



BULLETIN

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GUEST SPEAKER TUESDAY 22nd JULY



Ed Pettitt

Rotary and Baylor College of Medicine in Africa

Building a brighter future for children and adolescents with HIV/AIDS

In 15 years, the Baylor College of Medicine International Pediatric AIDS Initiative at Texas Children's Hospital (BIPAI) has grown from one paediatric AIDS clinic in Romania to a network of operations stretching across sub-Saharan Africa. BIPAI, in partnership with host country governments and private partners, now provides free of charge, state-of-the-art paediatric HIV care, treatment and support to over 200,000 HIV-infected children and their families, about double the number of HIV-infected children living in the U.S., Canada, and Western Europe combined.

BIPAI's first African clinical centre of excellence (COE), in Botswana, now treats over 4,000 children, most of whom are now surviving into adolescence. It is expected that the number of HIV positive adolescents enrolled in care will double by 2015.

Despite this nationwide trend, there is a paucity of psychosocial support programs addressing adolescents' specific issues, which led the Botswana-Baylor COE to partner with the Rotary Club of Gaborone, along with a network of Rotary Clubs in the U.S. and beyond via a Global Grant, to build and equip an adolescent HIV/AIDS centre. First of its kind in Botswana and the African continent, the Phatsimong Adolescent Center is a safe and welcoming place where adolescents receive life skills education and health counselling, leading to improved clinical and mental health outcomes as well as a healthy transition into adulthood.

Ed Pettitt is a Rotarian with the Houston Skyline Rotary Club and a visiting Rotarian with the Rotary Club of Gaborone, in Botswana, where he is currently working as a Senior Project Coordinator for the Baylor College of Medicine International Pediatric AIDS



Upcc

Fund

Jul 21
7:00

Camp

Camp
Aug 1
Aug 1

Boar

RACV
Aug 1
6:00

Murd

Aug 1
7:00

Distr

RACV
Aug 1
7:15

Spea

Jul 21
Ed Pe
Rotar
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Jul 21

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Initiative. Ed oversees the world's largest network of peer support programs for adolescents living with HIV and is also helping to launch a paediatric genomics research initiative in sub-Saharan Africa.

Ed has also served as a HIV/AIDS technical expert for the World Health Organization and UNICEF and is co-founder of the Houston Global Health Collaborative. He is a Rotary International Paul Harris Fellow.

[Read more...](#)

DUTY ROSTER JULY 22 2014

Chair	Anne King
Sergeant	Bernie Gerlinger
Greeter	Wolfgang Jacobs
Reporter	Neville John
Photographer	Allan Driver
Door	Koren Harvey
Director Report - Vocational Services	David Jones
Bulletin Editor	David Jones

NO 'IF' ABOUT IT - IFTAR MEETING A GREAT SUCCESS

Posted by Roger Thornton

Iftar Dinner in conjunction with the Australian Intercultural Society (AIS).

Instead of our regular Tuesday breakfast meeting, nearly 30 RCCMS members joined about 60 guests at 5:45pm to partake of Iftar, the breaking of the Muslim daily fast during Ramadan, in the office of the Australian Intercultural Society (AIS).

Guests included dignitaries, such as *Dr Peter Hollingsworth*, former Governor General of Australia, *Kerem Birinci* and *Selahattin Tumer*, from the Turkish Consulate, and *Frank McGuire*, State Member of Parliament for Broadmeadows. Rotary was represented by D9800 District Governor, *Dr Murray Verso* and President *Roy Garrett*, while AIS was represented by *Ahmet Polat*, its Executive Director.

Andrew Crisp, Assistant Commissioner of Police for Northwest Metropolitan Region, was the MC for a very tightly timed and busy evening's program, designed both to educate attendees about Ramadan and to share in a celebratory meal.

Guests started arriving at 4:45pm, sufficient time to enjoy some pre dinner fellowship. Andrew invited Roy Garrett and then Ahmet Polat to welcome their guests. President Roy said this was a breakthrough evening for RCCMS, an essentially monocultural club but one that recognises the need to diversify its membership and better appreciate other cultures. Ahmet Polat said that AIS has been arranging Iftars, both large and small, for the past 15 years with the aim of increasing community understanding, strengthening social cohesion and contributing to a better society.

At 5:25pm Andrew stated that in mosques around the world the call to the early evening prayer signals the end of the fast and the beginning of the Iftar dinner. He called on *Ali Gurdag*, Sergeant at Melbourne East Police Station, to make the Arabic call to prayer or azan. After the prayer dinner commenced with the traditional dates and water followed by a delicious Turkish meal, including a lamb stew hünkar beğendi ("the Sultan's delight").

After dinner *Mustafa Kadioglu*, who teaches Religion and Values at Sirius College, recited from the Holy Quran, Chapter 55: Ar-Rahman, Verses 1-25, whilst a translation was projected onto a screen.

The first speaker of the evening was *Omer Atilla Ergi*, the General Coordinator of the Serenity Islamic Research Academy, whose topic was the significance of Ramadan. He said that Ramadan is the ninth and holiest month

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in the Islamic calendar when all Muslims, above the age of puberty, fast from sun up to sun down. Fasting is one of the five pillars of Islam and an obligatory act of worship. He explained there are three aspects to fasting: physical, spiritual and social. Fasting is good physically because it leads to detoxification and spiritually because it curbs carnal desire and allows the worshipper to focus on spiritual matters. Its social importance is that it leads to the tradition, initiated by Abraham, of sharing food which helps to build bridges and develop strong friendships.

Guests were then entertained with a performance by a whirling dervish. His dance is an act of meditation done by Sufi Muslims. By revolving from right to left around the heart the dancer, or *semazen*, embraces all humanity with love. He was accompanied on the lute by *Zakir Yildirim*, President of the Istanbul Arts and Culture Centre, and *Burak Kula* on the guitar.

The second keynote speaker for the evening was Murray Verso, who gave a succinct explanation of Rotary, its origins, history, philosophy and major projects. He said that right from the beginning Paul Harris identified friendship as the motive power of Rotary. Murray explained that the Object of Rotary is to encourage and foster the ideal of service, based on four principles: development of friendships, high ethics, advancement of international understanding and service above self.

As a sign of appreciation, speakers and organisers of the evening's event were then presented with gifts, because Prophet Muhammad once said "he who does not thank people does not thank God".

Following the presentation of gifts Frank McGuire spoke and said that his electorate of Broadmeadows has the highest Muslim and Turkish population of any electorate in Victoria. He recalled the words of Turkish President Mustafa Kemal Atatürk who in 1934 wrote a tribute to the Anzacs who died at Gallipoli and said "there is no difference between the Johnnies and the Mehments to us where they lie side by side now". Frank said the Johnnies and Mehments live side by side in Broadmeadows today.

A vote of thanks was presented by *Teresa de Fazio*, Commissioner at the Victorian Multicultural Commission, who continued the theme of friendship and building bridges. She thanked the speakers and said their talks provided a lens through which we could see how powerful such fellowship can be.

Concluding remarks were provided by *Ergun Kirmaci*, AIS President, before the meeting ended at 7:40pm.

IFTAR DINNER - Photos



MEMBER NEWS

Honorary Member, Lou Butterfield

Update from John Meehan

Further to previous update, Lou has recently been transferred from hospital to high-care at "**Ranelagh Gardens**

Nursing Home" situated at 1, St John's Lane, Mt Eliza 3930 (on corner of Nepean Highway and Mt Eliza Way). He is dressed and out of bed daily and states that he is quite comfortable. He is receiving physiotherapy weekly but not yet able to walk freely.

The Home can be found on website: raelaghgardens.com.au He has no access to emails at present but Lou has invited his Rotary friends to visit him at any time or simply phone his private number- **9775 4891** to say hello. He is an avid reader and would welcome any books of any kind. In the meantime Pat is residing with her son Geoff in South Frankston and is well.

DISTRICT CONFERENCE, MARCH 2015



Registration for the 2015 District 9800 Conference is now open. The conference will be held in Hobart, Tasmania at the Wrest Point Casino and Hotel.

Accommodation at discount rates is available, but in short supply.

Groups Tasmania has prepared pre and post Conference tours so that you may enjoy the company of other Rotarians before and after the conference. A great way to meet other like minded people from neighbouring Rotary Clubs and a wonderful opportunity to create some friendships that may blossom not only for your stay in Hobart, but continuing on when you return to Melbourne.

Day tours are also available for you and your partner. Several surprise activities are planned and will be announced in future Conference Newsletters.

To book now please click [HERE](#).

NEW MEMBERS - FUTURE CLUB LEADERS



Rotary International District 9800 Learning, Leading and Development Pathways



**Free District sponsored seminars for
New Members & Future Club Leaders**

The New Member Seminar, [Monday 18th August 6.30pm] is an interactive 2 hour seminar giving new Rotarians a better understanding of Rotary's Philosophies, Core Values, Avenues of Service, Priorities and Goals.

The **Future Club Leaders Seminar** [Monday 1st September 6.30pm] is another interactive 2 hour seminar designed to give potential club leaders some understanding of leadership in general, how Rotary trains and supports its leaders and how you can lead a club committee or the club itself.

Registration forms are available now – contact David Jones, Tel 9899 8676.

INTERNATIONAL POLIO EMERGENCY

A Message from District Governor.

We would like to let you know that the World Health Organisation has just declared the situation with the fight against polio an **international public health emergency**. This reflects the dramatic increase in the number of cases of polio in the first quarter of 2014, compared to Q1 of 2013, particularly in Pakistan (up from 6 to 54 YTD).

We hope and expect that the declaration of the international public health emergency will see the application of additional resources to the vaccination programs in these areas. The situation underscores the importance of Rotary continuing our fundraising efforts and our advocacy. Rotary has 1.2 million voices and *it would make a real difference if members in your club were to continue to use their influence in your community and highlight this new and dangerous situation.*

The virus has been jumping from country to country — Pakistan to Afghanistan, Syria to Iraq, and Cameroon to Equatorial Guinea — and the WHO has recommended that travellers from these countries should carry an internationally recognised document certifying that they have been vaccinated. Dramatic increases in vaccination programs in several countries, including Pakistan, Syria and Cameroon, have also been recommended. However in the northern provinces of Pakistan some hundreds of thousands of children remain not vaccinated because of the military situations.

While the situation is very volatile, we need to remember that the number of cases in early 2013 (before the outbreak in Somalia) was extraordinarily low. Also, the systems that the GPEI has put in place to respond to emergencies have been extremely impressive. However factors such as the war in Syria and the bans on vaccination in parts of Pakistan make the situation dangerous and unpredictable.

You can find early news stories in the international press at:

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-27284389>

<http://www.nytimes.com/2014/05/06/health/world-health-organization-polio-health->

[emergency.html? r=0](#)

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2014-05-05/polio-declared-emergency-as-conflicts-fuel-virus-spread.html>

[Read more...](#)