



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

Apr 5 2011

Supt John Todor
"Personal impressions from the Christchurch earthquake"

Apr 12 2011

Club Assembly
"Vocational Service and New Generations committee updates presented by the Directors"

Apr 19 2011

Chris Berg
"Islam and the middle eastern states' economic development"

Apr 26 2011

No meeting this week
"ANZAC Day Holiday"

May 3 2011

Kevin Love
"Facilitating United Nations Negotiations"

May 10 2011

Stephen Gough - CEO Melbourne Cricket Club
"The People's Ground - the MCG"

May 17 2011

Club Assembly
"International Service and Foundation committee updates presented by the Directors"

Jun 7 2011

Professor John Reeder
"Can we eliminate malaria?"

Jun 14 2011

President Anne King
"Police mentoring program graduation"

Jun 21 2011

No meeting this Tuesday

This Week's Meeting, Tues April 5th

by RIEBELING, Rebecca



Supt John Todor

"Personal impressions from the Christchurch earthquake"

John Todor was a Rotary/Victoria Police mentoree during 2009-10. Cheryl Batagol and John Ilott were privileged to be his business and Rotary mentors.

He was recently deployed to Christchurch as Commander of the Victoria Police First Contingent assisting local forces with search and rescue and law enforcement.

John will speak about the heartbreaking scenes and inspiring acts of courage he witnessed as well as the effect that the deployment had on him and his contingent.

Duty Roster, Tues March 29th

by Rebecca RIEBELING

Note: Duty people are expected to be on duty at RACV at **7am** as many guests start arriving from this time.

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

Chairperson	Joel Siegersma
Sergeant	Gillian Farrell
Reporter	Micaela Lapina
Door	Jillian Cavanagh
Photographer	Kathy Ilott
Greeter	Justine Murphy

"Club Changeover Friday evening"

Upcoming Events

Rotary District 9800 Conference

Mar 31 2011 - Apr 2 2011

ROTARY ANZAC PEACE TOUR

Apr 1 2011

Rotary Club of Osaka Hommachi 20th Anniversary

Apr 5 2011

Club Fellowship Visit to RC of Albert Park

Apr 13 2011

Club Horizons/Planning Meeting

May 1 2011

Cafe International 2011 "A '20s Murder Mystery"

May 7 2011

Movie and Dinner Evening

May 14 2011

Working Bee Royal Talbot Rehabilitation Centre

May 21 2011

Vocational Visit

May 29 2011

Echuca Moama Steam Rally

Jun 11 2011 - Jun 12 2011

Vocational Visit

Nov 18 2011 - Nov 18 2011

News

Disaster Aid Australia offers assistance in Japan

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Meeting Report, Tues March 29th

by David JONES

Presiding:

President Anne was absent somewhere in the Barossa Valley en-route to the District Conference. VP Herb Greenwood stood in very capably and he, together Jasper as Chairman for the day, kept the meeting moving along.



Guests and visiting Rotarians: No guests today.

Sergeant's Session:

Sgt. Neville John reveled in having a relaxed time frame. Barry Tassell was again in the line of fire, not only for his Collingwood affiliation but also Neville's fixation with dates and when the ASX Index first achieved the 10,000 mark (1999). Other members were allowed up to +/- 5 years grace in their date guesses.

Announcements:

Herb Greenwood took the opportunity to announce the **Raffle Launch** will be next Tuesday - all members will receive a quota of tickets to sell in this our major fund-raiser for the year. Start your engines!

Sister Club Osaka- Hommachi has canceled their official anniversary celebrations owing to the current disaster in Japan, however 10 intrepid members and wives from our club are maintaining their planned trip and will be welcomed by our sister club. We look forward to their glowing report on return to Melbourne.

Community Services Update:

Committee Chair Tony Thomas gave a thumbnail of current Community Services projects viz,

- Christmas Hampers - Split 50% to Hotham Asylum Mission to assist legal asylum seekers who have a hard time getting established in Australia without any Government assistance and 50% to Steps Outreach, a Christian based charity caring for young people who have lost their way. Tony forecast a possible move to providing food vouchers for these groups in the future.
- "Know Your Numbers" - The annual Stroke Awareness program where we 'man' a blood pressure testing unit attached to a local Bourke Street pharmacy. Our role is primarily encouraging passers-by to undertake a simple, free, painless BP test and to suggest follow-up to anyone who has an unhealthy reading. Volunteers will be sought from our members in about a month.
- Probus Club - Now established in Docklands, it currently has 70 members with prospects of achieving 100 within a few months. The social and intellectual emphasis of Probus appeals to active retiree's

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and clubs around Melbourne are generally having no trouble with membership growth.

Guest Speaker:

Tony Thomas continued to occupy the rostrum and showed his cinematic skills with an excellent movie of his and Margaret's recent trip with a cycling group to Burma (Myanmar). The Film centred on the Mine Thauk orphanage - "Myanmar's Nicest Orphanage". Mine Thauk appears to be possibly the nicest orphanage in the world - the children are devoid of possessions but their conditions while spartan are clean and very tidy. Their spoken English was superb and reflects that they are well educated. It was warming to see these young people respond to gifts of toys, especially cuddly soft dolls, gifts of surplus dolls from two Melbourne granddaughters of Ken Chamberlain the leader of the bike tour party. Cuddles go a long way in any language. Books were also much appreciated by the children having been donated by the Melbourne Council Library and transported free by Singapore Airlines.

Mine Thauk gained its start from a Dutch based charity several years ago and is well run by the current administrator - no evidence of repression, just well behaved and respectful children. The children closed the film singing 'Que Sera Sera' in English, an appropriate view on life.

Tony said there are many orphanages in Burma that had nowhere near the quality of buildings or atmosphere of Mine Thauk. He also commented on the stark difference between the long time static economy of Burma and the vibrant neighbours Cambodia and Vietnam.

Questions were plentiful and all well fielded by Tony who was also congratulated on his committee's successful establishment of the new Probus club.

Rules, Constitution and By-Laws

by JONES, David

Current members are reminded that the proposed changes to the governance rules of the club have been circulated and are open for clarification through to 17th April.

The Board would be grateful if members contact any member of the Board or the Rules Task Force to discuss any questions as soon as possible.

If you have not received a copy of the proposal please contact the Club Secretary, David Jones on 9815 0816.

New Member Barbecue

by MEEHAN, John

The Membership Committee held a social barbecue at the home of Neville and Rebecca John on Sunday 13th March.

Rebecca was ably assisted by Lorraine Meehan and invited guests Assistant Commissioner, Andrew Crisp and his wife Linda. Also present was incoming member Tom Boyle who supplied some lamb steaks from his sheep farm in NSW.



Friend of Rotary - Des Benjamin formerly of RC South Yarra maintains

close contact with our Club and enjoyed the gathering along with one of our newest members Peter Lake and "seasoned members" John Meehan, President Anne King and Justine Murphy.

Great fellowship and a wonderful meal was enjoyed despite the excitement of volatile flames from the barbecue being dowsed by sand and water.

These barbecues are held annually by the Membership Committee to assist new members to mix socially with both old and potential new members and to hear some of the Club's achievements and activities.

Donations to disadvantaged Burmese

by THOMAS, Tony



After showing the club my home movie on how our bike tour group donated items to the Mine Thauk orphanage in central Burma, I had many questions this week about the feasibility of Rotary gifts to Burma.

I rang Tim Anderson of Essendon RC, which has a long history of donations and help to the main children's hospital in Yangon (Rangoon). He said the club and others had marshalled a full container load which was despatched to Yangon a month ago. "It was our first-ever container to Myanmar," Tim said. "The key issue is how well the container gets off the dock there and into the recipients' hands.

"If the shipment goes well, we'll marshal another container in a year's time". The recent container was full of medical supplies for the children's hospital and for two other Yangon hospitals. There were also some educational materials. Virtually all the contents were for Yangon itself, with a very small amount of goods to go to a school in Bagan in the interior, he said. The orphanage I visited is far into the interior, and roads are generally poor. I don't recall during a fortnight seeing any container trucks on the move in the interior.

For the past 10 years Essendon RC has contributed equipment and aid to the Yangon Children's Hospital for sick and dying children from all over Burma. Only parents who can afford the hospital fees can get treatment for their children.

RC Essendon has supplied Oxygen Concentrators, a Defibulator, a Chemical Analyser, Syringe Pumps, Hearing Testers, Surgical Theatre equipment and the fit out of a Pathology Department, all to the value of over \$300,000. A major contribution was also made to help create a dedicated cancer ward. The hospital management says these contributions have saved the lives of over 10,000 children.

Other Rotary Club of Essendon projects in Myanmar have included support and development of the Community Education Centre in Insein, a desperately poor area on the outskirts of Yangon, supplying educational books, writing material, school uniforms and the means to access fresh, clean water. Support has also been provided for the Myanmar Handicapped Centre via giving of wheel chairs and computers for the disabled. Two orphanages in Yangon have been supported over a number of years with clothing, toys, balls, sport items and books as well as supplying a generator to an outlying orphanage with no electricity supply.

Additional projects include the Monk Hospital - a dedicated facility for aging and ill monks, and also the Muslim Free Hospital which is also Yangon's premier facility for eye surgery. As with all health

establishments in Myanmar, "premier" is a relative term, and all these facilities are chronically under resourced, poor and in desperate need of the most basic items. For example, a recent donation to the eye facility was quality sutures.

Over \$70,000 worth of aid was distributed by Essendon Rotarians in Myanmar in June 2008 towards Cyclone Nargis victims. This included paying for the re-building of thirty homes in the delta area, for those left homeless.

Essendon RC says, "Because it is always our practice to visit and monitor our past projects, in April 2010 a delegation from the Rotary Club of Essendon again visited Myanmar and this time provided aid in goods and cash in excess of \$250,000 to hospitals, schools and residents in need."

Walking Tour - Elizabeth Street, City

by MEEHAN, John

Under the guidance of our multi-talented member Paul Maguire, an erstwhile band of club members enjoyed a very informative tour of Elizabeth Street in the City on 19th March.



The tour began at the Victoria Markets and proceeded slowly down towards Flinders Street Station and ended with coffee at Southbank. Along the way Paul pointed out the various forms of architecture relating to the decades since the 1840s. Elizabeth Street had been the main starting point for the goldfields west but had never enjoyed the rapid multi-storey expansion of Collins, Bourke and Swanston Streets. For this reason many of the fine old late 1800s and turn of the century buildings remain and may survive for some time yet. A venture into some of the many lanes off Elizabeth Street show how essential supplies were stored and transported for Melbourne's development and gave access to the rear of many warehouses.

Members who attended include Kay and Robin Stevens, John Meehan, Doug and Pamela Robertson and friend, Paul and Harumi Maguire and their friend Gabrielle.

We are fortunate that Paul has developed this unique interest in our beloved city of Melbourne from an historical and architectural view and offers to share it with our members through these exploratory walks. We encourage all members to participate and enjoy what Melbourne has to offer. Thanks Paul and Harumi.