



## INTERNATIONAL SERVICE

**Committee Members:** David Prust (Chairman), Brian Gregory, John Hutchinson, Peter Kingsbury, Michael Koch, Neil McCluskey and Kishor Manani.

President Wendy and fellow Rotarians,

It is with great pleasure that I submit this report on the International Service Committee for the year.

During the year we had **Jeppe Straarup** on an inbound student exchange from Denmark. Jeppe has been a delight over the last year; the boy never seems to have stopped growing, it must have been the good Australian air. While here, Jeppe was hosted by Wendy and Brett Farmer, Mark and Marianna Fontaine, David and Maria Prust and Pash and Sandra Demagistris. His Counsellor was Michael Koch.

The start of this year saw the completion of **Melissa Howlett's** student exchange to Austria. Melissa presented to the club regarding her successful year in Austria. Her counsellor was Diane Wilkinson.

The International Service highlight for our club would have to be the hosting of the GSE team from District 1410 in Finland. They were with us from March 21<sup>st</sup> to the start of the District Conference on March 25<sup>th</sup>. The team enjoyed their stay in Moe and the many activities put on by our club.

The team's vocational hosts: Yallourn Energy (mine & power station), Gippsland Rotary Centenary House, Latrobe Regional Airport Gippsland Aeronautics, Lowanna College, Department of Sustainability and Environment, Ellinbank Research Station, Hobson's (Hydroponics farm), Blackshaw's (Potato and Dairy farm), Latrobe Valley Express (print works) and Gommans' (Goat farm).

Hosting Rotarians were David Prust, Daniel Barry, Pash Demagistris, Bruce Paull and Michael Koch. The team also spent time golfing, speaking to the club, dining out, visiting Farm World and a winery tour on the way to conference.

The team also spent time golfing, speaking to the club, dining out, visiting Farm World and a winery tour on the way to conference.

During this Rotary year there were a number of trips to Amed in Indonesia to support the Bhunutun Primary School. Michael and Neil travelled three times, Len Cairns twice – on one occasion accompanied by Julian and Jocelyn Yeatman and Peter Kingsbury. As the school is in a very poor part of Indonesia our project is to assist their 250 students with school uniforms, school books, white boards and sporting equipment.

Our committee continues to be active on many fronts, but this year's biggest activity was the annual golf day where our focus was on securing major sponsors. As we were blessed with good weather it enabled the Finnish GSE team, together with over 100 other players, to have a great day of golf. The day proved to be a great success with over \$18,000 raised towards the service activities of our club. Our thanks go to everyone who helped and, of course, to the many generous sponsors.



Another activity of the International Service Committee was the organising of a film night that was held at the Village Cinema in Mid Valley during May. 160 participants enjoyed not only the movie, Water For Elephants, but equally the social side of the evening. \$1800 was raised for our club.

With the help of President Wendy and the support of our committee, fellow Rotarians and partners we have had an enjoyable and productive year of International Service.

**David Prust**  
**Chair – International Service Committee**