



Community



Link

Providing a link between **your community** and **your local Rotary Clubs**. Issue 4, November 2012.

Preparing our youngest drivers with a road-safe mindset.



Also inside:

- Taking Rotary to the Maldives
- Rotary Mythbusters
- Building a School in Nepal

Rotary is preparing our youth for the long road ahead.



Rotarians believe the best time to ingrain messages about road safety is just before our youngest drivers take to the road.

Roadsafe Youth Driver Awareness (RYDA) is a Rotary supported program which provides first quality road safety information to youth, ensuring when they commence driving they have the best road safety education possible.

The program is directed towards our young people about road safety as they approach the period in their life when they start driving a car and ride as a passenger in a car driven by one of their peers.

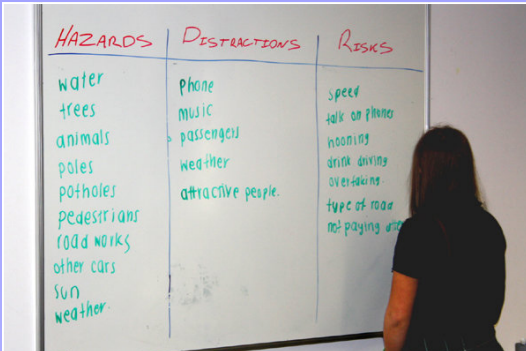
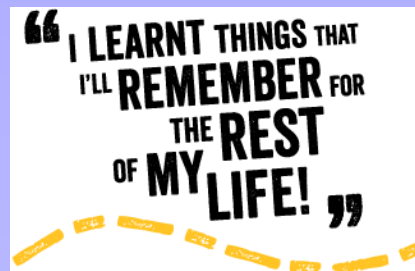
The Rotary clubs of Hyde Park, Mitcham and Brownhill Creek recently combined resources to administer full day programs at Flinders University for students from Unley High School and Mitcham Girls School.

Students are broken into six groups of approximately 30, and rotate through six sessions throughout the day. Rotary clubs arrange transport, set up and clean up of the venue, liaise with presenters, marshal the students and provide morning tea and lunch.

The six sessions include presenters and demonstrations surrounding:

- the effects of increased speed on stopping distances
- identifying and avoiding hazards, distractions and risks
- the effects of drugs, stimulants and alcohol on the body when driving - and making strong decisions
- important vehicle safety features
- consequences of living with a disability after a serious crash
- the wide web of people affected by road fatalities

For more info visit
www.rse.org.au/Ryda.aspx



Introducing Roving Lifestyles - 21st Century Fundraising



Four members of the Rotary Club of Eastwood thought there had to be a better way to raise funds, and spend more time engaging with family and friends, and increasing membership.

Their solution is **Roving Lifestyles**, an online shopping centre at your fingertips to raise funds for Rotary. A percentage of all sales goes to local Rotary clubs for use in local or international projects. Consumers can receive considerable discounts on a wide variety of products and services, including wine & dining out, health & beauty products, jewellery, sporting goods and much more!

Roving Lifestyles is seeking local merchants to offer their products and services to a wide network of Rotarians and their friends, families and colleagues. For more info call (08) 7071 7298 or visit our website.

RovingLifestyles Live Well, Give Well www.rovinglifestyles.com.au

Mitcham Rotary Bookshop Christmas Sale

Start buying for Christmas NOW! Nothing over \$4.00.
Lots of near new, large, beautiful "Coffee Table" books, large
Cooking books and much more going out as real bargains.
Come and choose a gift for someone you love.
This offer will extend until Christmas Eve.



Shop 2, 448 Goodwood Road, Cumberland Park

Ph 0458 918 507

Open Mon-Sat 10.00am - 4.30pm



To boldly go where no Rotary Club has gone before.



The Republic of the Maldives, located south of India and Sri Lanka was one of Rotary International's final frontiers, until a chance twist of fate that brought together a Maldivian student and the Rotary Club of Eastwood.

The only Maldivian Rotarian in the world is right here in Adelaide, but that is all about to change. Ahmed Ranesh joined the Rotary Club of Eastwood in 2011 after meeting Rotarians from that club at Calperum Station, near Renmark. Ranesh was participating in a cultural program with other international students whereby they travel to parts of SA to entrench themselves in the Australian way of life.

Don Will, from the Rotary Club of Eastwood asked Ranesh what he knew about Rotary in his home country, and was surprised to find out that Rotary did not exist in the Maldives. Earlier this year, following many months of negotiation, Rotary International headquarters in Chicago gave permission for the Eastwood club, in conjunction with Rotary District 3220 in Sri Lanka to establish a new Club in Malé, the capital of Maldives. In recent weeks around 30 interested and influential persons have begun meeting as a provisional Rotary club with charter expected later this year.

This island nation has 1192 islands of which only 194 are inhabited, and a total population of around 325,000. The capital Malé has around 125,000 people living in an area smaller than the city square mile of Adelaide. This is the only island with a population in excess of 10,000. Most of the islands have well under 1000 people. While the nation covers an area of 115,300sq Km (twice the size of Tasmania) only one percent of the nation's area is land. Only 3 islands has a land area over 300 hectares and over half of the inhabited islands are under 39 hectares in area. This means there are a cluster of many small islands with low populations living in third world conditions.

The Maldives is well known for its beautiful sandy beaches and crystal clear waters, and magnificent coral reefs in a tropical environment where temperature hardly changes. Tourism remains the major income source for Maldives with around 100 world class luxury resorts. These resorts are self-contained and developed on a "one island - one resort" concept. Unfortunately the vast majority of the population gain little from the tourist industry which is largely owned internationally. The fisheries industry is the

second largest income source and the major export industry where fish products are exported in different forms. The Maldives is heavily dependent on its natural resources for its economic sustainability and income but these remain very sensitive to natural disasters, and global economic recessions. The vast majority of the land is less than 1.5 metres above sea level and climate change is a real threat.

As with most developing nations with a low GDP, the Maldives faces a number of critical issues, such as access to safe drinking water (particularly on the smaller islands due to the 2004 tsunami causing seawater to contaminate the ground water), a fight against substance abuse, and care for orphans and the education and health of young people.

Until now there have been no service clubs active in the nation although Rotary has attempted some humanitarian projects in the past. The absence of a local band of Rotarians to supervise has meant such projects are no longer active. The prospective Rotarians are already working on some projects for the young, and the provision of safe drinking water on some of the remote and smaller island has been determined to be a very worthwhile project that overseas Rotary Clubs could support. The Rotary Club of Eastwood has taken the first step by donating a solar water purifier for Vaavu atoll. **(pictured left: Ahmed Ranesh)**



Daring to Dream

A Rotary Club's bold plan to build a school for Nepal's most disadvantaged children.

On the outskirts of Kathmandu, The Deprived Women's Upliftment Centre Orphanage aims to provide a safe, secure and loving home for about 100 poor, abandoned and orphaned Dalit (untouchable) girls and boys. Rajan Bishwokarma is the founder and coordinator of the orphanage, which operates under the Dalit Mahila Utthan Kendra, a non-profit, non-government social organisation fighting for caste equality and justice for untouchable women and children in Nepal. The orphanage is well kept, and the dining, bedroom, bathroom and recreation areas are spotlessly clean and well organised. The

children receive healthy meals, using vegetables grown in the orphanage garden. Aged between 3 and 18, they currently attend a school that is situated near the orphanage. But because the children are orphaned, disadvantaged and of the untouchable caste, many of them are treated very poorly by students and staff of the school, and subsequently do not realise their full educational potential. This is in stark contrast to the quality care that is offered to them at the orphanage, where they are treated with dignity and respect.

Rajan's dream is to build a school on the orphanage grounds. She is confident that this school will more effectively and sensitively meet the needs of these very special children, who require high levels of educational, social and personal support. There will be a strong sense of ownership, inclusion and respect at the orphanage school. Local children will also be invited to enrol at the school, so that the orphanage children will have contact with others.

David Rusk from the Rotary Club of Brownhill Creek is a member of the centre's advisory board, and has regularly visited Nepal over the past seven years. In collaboration with the Rotary Club of Dillibazar, Nepal, David has developed initiatives through the Brownhill Creek and Blackwood clubs to support teachers and principals in a number of schools to improve the educational opportunities and learning outcomes for these highly disadvantaged children. He is also keen to raise the \$130,000 necessary to build this school.

Once the orphanage school is built, David will spend several months in Nepal. In a volunteer capacity, he will help the school to get off to a good start by mentoring the principal, assisting in the selection of the best teachers and providing ongoing training and development for the teachers in sound teaching methodologies, child development and classroom management. Rotarians, teachers and young people from Australia will be encouraged to volunteer at the school and the orphanage. For further information David can be contacted on 8272 1830.



One of Rotary's brightest shining stars.

The remarkable journey of Dr. Nhiem Lu, the next president of the Rotary Club of Eastwood.

Dr Nhiem Lu is one of the newest and youngest members of the Rotary Club of Eastwood and represents a new breed of dynamic, dedicated and innovative Rotarians in our District. Of Chinese decent, Nhiem was born in Vietnam and his family became refugees in Vietnam and were placed in a detention centre in Malaysia when Nhiem, was only one. Whilst many Vietnamese boat people were sent to Australia, Canada and the US, his family were one of the very few sent to Germany, where they began a new life in Koblenz, facing a different culture and different language with no belongings. Nhiem spent 25 years in Germany where he completed his Bachelor and Masters degrees in Computer Science. In 2004, he was offered a full scholarship from the University of South Australia to do his PhD in Information Systems in Adelaide. So leaving his friends and family behind, Nhiem began his adventure Down Under. He soon met Jess Cook who he married in 2010.



Upon completing his PhD, Nhiem founded Solution Forest with his former university supervisor. Solution Forest is an ICT consultancy specialised in developing innovative, visual and process-driven Information Systems. Solution Forest is dedicated to providing advanced yet easy-to-use solutions and improved processes to both Not-For-Profit and For-Profit Organisations. Nhiem's unique approach and well-established understanding of Information Systems provides significant benefit to clients, allowing them to improve existing strengths and gain new competitive edges.

Nhiem's first exposure to Rotary was through his father-in-law Lindsay Cook, a former Rotarian. Nhiem accompanied Lindsay to numerous Rotary activities, but was finally invited to join the Rotary Club of Eastwood in 2011 after agreeing to be a guest speaker at that club. Nhiem enjoyed delivering his talk and was impressed by the fellowship amongst club members and their charitable projects. Since then, Nhiem has been an active member of the club utilising his skills in IT and innovative thinking to support the club and its fundraising activities. He was integral for the club's first iChallenge Fundraising Night which was a combination of old fashioned trivia and modern iPad games. Nhiem is currently the President Elect of the Rotary Club of Eastwood, and will take on the presidency for the 2013/14 year. He has also joined the Rotary District Internet Committee.

Nhiem belongs to a new breed of young Rotarians who are joining Rotary to give back to the community and to spread the word of what Rotary does while enjoying great fellowship amongst Rotarians and utilising their business and personal skills for Rotary.

Rotary's library is bursting with remarkable stories.

How about adding yours? For membership enquiries, please contact your nearest club. Details on the back page.

MYTHBUSTERS

There are a lot of myths surrounding Rotary and Rotary meetings, so we thought it was time to dispel some...

Myth 1 - Rotary is for men only

Rotary International began in 1905, and for the first 84 years of its existence, it is true that women were not admitted into membership. But as the prevalence of female business leaders began to grow, and in response to a ground swell of demand for female admission, Rotary changed its legislation in 1989 to admit women. Today women represent approximately 16% of Rotary membership in Australia, yet leadership positions filled by women are well above this percentage. Women are welcome in Rotary, and we are desperately keen to increase our female membership.

Myth 2 - Rotary is just for old people

I guess that depends on at which age you believe "old" cuts in, but you can join Rotary at 18. In our part of the world, 19% of Rotarians are 70 or older, 33% are between 60 and 69, and 32% are between 50 and 59. That leaves only 16% in the under 50 bracket. But many of those Rotarians who are now in their 60s and 70s were well under 50 when they joined. Age is just a number! It's your attitude that is important. Rotary welcomes "younger" members with open arms. We are depending on them to keep our organisation vibrant.

Myth 3 - You have to attend every week

Most Rotary clubs meet on a weekly basis, and members are encouraged to attend whenever possible, but we understand that there are many demands on the time of today's business professional. In addition to regular club meetings, Rotarians have other ways to become involved, such as fundraising activities, community service projects, leadership training events and social activities. Some members are able to attend every week, but some find it easier to contribute in other ways. We prefer to focus on what you can give, not what you can't.

Myth 4 - Rotary is only for Doctors, Lawyers and CEOs

Rotary's membership base is a broad cross section of people from diverse backgrounds, cultures and professions. Our diversity is our strongest asset. Teachers, bankers, accountants, students, plumbers, electricians, health care workers, farmers... you name it, they are all represented in Rotary. Work from home? Just starting out in business? Moving up through the ranks? Made it to the top? Retired? There is a role for you in Rotary.

Myth 5 - Membership is by invitation only

It is true that to join Rotary, a Rotarian has to ask you, but anyone can visit a Rotary club. There are no secret handshakes or "member only" rituals in Rotary. Meetings are open and everyone is welcome. If after attending a few meetings, you have shown interest in joining a club, and you are a person of good standing in the community, you will more than likely be asked to join.

Myth 6 - Rotary is a religious organisation

Rotary is non-religious and non-political. We accept members from all walks of life, and have no cultural or religious barriers or expectations.

Myth 7 - All Rotarians do is cook barbecues

Hopefully after reading this issue of Community Link, you'll realise that's not the case. Rotary clubs adopt many initiatives for raising funds to support their projects. Barbecues are a part of life in Australia, and it's true that they are one of the more visible methods by which Rotary clubs raise their funds, but behind the scenes there are many less obvious ways that hard working Rotarians raise their funds and contribute to the community.

Myth 8 - You've seen one Rotary club, you've seen them all

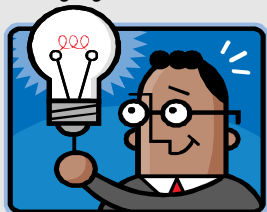
There are over 34,000 Rotary clubs in the world (over 1,100 in Australia) and no two are the same. They are all unique, with unique members, unique projects, and unique culture. Each has its own board of directors who administer the club autonomously. One of them is just right for you!

Myth 9 - You cannot discuss your business or profession in Rotary

The first ever Rotary meeting, 107 years ago in Chicago, was initiated to serve the professional and social interests of its members. But as Rotary grew, members began pooling their resources and contributing their talents to help serve communities in need. Rotary is now the world's premier humanitarian service organisation, but its roots are firmly embedded in business networking.

Myth 10 - Rotary is an "old fashioned" organisation, with boring and ritualistic meetings

As a century old organisation, it's reasonable to expect that there are some long observed traditions in some clubs. But the very highest levels of Rotary leadership, both at global and local level, are encouraging clubs to innovate and become more progressive in the way they do things. Every club is different. Some are more progressive, and some have a more traditional culture. But let there be no doubt, Rotary is changing for the better! As more dynamic people join Rotary, it will continue to change even more.



Got a bright idea? Let's hear it!

The best projects usually originate from ONE SIMPLE IDEA. How can Rotary help YOUR community? What needs do YOU think should be addressed?

Have a think about putting YOUR Rotary clubs to work.

Unley Rotary Thrift Shop

Let us put your unwanted goods to use to help others less fortunate. Items needed include: Books & Magazines, Toys, Clothing, Jewellery, Sporting Equipment, Cookware, Crockery, Cutlery, Household Goods, Soft Furnishings, Handyman & Garden Tools, Records, CDs, DVDs, Ornaments & Bric a Brac and Haberdashery.

Check out our magnificent Christmas Hamper Raffle - only 50c per ticket! (drawn Dec 22)

130 Unley Road, Unley Ph 08 8172 0900 Open Mon- Fri: 10am - 3.30pm, Sat: 9.30am - 3.00pm

Coming Events



Business Breakfast - Tuesday, December 4

The Rotary Club of Hyde Park in conjunction with the City of Unley invites you to their next Business Breakfast on Tuesday December 4th at the Unley Civic Centre at 7:00am. This will be the 9th Business Breakfast held, and the first 8 have all been close to the full capacity of 75 participants.

The guest speaker for this breakfast will be David Simmons, Chairman of Ronald McDonald House. Please join us for an informative meeting of sharing and networking with the Unley business community. Cost \$15.00 includes cooked breakfast. RSVP for bookings to Kelly on 8372 5107.



Carols by the Rotunda - Sunday, December 9

UNLEY MEMORIAL GARDENS, cnr UNLEY ROAD & THOMAS Street.

For almost twenty years the Rotary Club of Unley has presented Carols at the Rotunda in conjunction with the Unley Council.

There will be activities for children from 5 pm, a children's show at 6 pm with the Carols kicking off at 7pm and finishing at 9pm.

Entertainment includes The Ticklish Allsorts, Australian Army Band, Mat Noble, Australian Girls Choir and an appearance by Father Christmas. **BBQ and drinks available.**



Peace Forum - Saturday, February 23, 2013

How can we promote peace in our every day life? How can we ensure a world where children have dreams? How important is being a good listener? How can we learn to listen with neutrality and not rush to judge or impart fixes? How can we assist combatants to devise their own solutions? Is conflict a part of life? Does it have to escalate?

Rotary is conducting a Peace Forum to increase awareness about the effectiveness of promoting greater tolerance and cooperation among peoples, leading to safer communities and schools and to world understanding and peace on February 23 from 1pm to 4pm at the Members Dining Room, Adelaide Oval, followed by a dinner that evening.

Peace Forum Entry via Gold Coin Donation.

Community Link is produced by your local Rotary Clubs

Brownhill Creek

Meets Tuesdays 6.15pm at the Edinburgh Hotel, High Street, Mitcham
Contact President Lindsay Bowey 08 8276 6683 or Secretary John Rundle 0401 120 011
Email john.rundle@internode.on.net

Eastwood

Meets Wednesdays 7.00am at the Royal Coach Motor Inn, 24 Dequetteville Terrace, Kent Town
Contact President Ann Davis 0418 809 679 or Secretary Brian Lange 08 8379 4617
Email lange_brian@hotmail.com

Hyde Park

Meets Wednesdays 6.00pm at the Hyde Park Tavern, Cnr Park Street & King William Road, Hyde Park
Contact President Robert Handley 08 8274 1852 or Secretary Alan Moss 08 8278 6047
Email rchydepark@hotmail.com

Mitcham

Meets Wednesday 6.00pm at the Edinburgh Hotel, High Street, Mitcham
Contact President Penni Hamilton-Smith 08 8271 4314 or Secretary Andrew Atterton 0418 788 401
Email mitcham.rotary@gmail.com

Unley

Meets Tuesdays 6.00pm at the Public Schools Club, 207 East Terrace, Adelaide
Contact President Stephen Westgarth 08 8370 3969 or Secretary Mavis Martin 08 8178 0076
Email unley.secretary@rotaryclub.org.au

Enquires about this publication to Mark Huddleston Ph 0402 346 994 Email mark@sugarfreezone.com.au

