



Stories

[This week's speaker: Professor John Polesel - Vocational Training](#)



Professor John Polesel ----Australian and international approaches to the technical and vocational training of young people Technical and vocational education and training have a long history in Victorian schools, but have also been subject to continual review and reform. Finding the balance between meeting the broader educational needs of young people and the need for a skilled technologically literate workforce has created many tensions in the design and delivery of vocational education in schools. This presentation

examines the evidence for the efficacy of current approaches in an historical and international framework. -

[Duty Roster, May 20, 2014](#)

Chair	George Mackey
Sgt	Michael Bromby
Greeter	Wolfgang Jacobs
Reporter	Bruce McBain
Photographer	David Jones
Door	Marj Gerlinger
Director Report - Foundation	Herb Greenwood

[Roy Garrett proposes another great tour of Laos](#)

Letter from Roy Garrett

Members will be aware that our club has run three successful school projects in Laos over the last two years and that a fourth project is nearing completion this year. It is a small primary school in a very small and isolated village, Houay Thao, out of Luang Prabang in the north of the country. Previous years, we have taken groups to Thailand, Laos and Viet Nam and our groups have attended the very moving and unforgettable ceremonies to conclude each project. The Lao people need and appreciate our work and show this at the "official" day. If there were to be no RCCMS representation at this year's ceremony, it would be a great pity.

I am prepared to take another group this year. Because of commitments to our club I have shortened it somewhat and have left out the Viet Nam component, replacing it with a couple of days in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

The trip goes for 13 days and is expected to come in at a little over \$5,000 per person. This includes all airfares, boat fares, accommodation and meals, plus a donation of \$600 to our projects via RAWCS.

If you are interested in this tour and would like an itinerary, please let me know within the next two weeks. If it is going to happen, there is a lot to do.

Roy GARRETT

Fabulous Fire Evening at East Melbourne



A dozen members gathered at Stuart Ellis' Emergency Services office in East Melbourne last Monday 12/5/14 before their trip to the nearby No 1 Metropolitan Fire Brigade Station to see how our fire protection service works. Stuart had thoughtfully laid out a table full of marginally alcoholic beverages.

He explained that fire trucks worked to a 7.7 minute response time, which is about the time it takes for a kitchen fire to spread to the next room. (Ambulances have a 15-minute response time). The city towers are well engineered against fires but the risk remains for homes. His

office looks at fire issues on a national basis, including aerial assets and federal state coordination.

The MFB have been doing emergency medical work for ten years as they are often on the scene before an ambulance, as ambulances are often busy with routine patient transfers.

We learnt a lot about how the fire service operates and is administered, and any notions we had that fireys spent a lot of time in their bunks were dispelled.

At the station itself we watched the shift changeover with briefings and task allocation for the 6pm shift. There were about seven 10-20 tonne trucks ready to roll with a 90 second response time, usually with a second truck from another station routed in in case traffic snarls delayed one truck. About 80% of calls are false alarms.

Fire trucks are increasingly automated for fire reactions, the officer was explaining, when a few minutes later an alarm call came in. With quiet efficiency, a truck filled up with firemen, stepping into boots and fire-suits and red braces. Our president Doug, carried away, slid dramatically down the traditional fireys' pole.



We had explained to us the judgement needed by drivers rushing to a fire – they can run red lights but woe betide them if they cause an accident. Fireys are also subject to worksafe rules. They are not allowed on top of trucks because it is higher than 2m, and a remote-controlled water cannon is used instead.

In most house fires fireys have to get on the roof to lift tiles and get access and this is another issue of worksafe practices. House fires are always potentially dangerous because you never know what a person has stored in his shed, for example, such as explosive chemicals. Drug cookers also cause a lot of fires.

We were excited to get inside the huge communications bus, and talk to its driver Frances, a diminutive female driver. The truck goes to large fires as a management centre and can expand to double its normal

width as a conference centre. It is too high at 4.3m to go under various city bridges. Top officials in the bus run logistics such as meals and coordination.

The station gets 3600 calls a year – equal to 10 per shift. Australia is among the highest performers in the world in terms of containing fires to their point of origin, but good detection systems also create a high false-alarm rate.

As we were being briefed, there was an alarm callout of the big HQ bus to a chemical fire at Coolaroo, and it moved out smoothly festooned with alarm lights and warnings. Then we were shown equipment and procedures for heart attacks.



The service gets 10,000 calls a year for medical responses and the survival rate of patients is very high.

We were finally shown around the "Brontosaurus" – the biggest truck, 24 tonnes, with ladders able



to reach 12 floors high or 37m, and also capable of traversing 15m below ground level.

We all gave big thanks to the station and Stuart for such a great briefing, and wasted the rest of the evening drinking Merlot and eating gourmet pizzas etc at Duca restaurant on Wellington Parade. #

[Victoria Police Mentoring Program - Closing Breakfast, June 17](#)

RACV City Club

Tuesday June 17th 2014 at 07:30 AM 08:45 AM

Registrations for this breakfast are now open and close 23rd May 2014. Please login under Member Events on the RCCMS website and set the events date to 18th June. At the bottom of the list of events click on the Leaders Mentoring Program closing breakfast. Go to the registration link on the left hand side and register for yourself and guests to attend.

NOTE: This is a booked event so If you have not registered you will be charged a \$10.00 surcharge from the RACV Club on arrival.

Enquiries or assistance to register please contact:

Neville Taylor on Mobile 0400 169866 / email neville.taylor5@bigpond.com ; or
Jillian Cavanagh on Mobile 0420 363910 / email j.cavanagh@latrobe.edu.au

RSVP 23rd May 2014

Thanks

Neville TAYLOR

[Echuca-Moama Sister Club Dinner Invitation July 5](#)

Letter from Allan Driver:

Dear all,

RC Echuca-Moama is having its Changeover Dinner on 5 July 2014. 6.30pm for 7pm at Radcliffe's, 2-10 Radcliffe St, Echuca.

Cost is \$50 for a 3 course meal. Dress - after five, semi-formal. A message to President Doug Robertson has been sent as follows:

"Annually, the RC of Echuca-Moama together with friends, sponsors, supporting members of the community and partners, celebrate the appointment of its new Club President with a Changeover Dinner.

Our Club would like to invite you to our Changeover Dinner on 5 July.

Your attendance would be much appreciated by outgoing President Chrissy Weller and incoming President Cliff Downey.

Make this a memorable night to cap off a great year for the Rotarians of Echuca-Moama."

If you plan to attend, contact Secretary, email geoff.tighe@bigpond.com

In addition, volunteers are wanted to assist the RC Echuca-Moama with their major fundraising event, the Steam Rally, on Saturday 7 June and/or Sunday 8 June 2014. Billeting with local RC members is available, however, they will require some notice. If you need further information, please email me or call on 0418 573 803.

Many thanks, Allan.

Editor Comments: The Steam Rally is not a chore but a delightful weekend absorbing the enthralling atmosphere of half a thousand steam engines puffing away and the hustle and bustle of the largest steam rally in the nation. See May 6 bulletin for the full background. The RC there

is full of kind, friendly and enthusiastic fellow Rotarians.

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[Meeting Report, May 13, 2014.](#)



Left: Greg Cuthbert in full cry



Reporter: Kevin Love.

This week's meeting was one of "amazing variety and spice", according to Mary Voice, chair for the day..

In an extended series of announcements

- PP Richard Stone noted the death of Ray Hornsby and informed the club that Ray convened an initial meeting that led to the formation of our club.
- PP Richard also spoke on the services of Travellers' Aid, including the involvement of Rotary Clubs and the need for support to carry on its activities.
- PE Roy Garrett reminded members of the Horizon's meeting on June 22 at 100 Montague Street, South Melbourne.
- He also advised of a fundraising dinner at his home on 26 July. (only limited spots remain)
- Mik Wells sought members support for a raffle in aid of Shine for Kids
- Frank O'Brien promoted the DIK working bee on 14 June
- Neville Taylor reminded members of the June 17 graduation breakfast for the Police Mentoring Program and of the need to register well in advance.
- Tony Thomas promoted his daughter's book "Was it Something I Said" and presented a signed copy to Marjorie and Bernie Gerlinger.
- President Doug thanked Gillian Kavanagh and Stuart Ellis for organizing the vocational visit to the Metropolitan Fire Brigade.

Greg Cuthbert, Director of Fundraising presented his director's report. He identified that a number of fundraising opportunities had been followed up including a photographic exhibition (not promising), a "murder mystery dinner" planned for August and a farmers market which showed promise.

The Sergeant's session included a tale from Bruce McBain that was implausible to many, although Neville Taylor remarked that in his world it all made sense. Tony Thomas continued the poem which, to paraphrase Sergeant Michael, has yet to reach a climax.

The meeting was rounded out by short presentations by Neville Taylor and Kevin Love.

Neville spoke on the work of Road Trauma Support Services which is having a "Shine a Light on the Road Toll" event over the weekend, including a 3 km walk at Jells Park and promotion of road safety by asking people to turn on their headlights in daytime over the weekend.

Kevin gave a brief glimpse on what goes on in preparing a government budget.

[Club Forum June 22 - 8.30am -12.30pm](#)

From incoming president Roy Garrett:

Every year we have a Club Planning Forum to allow firm directions and budgets for our club. As you would expect, a large percentage of the work and the outcome is from our executive - committee chairs / directors and it is hoped that each of these people will attend the Forum.

However, all members are welcome! If you have some special ideas for our club's direction next year or just want to know more about others' ideas, please feel free to come along.

I will be circulating more info over the coming weeks: an agenda, times and a venue for a start. The only thing known for sure so far is starting time on 22nd June, 0830 and finishing time 1230 (sharp!)

Please let me know if you plan to attend and please give me some preliminary notice if you have special matters you would like included on the day.

Regards

Roy Garrett