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

**Future Speakers**

**Jun 7 2011**

Professor John Reeder  
"Can we eliminate malaria?"

**Jun 14 2011**

President Anne King  
"Police mentoring programme graduation"

**Jun 21 2011**

No meeting this Tuesday  
"Club Changeover Friday evening"

**Jul 5 2011**

Presentation on Plans for 2011-2012  
"By President Kevin and Committee Directors"

**Upcoming Events**

**Echuca Moama Steam Rally**

Jun 11 2011 - Jun 12 2011

**Police Mentoring Programme graduation breakfast**

Jun 14 2011

**24th Club Changeover**

Jun 24 2011 - Jun 24 2011

**Vocational Visit**

Nov 18 2011 - Nov 18 2011

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**This Week's Meeting, Tues June 7th**

by RIEBELING, Rebecca



**Professor John Reeder**

"Can we eliminate malaria?"

John is Head of the Burnet Institute's Centre for Population Health. He is also a National Health and Medical Research Council (NH&MRC) Principal Research Fellow and Professor, School of Public Health and Preventative Medicine.

John was previously a member of Rotary's "Roll Back Malaria" technical advisory group.

**Duty Roster, Tues June 7th**

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.**

<b>Chairperson</b>	<b>Rebecca Riebeling</b>
<b>Sergeant</b>	<b>Michael Bromby</b>
<b>Reporter</b>	<b>Doug W Robertson</b>
<b>Door</b>	<b>John Meehan</b>
<b>Photographer</b>	<b>David Jones</b>
<b>Greeter</b>	<b>Bruce McBain</b>

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### Meeting Report, Tues May 31st

by Bruce McBAIN

The President opened the meeting and acknowledged the Wurundjeri traditional owners of the land, then handed the meeting to chair of the day Margaret Stuart who proposed the Loyal Toast & Rotary Grace.



**Attendance:** 32 (including 3 guests)

**Guests:** Koren Harvey, Des Benjamin, Paul Phillips (Frankston)

### Sergeant's Session:

An ugly incident was avoided when two sergeants were rostered, but in the best interests of the meeting they agreed on a demarcation, Roy would run the session and Gerard of "bring back Gerard" fame would tell the jokes. Wedding Anniversaries: Kevin & Veronica Love and Richard & Veronica Stone. Club Anniversary: Mary Voice (7 years).

Serious money extraction then occurred as Roy attempted to demonstrate how little we know about surname origins.

- King (Ceann, Cun, Cwn, Cyng) a Gaelic name for 'behaves in a kingly fashion'.
- Meehan was derived from the old Irish name Mehegan and apparently means 'meeting of the water' and originally a Gaelic derivative for honourable.
- Seale (Sale, Seele) is a maker of seals and signet rings and an old French word for 'saddle'. The Anglo Saxon name appears in Seale family in Ireland 1842, according to Alan it also describes a good swimmer.
- Robertson, son of Robert, can be traced to German Hrodebert, meaning 'fame, bright, renowned'.
- Walklate, appears as a surname in England in the middle ages, derived from a German name for 'foreigner'.
- Wells (Dupuis) dug or lived by wells. E.g. Mik at the Well, Mik however claimed it meant a good looking rooster.
- Stuart, a Scottish name from 7th Century England, means 'guardian of houses'.
- John, a Biblical and Crusader name for 'one who Jehovah favours'.
- O'Briens are descendants of Brian Boro, an Irish King from the 10th Century.

### Announcements:

Marjorie Gerlinger provided an update on the Raffle, as of Tuesday the position was negative \$1,125, currently there are 102 books to return plus shopping centre sales, implying a net return to the club if all 102 are sold of about \$5,000.

Frank O'Brien thanked Roy and Annie for arranging a vocational visit to Mingrit, Roy's chemical business in Dandenong. Those attending had found the visit extremely interesting in raising their awareness of the wide range of chemicals manufactured or packaged at Mingrit and the thriving industrial environment in Dandenong South.

Tom Callander reported on the club's visit to the Rotary Club of Port Melbourne, chartered with 60 members only 4 years ago, it had shrunk to

a membership of 14 of whom 5 had been present. Despite low membership the impression formed was that this was a vibrant and enthusiastic club with a good depth of activity.

### **Guest Speaker:**

Andrew McLeod, CEO Committee for Melbourne, summed up the underpinning attractiveness of Melbourne as a liveable city with "drinkable tap water and the MCG" plus a harmonious multi cultural community environment. He strongly refutes the view that minimising population growth is essential for a sustainable Melbourne. In 1985 when the Committee for Melbourne was formed many saw that the era of marvelous Melbourne had passed, but that this had changed with privatisation of the airport, growth in shopping centres, tollways and the city circle tram. Membership of the Committee is by invitation and straddles business, academia, and welfare, all passionate about Melbourne and with a mandate covering the Metropolis of Greater Melbourne.

One of the challenges of current urban growth is the social cost of a declining population density from 23 people per hectare in 1960 to the current 13. To put Melbourne's population density into perspective, the urban area of Melbourne when compared to the population of major cities over equivalent urban area's in London (12 million), New York (27 million) and Mumbai (87 million). Although Mumbai is extreme, there is opportunity for Melbourne's population to grow. Water is often cited as a problem, yet China supports 1.2 billion with limited water. Andrew making the point that it wasn't a question of availability but water management, he again pointed out the greater use of desalination in countries such as Saudi Arabia which contrary to popular opinion was economically weaker than Australia.

Andrew believes focusing debate on population has led to poor decision making which stunted investment in infrastructure, meaning that as the population in fact grew, we lacked adequate transport. In his opinion the debate needs to be refocused on planning for a Melbourne of 10 million by 2060. A window existed for increasing skilled migration in the period from baby boomers retiring through to 2025 which would be the first year of fully funded retirement income from superannuation and also when the source of Asian migrants would dry up.

Japan illustrated the debate, their focus on population growth had seen that nation move from the largest creditor in the globe to a global debtor, illustrating that the greatest threat to Melbourne as a livable city was turning attention to slowing growth and away from infrastructure and planning. Currently we had the highest housing footprint in the world, this could be reduced by more mixed density and mixed demographic housing which would support a larger population but without a focus from numbers and onto planning the population growth would lack adequate transport, schools and hospitals.

The Club is hoping to organise a special breakfast in September where Andrew will represent and debate these views with a protagonist of the benefits from slowing growth.

### **Our intrepid travellers Tony and Margaret Thomas report on their Rotary Friendship Exchange**

*by THOMAS, Tony*



Our 10-person Rotary Friendship Exchange party from District 9800 to District 9320 South Africa spent May 23 visiting operations of the Ready 4 Life charity group at Port Elizabeth on the south coast.

Outer suburbs include swathes of black townships, thousands of tiny houses with rudimentary sanitation and electricity, and populations bedevilled by a 40% unemployment rate. Most tragically, bare fields around are churned up from the roadside to far into the distance. By what? By new-dug graves for AIDS victims. We were told that one such field was barely 18 months old.

Our first visit was to a high school to see a class where about 30 unemployed people aged from 18 to 40 were being given skills in elementary computer operations, personal development and administration-style English. Our host was Ready 4 Life rep Jacco Wolters, a Dutch specialist in finance and IT.

The goal was to make these students ready to apply for clerical jobs. Without computer skills, they would be back of the queue.

The lesson that day was on word processing – how to cut, paste, save and lay out their work, add pictures, and insert bullet point lists. There was only one laptop in the class but it was connected to a projector so everyone could follow the lesson on-screen.

In fact, there are half a dozen laptops for the class, which are taken home at the end of each day. The reason relates to another issue: this school is barricaded like a fortress against thieves. Doors and windows incorporate heavy steel screens, and there is a formidable perimeter fence. Nonetheless if any valuable gear such as desktop PCs were left in the school overnight, break-ins would occur.

We were impressed by the eagerness of the adult class to learn. Everyone was well-dressed for study and their faces shone with enthusiasm. There seemed equal numbers of men and women, and average age looked like about 20-25.

From there our mini-bus took us to another Ready for Life operation at a nearby primary school. Here the fortress-like ambience was even more pronounced. In fact the school seemed more like a high-security goal than an education place. Steel roller doors were up to 5cm thick and internally the school was chopped into segments each with its own security doors and access.

Here the Ready 4 Life operation has the goal of detecting children aged 6-13 who have 'dropped out' of class for a week or two. Workers then track down the homes of the parents and try to discover why the children are missing class and what can be done about it. Reasons could be family illness, family poverty, family disfunction (addictions etc), demoralisation through hunger, or someone's decision that the child would be better employed as a beggar than a student.

Workers told us that after a fortnight's absence from school, there is a 'tipping point' where the children are unlikely ever to return to classes. This child would then join the ranks of youth unemployed and move on to a dysfunctional life.

Ready 4 Life workers are hardly able to effect any large-scale cures but

are happy to achieve some local and individual successes in returning children to school. Workers themselves live in the townships and know well what home circumstances are like there. Often the primary carer is a grandmother who struggles to cope.

Children's hunger is a serious problem. Many come to class unfed and incapable of learning. Previously the government provided funds for meals at the school – often the only meal that a child might get that day. However, this aid was removed and funding for meals now derives only from charity and the equivalent of cake stalls. The school administration is severely stressed financially on every front. Parents are meant to pay a small annual fee for their children but 80% do not. This cuts deeply into the school's ability to provide classroom materials and supplementary teachers. Meals for children are just one of many competing calls on the school budget.

As one of the Ready 4 Life workers outlined the situation, the problems and his valiant struggle to make some headway against these appalling handicaps, we all felt humbled and tearful. Outside the classroom is a small vege patch, not much bigger than a Melbourne home gardener would look after. The plan is that when the little seedlings mature, they will be 'harvested' and turned into soup. A different take on the cliché about 'planting a seed'.

*Footnote: Ready 4 Life was founded by Dutch development expert Marieke Robers, who has 18 years of experience in development aid through her work for 'Doctors without Borders'. Marieke and Jacco Wolters report to a board of two members, both South African: Linda Jones (businesswoman) and Kas Kasongo (pathologist and Aids-expert). Contact: [www.ready4life.nl](http://www.ready4life.nl)*

#### **More from Tony - An exceptional recycling project in South Africa**

*by THOMAS, Tony*

#### **The "JBay Recycling Swop Shop" - Innovation in aid**

*Black townships in South Africa: crowded, stricken with AIDS and unemployment, and carpeted with rubbish.*



All newcomers to South Africa are startled to find these townships are only a few kilometres from mostly white suburbs of big affluent homes.

In Jeffreysbay, home to the Billabong Surfing Competition, 80km south of Port Elizabeth, a wave of goodwill, compassion and mindfulness is gathering momentum.

Here, a group of like-minded people are following a brilliantly simple plan in which children collect recyclables like plastic, glass, tins and cardboard; deliver it to a central collection point, get paid in tokens (mulas) which they can spend at the 'kids only' swop-shop on the same premises, offering anything from new bicycles (350 mulas) to a bar of soap or marbles.

This project, co-ordinated by Carina de Flamingh and enthusiastically backed by the whole community, gives the kids a goal and a taste for 'work'. Instead of hand-outs, they learn the idea of 'value for value'.

The whole operation involves about nil working capital but needs 15-20 adult volunteers for each Monday. The stock for the shop is all donated by individuals, traders and institutions. The Jeffrey's Bay Rotary Club keeps the accounts and members throw their weight behind the volunteering.

This low-cost style creates a remarkable package of benefits - cleaner towns, paid jobs for kids, educating kids about budgets and shopping, and material benefits for families.

Across the developing world, there are many children who could benefit from a scheme like this, with modifications to suit local conditions. The 'coin-and-shop' model can also be adjusted to reward, say, new mothers who meet a series of milestones for their babies, such as vaccinations and clinic visits.

The Jeffrey's Bay shop, open from 1 -5 pm, sells no lollies or soft drinks and instead, items like toothpaste, toys, soups, cereal packets, shoes, warm tops, underwear, pencils, scissors, and notebooks are all hot sellers. In a single day, some children can return three times with recyclable material to sell.

The shop's youngest client is a two year old girl, who trots in weekly with her small bag of scraps and trots out with a rainbow-colored 1 mula clip in her hair. Children up to 13 swarm in lugging sacks of trash, sometimes artificially weighted with stones. Carina is not offended; they have the right idea but the wrong approach, she explains.

One nine-year-old, Hyne Titus, had ogled a brand new donated bike, price 350 mulas. To win it he brought in 48 bags weighing 417kg of plastic and glass.

The volunteers are continually surprised at the responsible way children spend their mulas – a child might return home after two hour's rubbish collecting with a bar of soap, a toilet roll and a tin of sardines.

Helpers often recognise and help children whose apathy is born of hunger or illness (especially intestinal worms). They also find cases in AIDS stricken households where children are minded by children or raised by impoverished friends of a bereaved family.

The shop right now is just a canvas base with temporary hessian walls around it, just outside the Pelsrus Primary School. The goodies are in packing bins, graded as boxes for one mula, 5 mula and 20 mula products. (Not much different from a 'pretend' shop those Western kids might create in their rumpus room).

The shop opens Mondays for receiving sorted rubbish from the kids, issuing mula currency and registering the kids to also give them a savings passbook in mulas, ready for a big spend-up next week or month. A long line of kids forms up at 1pm sharp, eager to get first crack at the shop's goodies.

Once the shop day ends at 5pm, a volunteer van and trailer arrives to take the trash to the recycling depot, and by 6pm the shop workers have removed all trace of their shop until next Monday.

The recyclable rubbish gets only a small payment from the recyclers – 10c per kilo or 30c per kilo delivered to the depot. The JBay Recycling Swop Shop in its first four months of operation this year (2011) took in over 17 tonnes of sorted waste from 781 kids, and issued tokens for +- 30,000 Rands worth of shop goods.

Donations of stock are essential.

In a typical week, 160 kids will collect and sort close to a tonne of recyclable material. Some kids put in an hour a day collecting and others somehow manage three deliveries in a single Monday.

The projects mix formal and informal systems. Now that it is growing fast, it is putting in submissions for improved grants and donations of services. But there is not even a committee running it. Whatever is needed, Carina calls up helpers and they get the job done.

The scheme is full of small complexities but all are solvable.

For example,

- outside the shop must be a small weighing station
- Glass, paper and plastic bags need to have standardised values
- Each child must be registered and passbooks created
- Someone has the job of flattening bottletops into 1 mula coins
- Stock for the shops must be constantly replenished, priced and packed

for Monday's trading.

- All logistics problems sorted out for bulky rubbish – in the Jeffreys Bay case, between one and two tonnes per shop session. (At the moment several houses of volunteers are awash with shop stock because they have not yet found a lock-up shed for it).

“Above all, this gives hope and a better start in life for kids whose prospects used to be unimaginably bad,” Carina says. “We run all this on a can-do basis. We don't worry about next year, we just make sure our shop is stocked-up and open for business next Monday.”

Contact: [www.jbayrecyclingproject.org](http://www.jbayrecyclingproject.org)

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