



Hello Bernie! This email has been generated just for you as a member of our club. We hope you enjoy receiving this newsletter!

Editor: Rebecca RIEBELING
If you have any comments or questions, email the editor.

Future Speakers

Apr 19 2011

Chris Berg
"Islam and the middle eastern states' economic development"

Apr 26 2011

No meeting this week
"ANZAC Day Holiday"

May 3 2011

Kevin Love
"Facilitating United Nations Negotiations"

May 10 2011

Stephen Gough - CEO Melbourne Cricket Club
"The People's Ground - the MCG"

May 17 2011

Club Assembly
"International Service and Foundation committee updates presented by the Directors"

May 24 2011

John Ilott
"The National Health Practitioner Registration and Accreditation Scheme"

May 31 2011

Andrew MacLeod
"Melbourne's Future as Seen by The Committee for Melbourne"

Jun 7 2011

Professor John Reeder
"Can we eliminate malaria?"

Jun 14 2011

President Anne King
"Police mentoring program graduation"

Jun 21 2011

This Week's Meeting, Tues April 19th

by RIEBELING, Rebecca

Chris Berg

"Islam and the middle eastern states' economic development"



Chris Berg is a Research Fellow with the Institute of Public Affairs. He is a regular columnist with the Sunday Age and ABC's The Drum, covering cultural, political and economic issues. He is an award-winning former editor of the IPA Review.

Chris will present his research on the need for Arab states to become liberal democracies in order to create wealth for their people. He will discuss what they need to do with their economies and what is holding them back.

Duty Roster, Tues April 19th

by Rebecca RIEBELING

Note: Duty people are expected to be on duty at RACV at **7am** as many guests start arriving from this time.

Please note if unable to attend please arrange to swap your role with another member.

Chairperson	Kathy Ilott
Sergeant	Gillian Farrell
Reporter	Joel Siegersma
Door	Frank O'Brien
Photographer	Russell Rolls
Greeter	Richard Stone

No meeting this Tuesday
"Club Changeover Friday evening"

Jul 5 2011

Presentation on Plans for 2011-2012

"By President Kevin and Committee Directors"

Upcoming Events

Club Horizons/Planning Meeting

May 1 2011

Cafe International 2011 "A '20s Murder Mystery"

May 7 2011

Movie and Dinner Evening

May 14 2011

Working Bee Royal Talbot Rehabilitation Centre

May 21 2011

Vocational Visit - Garrett Enterprises

May 29 2011

Echuca Moama Steam Rally

Jun 11 2011 - Jun 12 2011

Vocational Visit

Nov 18 2011 - Nov 18 2011

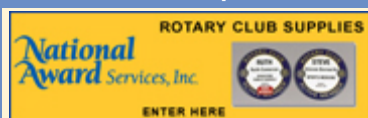
News

Inside Story - One night only - Support the Blue Ribbon Foundation

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Meeting Report, Tues April 12th

by Neville JOHN

Attendance Numbers: Nineteen (all dedicated come rain, hail or shine)

Guests Attending: Joel Goode; Wade Keenan & Geoffrey Bardwell (Guest Speaker)

Sergeant's Session: Sergeant Gillian Farrell was captivated by Egypt, having recently been there and all questions were related thereto.

Announcements

Alan Seale reminded members that International House is holding its Cafe International '20's Murder Mystery' night on Saturday 7th May 2011. Tickets are \$80pp inclusive of 3 course meal and beverages. Dress Code: Black Tie. RSVP 22nd April 2011. Alan also outlined more detail on the District process for anyone wishing to donate to the NZ Earthquake appeal.

Bernie Gerlinger advised that raffle tickets have been distributed (2 booklets per member). It is important that we raise money this year, and we are trying to source funding from beyond our members. Please sell tickets to friends, work colleagues, parish and local communities. We have also organised dates to sell tickets at shopping centres for which Bernie has created a schedule. He still needs more volunteers to fill this. We need to sell 300 books to make a profit of \$10,000 and need to sell 100 books to break even. Bernie asked members to advise him about their availability to sell raffle tickets at the venues that he has secured.

Kevin Walklate (President Elect) advised that committees for next year have been finalised. Please contact Kevin if you wish to discuss. He reminded members that Horizons in on 1 May and encouraged everyone to come along and contribute to the plans for 2011/12. Location: Ian McLennan House, 197 Royal Parade, Parkville (9am to 1pm).

Kevin Love reported on the visit to RC Osaka Hommachi's 20th anniversary.

Guest Speaker

The guest speaker was Geoffrey Bardwell who is the media spokesperson for Amnesty International in Victoria. His topic of discussion was - "Refugees: A human rights issue"

Geoffrey commenced by asking the rhetorical questions about human rights - What are they? Who enforces them? Are they Universal? The answers to these unfolded during his presentation. The point was made that declarations about human rights and independence date back to 1776 with the US Declaration of Independence declaring amongst other things that all men were created equal. Another declaration was the abolishment of slavery in 1884.

Geoffrey pointed out that unfortunately it was not until 1920 in the USA that women were granted the right to vote and that declarations around the world had historically been aspirational rather than realistic and fell a long way short of their objective.

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On the subject of asylum seekers and refugees, it was noted that the terms refugee and asylum seeker were often misused. Amnesty International hold the view that in the first instance a person seeks asylum from whatever events are occurring in their homeland by applying for refuge in another country. Geoffrey explained that Amnesty International when assessing the human rights of asylum seekers do not believe their mode of arrival (boat, plane, passport or no passport) warrants that they be treated like a common criminal, and that whether a person was deserving of refuge was a political matter not a human rights consideration. Their primary concern is with how these people are treated in our care from a human rights perspective. Amnesty believes that the measurement of a country's processing of refuge claims should be based on how that country treats the most vulnerable members of its community.

Geoffrey advised that, depending on the many definitions used, there are between 8 and 60 million people in the world seeking refuge in another country and that the driving causes were wars in Afghanistan, Iraq, Somalia and Burma. Australia processed 13,750 refugee claims in 2010 ranking it as 51 in the world for the intake of refugees, with Sweden being ranked first. The countries who are signatories to the convention on refugees in the Pacific region are Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Fiji, Samoa and the Solomon Islands.

The community is polarised on the subject of refugees because of sensationalist media reporting, which then has the potential to impact Government policy. Amnesty receives allegations from refugees ranging from verbal abuse, threats, bullying, punishment and intimidation. Amnesty assess whether a country treats refugees better, the same or worse than the local criminals.

In Australia, refugees are still being processed under the 1958 Immigration Act and an application for a protection visa costs \$1,400.

Malaria Awareness Day - MAD Dinner and Fundraiser

by *RIEBELING, Rebecca*



30 April, 2011 - Bentleigh RSL, Centre Rd Bentleigh at 7:39pm on April 30th.

Three Course Dinner, entertainment and auction.

Ticket price is \$50, and to book email ram9810@gmail.com.

Rotarian's Against Malaria (RAM) is a very cost effective program to tackle the world's most preventable infectious disease which is contracted by 3 million people every year. The W.H.O. recognises the 25th April each year as "World Malaria Day". In Australia this date conflicts with ANZAC Day so 30th April is the rationale for our "Malaria Awareness Day".

Download a MAD Brochure from the District 9800 website at the following [LINK](#)