



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**

**Jul 5 2011**

Presentation on Plans for 2011-2012

"By President Kevin and Committee Directors"

**Jul 12 2011**

Paul Maguire

"Art Nouveau: Secessionist? Art Deco?"

**Jul 19 2011**

Richard Keddie

"Telling Stories - Finding Your Message"

**Jul 26 2011**

Ms Charlene (Charlie) Hewat

"Sustainable Wildlife Conservation in Zimbabwe"

**Upcoming Events**

**Vienna, Art and Design**

Jul 13 2011

**Vocational Visit**

Nov 18 2011 - Nov 18 2011

**News**

Loreto Vietnam Australia Program update

This eBulletin has been generated by **ClubRunner** club communication software. Visit [clubrunner.ca](http://clubrunner.ca) for details.

© 2002- 11 Doxess. All Rights Reserved.

**ClubRunner Sponsors**



**This Week's Meeting, Tues July 5th**

by RIEBELING, Rebecca

**Presentation of Plans for 2011-12**

President Kevin Walklate and Committee Directors will present on Plans for the 2011-12 Rotary Year.

**Duty Roster, Tues July 5th**

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>Peter Lake</b>
<b>Sergeant</b>	<b>Edward Stockdale</b>
<b>Reporter</b>	<b>Joel Siegersma</b>
<b>Door</b>	<b>Jillian Cavanagh</b>
<b>Photographer</b>	<b>Frank O'Brien</b>
<b>Greeter</b>	<b>Brian Downie</b>

**Meeting Report, Tues June 28th**

by Bruce McBAIN

**The meeting commenced at 7:40am with 45 members and guests present.**

President Kevin Walklate welcomed visiting Rotarians and Guests:

Outgoing District Governor Iven McKay; ADG Alan Freedman; John Morrow (outgoing District Secretary); Henry Dury (North Melbourne); and James Carter (Rochester)

**Sergeant's Session**



Please visit our Sponsors.  
To place your ad [click here](#).

#### Club Site Sponsors



Please visit our Club Website  
Sponsors.  
To place your ad [click here](#).

Sergeant Ed Stockdale, after collecting the usual anniversary fines, provided a primer on United States History covering the period of Independence and the co-incidental folklore similarities between President Lincoln and Kennedy, both of whom were assassinated.

Both were elected to Congress in '46 but 100 years apart, both became President in '60 (1860 & 1960), both lost children whilst living in the White House, Lincoln was shot in the Ford Theatre, Kennedy was shot in a Lincoln made by Ford, both were shot on a Friday. Booth shot Lincoln in a theatre and fled to a warehouse, Oswald reversed the order, Lincoln was succeeded by Andrew Johnson born 100 years before Lyndon Johnson who succeeded Kennedy.

#### Member Induction - Koren Harvey

Koren was inducted by Past President and Chair of the Day Anne King and presented with her membership brooch by the outgoing District Governor Iven McKay. In welcoming our newest member ADG Alan Freedman provided a biographical sketch. Koren first came into contact with Rotary as an exchange student to Germany, following that experience she became actively involved in Rotex in the District for 5 years and participated in a GSE team to Sweden. Her commitment and involvement led to her recognition as a Paul Harris Fellow. Initially a secondary school teacher, Koren was instrumental in organising a school exchange with Germany. Koren has since switched careers and is active in Small Business development and is also a Civil Celebrant.

Koren responded to the welcome by saying she was thrilled and honoured to join Rotary and was looking forward to the experience.

#### Raffle Draw

The raffle was drawn by Iven McKay with first prize of Boise Sound System with 50" TV screen going to Richard Stone, second prize Tony Thomas and third prize Fiona Stevens. Marjorie Gerlinger advised that the raffle had contributed \$4,850 to the Club.

#### Club Receives Presidential Citation

Outgoing District Governor Iven McKay presented PP Anne King the Citation awarded to the Club by the 2010-11 World President.

#### President's Announcements

Membership fee for 2011-12 remains unchanged at \$280.  
Breakfast cost will rise to \$26 from next meeting.  
The Club has received a letter from Austin Hospital thanking the volunteer team who had worked in the sensory garden and the Club for its funding of mulch and plants.

#### Guest Speaker

Guest Speaker Martin Feil presented his opinion of the economic consequences of implementing a Carbon Tax and an Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) in Australia. During question time Kevin Love briefly

outlined the Government proposals explaining that the proposed set price for carbon (often referred to as a tax) was the first stage of implementing an ETS.

### **Meeting Close**

Chairperson Anne thanked the speaker and presented him with a gift of boxed, handcrafted Timor soap. President Kevin then closed the meeting by thanking visiting Rotarians and guests and reminding members of the 2011-12 Rotary theme: **Reach Within to Embrace Humanity**

### **Zimbabwe's Rotary Clubs have a tough struggle**

*by THOMAS, Tony*

The ten-person outbound Rotary Friendship Exchange group from District 9800 to Africa's D9210 has had some surprises during its three-day hosting in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe.

Victoria Falls is a relatively prosperous part of Zimbabwe, only a kilometre from the cataract and attracting hordes of hard-currency tourists.

The town is so closely linked to the surrounding national game park that elephants often wander into the suburbs knocking down walls to get at garden trees. Packs of warthogs, tails lifted at 90 degrees, scurry down the sidestreets without attracting a second glance.

District 9210 covers Zambia, Malawi, Zimbabwe and Mozambique. Our team expected depressed conditions inside Zimbabwe. Instead, it discovered a thriving tourist town and a local Rotary Club kicking goals (with some difficulty) on significant charity projects.

A sign of the country's previous crises is the souvenirs sold to tourists in Victoria Falls by street hawkers – 50 and 100 trillion (yes, trillion!) dollar ex-official banknotes.

One of our hosts was Barbara Murasiranwa, past Assistant Governor of D9210 and a stalwart of RC Victoria Falls. Barbara was until June 2011 managing director of a thriving tourist operator in Victoria Falls, Shearwater Adventures, which pioneered white water rafting, helicopter rides, canoeing adventures, jet boating and bungy jumping from Livingstone Bridge by the falls (this is a joint and hair-raising Zimbabwe-Zambian business). Barbara now runs her own wholesale travel company and can afford to devote more time to the Rotary club.

Zimbabwe's recent economic turnaround – based partly on a switch to US dollar and Rand currency - has led to a revival in Rotary membership.

'The local dollar hyper-inflation a few years ago wiped out the savings of many Rotarians who were in business or on salaries,' she says. 'And pensioner-members also found their pension income had become worthless. For all these people, Rotary dues became unaffordable.'

In 2005 the club fell to only twenty members from the original charter member total of 33 in 2002.

The club still has some members who are struggling to pay their dues. The club fund-raises with small events to help them out.

Barbara is among a small group of members who donate significant amounts to the club and the District.

It has now revived to 26 members but half a dozen are inactive and are being weeded out in favour of new young recruits, she says.

Other membership problems include the need for many members to work long hours in their jobs, and high turnover as businesses re-locate staff.

Barbara says, 'Westerners who have not travelled here, naturally believe all the bad things about Zimbabwe they read and see in the media. They think that there is nothing standing here, and that all the infrastructure is in ruins, and that everyone can barely survive.

'It is true there is some starvation in some parts of my country but the average educated person here is doing well and now has the ability to think about charity work.'

Some years ago external donors to the country pulled back, she says, and RI also minimised funding from 2000-2009 due to the many uncertainties surrounding Zimbabwe's stability.

Because the District encompasses other countries like Zambia which were viewed by the Westerners as less risky, funds still found their way into the District with no problems and clubs like RC Victoria Falls benefited immensely.

'Even now, Zimbabwe cannot host Group Study Exchange teams from the US, but such teams can go to the other three countries in District 9210. However, the use of the US dollar in Zimbabwe does allow us to send GSE teams to the US.

'Basically we at Victoria Falls RC are so grateful for whatever you can send through to us from your clubs. We would like to do so many more projects. Our needs here are truly great, but we have no funds to take on new challenges,' she says.

Major projects just completed by the club include building two classrooms at Chamabondo Primary School, and an ablution block for the Chinotimba aged care home.

Our D9800 Friendship Exchange party from Victoria toured both projects – and was impressed by their quality.

The club has also fitted out local classrooms with donated chairs and desks. A problem is that to raise funds, the schools have to hire out their rooms on Sunday to churches which lack their own buildings, and scores of adults singing and dancing in the small classrooms cause the children's desks to crack up within a year or two.

The club's income for 2010-11 was USD31,000 (raised locally and from overseas donors). I asked Barbara how, in an area with such huge needs for charity, the clubs prioritised their projects. She says, 'We look to strategic goals within our ability. We must be focused. It might be water supply in one year, or literacy in another, providing books, school hardware and scholarships to bright children – which are very expensive. We can't scatter our funds.

'But we earmark special funds for some urgent ad hoc things that come up. If we find a person badly in need of costly surgery, we can't wait to go through channels to apply for funds from Australia, for example. One ad hoc project is supporting care for a baby with hydrocephalus.'

One of the club's great fund raisers is its annual golf day – the first in 2010 raised USD3200 which repaired the main hospital's generator and purchased some hospital supplies.

'We also have nine bingo nights annually where we take our kids, who love it,' Barbara says. 'I am proud to be a Rotarian.'

Footnote: Since chartering in 2002, Victoria Falls RC has been assisted by 15 overseas clubs, mostly in the US. One Australian club that assisted was Pakenham (Vic) RC (D9820).

District 9210 has 58 clubs, most with 20-30 members but a few with

60+. Because they are so far apart, and communications are poor, 15 assistant governors each look after a handful of clubs only.

Photo: Barbara Murasiranwa

