



Hello Bernie! This email has been generated just for you as a member of our club. We hope you enjoy receiving this newsletter!

Editor: Rebecca RIEBELING
If you have any comments or questions, email the editor.

Future Speakers

Feb 15 2011

Rod Fraser
"The Fraser Foundation and its program of building schools in northern Laos"

Feb 22 2011

Mr Paulo Maia, Chief Executive Officer, HSBC Bank
"Australia's place in emerging Asia "

Mar 1 2011

Prue Simmons
"D9800 Group Study Exchange to Spain in 2010"

Mar 8 2011

Professor Glen Mola
"Achieving good outcomes in maternity care with minimal resources"

Mar 15 2011

Brian Kelly
"Victorian Historic Vehicle Movement"

Upcoming Events

Club BBQ

Feb 13 2011

Vocational Visit

Feb 18 2011 - Feb 18 2011

Eminent Speaker Mr Paulo Maia, CEO, HSBC Bank Aust

Feb 22 2011

Walking Tour - Melbourne's Incredible History

Mar 19 2011

Trivia Night

Mar 19 2011

DIK Working Bee and BBQ

Mar 27 2011

Rotary District 9800

This Week's Meeting, Tues February 15th

by RIEBELING, Rebecca



Rod Fraser

"The Fraser Foundation and its program of building schools in northern Laos"

Rod is Principal of Ivanhoe Grammar.

He and his wife Sandy, have developed a love of Laos and its people and have established a foundation to build schools for the outlying communities in norther Laos.

Duty Roster, Tues February 15th

by Rebecca RIEBELING

Note: Duty people are expected to be on duty at RACV at **Zam** as many guests start arriving from this time.

Please note if unable to attend please arrange to swap your role with another member.

Chairperson	Robin Stevens
Sergeant	Frank O'Brien
Reporter	Gerard Hogan
Door	Doug W Robertson
Photographer	Kay Stevens
Greeter	Barrie Tassell

Meeting Report, Tues February 8th

by Bruce McBAIN

Conference

Mar 31 2011 - Apr 2 2011

ROTARY ANZAC PEACE TOUR

Apr 1 2011

Rotary Club of Osaka

Hommachi 20th Anniversary

Apr 5 2011

Cafe International

May 7 2011

Movie and Dinner Evening

May 14 2011

Echuca Moama Steam Rally

Jun 11 2011 - Jun 12 2011

News

[RYLA - Leading the way](#)

[Group Study Exchange Welcome Dinner](#)

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Visitor: Police Mentoree Detective Inspector Pat Boyle



Meeting Opening

President Anne opened the meeting with acknowledgment of the traditional owners of the meeting site and handed the meeting to Chairman Brian Downie who proposed a toast to the Queen and People of Australia and said the Rotary Grace.

Sergeant's Session

At 7:55am the Chair gave the floor to Sergeant of the Month, Frank O'Brien who, while extracting money and entertaining, informed us that: the 1965 Cyclone that devastated Tahiti claimed 8,000 lives; Super bowl commenced in 1962; not only was the 14th February Valentines Day and 45 years since the commencement of decimal currency in Australia but 45 years since he met a "sterling girl" called Pauline. Although not present to pay a fine, John Ilott copped the blame for the fact that some 5,000 nurses were left unregistered on the 31st January creating chaos in the hospital system as AHPRA struggled to implement a national registration of doctors, nurses and other health professionals. Returning to his money theme, we learned from Frank that 1 cent and 2 cent coins together with \$2 and \$1 notes were but a hazy memory, we also learned that until 1981 Australian notes were printed in Fitzroy. Frank finished with a convoluted joke that ensured Gerard Hogan had a serious contender for Joker of the Year.

Club Announcements

Robin Stevens reminded those attending the **Social Barbecue** he and Kay are hosting on Sunday 13th March at their home in Malvern, that members A-L should bring a salad and M-Z a dessert.

Michael Wells called for volunteers to assist New Generations with a Barbecue on Northbank on 5th March, which was part of a **Welcome program for International Students**. In addition to volunteers the club had also been asked to assist with the provision of two barbecues.

Kerstin Steiner reminded members that there were still plenty of seats at the 22nd of February **Eminent Breakfast**, where Paulo Maia, CEO of HSBC Bank Australia would speak. The early bird discount of \$45 will close on 15th February, and after this date a cost of \$55 will apply.

Alan Seale made a final attempt to sell **District Raffle Tickets**.

Frank O'Brien promoted a visit to the **Melbourne Water Treatment Plant**, colloquially referred to as the sewerage farm for Friday 18th February.

President's Announcements

President Anne advised that the Probus Club chartered by our club was thriving with 68 members, including Keith and Molly Frampton and Tony and Margaret Thomas.

Albert Park had discussed the possibility of a hands-on project in flood ravished Rochester, but it was likely we would do something jointly with

RC Echuca-Moama.

Guest Speaker

Brian Downie introduced Commander James Unkles, RANR. Commander Unkles has had 28 years service as a legal officer with the RAN including periods of secondment to the Crown Solicitor and the Victorian Department of Public Prosecutions, so professionally has a long career as a prosecutor and criminal lawyer. He is passionate about righting wrongs and outside of his professional and military life he has become passionate in seeking posthumous natural justice for Lieutenant Morant, who with Lieutenants Hancock and Witton, was convicted of the unlawful killing of Boer civilians during the Boer War.

An interest in the case was aroused when he decided to research the history of defence lawyer Major James Francis Thomas. Major Thomas was an infantry officer, who before the war conducted a small practice in Tenterfield NSW where he was also active in the community. On the 15th January 1902 Thomas met the three for the first time and had just one day to prepare a defence. By the 26th of January 1902 Hancock and Morant, despite a court recommendation for mercy and their bravery in volunteering to repel a Boer attack during the trial itself, had been executed and Witton imprisoned for life. This had happened without the Australian Government being informed and apparently on Kitchener's orders. Technically all three were under British Command. Major Thomas never recovered from what he saw as the injustice and denial of any procedural fairness and right of appeal. He returned to Australia a broken man. His attempts to return to his practice failed and ultimately he served a goal term before dying a bankrupt in 1942. It was the lingering impact and scarring of the event on the families, continuing today, that inspired Unkles to pursue justice.

Morant, Witton and Hancock were prosecuted for the summary execution of a number of Boers including a German Missionary Daniel Heese, who with the others had witnessed earlier civilian killings. The three protested their innocence on the basis that they were acting under the direct orders of General Kitchener, but although acquitted of the Heese death the three were found guilty. Only recently has apparent documentary proof emerged that Kitchener had issued the orders carried out by Morant. There is a view that despite being acquitted of killing Heese, a finding of guilt and prompt execution was to appease Germany, who together with England, Belgium and France, controlled Africa.

The seeking of a pardon is based on the fact that Morant was simply following orders, there was a lack of procedural fairness and the laws of 1902 were not followed during the trial. The shootings also must be viewed against a backdrop of a Vietnam/Afghanistan guerrilla war and quite unlike any war in which soldiers had previously engaged.

Kitchener had a force of 30,000 committed against a few thousand Boers, whose stealth and ability to hit and run convinced Kitchener that he needed a peace treaty which would end the conflict but show him in a favourable light. To achieve this objective he developed a scorched earth and concentration camp policy for which he utilized soldiers from the Dominions. These were all volunteers who received little training, but from an era when King, Country, and orders from British Superiors were unquestioned.

In 1902 Britain was a signatory to the Hague Convention (similar to today's Geneva), but the Boers' weren't and therefore fell outside the

Convention's protection. It appears Kitchener developed a 'no prisoner' policy. Morant a poet, horseman and crack shot, had previously been reprimanded for the taking of Prisoners and was also smarting from the shooting death of his commanding officer Captain Hunt, when apparently he took part in the murder of Boer civilians. Witton escaped execution, was transported to England where after 28 months goal time he was eventually released on the orders of Churchill and returned to Australia where he died in 1942. Unkles is seeking a pardon on the basis that the three were simply obeying orders and that procedural fairness was denied at the trial.

Despite petitioning the Queen and finding apparent evidence of Kitchener's orders, the UK decided in 2010 that there were no grounds for a pardon as the three should have disobeyed the order. Unkles' argument against that view is that the order predates Nuremberg and that the matter must be decided by the laws of 1902 and court procedures at that time. He is drafting an appeal to the Court of Criminal Appeal in the UK and at the same time seeking a Judicial Enquiry in Australia. Unkles' passion is demonstrated by the fact that he is prepared to go to the European Court of Justice if necessary.

Although Unkles has to-date been rebuffed, he is encouraged that a burden of guilt has been raised from descendants of the three, who are now able to talk more openly of the incident. Just how oppressive the burden for the families has been is demonstrated by the fact that Kitchener, on a visit to Australia in 1909, refused to visit Bathurst until Peter Hancock's name was removed from the local War Memorial. It has since been returned. The Kitchener order and other documents including a petition are available at the following [LINK](#)

Shine On Awards 2011

by *RIEBELING, Rebecca*



The 'Shine On' Awards recognize and acknowledge service to the community by people with disabilities. Eligible Nominees are people who are actively involved in community service for the benefit of others and have demonstrated a significant level of achievement whilst managing a specific medical disorder/disability.

Nominations for the Rotary Southern Districts' 'Shine On' Awards must be endorsed by a Rotary Club. Nominations may be made by clubs, associations or individuals aged 21 years and over. A nominee must sign a consent form and include a small or passport sized photo.

Closing date for nominations: 25th February 2011

Download a nomination form at the following [LINK](#)

Australian Flood Disaster Appeal Dinner

by *RIEBELING, Rebecca*

Wednesday 23 February 2011 - 6:30 PM for 7:00 PM

Italian Social Club, 601 Heaths Road, Werribee



Guest speaker Prof Patrick McGorry AO

Hosted by PORT PHILLIP CLUSTER of CLUBS

\$40 per person \$75 per couple (Drinks at bar prices)

RSVP: Thursday 17 February, AG Murray Verso

Email: verson@netspace.net.au

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