

the

networker

October 2015 - Issue 6

rotarydistrict9800.com.au

The Balibo Story

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OCTOBER IS ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT MONTH

DG Julie Mason's Message



October Area of Focus:

Economic and Community Development



With realization of one's own potential and self-confidence in one's ability, one can build a better world. - Dalai Lama

One of my favourite pastimes on a weekend is to read the Barefoot Investor article in the Herald Sun. Scott Pape is a young man who provides financial advice to his readers and as well as guidance on financial health and future planning, he regularly promotes the notion of helping others less fortunate in a "hand up, not hand out" manner. He promotes the notion of Micro Finance as a means to economic and community development. I should invite him to join Rotary as his ideas do resonate with in our quest to "Do Good in the World"! Now a Google search shows a plethora of organisations that facilitate micro financing with many having a focus on supporting women in developing countries to gain skills in farming by providing new tools, better seeds, innovative practices, processing, marketing skills and training, so that small businesses can be set up either individually or as a collective. Group lending enables cooperatives to be formed with diversified business outcomes. You can imagine how this would interest a farm girl from way back.

The Rotary Club of Melbourne Park work with a not for profit organisation called Kiva, where club members donate money that is then used as a loan to set up a subsistence business and when each loan has been repaid it is then re-loaned to others in need. The loans are usually very small around \$25 and achieve remarkable

outcomes in education, farming and disaster recovery projects. The Rotary Club of Melbourne have embarked on a project in Vanuatu, through community Micro loans, whereby over time solar power will be available rather than the use of potentially dangerous kerosene lamps. It would be interesting to know if other clubs are considering such initiatives.



The Rotarian Action Group for Microfinance and Community Development is a group of Rotarians whose purpose is to provide global leadership to assist clubs and districts to participate in effective Microfinance and Community Development programs. This Rotarian Action Group operates in accordance with Rotary International policy, but is not an agency of, or controlled by, Rotary International. The claim here is that a Micro Finance program is likely to succeed when a Loan is supported by Networking, Mentoring and an Educational component and that Rotarians are the means to insure that all four aspects are operational.

Even though the Loan is important, the Rotarian Action Group would say, **"It's not about the money, it's about what the money can do!"** In the Micro world the money can do Macro things!

It is also reassuring that, as I get older, I can afford healthcare. Being successful is all about commitment." Marie is an incredible example of how a micro loan can change a life. In this case, it didn't only change her life, but the lives



Marie is a 52-year-old mother and owner of her own grocery store, Marie managed to raise her five children all by herself. She is now on her fifth loan with Urwego and Kiva, and she hasn't missed a single repayment. With this opportunity, she was able to send all five of her children to school all the way to university. Their education empowered them to become successful entrepreneurs across East Africa. She used her first loan to start her own grocery store, and has since started several other businesses, including a restaurant and a salon. She is now incredibly successful and since her first loan, she has even been able to get electricity, water, and a refrigerator.

"My life has changed dramatically since I got my first loan," Marie says. "My children have all been able to go to very good schools, and I can buy anything I want. I remember a time when finding clothes was a problem, but these days I can afford a nice house and things I like.

of her five children as well.

Start by doing what's necessary; then do what's possible; and suddenly you are doing the impossible.- Francis of Assisi

I wonder if we could consider Micro Finance as a means to provide a **hand up rather than a hand out**. How can we maximise this means of economic and community building whilst using our Charity, the Rotary Foundation? Your District Foundation Team can help you if you wish to see the possibilities.

Scott Pape would say: Tread Your Own Path.

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

Ubuntu: I am, because you are.

Julie Mason

District Governor 2015-2016

The Balibo, Timor Leste Story From tragedy, something good comes

By Ricardo Krauskopf, RC Port Melbourne

As we approach the 40th anniversary of the Indonesian invasion of Portuguese Timor, it is timely to reflect on the story of the small community of Balibo, close to the Indonesian border.

Balibo's story is closely linked to Australia as it was there on 16th October 1975, that Indonesian troops killed five Australian war-journalists, the 'Balibo 5'. The young men had taken the precaution of painting Australian flags on the façade of the house but this proved futile as the troops had specific orders to kill them. For the next 25 years Timor endured a bitter and at times brutal military occupation. In 1999, Indonesia withdrew, but in the process the nation's infrastructure was destroyed, thousands of people were killed and many more displaced. In Balibo, eleven young men were killed and the town set on fire.

But from this devastation, something good has come; in 2002 the Victorian Government established the **Balibo House Trust (BHT)** and purchased and restored the fire damaged 'flag house', now known as the 'Australian Flag House'. It is run by BHT in partnership with the local community, as a *Community Learning Centre*, teaching computer and English language classes as well as a motor-bike workshop. BHT also runs the nearby 'Balibo 5 Kindergarten'. <http://balibohouse.com/>

In 2009, BHT entered into a partnership with RC Port Melbourne and RC Dili, to restore and redevelop the town's only asset, the 300 year old Portuguese Fort. The goal was to create jobs and commercial activity through tourism and hospitality, with profits to be channeled into Community Health and Educational projects.



Balibo children playing in the town square

Jobs and Commercial Opportunities; the fort has been redeveloped into a small 4 star hotel, incorporating 8 luxury rooms, a restaurant and museum. This was achieved with the generous support of many donors, BHT contacts, Rotary know-how and funds, Aus-Aid, RAWCS and DIK. Timor Leste's Prime Minister the Hon. Xanana Gusmao and former Victorian Premier, the Hon. Steve Bracks, BHT's Patron, could always be relied on to help with the project..



The Balibo Fort Hotel

The hotel opened in April 2015 and now employs 20 local staff and has created several micro-enterprises as locals become suppliers of poultry, vegetables, eggs, etc. The hotel is the largest tourism investment outside the Timor Leste's capital of Dili.

Education; BHT, in partnership with several Rotary Clubs, RAWCS, DIK and Rotary Foundation, have modernized and extended the Flag House and Kindergarten, adding electricity, clean water, toilets, desks and computers. The Kindergarten grew from 40 to 80 children and is set to expand again! This successful partnership is now refurbishing all 21 schools in the district aiming to provide a desk and chair for every child and a toilet for every school. So far six schools have been upgraded.

Continued

Dental Health; the latest endeavor is an extension to the Australian Flag House to include a dental clinic. The clinic will service around 15,000 people and will be staffed by a resident nurse and volunteer dentists from Australia, who will also train local dental assistants. There are no dentists in Balibo and only five qualified dentists in Timor Leste, all based in Dili, for a population in excess of 1.2 million people.

Many Rotary clubs are assisting the Balibo House Trust in an effort to rebuild the community of Balibo, to join this effort, please contact RC Port Melbourne President Paul Kildea.

kildeap53@gmail.com



Bullcun Primary School

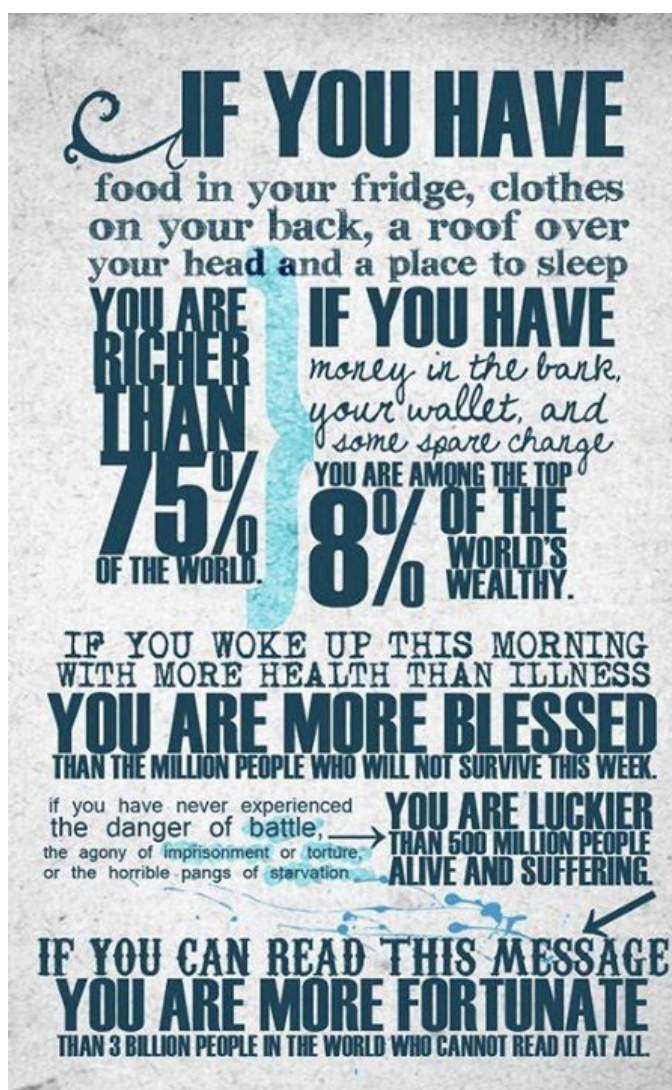
Welcome New Members



Orthopaedic Surgeon Peter Lugg was welcomed to Hawthorn Rotary this week. Peter travels to Cambodia several times a year, where he teaches hip replacement surgery. He is already involved at Donations-in-Kind, planning a container load of medical goods for Cambodia.

Nigeria taken off Polio Endemic List

The World Health Organization announced that it has officially removed Nigeria from the list of countries where polio is endemic. It's been 14 months since a case of polio caused by the wild virus was reported there. That leaves only two countries, Afghanistan and Pakistan, where transmission of the virus has never been stopped. Read more about the [WHO's announcement](#).



Stay informed on Rotary events:

http://www.rotarydistrict9800.org/notices_and_events_future

Selecting Charities: Brisbane RC's new deal

By Tony Thomas, RC Central Melbourne Sunrise

Many Rotary clubs select a charity to support based on random factors – a member has a personal connection, or a charity made a good presentation at a meeting. Few clubs have the know-how or motive to find out which of the multitude of charities out there, can make the most difference and is most in need of support.

For Dr Pat Caragata, service director at Brisbane Rotary Club, this was a challenge. After three years' work, the club has now launched a collaboration with Brisbane City Council to sift through charities and target help where it's most needed.

The project was a good fit for Pat because he founded and runs a global consultancy RapidRatings, assessing companies and their customers, suppliers and investments.

"We hope our Brisbane system will become an example to other clubs here and abroad," Pat says.

The office of the Brisbane Mayor, Graham Quirk, is deeply involved in assessments of charities, and dispenses large sums to them each year directly and via the city's charitable foundation. Staff in the Mayor's office are well aware of charities that have great potential but have failed to get city funding and support. The applicants may lack skills in grant applications, or fail to meet various criteria. Pat says it makes more sense for his club to follow the Mayor's Office recommendations, than go picking winners themselves.

The other leg of the club's strategy is close links with Brisbane Rotaractors, who provide the labor force for hands-on help to the chosen charities. At the strategy launch meeting this month, nine volunteers from Rivercity and CBD Rotaract Clubs were on hand, to work with three of the Brisbane Club's Rotarians. The two Rotaract clubs were chartered less than a year ago, and now total 35 members, according to Rivercity president Riley Thornton.



Brisbane Rotarians, Rotaractors, and charity reps at the launch of Brisbane RC charity program, September 14

The first trio of adopted charities are:

Aunties and Uncles -- providing a weekend's care per month for at least a year to socially-isolated and vulnerable children aged 1-11 to help offset home- life deficiencies;

BestLife Foundation – providing special-needs children with outings and independence, giving their families some time-out from care; and

Australian College of Community Services (ACCS) – providing registered courses to counselors working with mental health, drugs and alcohol clients.

Pat says the club will help mobilise corporates to also back the charities. St George Bank for example is already active.

Phil Gresham, club president, says, "Our timing is perfect. Passed-over charities are over the moon at discovering they have a second chance via Rotary. Often they have inadequate admin people and are too busy with crises to work out their strategies."

"Once we know who to help, it's easy to get Rotaract youngsters joining in. They're looking for leadership and direction from experienced Rotarians."

“Days for Girls”...or Week and Wasteful

By Bronwyn Stephens, RC Melbourne South

This opinion piece I hope stimulates discussion as to whether one current approach to this Rotary supported project is beneficial to the developing communities we serve, economically prudent and the best strategic way forward. As Rotarians a hand up not hand out attitude guides assistance. We are about creating sustainability and temper our decisions with economic prudence. This fits ideally with the core mission of “Days for Girls” (DfG).

DfG provides a combination of education on female reproductive anatomy and physiology combined with sanitary products to deal with menstruation. The intention is to empower women in developing countries to ‘get back’ the week a month they are unable to study or work because they have no access to pads and underwear.

When I was first introduced to this project at the Rotary International World Conference in Sydney it was very exciting. Vera Liondas (RC Holroyd) introduced me to the project founder Celeste Morgan. We had an enlivening conversation about rolling out the project in Cambodia through District 9800 project “World of Difference”. Subsequently the indefatigable Maria Hicks (Foundation for Water and Education Cambodia) has taught staff and students at “Green Gecko” in Siem Reap and they in turn are teaching local village women and students at other schools.

Vera has liaised with “Future Light Orphanage” in Phnom Penh, and is liaising with PA4C (Poverty Aid for Cambodia, a RAWCS project). In Bosala Village, Kampong Speu Province Sue Reid and Vera provided sewing machines, materials and training to the locals. Vera took the project to East Timor with a large focus on the educational aspects. She took to East Timor a few kits as samples. Various Australian groups have been there and have set up sewing circles, and the intention is to link up these groups. In each case, it may be necessary initially to help provide materials and tools, but the emphasis is to teach the locals to make their own kits.



Young women learning about feminine hygiene and the use of the kits

Recently RC Phnom Penh member Peter Gray has been offered kits made in Australia to distribute to ladies in Cambodia. Furthermore, funding to send a shipping container of the kits is being considered. This will cost between \$5000 to \$10000 AUD depending on the USD/AUD exchange rate and other variables.

I believe this should cause us to pause and consider. When I discussed the notion of sending bulk numbers of kits to developing countries with Celeste she emailed “I can share with you that there is a proven method for setting up Days for Girls (DfG) Enterprises complete with the lists of resources and checklists for needs and tasks to succeed. The cost of the proposed cargo expenses could cover setting one up, and it must be noted that there is more than funding needed. Key components such as leadership, training, supply chain and quality sewists all are necessary components to work through. The effort is one requiring dedication and is quite worthwhile as it provides not only DfG kits but also a few jobs.

A cargo of Days for Girls kits would require trained Distributors ready to ensure that the DfG kits are delivered with education on how to use them and to care for them so the DfG kits will last 2 - 4 years and remain hygienic. Kits brought in like this can seed the market for later DfG enterprises and in fact the cargo could include not only kits but also must include things like a die cutter and precut fabrics.”

I believe that the focus of this project needs to be in education and upskilling the people we serve and not the physical making of the kits in Australia. Sewing DfG kits and sending them offshore should only be done in the situation where the local people cannot be taught to create their own. Thus far DfG haven’t found a country that this applies to. In Cambodia the second largest industry for the impoverished nation is garment factories. Certainly the people in that country have the skills to make their own kits.

I urge clubs who are sending completed kits to DIK for distribution to pause and consider with me.

Bronwyn Stephens: bronstephens@gmail.com

Beds and Books for the Philippines

By Susie Cole, Rotary Club of Prahran

Prahran Rotary Club and DIK helped equip 'Rotary Hall' in Quezon Medical Centre, Philippines.

This International project was inspired by Brighton Beach Rotarian Ruth Carlos-Martinez, who told Rotary Prahran that in the overcrowded Quezon Medical Centre, mothers deliver babies with their feet hanging off a bed onto a chair and then recover, with their newborns, sharing a bed alongside another mother and baby in a hospital with 250 beds but often in excess of 400 patients!

Next RC Prahran worked with the team at DIK to source, pack and ship a container load of hospital beds, medical equipment and school supplies bound for Lucena City, Quezon, Philippines.

After the usual frustrations with customs and logistics, and thanks to the great work of the RC Lucena Central (Philippines) everything is now where it should be and being to put to good use!

Rotarians from the Club of Lucena Central received the shipment, saw to its delivery, unpacking and assembly and reported back gratefully that this joint effort contributed to three areas of service:

1. Medical Aid
2. Literacy/Basic Education
3. Maternal Health

The donated goods will aid in the:

1. Setting up of a new community library
2. Construction and refurbishment of the Rotary Hall, Quezon Memorial Center (hospital beds), and
3. Progressive medical mission operated by the (medical) Rotarians of Lucena Central (medical supplies)

The official handover of the donation was to the provincial government of Quezon and the Quezon Memorial Centre on 19th August, with the books being received by the Mayor of Lucena Quezon.



Photos: Top: The beds

Lower: The official party at the handover: Chairman of the 38 villages (barangay) of Quezon, Provincial Governor Suarez, Mayor of Lucena, Hospital Director of Quezon Memorial Center. Speaking is new President of Rotary Club of Lucena Central, Dr. Cesar Gulinto.

Speakers Bank

The World's Most Treacherous Walk to School

Meeting a destitute child in the Himalayas caused Tamara Cannon to leave her life as a corporate lawyer and establish Lille Fro, a small hands-on Australian charity that reaches out to the 'forgotten' people in the foothills of the Himalayas and in hard-to-reach nomadic communities in the eastern deserts of Ladakh in northern India.



Considered by several as *'the one of the most inspiring speakers ever heard at Rotary'*, Tamara Cannon delights her audiences with her heart-warming stories, her humour and her wonderful photographs of the people and their country. Her passion for the people of Ladakh and the work of Lille Fro is compelling.

This intrepid young woman has climbed mountains and experienced first hand the numbing cold of the Ladakhi winters where temperatures plummet to -30 degrees for 6-8 months of the year and the roads are blocked with snow and ice. She has travelled throughout the desert regions, home to the Indian nomads, and into restricted areas on the border of Tibet where no other westerner had been before.

In only 7 years Lille Fro has brought more than 120 of the most destitute and needy children to boarding schools, where their tuition, board, uniforms, books and health care are paid for.

Lille Fro builds high altitude sustainable greenhouses in remote communities so that the villagers can grow their own fresh nutritious vegetables as a supplement to their previously inadequate diet of barley and yak butter tea.

Tamara has traversed the Chadar, known as the Ice River, accompanying little children on their treacherous 6-day walk to boarding school. Lille Fro now plans to build a hostel high up in the mountains so the children can attend local schools and be closer to their homes and family.

Lille Fro's remarkable work is helping to break the generational cycle of poverty in northern India and has already touched the lives of hundreds of people.

Link to Good Weekend article: <http://www.theage.com.au/national/a-perilous-walk-20140512-384bk.html>
[click here to email Speaker](#)

To see the Speakers Bank, log in to the District Website: <http://www.rotarydistrict9800.org>

How to Combat Modern Slavery

In this moving yet pragmatic TED Talk, Kevin Bales explains the business of modern slavery, a multibillion-dollar economy that underpins some of the worst industries on earth. He shares stats and personal stories from his on-the-ground research — and names the price of freeing every slave on earth right now.

View the TED Talk:

http://www.ted.com/talks/kevin_bales_how_to_combat_modern_slavery#t-4791

There is a Rotary Action Group Against Child Slavery: you can read their Newsletter:

<http://www.roisight.org/cs/news/racsnews55.pdf>



Rotary Networking Groups

Global Networking Groups currently comprise more than 90 independent Rotary Fellowships and Rotarian Action Groups.

Join the growing number of Rotarians who are sharing their favorite activities and professional interests through organized recreational and vocational groups in Rotary Fellowships, or explore new opportunities for international partnership in service in Rotarian Action Groups.

Whether you are interested in bird watching, motorcycling, volunteer dentistry, or the fight against AIDS, Rotary's Global Networking Groups are fantastic resources for all Rotarians to develop new friendships and to advance opportunities for service.

Is your interest Peace, Microcredit or Malaria eradication? You may find something for you in the list of **Rotary Action Groups**:

<http://www.rotaryfirst100.org/philosophy/fellowship/action/index.htm>

From Amateur Radio to Yachting: Doll Lovers, Golfers or Magicians, there's a **Rotary Fellowship Group** for you, in the List of Rotary Fellowship

Groups: <https://www.rotary.org/myrotary/en/rotary-fellowships>



Notices and Events

Australian Rotary Health Golf Day

5th October, 2015 Annual Australian Rotary Health Golf Day this year sponsored by the Bayford Group to be held at Royal Melbourne Golf Club.

There is again a hole in one competition for a BMW which has proven to be a popular add on to this tournament ... Corporate packages are also available and full details can be obtained from Ron Adams on 0408136100 or r.g.adams@bigpond.com. [Read More...](#)



HELP HATS HELP HEADS ON WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY

[Hat Day](#) is Australian Rotary Health's national fundraising and awareness day for mental health research, celebrated each year on World Mental Health Day -

Friday October 9.

Rotary Clubs have been central to engaging businesses and communities to raise vital funds and awareness for the 1 in 5 people suffering a mental illness.

What can your Club do? Register your Club for Hat Day at www.hatday.com.au.

If you would like more information about Hat Day, contact Steff Fenton **Media & Communications Manager**, Australian Rotary Health p +612 8833 8331 | f +612 9635 5042 | w www.australianrotaryhealth.org.au or visit our website www.hatday.com.au or Ron Adams on 0408136100 or r.g.adams@bigpond.com



Alan Kogosowski: Piano Concert

The Rotary Club of Caulfield presents an afternoon with internationally acclaimed classical concert pianist Alan Kogosowski

Wednesday 21 October: Time 2-4 pm Glen Eira Town Hall Auditorium: Cost \$5

Booking: Contact Faye on 95701954 or ianfaye@bigpond.net.au



Polio Movie Night 21st October

The Rotary Foundation and 20th Century Fox have negotiated a special opportunity for Rotary Clubs to have their own fundraising movie night.

The movie is Bridge of Spies starring Tom Hanks and Rotary Clubs have exclusive access for a fundraising night on Wednesday **21st October**, the day before the official film release opens to the public on Thursday 22nd.

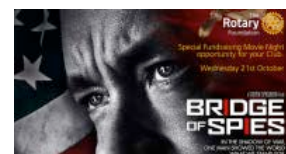
Bridge of Spies is the story of James Donovan, an attorney who finds himself thrust into the centre of the Cold War when the CIA sends him on the near-impossible mission to renegotiate the release of a captured American U-2 pilot.

For your club to host this film night at your own local cinema, please contact the Victoria 20th Century Fox State Manager Jacqueline Carty-Salmon on jacs@jacspr.com.au.

For more information, download a presentation [here](#).

You can watch the preview of Bridge of Spies [here](#):

- See more at: <http://rotarydistrict9800.com.au/news/14549#sthash.poT3yd2G.dpuf>



Protect a Life, Charity Night

24th Oct, 7PM. Cabaret and 7 course meal, drinks on arrival

Rios Brazilian Restaurant -Address: 316 Church St, Richmond VIC 3121

Cost: \$100 RSVP Date: 16th Oct. Chris - > 0401650580

www. <http://rotarylpc.org.au/charity-fundraising-night/>

Open Hand Children's Home provides a place of refuge and nurturing for many abandoned and orphaned children in Nairobi, Kenya.



Sports and the Community: A Match Made in Heaven

Tuesday, October 27, 2015 6.30 for 7.00 at Bendigo Club, Park Street, Strathdale
A fabulous social event for everyone - AFL Fans, Sports men and women, Rotarians
 Only \$45.00 Two course meal Drinks at bar prices, auction, raffle prizes
 Proceeds to Annie North Women's Refuge
 To purchase corporate tables for the event, please contact Ilona Pearce on pearcejp@live.com



Tobin Awards Night

These awards are presented to 3 to 4 people who have contributed their time and expertise over the year in order to make a difference to those less fortunate.

The awards are sponsored by Tobin Brothers and are named after Alphonse Tobin, a past member of North Melbourne Rotary Club, **Thursday 29th October**.

7.00pm for drinks, dinner starts promptly at 7.30pm.

Mercure Hotel, Cnr Flemington Road & Harker Street, N Melbourne
 Cost is \$55 per person.

Please contact Emily Glenn glenn@ipar.com.au - 0413 958 590



Gateway Rotaract Trivia 2015

November 7th, 7pm at Pascoe Vale RSL \$15 per person or a table of 8 for \$100

Contact Details: <http://rotaract9800.org.au/trivia>

More information: <http://rotaract9800.org.au/trivia>



2015 Rotary Foundation Paul Harris Breakfast

Guest Speaker: Professor Kate Leslie

"To sleep, perchance to dream – what's really happening during general anaesthesia?"

Professor Kate Leslie is a specialist anaesthetist and head of anaesthesia research at the Royal Melbourne Hospital. Kate has done extensive research in awareness and dreaming during anaesthesia and sedation.

Tuesday, 24th November 7.15 for 7.30 till 9.00am RC Central Melbourne Sunrise
 The RACV Club, 501 Bourke Street, Melbourne.
 \$ 65.00 per head or \$600 for a table of ten

RSVP 16th November 2015

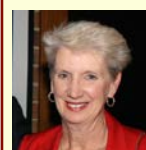
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT: Roy Garrett 0438

178 844 Email: roy@mingrit.com.au

BOOKINGS: www.trybooking.com/160173



Our Contributors



District Governor Julie Mason of Wyndham RC is Principal of Baden Powell College.



Our peripatetic philosopher, Tony Thomas certainly gets around. At present, he's in sunny Queensland.



David Dippie of Keilor reminds us of the great work they do at the Donations-in-Kind store.



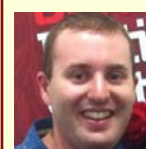
Bronwyn Stephens loves Cambodia, and is the driving force behind "World of Difference".



Kevin Bales is a co-founder of "Free the Slaves". His mission is to end all forms of human slavery.



Photographs by Monika Lozinska frequently appear in Rotary publications.



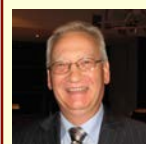
Matthew Scott of RC Bendigo South is our roving reporter in the deep north.



Susie Cole, our most recent contributor, is President-Elect of Prahran Rotary Club.



Philip Archer of Southbank Rotary Club is Membership Director of District 9800.



Ricardo Krauskopf of Port Melbourne RC is a hard-working volunteer at DIK.