



## Stories

### NEXT WEEK'S SPEAKER: 13 August 2013



#### **District Governor Ross Butterworth**

#### **Engage Rotary Change Lives**

District Governor Ross has been a Rotarian since 1994 and has held a number of Club and District positions. Now retired Ross had a distinguished career in the hospitality industry and since retirement he and Annette have been involved in several property developments.

Ross will talk today on the Rotary International theme for 2013-2014 "Engage Rotary Change Lives" and how we have the opportunity, the will and the vehicle, through Rotary, to do that.

### DUTY ROSTER FOR 13 August

Chair	President Doug Robertson
Sergeant	Michael Bromby
Greeter	John Ilott
Reporter	Roger Thornton
Photographer	Allan Driver
Door	Neville John
Director Report	–
Bulletin Editor	Tony Thomas

### BOARD ENDORSES NEW MEMBER APPLICATION



## Upcoming Events

### District Governor's Visit RACV City Club

Aug 13, 2013 at 07:30 AM – 08:45 AM

### Rotary Foundation Multi District Dinner

Moonee Valley Racecourse

Aug 17, 2013 at 07:00 PM – 11:00 PM

### Board Meeting

RACV City Club

Aug 21, 2013 at 06:00 PM – 07:30 PM

### Board Meeting

RACV City Club

Sep 18, 2013 at 06:00 PM – 07:30 PM

## Speakers

Aug 13, 2013

### District Governor Ross

### Butterworth

*Engage Rotary Change Lives*

Nov 05, 2013

### NO MEETING THIS WEEK

(Melbourne Cup Holiday)

Nov 12, 2013

### NO REGULAR MEETING TODAY

*Paul Harris breakfast tomorrow*

Nov 13, 2013

### Chief Justice Chris Maxwell

### Board approves member application

Stuart Ellis, 56 years of age, married to Joanna with two sons Sam and Will. Stuart is the CEO of Australasian Fire & Emergency Services Authorities Council. Having recently relocated to Melbourne from Adelaide, Stuart has been an active member of RC Adelaide (2001 – 2013) currently on Community Services Committee. His classification is Emergency Services and he will be allocated to RCCMS Vocational Services. Stuart's application has been approved by RCCMS Board and induction is proposed for 20th August.

### CLUB MEMBERSHIP: FOCUS GROUP UPDATE

*Posted by Roger Thornton*

The Focus Group's task is to stimulate re-building of our membership after the gradual decline from 60 to 47 in the past few years.

As part of this strategy development, members will be asked to complete a 10-item questionnaire, via the on-line "Survey Monkey", between August 16 and 23. The output will provide ideas on how we can best understand and tackle the membership issues. The plan is to consolidate all the replies in time to make recommendations to the September Board meeting. Thanks everyone for your cooperation!

### MEETING REPORT, August 6, 2013

**Chair:** Patrick Barry

**Reporter:** Richard Mitchell

#### Visitors

Terry Valentine (RC Dandenong North), Tim Norris and former members Ed Stockdale and Steve Hallis.

#### Announcements and Director's Report

Roger Thornton made mention of the Focus Group that met earlier in the week on the challenges facing the Club and particularly the need for new members.

Roy Garrett made mention of our project for the school in Laos and the President later mentioned in his announcements that the District is prepared to make a grant of \$5,000 on the basis that the Club raises \$10,000.

George Mackie mentioned the good work that Tony Thomas has done in cementing our relationship with Mount Alexander College. It is proposed that the Club will provide funds for students at the College to go to Rotary events MUNA (Model United Nations Assembly) and RYPEN (Rotary Youth Program of ENrichment).

Herb Greenwood (Foundation) mentioned the three Benevolent Programmes that will be covered during the year, every Rotarian Every Year, Paul Harris Society Membership and the Rotary Benefactor Programme. Another innovation is to provide assistance for the Club's candidates for District programmes in preparation for selection interviews.

President Doug Robertson mentioned the Multi-District function featuring Past Rotary International President D K Lee to be held at the Moonee Valley Racecourse on 17 August. Members wishing to attend should contact Doug and so that Club members can be at the one table. The Club has already received intentions of receiving grants from the Police of \$2,000, \$5,500 in kind for the play "The Greatest is Love" to be held on 20 October and \$5,000 from the Lord Mayor's Charitable

Dec 17, 2013

CHRISTMAS PARTY

Dec 24, 2013

NO REGULAR MEETING THIS WEEK (Christmas Eve)

Dec 31, 2013

NO REGULAR MEETING THIS WEEK (New Years Eve)

Jun 17, 2014

Police Mentoring Program 2014 Graduation Breakfast

Jun 24, 2014

NO REGULAR MEETING THIS WEEK

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### Bulletin Editor

Tony THOMAS (If you have any comments or questions, please contact the editor)

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### **Sergeant's Session**

Michael Bromby did not comment on football results this week. Perhaps it might have been because of the drubbing the Hawks received this week from the Tigers. One week is a long time in football! Michael continued on his Wagnerian travels with a delightful piece from Lohengrin. Pat Barry made a most acceptable contribution to the epic poem and there is more to come.

### **Guest Speaker Liza McDonald – Making Our Taxis Better**

Liza works for the Taxi Services Commission and its objective is to improve services to customers and conditions for drivers. She had previously worked with Professor Alan Fels on the review of the industry. The industry operates on 3 layers:

- the owner of the cab who has the taxi plate;
- the operator that has 200 to 300 taxis; and
- the driver who is invariably an international student on very low wages and lives a Dickensian existence.

At present, there is no test for drivers, including international students, but it is intended to introduce this at some time. It would not be as extensive as the "Knowledge Test" that operates in London and requires detailed knowledge of all the roads, streets and alley ways in London.

Liza introduced some interesting facts on the taxi industry:

- There is always the same number of taxis available for hire and it is not possible to bring in more taxis at peak times, even for special events such as the Melbourne Cup.
- There are two service organisations, Silver Top Taxis and 13CABS.
- On one occasion, one of those organisations was so busy that they just disconnected their phone service and customers were not able to book a taxi.

As a personal comment by the reporter, the wholesale dependence on international students who may not even have to pass a driving test in Australia does not instil confidence in the industry. It is proposed that drivers must have held an Australian licence for at least 6 months, but there is no testing for the Australian licence if they have an International Licence which may not entail much practical experience in their home country.

Liza mentioned an innovation that would help to provide better service after normal hours is to have a higher rate after 10:00pm on a Saturday night and a cheaper rate after 10:00 am on Sunday. The best feedback the Taxis Commission can get is the complaints from customers.



