

the

networker

February 2017 - Issue 15

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Showcasing Rotary

INSIDE

**Don't Miss our special
Rotary Showcase
Saturday 25th February
in the Atrium at
Federation Square**

Rotary
District 9800



FEBRUARY IS PEACE & CONFLICT PREVENTION MONTH

DG Neville John's Message



***Rotary's Area of Focus for February:
Peace and Conflict
Prevention/Resolution***



DG Neville John and Rebecca

District Conference – Why You Should Be There

There is now just on six weeks to go before over 700 people come together in Shepparton for the District 9800 Conference. An enormous amount of planning time has been invested in this event so that attendees experience the amazing opportunities that the Rotary organisation provides those who want to help others, and to showcase what Rotarians are doing locally and abroad to make the world a better place. We hope that you find the conference informative and inspiring and that the speakers, entertainers and the showcase provide something for you all to take away and use as ideas that potentially become projects.



Shepparton (Becky sitting on the Aussie cow)

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

Why would we bring you to Shepparton, take you on this amazing rollercoaster of fun, information and inspiration and then let you go home without something to take away. We will be gathering your thoughts throughout

the conference and creating a tag board of ideas for you to share. I am hoping that some might even become club, district and possibly multi-district projects, so let's see what happens. Remember, **every Rotary project starts with one person's idea!**

If you haven't registered yet you will find details and accommodation links on the website, rotaryconference.org.au. There is still accommodation available as block bookings are being released back to the venues.

DG Neville John's Message

Rotary Showcase – Federation Square

There is plenty of publicity about this event elsewhere in this publication, but I would like to iterate why the district is doing this. Simply because you have been asking us to. The countless times I have heard 'why doesn't Rotary promote itself better?' Well, here is your chance to support something you've asked for by putting on your Rotary blouse, shirt, cap or whatever, and coming along for a while on Saturday 25 February between 9 am and 5 pm, to help us showcase Rotary and what it does. If you can be there between 11am and 12.30 pm the Choir of Hard Knocks and mob photo will be happening. If the success of the Bendigo showcase is any example, more members of the community will walk away knowing more about Rotary and they will say, 'I didn't realise Rotary was involved in all these things'. If more people know, more will want to be involved either in helping, sponsoring projects or becoming members. Eventually, I hope every club will see the benefit of this concept and take it back to their local community events, by inviting Rotary expositions along to showcase the wonderful work that is done that the clubs support.

The Rotary Foundation Centennial Celebration – 31 May 2017

Rotary is marking the centennial of The Rotary Foundation with a year of festivities which kicked off at the 2016 Rotary Convention in Seoul and will culminate at the 2017 Convention in Atlanta. We cannot let the year pass without an appropriate district event, which will be on Wednesday 31st May 2017. Guests will see and hear about projects that The Rotary Foundation supports and the success that District 9800 has enjoyed through The Rotary Foundation funding. Celebrating the Centennial gives us the opportunity to educate and inspire the community about Rotary.

I know clubs have been conducting other local Foundation events and that is wonderful. You are already great supporters and it is not my intention to seek more funds than you have already allocated.

However, if you believe that The Rotary Foundation truly does good in the world, then I would like you to help me showcase this to others that don't know, so that they might become involved in projects. You can do that by bringing guests along.



We need to influence potential project partners including corporates, philanthropists and business entrepreneurs and this event will shine a light on the amazing projects funded by The Rotary Foundation and hopefully attract new sources of funding.

There is another important thing I want to do in conjunction with this event that has not been done for a very long time in District 9800. That is to promote the opportunity to support The Rotary Foundation beyond our life time. The Bequest Society was established to recognize our support for the Permanent Fund of The Rotary Foundation through bequests – gifts left in our Will. The Bequest Society's growing membership includes Rotarians, family members, and friends who have each committed to give US\$10,000 or more in their estate plans to The Permanent Fund of The Rotary Foundation. It is The Rotary Foundation Permanent Fund that supports The Rotary Foundation's annual programs. This opportunity will be promoted to all Rotarians including those that cannot attend the event, and I ask for nothing other than your thoughtful consideration by participating.

I am genuinely humbled by the support being expressed so far, from corporates, non-Rotarians and Rotarians that have indicated their support, by attending, donating funds or asking for the paperwork to register a bequest. There won't be another centennial any time soon and this will be an occasion I would like us to remember as one that provided a great outcome for Rotary through The Rotary Foundation.

Neville John

District Governor 2016-2017

A Hope for Peace

By Kate Roff, former Rotary Youth Exchange student

Being lost in the middle of the bustling, hazy, city of Bangkok, Thailand, is not ideal for a 17-year-old Australian girl. But, it was a moment that changed my life.

I was on Rotary Youth Exchange and despite excellent instructions from my caring host-family; I had no idea how the intricate bus system worked, and hadn't mastered the language yet to ask. After boarding the wrong bus for the third time, a young student calmly stood up, took me by the arm and walked me miles down the road to the right stop. She spoke little English, but waited patiently until my bus arrived and told the driver my destination. It must have added a full hour to her day, and she wanted nothing in return – just to help a stranger.

I was shocked. I had never encountered such kindness. That was one of many moments I was humbled by the generosity of the Thai people during my exchange year, and something that I hold up as proof of genuine compassion in the world.

Today, I am the founding editor of [Peace News](#) – a new media platform that provides alternative news stories from conflict zones. While mainstream war reporting focuses on violence, explosions, and hatred, we focus on telling stories of peace-builders. Wars need to be covered, but we aim to provide balance to the reporting – in every conflict zone there are people taking risks for peace, and we want to show that side as well.



A hazy street scene in Bangkok. Photo by Joe Powers

In my line of work I see, and hear about, horrific violence, and it's often difficult to keep faith in humanity. I believe it's a growing fear for many people today, and sensationalist media representations of how 'bad the world is becoming' don't help. We often need reminding that there are still great people out there, that there are inspiring examples of tolerance and empathy still going on.

My year as an exchange student showed me that there is good reason to have hope, and provided me with a platform to direct my career. Through the endless examples of kindness from a host country, and also exposure to many cultures through other exchange students, I saw enormous capacity for a global community. Rotary taught me to appreciate and respect diversity – a hot topic today with global immigration debates.

I have no idea who that student was who stopped to direct a confused foreigner all those years ago, but her act reminds me daily of what one moment of empathy can do. She taught me to have a little trust in the world we are so often trying furiously to change – and to always travel with a bus map.

Learn more about [Rotary Youth Exchange](#)



Peace News provides alternative news stories from conflict zones.

Rotary Backs Trachoma Drive

By Tony Thomas, RC Central Melbourne

Rotary's 2017-18 International President, Australia's Ian Riseley, wants a trachoma-free Australia by 2021, Rotary's 100th year in Australia.

Trachoma is an infectious eye disease that can be prevented with good hygiene practices. It is still present in remote Aboriginal communities and can lead to permanent blindness. Australia is the world's only developed country with trachoma. The World Health Organisation has a global goal to eliminate trachoma by 2020.



With surgery and antibiotics, trachoma rates in affected communities have been reduced substantially. The original 200 'hot-spots' have dwindled to around 50, mainly in central Australia. More work is still required to ensure that hygiene practices and the community environments are improved to completely eliminate the disease. Prevention is now the focus.

Melbourne RC's Rob McGuirk and Albert Park's Kerry Kornhauser have together established a not-for-profit company to run the project. It can accept tax-deductible donations. Funds have been raised to enable the engagement of a project manager, Rotary Foundation Scholar and qualified public health worker, Lien Trinh, over the next three years.

PDG Dr Murray Verso has also joined the team, adding his medical experience and understanding.

RI Zone 8 Director Noel Trevaskis is asking all Districts to support the project which will cut the spread of trachoma. This spread occurs by hands, clothing, shared towels, bedding, and from flies which have contacted runny eyes or noses.

Some of the projects clubs can support include:

- funding a communal washing machines or facilities
- subsidising hygiene kits of towels, soaps, and toothbrushes
- sponsoring the operations of remote community swimming pools to help keep kids clean and active

Rob, Kerry and the team are working with other NGO's and corporates to create the projects and to enable the delivery of products and services to affected communities.

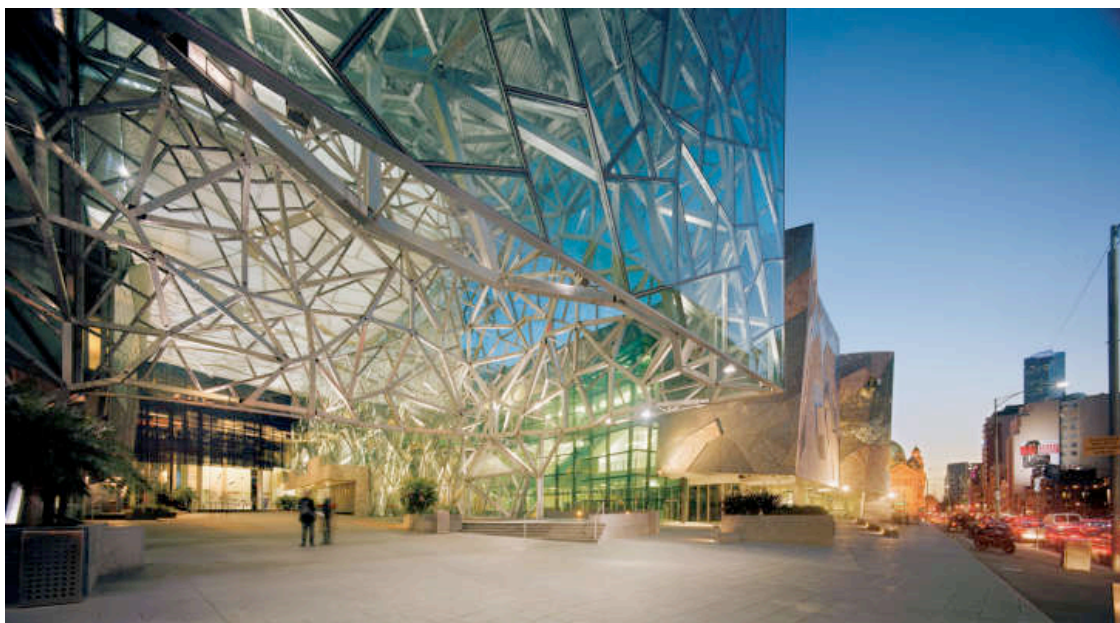
Register your interest at; www.endtrachoma2020.org.au and like our Facebook page at; <https://www.facebook.com/endtrachoma2020>

Showcasing Rotary

By Adrian Nelson, Director of Public Image & Communications

This month, Rotary turns 112 and our District has decided to get out and celebrate. On Saturday 25th February, we are holding our special Rotary Showcase in the Atrium of Federation Square.

Following last month's Australia Day celebration around Lake Weeroona in Bendigo, where we had 25 marquees showcasing a variety of community, international and regional Rotary projects and programs, our special day in Melbourne will highlight even more how we do good in the world.



The Atrium, Federation Square, Melbourne.

It's a unique opportunity for Rotarians to see first hand the variety of activities we are involved in. It will also be perfect to invite your friends and family with whom you are always talking about Rotary. If your club has anyone interested in joining Rotary or has been a volunteer in any of your projects, this will inspire them even further.

The exhibitors are divided into three broad areas: Youth Development, Community Programs, and International Programs. Internationally, exhibits range from the Solar Smiles Dental Chair program which provides dental care to children in Cambodia to Seven Women that provides vocational assistance to women in Nepal. We will have a ShelterBox on display to highlight Rotary's international disaster relief, plus Disaster Aid Australia will have their sky hydrant water filter that supplies safe drinking water to remote locations. We will focus on Polio Eradication, medical reconstructive surgery, the Sumba Eye programme and Days for Girls, plus much more.

Community Health programs on display include our Rotary Cancer Research, Australian Rotary Health,

blood pressure testing and how defibrillators save lives. Showcasing other community programs including BusyFeet, Violence Free Families, and Camp Getaway, we introduce the new Project Embrace. Women in Rotary will promote the diversity of Rotary.

Any Showcase of Rotary could not be complete without promoting our outstanding Youth Development programs, from EarlyAct to the Model United National Assembly, or from Youth Exchange to the National Youth Science Forum. We plan to have alumni from all these great initiatives to explain how they make a difference to young lives.

Please take the time to come along on the 25th. It will make any Rotarian proud to wear a badge. The Choir of Hard Knocks will perform and on the big screens we will be showing some inspirational stories and videos about Rotary. The event is free from 9am-5pm and suitable for all ages.

In the week of Rotary's birthday, it will be a true celebration of how Rotary truly is *Doing Good In The World*.

Bendigo Citizen and Young Citizen of the Year

From www.bendigo.vic.gov.au

Congratulations to Citizen of the Year Garth Keech and Young Citizen of the Year Khayshie Tilak Ramesh, the top citizens for 2017.

Garth Keech has been actively involved in the 1st Strathfieldsaye Scout Group for more than 20 years, including serving on the committee in various roles. He has also overseen the rebuilding and refurbishing of the Scout Hall in Strathfieldsaye.

Garth has been the organiser of the Strathfieldsaye Australia Day breakfast for the last 15 years. In 2015, he was recognised by Rotary for his contribution to Australia Day and was made an Australia Day ambassador.

Garth has coached soccer for Strathfieldsaye Colts, been a goal umpire and medic for Strathfieldsaye Storm Football Club, coached volleyball at Girton Grammar School and is a proud supporter of the Bendigo Fighting Miners Rugby Union Club .

Garth owns and runs a successful Bendigo business that has been inducted into the Victorian Manufacturing Hall of Fame and he has recently been named a 'Legend' of the Australian Foundry Industry. Garth has also been a generous donor to many community fundraising appeals, including the Ulumbarra Theatre.



Khayshie Tilak Ramesh is a high achieving law student who volunteers for Benetas, is an academic mentor and a Young Humanitarian Leader for the Red Cross. Khayshie is also the Co-Founder and Vice President of the Young People for Refugees, a Bendigo-based group of young people who work to support and raise awareness of refugee issues in Australia.

As part of her work with Young People for Refugees, Khayshie has been involved with organising social events which have focused on creating overall cohesion within the local community. These events have included walks, refugee visits and concerts.

Khayshie also serves on the Community Leadership Loddon Murray board and was recently named as one of Australia's Top 100 future leaders. Additionally, Khayshie is also a finalist in the Ashurst Law category of the Top 100 competition.

She attended NYSF in January 2014 and RYLA in 2016

Peace Fellow Update

By Lucienne Heyworth (Uppsala Class 2015-17)

A short update from a very thankful Peace Fellow:

Rotary Peace Fellows - Applied Field Experience...

The Peace Fellowship requires an Applied Field Experience during the European Summer (June-July 2016 for me). For my Field Experience, I worked with Caritas Switzerland in Jordan. My role was in supporting the evaluation and improvement of the Counselling, Health, Humanitarian Assistance, Education and Livelihoods programmes run by partner organisation Caritas Jordan. These important programmes are provided to vulnerable Jordanians and Syrian refugees that have fled the ongoing civil war.

During this time, I worked specifically on improving the assessment of beneficiaries based on Vulnerability Assessment Framework provided by the United Nations High Commission for Refugees. I also managed a project aimed at providing livelihoods opportunities for Syrians and Jordanians in the North and South of the Jordan.



Uppsala University is a research university in Uppsala, Sweden, and is the oldest university in Sweden and all of the Nordic countries, founded in 1477. It ranks among the best universities in Northern Europe in international rankings.

Internship in Jordan...

Instead of returning to complete more subjects for the Fall Semester (August 2016-January 2017) I stayed on in Amman, Jordan to work with the Norwegian Refugee Council. Specifically, I worked with their Syria Response Office, providing humanitarian support to Syrian's inside Syria.

My specific role was in supporting the Programmes Unit, which provides Information, Counselling and Legal Assistance, Education, Shelter, Wash and Food Security support to Syrians in need. As a highly respected and capable International Non-Government Organisation, the opportunity to contribute to the work of the Norwegian Refugee Council was an incredible opportunity, particularly given the protracted nature of the Syrian conflict, now in its sixth year.

Back to Sweden, Masters Thesis and last 5 months of the Peace Fellowship...

In recent weeks, I have returned to Sweden to complete my last 6 months of the Fellowship and my Masters Thesis. The entire Semester will be spent developing a strong social science research paper fit for Uppsala's Department of Peace and Conflict Research's famously high standards of academic research.

Coming up...

31/01/17 - Visit from the Institute for Economics and Peace – Australian Founder Steven Killelea 06/05/17 - Annual Seminar - The biggest Peace Fellowship calendar event where Fellows will present important findings and experiences from their two-year Fellowship 02/06/17 – Masters Programme & Peace Fellowship Graduation

There it is, a round up. I hope it helps you to feel yet again connected to this fantastic Rotary Initiative.

May 2017 be a successful year for each of you, for Rotary and for peace and conflict resolution around the world. Keep up the good work!

International Women's Day Breakfasts

By Kerry Kornhauser, RC Albert Park

Inspiring speakers, vigorous debate and great food make up the packages as Rotary clubs across Australasia plan for International Women's Day Breakfasts in 2017.

Since 2012, District 9800 – through *Women in Rotary* – has held six of these breakfasts, drawing an average audience of over 1200 (of which 80 per cent are non-Rotarians!) and reaching more than 5000 people.

This year's keynote Melbourne Breakfast, organized by Albert Park RC and helped by half a dozen clubs, will be at the Palladium Crown on Wednesday 8 March 2017

At these events, Women in Rotary showcases Rotary, spreads the word that Rotary welcomes women, and invites attendees to visit a Rotary meeting with the "Rotary is not just for blokes" invitation.

In the weeks before and after International Women's Day, the media is full of gender and diversity coverage. Rotary's Southbank breakfast, run by Albert Park RC, helps us be seen as a progressive body that encourages diversity.

International Women's Day is also an opportunity for us to reflect on how diversity can increase our membership. At the moment, only 24.9 per cent of our members are women, Australia wide.



The D9800 breakfast last year raised over \$50,000 for charities including Violence Free Families, Interplast, The Butterfly Foundation and Early Learning Autism. Charities this year are Violence Free Families, Interplast, ROMAC, Early Learning Autism.

Women in Rotary's 2017 goals are 30% female membership in Australasia (current Australia ratio, about 24%; District 9800 is on 25.3%); gender balance in 20% of clubs; and 40% of District Board positions to be held by women.

If you are considering doing something within your district or club now to promote gender diversity, contact me on 0411 597 690.

The breakfasts are held widely in other countries including Sweden, France, Germany, UK & USA.

Community Achievement Award

As chairman and founder of the Western Emergency Relief Network, **PDG Ross Butterworth** accepted the 2017 City of Melton Community Project of the Year Community Achievement Award. What a great achievement and recognition for Ross and the WERN team of volunteers! Congratulations must go to everyone involved in this fantastic community project. Rotary Caroline Springs members, friends and family attended the City of Melton Ceremony and joined in the celebrations.



Seven Women



Responsible Business Award

A huge Congratulations to Stephanie Woollard, founder of Seven Women, who has won a global award from Rotary International for "Responsible Business," honoured at the UN Headquarters in November last year.

The Responsible Business Award recognises extraordinary people and business partners who have improved communities by providing employment opportunities, job training, mentoring, and innovation.

Stephanie said it was such an honour to have her work with Seven Women recognised on a global scale.

"My approach has always been to give a hand up, not a hand out," said Stephanie.

"It's not simple welfare but empowerment. The lessons we teach will have impact for decades, or even longer, as the knowledge is passed to the next generation. Sustainability is always a key in anything Seven Women does, and it's wonderful that Rotary recognises the various projects worldwide that are making a difference in the world we live in."



In 2006, Stephanie Woollard was just 22 years old when she started the Seven Women Project in Nepal to help seven disabled women who were making soaps and candles to sell in local markets. Ten years on, Woollard's business is now helping over five thousand Nepali women.

Stephanie spoke to SBS Nepali about her work in Nepal and the Rotary Responsible Award she has been given.

Listen to the podcast [HERE](#)

New Documentary Out Now!

Stonechase Films in association with Seven Women are excited to announce the release of the new short documentary ***Seven Women Nepal: The Birth of a Social Enterprise.***

This film intimately examines the foundations of the Seven Women organisation, and how one Australian came to create a successful [social](#) enterprise with the disabled women of Nepal.

Demonstrating what is truly possible in the world with a willingness to learn from mistakes and the right people to help, *Seven Women Nepal: The Birth of a Social Enterprise* is a great documentary for anyone who has ever dreamt of making a difference through education and empowerment.

Winner of the 2016 Australian Writers Guild award for Best Documentary – Short Subject, the film is now available to view online through Vimeo on Demand. A percentage of the proceeds from the film sales directly contribute back to the work of Seven Women. We hope you enjoy the film!

You can access the film by clicking [HERE](#)



What does it feel like to be in an iron lung?

From Rotary Weekly

Rotarian Roger Frank built his own iron lung replica to teach a new generation about polio.



Dispatched to Ghana with a fellow British Rotarian to scout club service opportunities, Roger Frank hadn't planned their visit to coincide with National Immunization Days, but the pair – Frank and Dr. Carl Hallam – jumped, unhesitating, into the thick of inoculations. During a four-day stretch in October 2015, nearly 2,000 children in the area were protected from poliomyelitis. The effort galvanized Frank, who brainstormed for a way to do even more at home: How could he promote polio eradication when few of his countrymen gave much thought to the scourge?

Recalling the fear that gripped the UK, the U.S., and elsewhere during the height of the polio epidemic in the early 1950s, Frank, a past president of the **Rotary Club of Upper Eden**, thought of the iron lung, a device largely relegated to museums and history books. The lifesaving mechanical respirator was a potent, if depressing, symbol of the debilitating disease. An iron lung, Frank reasoned, would educate younger generations who grew up free of the fear created by polio, a virus that is spread easily, during the 20th century.

He hoped to borrow a model to put on tour to serve as a reminder that the polio fight remains unfinished. "I spent the last three months of 2015 looking for an iron lung in hospitals, etc.," says Frank, 65. "I had hoped to source an original unit, but they have all been scrapped and those that remain are in museums, and they would not part with them. Being fully committed to the project, I had no other option than to build an iron lung myself.

"This proved quite a challenge," even for a retired mechanical engineer and self-described "nut and bolt man," particularly after he resolved that only a fully functioning machine would do. "I learned many years ago that the dafter the project, the easier it is to get good publicity for the cause," he quips.

Full story: <https://new.rotary.org/en/iron-lung-replica-educates-about-polio#page-content>



Roger Frank wants to inspire people to donate to polio eradication.

ALTERNATIVE MEMBERSHIP

By David Shave – Yarra Bend Rotary

During its last visioning exercise, some two years ago, in the report to the board, Yarra Bend Rotary recognised the need to review the range of membership categories it offered, to assist in the effort to increase membership.

Three additional categories were considered, Corporate, Business and Associate membership. One of our members developed criteria for each of these categories. When reviewed by the board, it was considered the most useful category to which efforts should be directed, was Associate.

Simultaneously with these deliberations, contact had been maintained with a younger lady who had expressed a desire to become more involved in Rotary, however, was not in a position to consider full membership.

When Associate membership was suggested, Liz Rodriguez agreed it was attractive. Early in 2016 Liz was inducted as an Associate member, agreeing to abide by the criteria developed by the club.

During this process, the club consulted the Rotary constitution and there seemed to be no barrier, based on the criteria developed. Ironically, the RI Council of Legislation, which met in early 2016, ratified the category of Associate membership.

On this basis, we believe Yarra Bend may be the first club in District 9800 to have inducted an Associate member.



*Associate Member Liz Rodriguez
with David Shave*

Towards a Polio-free World

From Rotary Weekly

EVANSTON, Ill. (17 January 2017) — Rotary today announced \$35 million in grants to support the global effort to end polio, bringing the humanitarian service organization's contribution to \$140 million since January 2016.

Nearly half of the funds Rotary announced today (\$16.15 million) will support the emergency response campaigns in Nigeria and the Lake Chad Basin (Chad, northern Cameroon, southern Niger and Central African Republic). Four cases of polio were detected in Nigeria in 2016, which had previously not seen a case since July 2014.

With these cases, funding is needed to support rapid response plans in Nigeria and surrounding countries to stop the outbreak.

While significant strides have been made against the paralyzing disease, with just 35 cases reported in 2016, polio remains a threat in hard-to-reach and underserved areas, and conflict zones. To sustain this progress, and protect all children from polio, experts say \$1.5 billion is needed.

Rotary has contributed more than \$1.6 billion, including matching funds from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and countless volunteer hours since launching its polio immunization program, PolioPlus, in 1985.

In 1988, Rotary became a spearheading partner in the Global Polio Eradication Initiative with the World Health Organization (WHO), UNICEF, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and was later joined by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Since the initiative launched, the incidence of polio has plummeted by more than 99.9 percent, from about 350,000 cases a year to 35 confirmed in 2016, and no cases in 2017.



A Reflection on “World of Difference”

By DGN Bronwyn Stephens

There is so much to share in a personal reflection of my “passion project”. Since just stumbling into someone else’s idea...and here I acknowledge and congratulate wholeheartedly former Rotary Melbourne South member, Lena Condos, who introduced humanitarian travel to developing countries to Rotary, and the sustainable assistance that can be achieved. She inspired me.

There have been hundreds of friends met along the way, both Cambodian and Aussie. Some were school students from Australia, who left tourists and came back as humanitarians. It has been an utter privilege to be part of that exploration. Often these students have known nothing of the world outside Australia. Gently being shown, with humour and support, rural communities without running water or electricity, starving people surviving by subsistence farming and all the challenges that entails provides the students food for thought. Seeing how supporting the local communities with donations of just 2 pigs, a bore water pump and biosand water filters was a profound education. Getting involved in helping the local people build the filters and pumps forges friendships. Then seeing outcomes of where 2 pigs were donated several years ago to a family is joyous. The family has bred their 2 pigs and sold them for an income stream. The difference that has made to their daily life is irrigation for their crops, a motor cycle, 2 rooms in their little home, wooden walls to replace the thatch, a water bore and water filter, a small generator, a fan and a TV. Affluence! Those two pigs were donated by my son Will on his lifechanging first trip to Cambodia in 2012. Since then he has taught in a remote village school for 3 months, and led 2 student group tours.



From Sara...Upper Yarra Secondary College Tour:

“Cambodia you’ve been the most incredible host - Meeting all your people, the ones who needed our help, and the ones who have received it.

“Your culture is honest and beautiful and I can’t believe we have to leave it already.

“Waterfalls in the rainforest, water drilling in Chress village, teaching in schools, donating at FLO, visiting the zoo and changing the lives of an entire community in the remote village.

“This has been an incredibly real and beautiful experience, thank you.”

Partnerships between Rotary Clubs has enabled such powerful outcomes in terms of large scale projects and sustainability outcomes. Lifelong Rotary friendships have been forged through sharing deep and humbling experiences together where we have laughed and cried at situations too impossible perhaps in Australia to even imagine. I have memories of desperately ill people unable to afford medicines and just sitting quietly waiting to die. Being there at the right time place, with just the simplest most basic antibiotics have allowed lives to be saved.. Unimaginable and unthinkable in Australia.

Hurtling down dust tracks in tuk tuks without the thought for a seat belt, sharing the seat with 3 treadle sewing machines and legs over the top of one of them. Sharing a beer in the pool discussing different options for plans. Kat John (RC Melbourne Park) had an email footer “Say yes and then figure out the how”. You may agree that I can identify with that statement. Thankfully while having these lurches from one world and into another – horror at times in desperate Cambodia and then back into safe leafy Brighton Mark remains, always secure and grounded, ready to counsel. He writes up Foundation grant applications on behalf of clubs, works so closely on the Foundation committee with logistics and financial trails to ensure correct process is followed.

So many clubs involved, so many Rotarians and friends willing to action and champion change for better when they understand that World of Difference continually monitors the progress year after year.

Continued -

A Reflection on “World of Difference”

I believe that it is imperative that in developing countries that we don't go in with any sense of superiority or wanting to do work for the local people. I personally don't subscribe to projects that go to build homes or schools for locals. I haven't met a person that can't hammer a nail into a bit of wood – even I can (but please don't tell Mark that!) Rithy taught me the lesson of a hand up not a hand out over the past 7 years. He knocked it into me and repeated it over and over. It was very difficult to break a cycle of dependence in a community where we started giving donations. Enabling and working with the people is what Rithy does so well. In his wise words, “he stands beside them”.

Rithy is the “World of Difference” project manager in Cambodia. He tirelessly goes about living this reality every day on our behalf. So I should conclude my reflection on acknowledging Rithy. A Rotarian, a humanitarian who knows the needs of his country so intimately, and someone I am privileged to now call my friend.

For more information on this District 9800 Managed project please contact Chair Rob Hines Rotary Central Melbourne info@wod.org.au



Rithy and Bronwyn, reflecting in the sunset



Clarice's Comments



I'm so looking forward to the Rotary Showcase at Fed Square on Saturday 25th February: I missed the event in Bendigo, but heard it was great fun. Adrian Nelson gave me a sneak-peek at the programme, so I'll be there by 11am to hear the Choir of Hard Knocks. I just loved their section at the District Conference a few years ago, and I'm sure they will be a hit again. Lots of interesting exhibitions and stalls: shall I see you there?

With February being Rotary Peace and Conflict Resolution Month, we continue with articles featuring Kate Roff, Khayshie Tilak Ramesh, Stephanie Woollard, and Lucienne Heyworth, all peace movers and shakers, really inspirational young people.

The other big event in my personal calendar is the Donations-in-Kind Open Day: just note that the date has had to be changed to Saturday 8th April: that's the weekend after the District Conference. The DIK Volunteers are such wonderful people, so I'm sure they will have something extraordinary for us to see that weekend. Just imagine the 500th container to be sent out from the West Footscray store: can you picture them all lined up end-to-end? Millions of dollars worth of goods sent to needy communities in Australia and overseas: amazing! If you have never been to the DIK store, I can ensure you a visit on this day will be worth your time.

I'm great at multi-tasking - I can waste time, be unproductive, and procrastinate all at once.

See you later,

Clarice



The Choir of Hard Knocks

Conference Update

By Kevin Love, D9800 Conference Chairman

This is a short note to let you know of some exciting new developments for the Rotary District 9800 Conference "Connecting Communities - Serving Humanity," in Shepparton, in March.

Welcome function

The Welcome function will give us the opportunity to experience the food and hospitality of a number of the cultures that make up the Shepparton community. Our conference is at the end of Multicultural Awareness week, over which the Scanlon Foundation is encouraging groups to arrange Taste of Harmony dinners. The Scanlon Foundation has agreed to partner with us for our conference and our "Taste of Harmony" event promises to be a highlight of our time in Shepparton.

Community connection

We have worked with Kildonan Uniting Care in Shepparton to arrange a pre conference experience, "The Settlement Journey".

It will provide delegates with a first hand understanding of the journey that many in our community have experienced in settling and becoming Australians.

If you would like to attend this on the Thursday afternoon, please register by emailing conference2017.rccms@gmail.com including your name/s and club.

These tours are free but for a limited number only and need to be pre booked. Registrations close on Friday March 10 or earlier if fully booked. More details of when and where will be advised and included on the website once they are finalised. Bookings can also be made by replying to this email.

Leadership Lunch

The conference will provide a great professional development opportunity for those delegates in early and mid career. However we are also provided a limited opportunity for people who want more - a working lunch on Friday featuring an "on the couch session" with Deputy Commissioner Andrew Crisp of Victoria Police.

He and Warwick Cavell, a leading business strategist, will discuss strategic leadership and managing change. Once again numbers are limited to a maximum of 50 people and registrations are essential. Register by emailing conference2017.rccms@gmail.com including your name/s and Club. Bookings are needed by March 10 at the latest.

Our Program and Speakers

We have assembled an impressive array of speakers and entertainers. You will find details of these and other information about the conference on our website rotaryconference.org.au



The Tallis Winery walk

2017 DISTRICT 9800
CONFERENCE
SHEPPARTON - VICTORIA
30 MARCH - 1 APRIL



Connecting Communities - Serving Humanity

Notices and Events



DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO WANTS TO CHANGE THE WORLD



Rotary is now accepting applications for the world competitive Rotary Peace Fellowships program. The application deadline for submissions through local rotary clubs in District 9800 is to the District Chair, Rob Helme, by May 15, 2017.

Never has there been such an obvious need for well trained committed personnel to foster the cause of world peace. Rotary International has been committed to this program for 15 years and has trained over 900 graduates who work in the fields of peace, conflict resolution, human rights, international relations, public administration, sustainable development, public health or a related field. Up to 100 fellowships are awarded annually (50 master's degree fellowships and 50 professional development fellowships) at Rotary Peace Centers in 6 prestigious universities around the world.

Australia has an outstanding track record in supporting and mentoring successful applicants.

Two year Master degree

Up to two years of fully funded graduate study at an internationally recognised program in the US, Sweden, UK, or Japan. Australian applicants are unable to apply to the Rotary supported Centre in Australia. The program includes a 3 month Applied Field Experience. Funding also covers travel, tuition, fees, and board. Approximate costs covered are US\$80,000.

This course requires a bachelor's degree in a related field, and 3 years relevant experience.

Three month professional development course

Designed for mid-career professionals already working in the field of peace and conflict resolution. This fully funded course offers a mix of theory and practical skills in both a classroom environment at Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok and in the field.

This course requires a bachelor's degree or equivalent in a related field and 5 years of related work experience.

For further details visit : <https://www.rotary.org/en/peace-fellowships>

Speak: to a Rotarian you know

Contact: Rob Helme at rhelme@bigpond.net.au or 0402 299492

Bob Fels at rfels@satlink.com.au or (03) 5989 2455

District 9800 is the leading district worldwide in attracting and mentoring applicants to this, the premier international education program of Rotary International



A NEW ROUND OF MEMBERSHIP GRANTS

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

All clubs in our District are eligible to receive this grant including those clubs that qualified for the previous \$1,000 grants in 2016-17

Full details are contained in the attached flyer. [Download Membership Grant Guidelines](#)



Notices and Events

Celebrate with us in Atlanta

Join thousands of Rotarians at the Rotary International Convention in Atlanta, Georgia, USA, **10-14 June 2017**. The celebration of The Rotary Foundation's 100th Anniversary promises to be an unforgettable experience.

- Are you coming to the The Rotary Foundation's 100th Birthday Party? Help us celebrate 100 years of doing good in the city where it all began, with cake, ice cream, and lots of fun. [Purchase tickets](#) for only \$26.50 per person.
- The Atlanta convention's Host Organization Committee is planning outstanding events for all attendees. [Visit the HOC site](#) to learn about the many events, tours, and activities available.
- Spread the word! [Download promotional materials](#) for social media, posters, and more.



Western Emergency Relief Network

accepts donations of good condition household items such as: **Bedding:** Doonas & Covers, Pillows & Covers, Linen i.e. Sheets, Towels & Blankets. **Kitchen Items:** Kettles, Toasters, Crockery, Glasses, Cutlery, Pots & Pans **Furniture:** Beds all sizes, Clean mattresses. Tallboys, Dressing Tables, Bookcases, Dining Tables and Chairs, TV's **White Goods:** Fridges, Freezers, Washing Machines, Dryers, Fans & Heaters. If you'd like to donate items call Ross as above or 0476104736 to organise a pick up.



Rotary Showcase

Have you ever thought we don't promote ourselves well enough to the public? Well, now we are and you can join us in celebrating all the great things we do as Rotarians.

The Melbourne Rotary Showcase will be staged in the Atrium at Federation Square on SATURDAY 25 FEBRUARY from 9am to 5pm

We will have the **Choir of Hard Knocks** performing from **11am** and they will lead us into our **Rotarian Roundup at 12 noon**. Wear your Rotary badge, cap, t-shirt, apron, pin or hat and show Melbourne how active Rotarians are "Doing Good in the World"



Hunters and Collectors Antique Fair and Roadshow

Sunday 26th February, 11am – 4pm at Prahran RSL Memorial Hall, 330 High Street, Prahran

A display & sale of assorted fascinating antiques & collectables

Four expert VALUERS on site to give market valuations (\$5 each) for attendees' treasures (think the UK TV program "Antiques Roadshow") & heirlooms Silent auction of amazing good & services

Morning tea, light lunches & afternoon teas served throughout the day

Cost: Adults \$2 entry, children free.

Contact: Susie Cole, President Rotary Prahran 0414 907 263 Scole16@hotmail.com

www.rotaryprahran.org.au



St. Jude's Evening with Gemma Sisia

Brighton Yacht Club, 253 Esplanade Middle Brighton

\$35 includes 2 course meal and coffee - **1st March** 6 for 6.30

Book by 22nd Feb on Trybooking website-Event St. Jude's Evening at Brighton north

Link-<https://www.trybooking.com/buy-tickets/>

Gemma will speak about how she established The School of St Jude in Arusha, Tanzania.

She will explain how a high-quality education is out of reach for most Tanzanian children and the reality of life without an education in East Africa. The School of St Jude is a

pioneering leader in East African charitable education that in 15 years has grown from one

teacher and three students to provide approximately 1800 students with a free high-quality education

Contact Richard Potter-0419303545 or 95923431 or Malcolm Baird -0419644294



Notices and Events

Manor Lakes Wyndham Rotary Fun Run/Walk

5th MARCH, CHIRNSIDE PARK WERRIBEE

The majority of proceeds will be directed to The Werribee Mercy Hospital
RUN 5KM – 8:30am, WALK 8KM – 8:35am WALK 4KM – 8:35am RUN 10KM
- 9:15am

Prices and more information: wyndhamfunrun.org



Rotary Albert Park Charity Golf Day & Dinner

Wednesday, 1st March, 11:15am for 12:30pm tee off

At Albert Park Golf Club

Cost: Golf and Dinner - \$150pp. Other options for sponsorship or just dinner are available

RSVP by 24th February, to chris@foodservex.com.au

for more information:

<https://clubrunner.blob.core.windows.net/00000004551/en-au/files/homepage/golf-day-2017-invitation/rotary-albert-park-golf-day-invitation-2017.pdf>



International Women's Day Breakfast

WEDNESDAY 8TH MARCH 2017

THE PALLADIUM, CROWN MELBOURNE

Women Leaders - what does it take?

MC – Tom Gleisner

Keynote Speaker – Kitty Chiller, 2016 Olympics Chef de Mission

Early Bird Tickets now available at rotaryiwdbreakfast.org.au



Open Day at Donations-in-Kind **Note the Date**

A couple of years ago, the Donations-in-Kind West Footscray Store celebrated 100,000 hours of volunteer time, saving lots of goods from landfill and sending many containers to Rotary projects overseas. This year we will celebrate despatching container number 500 overseas.

You can't miss the big yellow box!

Since the start of 2000 we have shipped \$49.2millions value of goods to some 26 countries and saved almost 30million cubic meters of really good material from land fill. Importantly we have raised some \$3.2m to cover the shipping costs and run the store. Hospital beds and equipment, computers, clothing – both new and used, school desks and chairs and lots more have all found homes in countries where they have none (or very little). We want to celebrate this milestone and let everyone see what opportunities there are for the taking by opening the store for everyone to see with an open day at the store planned for **Saturday 8th April..**

Saturday 8th April..

Come along any time between 10am and 4pm and see what we can do to assist your projects – both local and international.

Tea and coffee and a sausage sizzle (obligatory!) and lots of information to get your project juices flowing. We would love to know that you will come and see us.

Phone Bob on 0418 102 702 or Laurie on 0428 550 574 to let us know.



Notices and Events

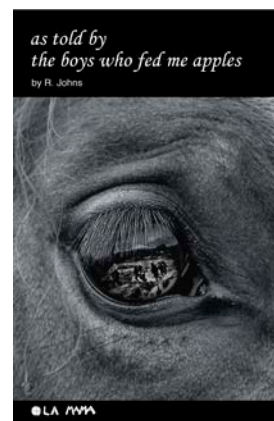
The boys who fed me apples

Sandy was the only one of 136,000 Australian World War 1 war horses to return home. Sandy's fragmented war story (and that of three soldiers who served with him) is told through physical performance which crosses over with a visceral, poetic text and a haunting, original sound design.

La Mama Courthouse, 349 Drummond St Carlton

March 22nd - April 2nd . Weds 6.30pm, Thurs- Sat 7.30 pm, Sun 4pm. Matinees Wed 1 pm and Thurs 11am. Bookings : 9347 6142 Approximately 85 mins.

Selected for the 2017 VCAA Drama Playlist. This project has been supported by the Australian Government's Anzac Centenary Arts and Culture Fund and Big West Festival. Playwright Rosemary Johns is a volunteer at the Flemington Rotary Opportunity Shop.



ARE YOU A GOLFING ROTARIAN?

Did you know there is a fellowship of golfing Rotarians who, with their partners, play a golf tournament each year at some of Australia's premium golf courses?

The great news is, the Rotary Club of Ascot is hosting the **39th Annual AGFR Golf Tournament in Perth** at The Western Australian Golf Club and Mount Lawley Golf Club from **2nd April until the 7th of April 2017**.

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

For further information and a registration form visit either our dedicated website <http://agfirtournament.wixsite.com/2017> or the AGFR website <https://agfr.org>

Our dedicated email address for all queries and completed registration forms is agfirtournament@outlook.com



Ride the Bellarine

April 9, Geelong and the Bellarine Peninsula. Last year more than \$23,000 was raised for *End Polio Now*. Run by the 15 Clubs of Geelong & District, on behalf of D 9780 Website for Registrations and Donations: ridethebellarine.rotary9780.org



Notices and Events

Wedding Expo 2017 at Encore

Sunday 30 April 2017 - 10am – 4pm Gold coin donation
Encore Events Centre, 80 Derrimut Road, Hoppers Crossing.

An Expo for those planning a wedding in Melbourne's West is being held on 30 April 2017.

There will be a wide range of industry specialists in attendance including: Marriage Celebrants, Wedding Photographers, Hair and Make-Up, Bonbonnières, Fireworks, Wedding Invitations and Stationery, Wedding Reception Venues, Wedding

Cakes, Wedding Florists, Wedding Dresses, Wedding Gown Cleaning, Mother-of-the-Bride Wear, Male Formal Wear, Wedding Gifts, Decorations, and Wedding Cars and Limousines.

The event is open to potential exhibitors and details are available through the Email address above.

All proceeds raised are going towards the Rotary Club of Hoppers Crossing for use on their community and international projects.

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

Find us on Facebook at

www.facebook.com/rotaryclubhopperscrossing

Visit our website at www.hopperscrossingrotary.org.au.



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

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

In conjunction with District Foundation Chair, PDG Dennis Shore, Southbank Rotary will be assisting with organising a major District event to celebrate 100 years of The Rotary Foundation. More details will be widely circulated before the end of this month but for now, **Save the**

Date: 31st May 2017 at The Atlantic, Central Pier, Docklands.



2017 DISTRICT 9800
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SHEPPARTON - VICTORIA
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Our Contributors



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



Tony Thomas frequently contributes to "The Networker", and blogs at quadrant.com.au (usually outrageously)



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



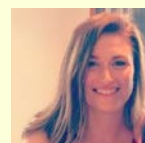
Dennis Shore was D9800 District Governor in 2012-13, and he is now District Foundation Director.



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



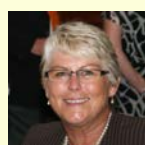
Matthew Scott of Bendigo South teaches Religion and Media Studies.



Lucienne Heyworth was a Rotary Peace Fellow – Uppsala, Class IV (2015-2017)



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



DG Nominee Bronwyn Stephens is just back from Cambodia where she supports several projects.



Kate Roff is a former Rotary Youth Exchange student: she just loves Thailand.