



## Stories

[BUMPER BULLETIN ISSUE - INDEX - But read it all in any case.](#)

1. Next Weeks Meeting
2. Looking Ahead - ACTION NOW PLEASE
3. Rotary Rest Centre, White Night Melbourne
4. Meeting Report 25th Feb.
5. Vocational Visit to Post Office Factory
6. Global Scholar Michelle Head interviewed
7. Maverick Reporter Reports on Topic He Knows Best
8. Duty Roster For Next Meeting

[MEMBERSHIP FORUM - Tuesday 4th March](#)

President Doug, along with Neville Taylor, Neville John and Roger Thornton, will present the Membership Survey Monkey results and report on actions proposed by the Membership Focus Group, approved by the Board and currently being implemented.

**The near term action plan approved by the Board is as follows:**

- a. Analyse existing Rotary promotional material and decide whether or not it's suitable for promoting RCCMS. If not, prepare appropriate material. In addition, develop talking points for a 3 minute "elevator conversation" for all members to use. Develop a template for use when engaging with prospective members, along with a new information pack.
- b. Institute an internal challenge for each Service Committee to introduce two people who are inducted into the club each year. Committee chairs to be answerable to the Board, on a monthly basis, with regard to progress.
- c. Develop a promotional package, to be used with corporates, that shows how mutually beneficial RCCMS membership could be for their younger management and professional staff. Institute a sub-committee, whose members will use this pack with their corporate contacts.
- d. Develop a similar package for corporate HR Departments to distribute to older members, likely to face retirement in the foreseeable future, explaining how they could gain from RCCMS membership.

[LOOKING AHEAD - ACTION NOW PLEASE](#)

### **ANOTHER GUTSY BUSINESS BREAKFAST**

**Profile your club to your business world - invite a friend who is in business to hear;**

**Peter Wilson AM  
Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2014**

#### **"Mentoring – Origins and its Value to Modern Leadership"**

Now there's a topic that is appropriate to many business sectors, with one of Australia's most qualified to present the topic.

**Peter is our exceptional guest speaker on March 11<sup>th</sup> – usual time and place *PLUS* cooked breakfast. \$28.00pax**

**Please let Neville Taylor know of your guests *ASAP* but by Friday 7<sup>th</sup> March at latest.**

[ROTARY REST CENTRE - WHITE NIGHT MELBOURNE 2014](#)



## Upcoming Events

[District Conference](#)

Mar 07, 2014 – Mar 09, 2014

[Board Meeting](#)

RACV City Club

Mar 19, 2014 at 06:00 PM  
– 07:30 PM

[McAuley House Working Bee](#)

McAuley House

Mar 22, 2014 at 08:30 AM

– 03:00 PM

[Working Bee at Royal Talbot](#)

[Rehabilitation Centre](#)

Royal Talbot Rehabilitation Centre

Apr 05, 2014 at 08:00 AM

– 01:00 PM

[Board Meeting](#)

RACV City Club

Apr 16, 2014 at 06:00 PM

– 07:30 PM

## Speakers

Mar 04, 2014

[Membership Forum](#)

Mar 11, 2014

[Peter Wilson](#)

*Mentoring - origins and its value to modern leadership*

Mar 25, 2014

[Asst Commissioner Jack](#)

[Blayney, Victoria Police](#)

*Ice and its effect on country Victoria*

Apr 01, 2014

[Tom Trumble](#)

*Rescue at 2100 hours*

[View entire list](#)

On a night when Melbourne set records for the number of people in the city RCCMS was to the fore on the major thoroughfare, Swanston Street, distributing refreshment to weary citizens.

The no liquor regulation for the night allowed many families to walk the city and children to have a 'night in the town' with mum and dad. It also meant our club dispensed a record number of drinks through the hours from 6pm to 5.20 the next morning. 1230 cups of hot drinks and 1,000 bottles of water were the tally, plus many sachets of biscuits.

Club members Marjorie, Bernie, Doug and David, led by Neil Salvano, were very ably assisted by three members of RC Melbourne Park and past member of RC Richmond Annie, who has also assisted with the Community Village on several occasions.

Many of the young people 'clients' asked questions about Rotary and gave a donation resulting in over \$530 being contributed.

Overall, excellent profiling for Rotary.



[MEETING REPORT 25th February 2014](#)

**Reporter George Mackey**

**Visitor: Michelle Heard, Global Grant Scholar from Texas (the real Texas, no less)**

#### Announcements:

- Koren introduced Michelle Heard, the Global Grant Scholar we have sponsored. Michelle will be supported during her stay in Melbourne by Koren, Justine, Patrick and George
- The lunch at the Meehan's was a great success. About 40 Rotarians, partners and friends attended, and every one had departed safely before John realised that we'd spilled cooking oil over his new driveway.
- Kevin W announced the details of the vocational visit to be conducted on 26 February
- Bruce announced the availability of a new booklet on the location and contact details of Rotary Clubs
- George commented on the International Women's day Breakfast to be conducted at Crown Palladium on 4 March. RCCMS is sponsoring a table to be hosted by Ann and Jilian. All spots have now been allocated. Students and teachers have been invited from Mount Alexander College, Princes Hill College, and Methodist Ladies' College, together with our Global Grant Scholar
- Neville T reminded members about the presentation by Peter Wilson on 11 March. Peter Wilson AM is a world class presenter. He will speak on the origins of mentoring, how it has been used by some of the nation's top leaders in their careers, and the enormous growth in its use within business and society over the last 5-10 years. **We've catered for 50, and members are asked to bring along a guest**
- Neville also announced that the Membership Strategy would be presented for discussion on 4 March

#### President's report

- The great work done by Neil Salvano in leading the White Night Community Village activity was recognised

#### Sergeant Session:

The meeting was absolutely shattered to hear that the adventures of Sophia were being concealed from the members this week. Sophia's fate is looking rather grim, as desperate Rotarians maneuver to get their contribution into the epic poem before being stuck with responsibility for the last stanza and the inevitable happy ending.

The "Would I lie to You" segment grows in popularity. It may concern members that some Rotarians appear to be developing high level skills in confidently and persuasively lying through the back of their teeth.

**Speaker: Natalie Duke**

#### Bulletin Editor

[David JONES](#) (If you have any comments or questions, please contact the editor)

#### Sponsors

**SERVCOR**  
SERVICED OFFICES | VIRTUAL OFFICES

For all your Serviced and Virtual Office needs call us on 1300 685 612  
[www.servcorp.com.au](http://www.servcorp.com.au)

**STORAGE KING MONASH**  
/SERVICED OFFICES

2187 PRINCES HWY, CLAYTON VIC 3168  
PH: 03 9540 3777  
EMAIL: [monash@storageking.com.au](mailto:monash@storageking.com.au)

**BRANDPRINT®**  
Short Run Print Specialist

Contact us for all your printing needs on 9824 2287 or [print@brandprint.com.au](http://print@brandprint.com.au)

Interested in being a sponsor?

[Download the website sponsorship guide](#)

Natalie delivered an intriguing presentation on the origins and scale of the Melbourne Food and Wine Festival. Now in its twenty first year, this year's festival will run between 28 February and 16 March 2014, Although this festival had been attended by almost everyone in the room at some time, few members were aware of the scale of the event: organized by 18 fulltime staff and supported by hundreds of volunteers this year's festival will deliver a multifaceted program of more than 200 individual events aligned with the theme of "water". This is an evolution from previous themes "earth" (2013) and "fire" (2012).

This is a large scale event, and would not be possible without the support of major media partners such as Fairfax and Channel 9.

Photos;

1. Guest Speaker Natalie Duke
2. Koren with Global Scholar Michelle Head

**[Ed More about Michelle in interview below]**



#### MEMBERS INSPECT AUST POST FACTORY - VOCATIONAL VISIT

An RCCMS party had a delightful morning on February 26 being shown over Australia Post's stamp manufacturing and distribution business at its new Rowville complex.

The tour was organized by Kevin Walklate (Australia Post retail planning executive, Victoria and Tasmania) and included Jillian Cavanagh, Yanpu Zhang, Frank O'Brien, Kevin Love, Bernie Gerlinger and Tony Thomas.

Australia Post moved in only half a year ago, transferring from three sites in Knoxfield to a single state of the art complex. It produces about 1.2m gummed and 2.5m self-sticking stamps a day, and has about 90 workers. It also makes coin packs, collectibles and express and registered post product packs for sale across Australia.

Our guides explained that stamp design and printing is done off-site, and mass produced sheets come into Rowville for perforating and processing. A classic case is the small rolls of 100 60c stamps, sold in lightweight boxes about twice the volume of a match box. This process starts with giant rolls of stamps, each roll of 1m stamps worth \$600,000. They are sliced, rolled and finally pushed gently into the boxes which are made alongside. A squirt of glue seals the box. The final check was fascinating – it would be a disaster for any rolls to contain less than 100 stamps, so the final product is weighed and tested. The weights flicker a tiny amount per box because the glue squirt varies by a fraction of a gram.

The complex caters for both small-scale philately sales to collectors, such as first-day covers, and general distribution, largely to replenish stocks to order from Australia's 3200 post office retail outlets and 1200 corporate outlets.

We learnt many of the mysteries about stamps, including why sometimes we receive a letter with an unfranked stamp which we can tear off and re-use. (Sorry, our lips are sealed).

Stamps also contain all sorts of chemicals to guard against forgeries and misuse. Production cost of a stamp is only a fraction of a cent but distributing them bumps the cost up a lot. Self-sticky stamps are more costly to make than gummed stamps, so only the high-volume 60c ones are gum-free. We saw big volumes of 10c gummed stamps being made to add to 60c stamps for when the new 70c standard stamp comes in.

Despite automation, a lot of personal handling and checking is still needed – otherwise a rogue machine could dispense thousands of faulty stamps and products before anyone notices.

We learnt that one of the most popular stamps for collectors was the 60c one featuring Black Caviar last May, celebrating its world record 25 wins from 25 starts in elite races.



#### SCHOLAR - VISITOR LIKES OUR ACCENT

Posted by *TONY THOMAS*

A District 9800 Rotary Global Scholar for 2014, Michelle Heard, 27, is mesmerised by the Australian accent. "Maybe this will wear off, but your accent makes everything you say sound so much more interesting," she says after our club meeting last week.

Michelle, from Houston, Texas, decided last year to go back to studies, after four years with KPMG there. Her clients included, of course, the oil and gas industries.

She was sponsored by RC Houston Skyline, District 5890.

Her long term goal is to work 'making a difference' using her business skills at an international humanitarian organisation such as Amnesty International.

Rather than choosing a US university, she thought it would be good to study in a different culture. This led her to enrol at Melbourne University for a two-year Executive Master of Arts.

The university tuition fees for the two years are \$58,000, and she was thrilled to hear about our Global Scholar programme from a Houston friend at a dinner. This will provide \$30,000 towards the fees and she also won a Melbourne University scholarship for a further \$10,000.

The shortfall, which also involves her entire cost of living here, will drive her to part-time work here hopefully with KPMG but at worst, waitressing.

She's currently flat-sharing short-term at South Melbourne and is hunting around for any shared accommodation. "The cost of living here – food, rent, transport, entertainment - is much higher than Houston, even allowing for the stronger US dollar," she says. "In Houston some girlfriends and I would share a weekly bottle of nice inexpensive wine and it was always a Jacob's Creek for \$US6. In Melbourne the same bottle costs \$15. That's weird."

Half of her Executive MA course covers the humanities with an orientation towards human rights and international conflict resolution.

She already has an M.Sc. in Accounting from Texas A&M University and she was in the top 10 for Texas in CPA exam results.

She is looking forward to the slightly more laid-back Australian lifestyle. At KPMG Houston, work in the peak season on multinational tax issues was 65-70 hours a week and other times, close to 50 hours. "You become good friends with your co-workers because there's little time for other life," she jokes.

But a top-tier accounting/consulting firm like KPMG gives marvellous training. "I was put into leadership roles when quite young and had to work out how to manage a team very quickly. You can't learn these sorts of management roles in a classroom."

Early last year she spent three months working for KPMG in Hamburg, Germany on international tax. She came back with successful suggestions for KPMG Houston on how to improve its systems. Her boss wrote that Michelle had "made a tremendous impact" on the firm.

Her older brother Falkner 29 is a firefighter in Alabama and her sister Megan, 23, is at university doing a Master's in Aerospace Engineering, with a goal to work for NASA. Houston is a sunny city and Michelle was an outdoor hobbyist, hiking the trails. She's looking forward to exploring Victoria.

#### MAVERICK REPORTER SPRUIKS HIS BEST KNOWN TOPIC

Polemical scribbles and sprays by a member.

Tony Thomas has had a busy past few weeks on the literary and public speaking fronts. His satiric piece about the academic blog site *The Conversation* was cited on Saturday Feb 22 in *The Weekend Australian*, in a piece by Gerard Henderson of the Sydney Institute.

The Feb 7-20 issue of *The Big Issue* (with Miss Piggie on the cover) has a Tony essay as its lead feature. It concerns how he dropped his daughter off at Tullamarine, using her car, and was left stranded in the 3-minute parking zone when she disappeared inside with the keys. This slightly odd home for a Tony essay resulted from editor Alan Attwood's "Eminent Speaker" address to our club on April 9, 2013, during the reign of Kay Stevens. Tony and Alan had a chat later about contributions. **[Editor. If you enjoy Mr Bean you will enjoy reading that story]**

On February 21 Tony published at *Quadrant Online* a 2600-word essay on the Australian Academy of Science, a follow-up to his previous 4800-word piece in the June 2012 issue of *Quadrant Monthly*, "The Integrity of the Australian Academy of Science."

He has a 3800-word article in the forthcoming March issue of *Quadrant* on the dismissal by the WA Supreme Court in December 2013 of the "Stolen Generation" claim by the Collard family, on which he has published two previous essays. "The judgement was 400 pages, and the Judge Janine Pritchard showed off her brilliant forensic skills," he says.

In the forthcoming April issue of *Quadrant* he throws the switch to political comedy, with a 2600-word account of his trip from Perth to Sydney at age 11 to participate in the Communist-inspired Youth Carnival for Peace & Friendship. The comedy arose partly from the all-out offensive by ASIO to cripple the festivities. Tony's train trip over on the Trans-Continental Train inspired a separate essay on relationships of desert Aborigines with the train from 1917-52.

For yet more on the Aboriginal theme, he has just completed a 2000 word foreword to a source book of documents on SA Aboriginal policy and affairs by historians Alistair Crooks and Joe Lane.

He is now working on a review of a concise history of Australia by veteran historian/journalist and colleague Robert Murray, "The Making of Australia" (Rosenberg Press, 2014, 320pp).

On public speaking, he addressed Prahran Rotary on Feb 3 on the sceptic take on the climate controversy, and Beaumaris Probos on Myanmar politics on Feb 18. He'll be giving his sceptic talk to our sister club at Echuca-Moama on April 22.

On April 9 he'll be branching out to talk to the oddly-named Turk's Head Club of Melbourne historians and political groupies, on Hal Colebatch's highly-controversial new book "Australia's Secret War". It details sabotage of the WW2 war effort by unions in strategic industries. This book has been featured in *The Spectator* and highly-praised in Parliament by Liberal Senate leader Eric Abetz in January.

Colebatch is a former colleague of Tony's on *The West Australian* in the late 1960s, and a long-time political foe of Tony's late parents. Tony profiled Colebatch in the October 2013 issue of *Quadrant Monthly*. This 3800 word piece involved enormous reading of Colebatch's output of history, biography, poetry, and even science fiction, for which Colebatch is a world-recognised practitioner.

Colebatch is not well enough to travel east for book launches so Tony co-opted his TV-veteran daughter Ros, who in turn co-opted a top TV cameraman in Perth. They produced a ten minute filmed interview of Colebatch for Eastern States consumption, of excellent technical quality and all on a budget of \$250. See it at <http://tinyurl.com/muqfh6o>

Tony's writings are 98% unpaid, which he says gives him delightful freedom to write what, when and how he likes.

Tony's blog site [tthomas061.wordpress.com](http://tthomas061.wordpress.com) bulges with 88 essays to date. He hopes for his 100<sup>th</sup> by about mid-2014.

#### DUTY ROSTER FOR TUESDAY 4th March 2014.

Chair	Russell Rolls
Sgt	Michael Bromby
Greeter	Barrie Tassell
Reporter	Koren Harvey
Photographer	David Jones
Door	Greg Cuthbert
Director report - International Service	Roy Garrett
Bulletin Editor	Kerstin Steiner