



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**

**Jun 14 2011**

President Anne King  
"Police mentoring programme graduation"

**Jun 21 2011**

No meeting this Tuesday  
"Club Changeover Friday evening"

**Jun 28 2011**

Martin Feil  
"An Economist's view of the carbon tax and emissions trading scheme"

**Jul 5 2011**

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

**Upcoming Events**

**Police Mentoring Programme graduation breakfast**  
Jun 14 2011

**24th Club Changeover**  
Jun 24 2011 - Jun 24 2011

**District Governor Changeover 2011**  
Jun 26 2011

**Vocational Visit**  
Nov 18 2011 - Nov 18 2011

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**This Week's Meeting, Tues June 14th**

by RIEBELING, Rebecca

**President Anne King**

"Police mentoring programme graduation"



This event is an "attendance by booking only event" as we require firm numbers prior to the event.

Please respond to John Meehan by email ([meehanjj@bigpond.net.au](mailto:meehanjj@bigpond.net.au)) before 8th June at the latest if you wish to attend or if you are unable to attend. Alternatively, you can register for the event on our Club website. However be aware that if you accept by email or register and do not attend or cancel after 8th June then you will be expected to pay. If you do not register but turn up there will be a \$10 surcharge.

The annual breakfast to celebrate the wind-up of this year's programme for the Police Mentoring Programme will be hosted by our Club on Tuesday 14th June at RACV, 2nd Floor, 7:15am for 7:30am start at a cost of \$25 each (hot breakfast).

All Club members including partners and friends are urged to attend and hear the experiences of some of the participants including a representative of the Police Mentorees, Business Mentors, Rotary Mentors and Presidents from 20 other Clubs in our District.

Certificates of Appreciation will be presented to all the participants by District Governor, Iven Mackay and Assistant Commissioner, Kevin Scott.

Our members will have enjoyed this particular event from previous years and we expect that about 100 people will be in attendance.

**Duty Roster, Tues June 14th**

by Rebecca RIEBELING

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**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.**

<b>Chairperson</b>	<b>Anne King</b>
<b>Sergeant</b>	
<b>Reporter</b>	<b>Barrie Tassell</b>
<b>Door</b>	<b>Marjorie Gerlinger David Jones Doug W Robertson Kevin Walklate</b>
<b>Photographer</b>	<b>Kathy Ilott</b>
<b>Greeter</b>	

#### Meeting Report, Tues June 7th

by Doug W ROBERTSON

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



**Guests:** There were no guests or visiting Rotarians

#### Sergeant's Session:

Sergeant Michael Bromby tested the knowledge of members with esoteric questions mostly involving knowledge of Mark Twain. Unfortunately those on the same table as Mary Voice were made to pay dearly for her encyclopedic knowledge (well almost!).

#### Announcements:

**John Meehan** reminded members that next week's meeting commences at 7:30am.

**Herb Greenwood** commented on the need to move raffle tickets by 17th June.

**Kevin Walklate** mentioned that Bernie Gerlinger is recovering well but would like to see any visitors that can find their way to Chadstone. He also asked members to confirm attendance at the changeover dinner on 24th June.

**President Anne** presented a certificate of recognition to Gillian Farrell, acknowledging her service to the Club over 13 years. Anne announced that the Club will look for joint ventures with Docklands; the Hypothetical is on 11th August; Special Breakfast 30th September; and Paul Harris Breakfast on Wednesday 16th November with Patrick McGorry.

#### Guest Speaker:

Professor John Reeder from the Burnet Institute presented on the topic "Can we eliminate malaria?"

Professor Reeder provided much statistical material on the disease which causes over a million deaths a year. But it was the non-statistical information that informed the meeting:

- countries that have substantially reduced or are malaria free are mainly the affluent western countries (i.e. the less affluent suffer from this endemic disease).
- young children and pregnant women are most at risk
- apart from the health impact, lower school attendance, productivity loss and huge economic costs result.
- some treatments are now no longer effective
- a gin and tonic in the tropics won't help
- research progress is being made and one day vaccines will likely be available and help significantly
- mosquito nets are effective, as are some new drugs and spraying
- internationally, malaria infection rates are reducing
- countries are adopting the: "Roll back malaria control strategy"
- there is no single answer to eliminating malaria

For this reporter the answer to the proposition put in the topic is "yes". But it will be some time into the future. In the meantime all the efforts large and small are contributing to improved outcomes.

#### **Vocational Visit Report**

*by O'BRIEN, Leonard [Frank]*



Little did we know...manufacturing and fabricating is alive and well out Dandenong way.

Among a diverse range of manufacturers and processors, including fish and meat, is a large factory where Roy Garrett spends many waking hours employing 10 people who are responsible for producing and mixing and packaging products, many chemical based, for numerous clients and industries. Roy was in his element showing his dozen or so Rotarian guests around his production centres. Whether it be glues or renders, powders or granules, dishwashing or laundry detergents powders, even a detergent called "Pigtreat" for washing and dehairing pig carcasses and "Tripetreat" for cleaning tripe. Roy even gave us a demonstration of his forklift (one of 4 to chose from) driving skills which he has gained since becoming licensed.

It was a fascinating and enlightening tour and very worthwhile visit for those of us who spend our time insulated from where the soul of industry really is.

It would be fair to say that Roy is one of a kind... at least in our Rotary Club. Thankyou Roy.

Afterwards we enjoyed fine Afghani food at a local acclaimed Dandenong restaurant.

#### **Resignation of Gillian Farrell**

*by JONES, David*

Members heard with regret that Gillian Farrell has decided to resign from the club. In her letter of resignation Gillian said;



"Yes, a much agonised over decision over which I am sad, yet I know it is the right thing to do at this time. Why? No negative reason, just I want to give more in every way to other priorities in my life and perhaps, even if this is a radical idea for me, have a minor rest. As examples, I support Rob a fair bit with his Habitat for Humanity involvements as he is Chairman of the Habitat Victoria Board at the moment; we are currently building a new townhouse (a subdivision behind our current house in Ashburton) and will be selling and moving in the next few months; eleven, plus four for Rob, grandchildren with regular family involvement; golf on Tuesdays, tennis, bridge, socialising; holidays planned, etc. Life is full and great and I am so fortunate.

One of the reasons life is great is that I have had about 13 terrific years as a member of our wonderful club. I have tried to contribute within my limits and have greatly valued the many friendships made, which I hope will continue. I will also never forget the many kindnesses and quiet support given to me around 2007 when my John marriage ended and life seemed pretty grim. Plus I remember the many social engagements in members' homes and the thoughtful generosity and warmth - and all the projects on which we worked.

So this resignation is a much considered and sweated over decision, but in my heart I know it is correct and timely.

I wish Kevin all the best for next year - and then Kay. The club is in good hands and I am very proud to have been a member, and soon to be a member of the Friends of Rotary.

Many thanks to everyone.

Sincerely,

Gillian"

#### **D9800 Friendship Exchange: Letter from Zambia**

by THOMAS, Tony

The ten-member Friendship Exchange from District 9800 to Africa is now being overwhelmed by Zambian hospitality. While Zambian clubs are keen to show us their projects, they are also giving us unforgettable experiences, all involving this country's magnificent animals and the "Smoke that Thunders" - the local name for Victoria Falls.

#### **Try this for a diary for one day:**

**7 am:** Most of us pile into a mini bus for a short drive to the safari lodge of Livingstone Rotary Club members Sue and Mike Welch. This is on a hilltop overlooking a swathe of thorny scrub and savannah.

After wake-up coffee, we each climb aboard an African elephant for a high-level tour of the park. These beasts are nothing like the small Indian variety you see in Melbourne Zoo. My elephant, "First-Born", was a huge male teenager, dwarfing the females who ranged from the matriarch to youngest daughters. They are so used to the company of their African guides, we are told, that they would panic if left on their own for longer than 20 minutes, day or night.

My guide Jonas explains that whereas Indian work-elephants are trained largely by negative feedback, this herd has known nothing but positive

reinforcement.

Jonas speaks softly to First-Born who lurches down the path. First-Born loves the expedition because he is allowed to wander off the path whenever a nice tree is available. He grabs the top of the tree and with a snap of his trunk, and an almighty 'crack', he tears down a thick limb, strips the leaves and continues with the branch in his mouth, grinding off the bark. Jonas keeps up a brilliant running commentary as an 'elephant whisperer'.

The track narrows and begins a steep descent. We are all sitting at 45-degrees and can hardly believe it as our mounts with dainty steps descend their huge tonnage into the valley. We are told they are almost unerring with their steps – one exception being a wild elephant who was crossing the Zambesi recently at low water, from stone to stone. He slipped and was captured on video tumbling down the 100m Victoria Falls. In a thoroughly jolted state, I clumsily dismount and discover that my month-old 'gammy right leg', from a pinched nerve, is now miraculously cured.

**8 am:** We start the walk back uphill to the lodge. Before long two lionesses, about a year old, materialize from the scrub. One of them springs at Jonas and whacks him across the upper chest with her paw. Jonas staggers and laughs. The lioness is just being her playful self.

For the next 30 minutes we form an unruly procession, the lions sometimes darting off in mock fights or niggles. They return in Indian file with one hanging on to the other's tail.

We can pat them but must avoid certain behaviours that could startle or annoy them. I am surprised to find the bushy tip of their tail is full of burrs, but am assured that a few good licks with their rough tongues would get the burrs out. What's that! Fifty metres off the path to the right, sit two full grown lions, monitoring our passage.

The two young lionesses were orphan cubs brought up by Sue and Mike. Soon they will be released into a safe, controlled environment, and their own cubs will be rigorously excluded from human contact in the hope the cubs will revert to wild ways.

**9 am:** We spend some quality time with three orphaned cheetahs, now totally tame. I am reminded of Tiepolo paintings where cheetahs are hanging around the royal banqueting table.

**11 am:** It is now time for us to cross the Livingstone Bridge, built just below the falls and now connecting Zambia with Zimbabwe. The location was chosen by Cecil Rhodes to ensure that train passengers would get a dose of spray through the windows to really wake them up. The bridge is a predecessor in design of the Sydney Harbour Bridge, except the roadway is on top of the arch, not slung below it.

In this case the arches during construction from each side failed by one inch to meet correctly at the centre. Mortified, the contractors retired for the night, which was cold, and in the morning the bridge had contracted so that the rivets could now be dropped in the respective top-most holes.

The previous day we had experienced the power of the falls by crossing the 'Knife Edge Bridge' to a mid-stream island. It was horrific, with torrential spray lashing our faces, rushing water 6cm underfoot soaking our shoes, and the equivalent of tropical storms going right through our raincoats. The railings and path were covered in slippery moss.

Our Livingstone Bridge crossing now is an 'adventure' passage along a

narrow maintenance walkway below the road, similar to the 'over-the-arch' Sydney bridge trips. We are buckled and harnessed up and with two ropes clipped onto the walkway safety lines, involving (thankfully) a two-tonne breaking strain.

With each step across, the view to the falls becomes more spectacular and a gorgeous rainbow emerges in the spray, soon joined by a companion rainbow. Right below us is the 'boiling pot' where the Zambesi reconstitutes itself and surges in a 60kph whirlpool. In the middle of the bridge, bungee jumpers do their heart-stopping dives.

**3pm:** Braver members are now at a small airstrip and buckling into micro-light powered wings for a 30 minute overhead view of the falls and the game park upstream. We each sit behind our pilot with nothing below us but a small bucket seat with seat-belt. The pilot's control is a bar parallel to the wing, which he tilts with both hands. From overhead above the fall's 'smoke', we can see how the Zambesi has cut its way through basalt cliffs and twists and zigzags below the falls to the horizon.

Game spotting from 300m high mostly eludes me. A giraffe no longer shows a neck and looks like a yellow and black lady bird. An elephant is a small grey football. Hippos? Like bugs.

My pilot Frances must have got sick of vainly pointing out animals to me. But even I managed to locate a big bull elephant pounding across a road, maybe disturbed by our buzzing. The flying wing doesn't exactly land, more falls out of the sky at the start of the airstrip.

We have to hotfoot it by LandRover from strip to Livingstone station where a luxuriously fitted-out colonial train is waiting to take us on a rail tour with six-course fine meal, wines liberally included. We enter literally on a red carpet, with champagne flutes thrust at us as we go. The old steam engine puffs and grunts and hauls us through a game park towards the sunset. The carriages are beautifully fitted out with arm-chairs and sofas and it is all Orient Express-like. Just as visibility fades, someone spots a distant rhino and calf – this dignified species is now at extreme risk of extinction by horn poachers.

**10pm:** Collapse into bed, reminding oneself: "Rotary doesn't necessarily exclude self-indulgence."

#### **RCCM-S Members Volunteering for a weekend in Echuca in 2011**

by *DRIVER, Allan*

Continuing in our Club's great tradition of supporting RC Echuca-Moama with the running of its annual Steam Rally, 17 club members, their partners and relatives spent the Queen's birthday weekend in 2011 helping in various ways. On both Saturday and Sunday, the sun shone gloriously after a cold night. Despite the effects of the Global Financial Crisis and the more recent floods of the area, people came from far and wide to attend the Steam Rally.



Earlier in the year, the Country Kitchen was underway, where most of the RCCM-S volunteers work. The receding flood revealed a completely destroyed kitchen with water from the Campaspe River Climbing to a height of around 2 meters in the kitchen. As such the RC Echuca-Moama had to spend around \$7,000 to restore the kitchen to its glory and they have done a magnificent job.

Also, listening to the stories of people from around the Echuca-Moama area as well as from members of the RC Rochester, such as crops and

fences destroyed, houses that are still unliveable and insurance issues, it is a wonder that they still had time to organise the Steam Rally. Consequently, due to the weather and the resilience of country people, the atmosphere was as good as ever. Highlights included the Grand Parade, with the huge old traction steam engines, old diesel engines and classic cars. Most of the RCCM-S volunteers helped Anne Peace make thousands of scones in the Country Kitchen served to patrons with jam and cream along with really warm soup, coffee or tea. It was very pleasing for all the RCCM-S and RC Echuca-Moama and Inner Wheel volunteers to be able to welcome DG Iven Mackay and his wife, Marilyn to the Steam Rally and, in particular, to the Country Kitchen. They have visited 2 years running.

I would like to thank Bruce McBain (Master scone and soup cook) and Lyn McBain (great scone maker), Paul Fear (scone cook) and his partner (cash collector), Tristan, Bruce and Lyn's grandson (his woodchopping skills are improving each year), Doug Robertson (scone and soup cook second only to Bruce), Pamela Robertson (queen of the cash register), John Meehan (ideal soup taster and fire master), Lorraine Mehan (scone maker extraordinaire), Kay Stevens (great with application of jam and cream to scones), Robin Stevens (great soup taster and server), Mandi Zonneveldt (great customer service skills), her mother Sue Zonneveldt (superb scone maker and cream whipper), her Father, Hans Zonneveldt (competent fire maker and water boiler), Athina Driver (great allrounder - scone making, customer service and jam and cream applicator) and myself who kept the fires burning. Everyone was assisted at various times by students from the local high school who, with the assistance of the RC Echuca-Moama, will be going to Cambodia this year to visit many Rotary supported projects and other unsupported centres instead of schoolies week.

John Barker applied his wealth of experience in international service projects to explaining to anyone who came near him about the Disaster Aid Australia (DAA) programs throughout the world and conducted tours of the DAA family Survival Pack that was constructed at the Rally. John was able to collect around \$1,500 in donations. This would have been very pleasing for Dianne Holland, DAA Response Team member and a member of the RC Echuca-Moama.

Our thanks to Anne Peace, who organised our wonderful get together at the Shamrock Hotel on Saturday night where around 16 of us attended for great fellowship. It was also very pleasing to see Rich Reid there as well as we only saw him fleetingly during the day rushing around delivering essential items to all and sundry stalls.