



## BULLETIN

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### GUEST SPEAKER TUESDAY 12th AUGUST



#### **Parsu Sharma-Luital** **My new life in Melbourne**

Parsuram is a former refugee from Bhutan who arrived in Australia in 2002. He is the inaugural recipient of the prestigious New Australian of the Year 2014. He obtained a Master of Horticulture degree from the University of Melbourne in 2004. He is the Chair of FECCA's New and

Emerging Communities Advisory Committee, Board Member of the Ethnic Communities' Council of Victoria (ECCV) and Convenor of the New and Emerging Communities Policy Committee at ECCV.

Parsu will present on his work with Burmese refugees in Australia, his academic and business achievements as well as his valuable work with Police Victoria.

Parsu has represented as a delegate of Refugee Council of Australia (RCOA) and FECCA, at the UNHCR Standing Committee meetings and NGO Consultations in Geneva annually for the past four (2010-2013) years. He is attending the UNHCR-NGO consultation in June this year as well in Geneva.

Parsu's other involved in the community are:

Member, Rotary Club of Coburg, founding and immediate past president, Bhutanese Organisation in Australia; Community Ambassador, Asia Cup 2015; Community Ambassador: Australian Football League Multicultural Program; White Ribbon Ambassador;

Parsu currently works at Victoria Police as a New and Emerging Communities Liaison Officer for the North West metro region based in Flemington.

[Read more...](#)

### DUTY ROSTER AUGUST 12th 2014



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Chair	Russell Rolls
Sergeant	Bernie Gerlinger
Greeter	Neil Salvano
Reporter	Rob Hines
Photographer	Tony Thomas
Door	Kerstin Steiner
Director Report -Club Service	Roger Thornton
Bulletin Editor	David Jones

## **MEMBERS' NEWS**

### **Birthdays in August.**

Koren Harvey 9th  
 Mary Voice 13th  
 Tom Callander 15th  
 John Ilott 17th  
 John Barker 23rd  
 Geoff Fairhall 26th

### **Anniversary of joining RCCMS -August.**

John Meehan 25 years  
 John Ilott 13 years  
 David Jones 7 years  
 Stuart Ellis 1 year

Publishing members birthdays and Rotary anniversaries has been suggested by a member. Your feedback on this innovation is welcomed.

## **SPECIAL MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN**

### **August is Rotary Membership Month: Membership Campaign**

Our Rotary Club was chartered in 1987 and for most of the time since then has maintained a club membership of approximately 60+ members. In recent years we have seen a number of Charter members retire from Rotary, with the result that at the start of the 2014/2015 year, our membership is now 47. In response to this, the Club Board has confirmed the need for a special Membership Campaign to return the membership to 60+. We believe this can be achieved over the next two years.

This is a special campaign which does not replace the ongoing need for every member to continue the ongoing task of identifying potential new members. Once a potential member is identified, the Club Service Committee will assist with the remainder of the process of helping that person reach a point where they wish to join the club. Our members are the best equipped to identify people they know who would fit well into our club environment. When discussing Rotary with someone, the following points may be of assistance. Of course, feel free to create your own:



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## 1. **WHO ARE WE**

Rotary is a humanitarian service organization that joins leaders from all continents, cultures and occupations. We exchange ideas, using our skills and diversity to help solve tough humanitarian problems. We take action to bring lasting change to communities around the world. Rotary brings together people like you, from all walks of life who want to use their expertise for good and whose sense of responsibility inspires them to give back to their communities. With 1.2 million members in 34,000 clubs worldwide, our global community's impact has never been greater, and it continues to grow.

## 2. **OUR CLUB**

Our main club values are built around Ethics and Integrity, Vocational Diversity, Global Peace and Understanding and Fellowship. We give members the opportunity to take action on important issues affecting our community, our nation, and the world. Examples of our club programs include Victoria Police Leaders Mentoring, Community Village in the Melbourne CBD, School Projects in Laos and an Indigenous Women's Refuge at Fitzroy Crossing in WA. We also have a lot of fun, whether we're socializing or working together on humanitarian service projects. Members of our club connect at weekly meetings and learn from business and community leaders, who help us stay informed on topics that are relevant to our community. We make great things happen and have a structure that focuses on action and positive results.

## 3. **HOW WE LIVE OUR VALUES**

We build lifelong relationships, honour our commitments, connect diverse perspectives and use our skills to solve humanitarian issues

## 4. **MAKING A DIFFERENCE**

Belonging to a Rotary club provides members with an opportunity to give back to their communities and to connect with like-minded leaders and friends. People join Rotary for many reasons, including community involvement, personal development, professional networking, and camaraderie. But perhaps the most important benefit is the satisfaction you gain from making a real difference in your community and in the world.

Any member who has a contact that they believe could be interested in finding out more about Rotary and our club should bring them along to a meeting. The first two meetings are as guest of the club and involves no cost. You could also bring them to an event or a service activity. Roger Thornton and Neville John are available to assist if needed.

## **SPECIAL THANK YOU FOR HELP TO AFRICAN VISITORS'**

"Hi President Roy, I really enjoyed the short mention of your club in the latest 9800 Newsletter. Hosting such needy Africans was a wonderful thing to do, and shows the value of the worldwide network of friends your club has established, including with Houston Skyline. Congratulations. Ian Riseley R C Sandringham (9810)"

**Editor;** *Ian Riseley is currently a Trustee of The Rotary Foundation, Deputy Chairman of the TRF Finance Committee and Ilaison Trustee to the Strategic Planning committee. Amongst a long list of senior positions in Rotary Ian is a past District Governor of District*

*9810, a past member of the Board of Directors of Rotary International, a past Treasurer of Rotary International, a past Chairman of the Finance Committee of Rotary International and a member of the nominating committee for RI President in 2009.*

### **MEETING REPORT 5th AUGUST 2014**

*Posted by Frank O'BRIEN*

Our meeting was chaired by Marjorie Gerlinger.

Apart from our guest speaker, Dr Ken Walker from Museum Victoria, there was one other guest, Sara Tanah. Sara was introduced by Anne King who is a mentor to Sara under an Enactus managed programme. Enactus is a US based international organisation with Australian headquarters in Sydney that connects university students, academic and business leaders through entrepreneurial based projects empowering people to transform opportunities into real, sustainable progress for themselves and their communities.



Anne with her ENACTUS mentoree Sara Tanah

### **President's Announcements**

President Roy:

- advised that acceptance of Honorary Club Membership had been received from Ian Angus, Brian Downie and Keith Frampton
- noted that today was the centenary of the commencement of World War 1.

### Other Announcements

- Greg Cuthbert, Director Fundraising, advised that the 6<sup>th</sup> sensational Rotary Garden Designfest will take place on the weekend of **15/16th November 2014** featuring 25 superbly designed gardens. The Rotary Club of Kew founded this activity, Rotary Club of Brighton subsequently became involved and now our Club through the initiative of Rob Hines is also joining in. Gardens are located around Melbourne suburbs, Mornington Peninsula and now Euroa. Greg asked that **we diary to support** this event. Check [www.gardendesignfest.com.au](http://www.gardendesignfest.com.au) for further and updated details.
- Neville John mentioned that August is Membership month and reminded us that it is the role of every Club member help identify new members.

### Sergeant

After a very warm welcome from the Chair (no surprise really), Sergeant Bernie proceeded to ask trivia questions which had mixed responses. Something we did learn however is that, unfortunately, 20% of the world's poker machines operate in Australia.

During this session, Kevin Love donated to the Can by announcing to applause the safe arrival of a second grandson.

Showing his compassionate side, the Sergeant finished by mentioning (to the understandable great disappointment of all members in attendance) that he would not be questioning us on Rotary acronyms this week but strongly advised us to study the four components of the Objects of Rotary for next week's meeting. Possible bedtime reading for some????

### Member Behind The Badge

In what could have doubled for a Member Job Talk, Dr **Kerstin Steiner** gave a detailed talk on her academia life over the last 10 years. Kerstin is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Business Law and Taxation at Monash University's Caulfield Campus.

Kerstin stated that her time as an academic can be divided into 3 segments:

- **Teaching (40 %)** Lecturing to both Undergraduates and Post Graduates in classes both big (600) and small (50).
- **Service (20%)** Covers both internal e.g. Committee work and external e.g. Rotary and as an associate of the Melbourne German Foundation.
- **Research (40%)** This is where Kerstin's passion for her role shone through. Admitting upfront that Research provides a way to promotion (otherwise known as Publish or Perish), Kerstin went on to exemplify that aspect by displaying 2 books she had recently published as well as referring to her various conference presentations and research projects.

She freely admitted that her research had taken her, and continues to take her, to many overseas places (her "peripatetic" ways). Amongst other places, she will be revisiting and presenting at University of Oxford and Osaka University in Japan later this year.

Kerstin has a very strong research interest in the study of Southeast Asian legal systems and has become an expert on Islamic law and a specialist on Islam in countries such as Malaysia and Indonesia where she also visits from time to time.

Through all of this, Kerstin currently also finds time to supervise 4 Ph D students.

### Guest Speaker



Dr Ken Walker, Senior Curator, Entomology and Arachnology, at Museum Victoria was then introduced.

Not everyone may have been looking forward to hearing from a person with such a title but Ken easily kept our attention whilst speaking enthusiastically on "The role of the 'citizen scientist' in caring for Australia's flora and fauna".

Ken said that 'citizen science' is a collection of large scale research projects in which ordinary people carry out the legwork in fossicking for information which in turn is provided to professional scientists, thereby assisting them in building big pictures of what is happening with biodiversity and species migration. He gave us a very simple definition of a citizen scientist ("CS") i.e. a person who adds value to a hobby.

At the Museum Ken said, with the help of the CS, they are able to track species in space and time.....whether it be places of habitation, within like rainfall regions, time of year (breeding patterns) etc. He strongly believes that we learn from the past to plan a better future. According to Ken, the oldest CS was commenced in America in 1900, an annual bird count that continues today.

The role of the CS throughout Australia continues to grow and there is very little that does not escape the eye of these people. They become the eyes of the scientists. Whether it be a recently discovered new species of flatworm or the latest exotic pest, the CS alerts us. Ken strongly urged us to go to the key website, [www.bowerbird.org.au](http://www.bowerbird.org.au), and at some stage we may be sufficiently enthused to join Bowerbird....a place to share and discuss Australia's biodiversity.

In closing, Ken commented that many schools were engaging in this research and placing their results on Bowerbird. All up, Ken said that there were approximately 10 new species being discovered each year. He assured us that we can all become scientists' eyes. Just snap and send!!

Ken is also happy to hear from us by email at [kwalker@museum.vic.gov.au](mailto:kwalker@museum.vic.gov.au)

Marjorie thanked Ken on behalf of the club and presented him with the gift of East Timor soap pack.

Roy formally closed the meeting.



Robber fly devouring Ellipsoidion -

[www.bowerbird.org.au](http://www.bowerbird.org.au) photo contributed by a 'CS' from Mapleton Qld.

This web site is fascinating.