Rotary, plus Rotary District 9800* for the toy donations Santa's elves were given. These generous donations enabled not just the kids attending, but also 100+ lucky children through BayCISS and Bayside/Moorabbin Police to have a little extra joy this Christmas :

In the words of Karyn Doyle, Manager BayCISS, *"On behalf of BayCISS and the Bayside Community, we would like to extend our sincere thanks to all of you who contributed to making last night a very special event for some of our families. Although it may have been disappointing that families were deterred by the heat of the day, we were fortunate to be able to bring a little bit of Christmas to many children and families who may not have that opportunity. The smiles on the faces of both children and adults as they left the venue last night, was a true testament to why we do what we do! If we are able to bring a smile or a little bit of sunshine (if you'll pardon the pun) to their day, then it is certainly worth every effort!"*



I think Santa will be exhausted if he takes that much time with all the children he has to visit this year! What a wonderful sight it was to see the delight on the kids' faces and the time that he took to spend with them! Thank you very much for all your hard work and your efforts to make this event happen! It was a pleasure to be involved and we look forward to the next one."

In summary, a huge heart felt thank you to all that came, but especially the people behind the scenes that have been involved in the planning and organising for the 4 weeks prior to the event, plus on the day all that volunteered time and effort to help make the event a success. A special shout out to Sergeant Arran Ferguson (A special guest), Mike Anglim, Karyn, Anne, Christine, Eddie, Jan, Wendy, Lis, Liz, Niki, Drew, Graeme, David, Barry, Alan, Sally, Jodie, Lachie, Amelie, Irena from www.awaken-creativity.com for the amazing art class, and Dean Sarailis (for his graphic design skills)

Funds from Rotary District 9800's New Member Grant were used to support this Brighton Rotary project initiative.

For more information on New Member Grants or other project initiatives, please speak to Robyn Lichter



Rotary Learning and Development 2018

District 9800



Learning & Leadership Development Program

Rotary Leadership Institute Program

Metropolitan Program

Time: 9:30 am to 3pm

Venue: Montague Street School

Montague Street South Melbourne

Part 1 /2

18th February 2018

Part 3 /4

25th February 2018

Rural Program

Time: 9:30 am to 3pm

Venue: Golden Square Primary School

19 Maple Street Bendigo

Part 1 /2

22nd April 2018

Part 3 /4

6th May 2018

Seminar Programs 2018

New Members

New Members Session at District Assembly May 20th TABCORP Park Melton

Future Club Leaders

Metropolitan: April 8th 10 am to 12 noon

Venue: Montague Street School, Montague Street South Melbourne

Rural: April 29th 10 am to 12 noon

Venue: Golden Square Primary School, 19 Maple Street Bendigo

Involvement Beyond the Club Metropolitan/ Rural: August date to be set

Contact Julie Mason on Mason.Julie.M@edumail.vic.gov.au

Vicki Teschke at Vicki@teschke.id.au



The ROTARY CLUBS of ROCHESTER AND ECHUCA

D9800
PROJECT



INVITE YOU TO ATTEND THE

PORT OF ECHUCA
LONG TABLE CHARITY SUPPER
SUPPORTING
RoCan
Cancer Wellness Centre

BOOK NOW DON'T MISS OUT

Venue

Port of Echuca Wharf

Sat 3rd Feb 2018 7pm

Cost \$60

Finger Food and Entertainment



BOOKINGS

Debbie 0488 585889 or Yvonne 0407303255

debbiebish@hotmail.com

yvonne.moon@bigpond.com

Bendigo Bank 633 000 145913588 ref LTS & Name

Rotary Albert Park invites you to join us on the
Giant Ferris Wheel *The Melbourne Star*
at Harbourn town Docklands

22nd April 2018

Star Carnivale

*Your chance to swing on the Star
Lit Up in Rotary colours*

Check out www.rotaryalbertparkevents.org.au
for bookings and more details.
Email info@rotaryalbertparkevents.org.au or
call Loryn on 0418 390 334

A celebration of 100 years of the Rotary Foundation

Notices and Events . . rotarydistrict9800.com.au/content/36/club-events



BRIGHT SMILES

DINNER DANCE FUNDRAISER

@ St Kilda Town Hall
21st April 2018 – 6.30pm



*Rotary
Port Melbourne*

Invites You to Wear
A SPLASH OF GREEN
FOR A GALA NIGHT OF
FUN & FESTIVITIES
Featuring

DANCING

Live music from
one of
Melbourne's Top Bands

DINNER

3 courses with
Red and White Wine
on every Table

Corporate Tickets

Corporate Table of 10
\$1000
\$500 fully tax deductible

General Tickets

Couples \$140
Singles \$70

Online Bookings: RCPM shop at rcpm.org.au
Contact: info@rcpm.org.au
ALL FUNDS RAISED GO TO BUILD THE BELOLA SCHOOL



*Rotary Club
Port Melbourne*

Monday 12th February
6pm for 6.30pm
The Water Rat Hotel
256 Moray St., South Melbourne

Our Guest Speaker P.P. Fernando Meier

Please join us to celebrate the work of the
Hospital Bed Bank, Banco de Catres Clinicos.

A hugely successful joint project of RC Port
Melbourne and RC Valdivia-Ainil, Chile.



2013, Hospital bed Bank established



Welcome PP Fernando Meier, convener of the Banco de
Catres Clinicos project, in Chile

He is a passionate Rotarian and has filled many
positions in his club and in his RI District, 4355.

Fernando is in Australia visiting family and mixing
holidays with Rotary presentations.

\$30, Two course dinner - Drinks at bar prices
Please RSVP by 5th February 2018, to
President Graham Read on grahamread45@rooemail.com or 0423 328 340
or
Ricardo Krauskopf at ricardo.krauskopf@hisonond.com or 0417 5448 259
Not just beds!



2015, beds delivered to Don Oriones




2016 & 17, more beds plus walkers,
commodes, wheelchairs, etc.



RCPM & Chilean Community, loading
container at DIK



2018, Emmy Monash washing Machines



**The Rotary Club of
Essendon North**

Australia Day Breakfast

Friday 26th January 2018

Lynn Berry (founder) - "5000 Poppies"

Moonee Valley Legends
Cnr Wilson & Thomas streets
Moonee Ponds

Time - 7.45am for 8.00am – 9.30am.

Cost - \$35 per head


All funds raised for
Essendon Courthouse Restoration Appeal

Booking essential
www.trybooking.com/book/event

Contact: Grant Maggs - 0419 376 921
David Matt - 0466 872 045

Rotary Central Melbourne
proudly presents

Opera on the Yarra



When: 3 March 2018 @ 8pm
Where: Melbourne Rowing Club
8 Boathouse Dr, Melbourne
Cost: \$100 Adult
Bookings: <https://www.trybooking.com/TPCR>

*Proceeds of this event will go towards supporting the
various humanitarian projects of Rotary Central Melbourne*

SAVE THE DATE
WALK FOR THE WEST



SUPPORTING THE NEW JOAN KIRNER WOMEN'S AND CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

SUNDAY 25 MARCH 2018
 \$20 for adults (early bird \$15) Children 16 and under are free.
 2km, 5km or 10km walk or run.
 Footscray Park, Ballarat Road, Footscray.

WalkWest
 Register online: walkwest.com.au

Western Health
 WESTERN HEALTH FOUNDATION

Our Golf Day 2018



ROTARY CLUB OF FOOTSCRAY
CHARITY GOLF DAY
 — 2018 —

APRIL 20
 FRIDAY | 2018

SANCTUARY LAKES GOLF CLUB
 Greg Norman Drive, Sanctuary Lakes 3030

A great morning of golf including:

- GOLF CART & BREAKFAST, EGG & BACON ROLL WITH TEA, COFFEE OR JUICE.
- SIT DOWN LUNCH WITH DRINKS AT BAR PRICES.
- DRINK CART TO KEEP YOU HYDRATED THROUGH THE DAY.

7.30 AM REGISTRATION ON DAY
 8.30 AM SHOTGUN START

MUST REGISTER BY
20 MAR 2018

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND SPONSORSHIP PACKAGES CONTACT
ROB TRIPP
TRIPPAROONY@GMAIL.COM

Tee off with us
 Annual Charity Golf Day
 for **Very Special Kids**
 and other local and International Rotary Projects

Friday 23rd February, 2018
Koorringal Golf Club 12.30pm

- \$650* Hole Sponsorship & 4 players
- \$250* Hole Sponsorship only
- \$100* per player
- * includes dinner/s

Many great prizes

Entries & Fees by 9th February
 Rotary Club of Altona City Inc.
 P.O. Box 412, Altona Vic 3018
 Email: charles.montebello@bigpond.com

SPONSORS
 is being sought
 T. Gre Tea Auction ite and Pri

Proudly Sponsored by
 Altona Community Bank* Branch
Bendigo Bank

Family & friends welcome to attend Presentation Dinner & mini Auction, \$30pp
 Donation of items for mini Auction (\$400+ value) sought.
 Donations required - cash or items - for raffle prizes &/or golf prizes.

SAVE THE DATE!
 Rotary Club of Brighton PRESENTS

40TH ANNUAL 'NIGHT OF STARS' CHARITY EVENT
THE ROAD TO GREATNESS
"GETTING TO THE TOP"

BROUGHT TO YOU BY: Mercedes-Benz Brighton

Jana Pitman
 Summer & Winter Olympic plan

Luke Beveridge
 Bulldogs Premiership Coach

Don Elgin
 Paralympian, Lerrisa

Tony Jones
 MC

Paul Martell
 COMEDIAN

SUPPORTING LES TWENTYMAN'S FOUNDATION, MADDIE RIEWOLDT'S VISION, CLUB 72 & ROTARY CHARITIES

Wednesday 14 March, 2018
6.00pm - 10pm
BRIGHTON INTERNATIONAL
81 BAY STREET, BRIGHTON

General Tickets:
 \$160 each
 Roger Fairlam - 0418 363 077
 Email: fairrog@hotmail.com

Corporate Hospitality Packages:
 Tables of 10 - \$2000
 Table of 12 - \$2400
 Graeme Watson - 0419 717 171
g.watson@burgessrawson.com.au
 Paul Nicholson - 0416 222 325
paulnicholson@hotmail.com

Online Bookings & Social Media:
www.nightofstars.com.au
[fb.me/RotaryNightOfStars](https://www.facebook.com/fo.me/RotaryNightOfStars)

OUR SUPPORTING SPONSORS:  BENEFICIARIES: 

Our Contributors



District Governor Peter Frueh is busy completing club visits, preparing for the District Conference in just 11 weeks time and enjoying the excitement of the festive season.



DGE Bronwyn Stevens is continuing to work very hard at Donations in Kind, relocating and sorting items in the library and stationery section; preparing for her trip to District Governor elect training in San Diego in January and enjoying the excitement and fun of the Christmas season.



Dr Gordon Cheyne is the former editor of the Networker, Secretary of the Rotary Club of Hawthorn and a regular helper at Donations in Kind.



Susie Cole is Past President of the Rotary Club of Prahran and serves on the District 9800 End Polio Committee



David Gorman is Past President of the Rotary Club of Albert Park. He is a former treasurer of District 9800 and a member of the District Foundation Committee.



Tony Thomas is a member of the Rotary Club of Central Melbourne and is a regular contributor to Networker.



Malcolm Baird is the International Service Chair of the Rotary Club of Brighton North. He is a passionate supporter of the fight against Child Slavery.



Julie Mason is a member of the Rotary Club of Wyndham, Past District Governor 2015-2016 and leads the District Learning and Development team. She was a member of the VTT to Cambodia in



Martin Taurins, is a member of the Rotary Club of Gisborne and Chair of RAGMSA



Barbara Rafter was the first female president of the Rotary Club of Brimbank Central and has been a mainstay of the club for 22 years. Interact Chair. She has served as Secretary many times, is the club historian and Interact Chair for the club.