

To: Bernie GERLINGER, Rotary Club of Central Melbourne-Sunrise

WELCOME TO THIS WEEKS 'NEW STYLE' BULLETIN

THIS WEEKS MEETING Tuesday 19th

A Snapshot of Eastern Canada

Guest Speaker Kenneth Park

This talk explores entwined cultural heritage of the indigenous peoples, France, England and the United States of America and how all shaped Eastern Canada.

The abundant natural riches supported many indigenous peoples and continues to leave an indelible legacy. This region also became the arena of intense French and British rivalry that resulted ultimately in the British achieving hegemony in Canada. The Gallic dream of establishing New France in North America although thwarted, nevertheless gave birth to a stimulating legacy of French influence that remains a force to be reckoned with in contemporary Québec.

Kenneth W Park is Curator of Collections, Wesley College Melbourne and is a consultant art curator, presenter, fund-raiser, tour leader and writer. Over of the years Kenneth has been involved with many arts/cultural organizations and professional associations including the National Gallery of Victoria, National Trust, International Council of Museums, Museums Australia, American Association of Museums and many more.

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REPORT OF LAST WEEKS VERY SUCCESSFUL PAUL HARRIS ANNUAL RCCMS BREAKFAST.

21st Paul Harris Breakfast

Reporter, Anne King

President Doug Robertson welcomed the 238 attendees to the breakfast, which included dignitaries from district 9800 and members of 23 different Rotary clubs in the district. He also welcomed the sponsor, Tim Murphy, from Mercedes-Benz Brighton.

He acknowledged that all profits from the morning would be contributed to the Rotary Foundation and that the District would match \$ for \$ the amount raised from the raffle to be donated to the relief effort in the Philippines after the devastation of Typhoon Haiyan.

Ross Butterworth then proposed a toast to Rotary International, which was followed by a short talk about the foundation from PDG John Wigley. John also acknowledged all the Paul Harris Fellows in the room.

Guest speaker Hon. Judge Chris Maxwell was introduced and talked on the subject of "Reflections on Victoria's Human Rights Charter".

He explained the relationship of Victoria's Charter to citizens, government and the legislature, and subtleties involved when judges find conflicts between the Charter and specific laws and prosecutions. Large numbers of case studies have evolved, mostly dealt with out of court, between individuals, departments and local councils.

The charter was enacted in 2000 future legislation and actions by government entities. There are a number of rights included in the charter including protection from torture, slavery and freedom of thought, conscious, religion and belief. Any state legislation must include a declaration that its contents are compatible with the Charter and can only deviate from the charter in exceptional circumstances. The rights protected under the Charter may be subject only to "reasonable limits as can be demonstrably justified in a free and democratic society based on human dignity, equality and freedom"⁸ and was the first charter in Australia, apart from the ACT. Its purpose was to enshrine in legislation a human rights charter that would be used as a benchmark for all

The charter can be accessed through the following link:

http://www.legislation.vic.gov.au/Domino/Web_Notes/LDMS/PubLawToday.nsf/95c43dd4eac71a68ca256dde00056e7b/f1e66cda63148685ca2577530015f3df!OpenDocument

The charter has had a wide, if somewhat imperceptible, impact. Most of the impact has been in the processes and procedures of statutory bodies and drawing of legislation.

He instanced one case where State law put the onus of proof on a woman to show she was unaware that her boyfriend had kept drugs in her fridge, resulting in her conviction for drug possession and trafficking. Normally a defendant can stand mute and require prosecutors to prove guilt. "We made a declaration that the onus provisions of the Drugs Act were incompatible with the Charter of Human Rights," he said. This finding caused the issue to be referred back to Parliament to see if legislation should be amended or retained in the public interest. "We don't write laws, we only interpret them," he said.

In question time, he said it would not be effective to enshrine the charter in the State Constitution, which was itself an Act of Parliament. To try to put the charter into the Federal Constitution might lead to rigidities since the Charter could well be expected to evolve with the temper of the times, rather than be adapted by referendum.

Following this speech the raffle was drawn, which included 11 prizes and raised \$3,300. Michael Bromby then auctioned two items, a Qantas simulator session and a Mercedes-Benz Driving Experience. The former raised \$1250 and the latter \$500. In total the amount raised from the breakfast was over \$9,000.

President Doug Robinson then concluded another successful Paul Harris Breakfast by thanking all attendees for their participation in the breakfast.

DUTY ROSTER Tuesday 19th November

Chair	Koren Harvey
Sergeant	Michael Bromby
Greeter	Richard Mitchell
Reporter	John Illott
Photographer	David Jones
Door	Kevin Love
Director Report	Greg Cuthbert