Outbound Australia GSE
Adventure Begins
By Ruth Howe, PR Chair

On Friday, September 18th, at approximately 8:00 P.M., the Outbound GSE Team departed for Canberra, Australia. The four member team plus Team Leader Craig Wilson, will spend five weeks “Down Under” with their Australian Rotarian hosts from District 9710. The Australian hosts have planned an exciting and educational experience for our Team consisting of individuals in the tourism industry.

In addition to Canberra, the nation's capitol, the Team will be hosted by Rotarians in Cooma, Bombala, Merimbula, Narooma, Nowra, Gerringong and Berrima. At each location vocational opportunities are mixed in with visits to local attractions. The whole of the South East coast of Australia will be home for much of their tour. Our Inbound Team will welcome to Arizona the AU team led by Peter Kain in April 2010.

The departure seemed to be going according to plan. Photos were taken with Don Schiller, Debbie Bebbe, Jim Green and others. Other than a few sad and also happy faces, the Team excitedly proceeded to the Security Gate with Craig bringing up the rear. All walked through with no problems except for Craig. Craig stepped into the X-Ray and there was an “Oops.” He was searched, scanned and required to unpack all of his carry-on luggage. Did he not have his shaving cream in the right sized plastic bottle or did he have on his own bottle of water? What made Craig the suspicious person? What contraband was he carrying? (See photo the Security Guard allowed me to take through the glass security window.) As Craig unpacks and repacks his case, the Team amusingly watches and Craig’s face turning redder by the minute.

As Don Schiller said, “This is going to create some team building and kidding”

The team has established a blog, www.rotary5490az.wordpress.com, for all 5490 Rotarians and friends to follow along on the big trip.

The GSE (Group Study Exchange) Team pictured left to right consists of Nathan Michaels; Team Leader, Craig Wilson; Jeni Coke; Julie Wong and Lisa Barnard.
Nairobi, Kenya 20 July 2009
Water Is Life Committee member Don and Dorothy Mellon traveled to Kenya this July at the invitation of Bishop Washington Ngende and Prime Minister Odinga of Kenya. The Bishop arranged the meeting with the Prime Minister after hearing a presentation of Rotary's project to bring water to Mosiro's schools and the clinic.
Don described meeting the PM as "a little scary," but he was soon put at ease by the interest Mr. Odinga showed in the project.
He was well aware of Rotary and what good works it preformed in his country. Don's meeting with Meitamei Olo Dapash and Mary Poole, two the most important people in the project, before and during the luncheon served to strengthen Don’s resolve that something good would come of this meeting.
He went well prepared too with a detailed plan worked out by fellow committee members, Bob Frith and Ed Southwell, to present to the PM. Don, a master of negotiation, didn't hold back either. He said that, "I was a little concerned when Mr. Odinga appeared to be reading the document while I spoke." Don later discovered that the PM, a trained auditor, was only looking at the numbers.
When the PM asked what he and Rotary wanted from his government, Don didn't hesitate with replying, "Water tanks."
After thanking Rotary, Don, and the Bishop, the PM said, "Let us do two of the 24,000 liter tanks for you."
Don also made contact with the President of the Rotary Club of Kisumu, Bob Patrick Madanji, who pledged to support additional projects and to help involve District 9200 in this project. The committee will follow up in the near future.
As of this writing 66% of the Clubs in District 5490 have contributed to this major undertaking. The Matching Grant proposal was submitted to TRIF on 2 July 2009, and we are patiently awaiting a decision from that body.
Rotarians Walk to Defeat Cancer...

Hundreds of Sedonans walked through the night to contribute to the American Cancer Society’s Relay for Life at Red Rock High School September 18-19, 2009. Members of the Rotary Club of Sedona contributed more than $500 and many laps around the track. Renata Barnwell and Eddie Passov organized the Rotary walkers. Thanks to all who walked and contributed; your efforts make a difference in the lives of others.

Alliance For Smiles Bridges A Gap

Alliance for Smiles (AfS) is a San Francisco based nonprofit organization founded in October of 2004 by Rotarians from the San Francisco Rotary Club. The goal of Alliance for Smiles is creating smiles and ultimately changing lives by providing free reconstructive cleft lip and palate surgeries for underserved children worldwide. By the end of 2009, close to 2,000 children and their families will have changed lives forever because of the work of Alliance for Smiles. The future of AfS holds great potential. In 2009 AfS is expanding outside of China to The Philippines, Bangladesh and Africa. The Treatment Centers concept is expanding with several hospitals expressing interest in establishing centers. This original concept of providing two types of services, one immediate and the other long term, remains the basic philosophical principle of AfS. With continued support from generous individuals, foundations, businesses, and groups such as Rotary, AfS looks forward to expanding and realizing its dream of establishing comprehensive treatment for cleft children in developing countries.

If there are clubs in Rotary District 5490 who haven’t yet decided on an international project for 2009-2010, please consider a partial sponsorship or full sponsorship of a surgery for a poor child during an upcoming AfS medical mission (i. e. $200 – up to $999 = partial sponsorship; $1,000 = full sponsorship of one child; $2,000 = full sponsorship of two children, etc. etc.). Any level of sponsorship is welcome! For additional information, please contact Mary Alice Rathbun, maryalice@allianceforsmiles.org
Gift of Life-Arizona helps save two very young lives in India

Gary Whiting, Centennial PDG and GOL-AZ Board Vice President

In the early morning of September 9th, two little baby girls, suffering from the same type of congenital heart defect, received life saving corrective surgery by Pediatric Surgeons, Dr. P. Mariappan and Dr. J. Muthunayagam. The procedure used a device closure via catheterization and was performed at the S. Palaniandi Mudaliar Memorial Hospital in Salem, India. It is noted that this hospital also provided it services on December 1, 2008 to help save the life of another GOL-AZ patient, Ranjendran Suganya also from Salem, India.

Ten (10) month old Rithika Arunagiri, from Tamil Nadu, Musiri, India and Thirteen (13) month old Sudhiksha Palanisamy, from Tamil Nadu, Salem, India were brought to GOL-AZ attention by Rotary District 2980 Governor Elect, Naggappen Asoka of the Rotary Club of Salem Mid Town asking for immediate assistance for this medical intervention. Both children are from extreme poverty with parents who can not provide the financial support to obtain such an expensive heart procedure and urgent help was needed. As such, GOL-AZ provided a financial stipend to the hospital for each child with the hospital, pediatric surgeons, nurses and suppliers donating the bed, operating room, time, skills toward this urgent undertaking and Rotarians Home Hosted the parents. This is Rotary in action!!!

The children are now on the mend and will soon be released from the hospital and on their way home. The prognosis is projected for them to live a normal and healthy life.

Rotarians in Salem, Arizona and Gift of Life-Arizona are being thanked for helping to save these children’s lives. What a wonderful way to help promote international good will, peace and understanding. Your Gift of Life-Arizona project has now saved the lives of over 225 needy children from 23 countries of which 19 are from Arizona. The Gift of Life-Arizona Board extends their THANK YOU to the Rotary Clubs, Rotarians and Friends of Rotary who help support Gift of Life-Arizona.
The Rotary Vocational Fund of Arizona
Will it Build Goodwill and Better Friendships?

The Rotary Vocational Fund of Arizona (TRVFA) is a tri-district program incorporated in 1990 as a 501(c)(3). Its objective is to assist “the working poor” as defined by the Arizona Department of Revenue. The fund enables those who qualify to gain the skills and knowledge necessary to enter the world of employment. Since its inception, TRVFA has funded approximately 600 individuals. During the period of July 1, 2008 to June 15, 2009, 68 grants were issued. The grant total was $132,096! TRVFA is the ONLY program of its kind in all of Rotary. Arizona Rotarians should be most proud!

Have you and/or your club made a tax credit contribution to TRVFA? Individuals who are eligible may receive a tax credit. Clubs do not receive a tax credit. Has your club sponsored an eligible applicant? Are you interested in directly making a difference in someone’s life by sponsoring an individual who is without sufficient financial resources to become vocationally independent?

TRVFA is more than just a means of obtaining assistance to those in financial need. It provides you and your club an opportunity to directly help the working poor achieve a measure of financial independence, not to mention a bit of dignity as well! Your participation in contributing tax credit dollars and applicant sponsorship supports a positive image of Rotary to the applicant and the community at large.

TRVFA is not just about funding. It is about partnerships with Rotary clubs and its members. It is about outreach to persons in economic need. It is about helping Rotary membership promoting the values of Rotary to our community.

TRVFA is again preparing its annual tax credit campaign for the fall. Please visit our website at www.trvfa.org. Future revisions and updating are planned.

Perry M. Rattiner
Tri-District Leadership Academy Class Member 2009-10
Secretary, TRVFA
Past President, 2008-09, Chandler Rotary

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District Governor
October Visitation Schedule

10/6 Needle
10/14 Kingman
10/15 Parker
10/19 Glendale West
10/20 Glendale Kachina
10/22 Chino Valley
10/23 Litchfield Park
10/23 Sun City West
10/26 Poston
10/27 Surprise
10/27 Wickenburg

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Filling The Gap
District 5490 News
Submit articles and photos
For future editions

To Editor: Kevin Shepardson
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DISTRICT POLIO TRIPS TO OUR NEIGHBORS IN MEXICO

Our annual polio trip to Caborca, Mexico will be held on February 19 to 21, 2010. Yes, this is the third weekend not the second as it has been in the past. Caborca Rotary made this change. The details of the trip are being finalized and we should be able to announce costs and take reservations around October 1, 2009. The trip will be similar to those in the past with travel to Caborca on Friday after lunch with Buckeye Rotary Club and dinner with Caborca Rotarians. Saturday will be the distribution of polio drops to the children in the Eijdos. Of course, Saturday night will be our celebration party at the Rotary Club’s Clubhouse. Sunday we will have our abrazos and return home. Additional information will be sent out to all Rotarians as soon as it is available. The 2nd annual Hermosillo Polio trip is also being planned at this time. No dates or details are available at this time. It should be in February. This trip may combine wheelchair distribution but that depends on how many wheelchairs are donated in the district. More information on this will be available in the next few months. Any questions on either of these Polio Trips may be directed to Don Schiller, PDG & Chair of these projects. email: schiller@commspeed.net or phone 928-717-1000.

Don Schiller, PDG
Rotary International District 5490

District Leadership
District Governor:

Jeanie Morgan
District Governor-Elect:

Jim Green
District Governor-Nominee:

Sara Jane Feldman
District Secretary:

Larry Thornton
Assistant Governors
Area 1 Sara Jane Feldman
Area 2 Mark Carpenter
Area 3 Kevin Beamon
Area 4 Katherine Kaczorowski
Area 5 John Stewart
Area 6 Connie Bullock
Area 7 Stuart Anderson
Area 8 Dennis Van
Area 9 Jim Bulte
Area 11 David Shelton
Area 11 Valerie DiSciascio

Mark Your Calendars

November 21-22, 2009
Tri-District “Foundation Experience”
London Bridge Resort
Lake Havasu City, Arizona

March 4th – 6th, 2010
Rotary PETS/SETS Conference
Mesa Hilton, Mesa, Arizona

May 14th – 16th, 2010
Rotary District Conference
Squire Inn, Grand Canyon, Arizona

June 20th – 23rd, 2010
Rotary International Convention
Montreal, Quebec, Canada
SHELTERBOX RESPONDS TO PACIFIC EMERGENCY

This week a succession of catastrophic large scale disasters has hit areas around the Pacific, leaving thousands without shelter. This series of unprecedented and devastating tsunamis, typhoons & earthquakes hit the Pacific leaving entire communities in need of help. ShelterBox International Disaster Relief organization and the largest global Rotary club project in the world desperately needs donations to respond rapidly. Many Rotarian volunteers are packing in the warehouse and preparing to deliver aid.

The Indonesian island of Sumatra has been struck by two earthquakes in less than 24 hours. Yesterday, the first earthquake caused buildings to collapse and fires to rage in the city of Padang. A second earthquake hit the island early this morning, causing further devastation. ShelterBox prepares to send volunteers and boxes.

On Tuesday, an 8.3 magnitude earthquake caused a large tsunami that crashed into Western Somoa, American Somoa and many other islands in the South Pacific. The islands have been left shattered, with thousands of homes destroyed and a rising death toll. Again ShelterBox has sent a team of volunteers to assist.

Over the weekend the Philippines was hit by the hugely destructive Typhoon Onday (Ketsana). ShelterBox immediately sent a team of volunteers who have witnessed thousands of people evacuated to churches and municipal buildings, conditions are unimaginable. This has been described as ‘one of the most damaging storms of recent years’ for this region.

General Manager Lasse Petersen says, “This has been one of ShelterBox’s most challenging set of deployments to date and we are urgently appealing for donations to enable us to alleviate the suffering of hundreds of thousands of people across the globe who have lost everything in the last week.”

Donations are greatly needed. We hope you can help spread this message so more Rotarians and the general public can help. Go to www.shelterboxusa.org for more information and to donate.

Thank you for your support.
What is Your Club Doing for Rotary Foundation Month?

November is Rotary Foundation month and there are lots of ways that your club can make the most of it. Here is a top ten list to help you to get start planning for a great Rotary Foundation month.

10. Create a club climate that makes it clear that The Rotary Foundation is the “Charity of Choice” in your club!
9. Present a “Rotary Foundation Minute” at every meeting all year to help educate your members.
8. Publicize the great works of the Foundation in local newspapers, radio, and cable TV stations.
7. Create an award certificate for “Years of Continuous Contributions to TRF” for presentation at a club meeting.
6. Make being 100% Every Rotarian Every Year a club goal.
5. Pass out Benefactor sign up cards and have a program on how your Will can create a giving legacy.
4. Present inspiring Rotary Foundation speakers/programs during November.
3. Give special recognition to your Sustaining Members, Paul Harris Fellows, Paul Harris Society Members, Major Donors, Bequest Society Members, and Benefactors.
2. Feature Foundation stories in the club bulletin newsletter, etc.

And the number one thing you can do to make the most of Rotary Foundation Month…Attend the Rotary Foundation “Experience” in Lake Havasu City at the London Bridge Resort, November 21-22. This is a three district event and has been specifically designed to give your club members the best possible training and inspiration they need to get the most from of our Rotary Foundation programs.

It is well known that clubs that are highly engaged with the Rotary Foundation are the most successful and fastest growing. But you need to be armed with knowledge to get engaged and stay engaged - that is where the Rotary Foundation “Experience” comes in. Clubs are encouraged to send every Rotarian who is involved or wants to be involved with any aspect of the Rotary Foundation, but all Rotarians can benefit – even new Rotarians!

I am personally encouraging all clubs to sponsor their Rotary Foundation Chair to attend this event. Most clubs sponsor their clubs presidents to training every year, why shouldn’t we do the same for our Rotary Foundation Chairs? The Rotary Foundation Experience is the best opportunity to give your club leaders the knowledge they need to be effective. Don’t have a club Rotary Foundation Chair? Now is a great time to appoint someone and to get them off to a great start by sending them to this training. Your Foundation Chair has a conflict? – Sponsor someone to go in their place to bring the information back to the club. Whatever you do, don’t miss this great opportunity. We have worked hard to put together the best program ever in Arizona for training and inspiration about our Rotary Foundation. Make plans NOW to attend and don’t be the only club that misses out. For those Rotarians in the Lake Havasu area, there is a special Saturday only registration of only $39, which includes all of Saturday’s sessions plus lunch! Do like some clubs have already done and sponsor the first $39 for every club member who attends – ask your board to consider this. It’s a very small investment for your club which will have big payoffs. For out-of towners, we have secured a very special rate of just $89/night + tax for a one bedroom suite at the fabulous London Bridge Resort. Bring your spouse or significant other and enjoy a great weekend get-away. Get all the information you need about the Rotary Foundation “Experience” on the district website, including agendas, training details, on-line registration, and hotel information. I hope to see you all in Lake Havasu November 21-22 for a great weekend of Rotary.