



## BULLETIN

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### GUEST SPEAKERS TUESDAY 19th AUGUST

#### **OUR QUARTERLY SPECIAL - HEARING FROM OUR OWN MEMBERS**

Firstly;

**STELLA AVRAMOPOULOS** - *Member Behind The Badge*

Secondly;

**RUSSELL ROLLS** - *What's new where I work.*

### DUTY ROSTER AUGUST 19th 2014

Chair	Neville Taylor
Sergeant	Bernie Gerlinger
Greeter	Barrie Tassell
Reporter	Richard Stone
Photographer	Tony Thomas
Door	Bruce McBain
Director Report - International Service	Frank O'Brien
Bulletin Editor	David Jones

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6:00

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## **: DIK WORKING BEE RESPONSE REQUIRED BY 19TH**

*Posted by Herb GREENWOOD*

A **Donations in Kind** working bee has been booked for Saturday 30th August - 9.00am to 12.00noon.

Usual place at West Footscray, plenty of parking, good fun and a BBQ afterwards if you wish to stay. [BYO food.drinks]

We need to **confirm by Tuesday 19th August** so please give me a call asap. Tel: 95849226 or 0418355129. Email -click here:- [greenwood@plm.com.au](mailto:greenwood@plm.com.au)

Lets make this working bee FIZZ - not a fizzer!

## **BRIMBANK CLUB HARNESSSES ETHNIC GROUPS**

*Posted by Tony THOMAS*

The 29-member Brimbank Rotary Club has found a way to harness local ethnic groups to raise funds for projects in their country of origin. For the past four years it has organized a ball for fundraising for clean water projects in the Philippines, and the large Filipino community in west and north Melbourne give it big support. "Local Filipinos are aware that every cent we raise is spent in the Philippines," says the club's Past President Bert Mom.

Last March (2014) the "Fresh Water Ball" at Grand Star Receptions at Altona North raised more than \$13,000 and a Foundation matching grant added another \$7000 for the Philippines project. About 380 came to the ball. The \$65 tickets included meal and drinks. Bert Mom has good contacts in the community as his wife Angie came from the Philippines. Member Lou Gionfriddo's wife Nonie is also Filipina.

Next May (2015) the club is planning a similar ball with Vietnamese participation and fundraising for a Viet medical project. This time the club will use connections of member and dentist Mike Nguyen, who has Vietnamese origin.

The first Philippines project was in Kalibo, Aclan, with R.C. Kalibo, supplying medical and rehabilitation equipment to help handicapped people, mainly children. The second project was with R.C. Metro Surigao in Surigao del Norte on Mindanao. This brought water down from the mountains through a main reservoir, then piped it into a purifying intake tank and then into tanks in the local school and village. The project involved a \$12,000 contribution with a \$6000 matching grant. The third project was with R.C. Metro Clark supplying fresh water to five schools in Pampanga, using pumps to bring water up to filtration units into stainless steel holding tanks.

The project this year is in Iloilo with R.C. Metro Iloilo. This is to bring freshwater to Barangays Lanit and Camilig through the use of Skyhydrants, an efficient mechanical process. The cost is about \$21,000 with a \$7000 matching grant.

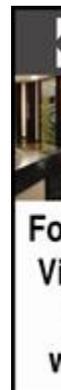
Bert Mom says, "With Rotary Clubs of E. Keilor, Tullamarine and Essendon North and numerous donations, we have able to send a container of clothing and other goods, as well as cash, to feed the people of Iloilo after the devastating Typhoon Yolanda. We are rebuilding the local fishing fleet as this is virtually their sole source of income."

Another innovative fund-raiser for the club was its Community Festival last April all day at Brimbank Central Shopping Centre. The club contracted with a fun-fair provider and added singing competitions, entertainers and sponsors. The fun-fair provider carried the commercial risk. The fun fair was too big for the club to manage single-handed, and it got help from the Baptist Church, Sydenham in exchange for a donation to the church's Food Bank. The church provided many of the 40 volunteer workers needed on the day. The club achieved about \$25,000 of commercial, government and community sponsorships which defrayed the heavy expenses of electrical supply, rubbish, and transport. The club raised nearly \$6000 net and promoted Rotary to the local community.

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Other projects are a monthly Bunnings sausage sizzle (\$12,000 a year) and a Golf Day at Sunshine Course, which raises \$13,000.

All up, Brimbank RC raises about \$30,000 a year for charity.

*Tony was speaker on "Global Warming - A Skeptic Viewpoint to Brimbank RC on July 30.*

## **MEETING REPORT 12th AUGUST 2014**

*Posted by Rob Hines*

Our meeting was chaired by Russell Rolls.

Apart from our guest speaker, Parsu Sharma Lital, a former refugee from Bhutan, there was one other guest; Tony Fritsche the CEO of Mint Group who was introduced by Neville Taylor.

### **Announcements**

The chairman then asked Herb Greenwood to make his announcement regarding the **Working Bee at the DIK Centre** which is scheduled for half a day on **Saturday, August 30**. Volunteers were called for.

A late announcement from Tony Thomas was greeted with various comments from the floor when he advised that he will be giving his "Climate sceptic" talk to Brighton Rotary at 6pm on Thursday August 14.

### **VPLMP Update**

Alan Seale then provided an update on the Victoria Police Leaders Mentoring Program. There will be changes to the program this year, especially around the selection criteria for both mentors and mentees. The program will be split into two streams. Stream 1 will be for senior officers only and incorporated into the Victorian Police leadership development program. The mentors who have already been selected are exclusively senior business executives. Stream 2 will be for senior sergeants identified as future leaders with senior Rotarians as mentors. These mentors come from a wide variety of Victorian Rotary clubs.

### **President's Announcements**

President Roy welcomed Mary Voice back from holiday.

He advised that he had attended his inaugural Batman Cluster meeting and he provided an update to the cluster on the various activities of RCCMS. He also learned that a number of clubs are considering "Corporate membership" in one form or another and suggested that RCCMS could also consider this. He also advised that our club's participation in the Garden Design Fest ['GDF'] was now confirmed and urged members to consider providing assistance to the GDF under the guidance of Greg Cuthbert's fundraising committee. The GDF will run over the weekend of November 16 and 17.

### **Sergeant**

As indicated last week. Sergeant Bernie proceeded to ask questions about the four components of the Objects of Rotary. Most of the meeting had been diligent in their homework save for one table led by Mary Voice that were unable to identify the second object of Rotary. The Sergeant let it slip that he was working through the letters of Rotary for his themes each week. Next week will be the letter "T".

### **Guest Speaker**



Then our guest speaker Parsu Sharma Luita was introduced. Parsu 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.

Parsu talked about his ethnic origins and life growing up in a hostel in Bhutan the son of Nepalese parents. In 1988 the Bhutan Government conducted a census which led to the persecution of Nepalese origin people in Bhutan. Eventually after various forms of harassment many Nepalese fled the country to live in refugee camps in Nepal. A number of western countries accepted these refugees for re-settlement. Australia accepted 5000 refugees including Parsu. However his parents remained in the refugee camp.

On arrival in Australia Parsu studied and obtained a Master of Horticulture degree from the University of Melbourne in 2004. He used his knowledge in co-operative horticulture projects in Australia and overseas. He became particularly well known in Melbourne for his project relating to the growth of the Shitake mushroom.

Following a visit to Nepal to visit his parents the Bhutan Government identified Parsu as a potential threat and started to monitor his activities. He decided to apply to stay in Australia and is now an Australian Citizen.

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. He was particularly complimentary of the settlement agencies and assistance that refugees receive in Australia compared to other countries.

Parsu currently works at Victoria Police as a New and Emerging Communities Liaison Officer for the North West metro region based in Flemington. He is the Chair of FECCA's New and Emerging Communities Advisory Committee, Board Member of the Ethnic Communities' Council of Victoria (ECCV) and Convener of the New and Emerging Communities Policy Committee at ECCV.

Parsu is also a member of the Rotary Club of Coburg and the only disappointing aspect of an otherwise excellent presentation was his announcement that he is a Geelong supporter.

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

Roy then formally closed the meeting.



