



Stories

CASUAL GET-TOGETHER, RACV BISTRO TUES JAN 7

No meeting Jan 7 but if you'd like to join us at RACV Bistro for an informal breakfast, pls let Neville Taylor know.

Duty Roster for Tuesday 14th Jan 2014

Chair	Marg Gerlinger
Sgt	Michael Bromby/Mary Voice
Greeter	Barrie Tassell
Reporter	Pat Barry
Photographer	Roger Thornton
Door	Greg Cuthbert
Intl Director Report	Roy Garrett
Bulletin Editor	Tony Thomas

"TREE OF JOY" PROGRAM



The successful Christmas Tree of Joy program, with Alan Seale and Tower givers.

With some creative networking, President Doug got in touch with the Rotary Club of Belrose in Sydney who for many years have run a very successful Christmas Tree giving program called "The Tree of Joy". Doug consulted with some RCCMS board members and convinced them this was a worth a go and approached Tower Australia Limited in Melbourne. Tower have been the willing partner of RC Belrose in Sydney and were happy to extend it to Melbourne with our support.

Briefly, Tower provided the Christmas tree in their foyer and RCCMS arranged for printed tags nominating gifts selected by charities we work with to be placed on the tree. Staff wishing to donate select a tag and purchase the nominated gift. Roger Thornton managed the program with assistance from Marjorie Gerlinger and others.

Roger was not sure what the response would be but was delighted when he and Alan Seale went to pick up the gifts on Friday December 20th. Over 60 items had been placed under the tree and have been distributed to Lentara, Steps Ministry and Shine for Kids.

This would not have happened if Doug had not taken the initiative to "steal a good idea" and Roger and others volunteered to help make it happen during an already busy period. The Club has made a bunch of kids much happier this Christmas.

Doug's ambition now is to extend this program to other corporates in the CBD and to use this collaboration to build a closer relationship with these firms, so watch this space!

MOUNT ALEXANDER COLLEGE PRESENTATION



Upcoming Events

Board Meeting
RACV City Club

Jan 15, 2014 at 06:00 PM – 07:30 PM

Peninsula BBQ

Feb 16, 2014

Board Meeting
RACV City Club

Feb 19, 2014 at 06:00 PM – 07:30 PM

Speakers

Dec 24, 2013
NO REGULAR MEETING THIS WEEK (Christmas Eve)

Dec 31, 2013
NO REGULAR MEETING THIS WEEK (New Years Eve)

Jan 07, 2014
Informal Breakfast in RACV Bistro

Jan 14, 2014
Wendy Brooks BMus, Grad LLB (Hons), MAICD

How an Unequal Society Hurts us all - and What We can do About it

Jan 21, 2014
Bernard McMenamin FCA, FCPA, CTA, TEP
Estate Planning

Feb 11, 2014
Dr Elizabeth Pittman
Medical Charlatans and Frauds

[View entire list](#)

Bulletin Editor

David JONES (If you have any comments or questions, please contact the editor)

Sponsors



Our club on December 16 attended the Mount Alexander College annual speech night at the Flemington Primary School hall and presented \$200 Achievement Award prizes to each of two students in Year 11 -- Lan Chu and Anushree Mohandas. The hall costing \$3.6m was built during the Kevin Rudd GFC stimulus phase and is of top quality.

Flemington RC also presented Participation Awards to Year 7 students Olive Bowers and Henry Frazer. Principal Alan Davis said there had been three years of hard work to re-build trust of the community, after surveying residents and putting constructive criticisms into effect. There are now increased enrolments, new subject programs, and a new beginning. "There are still things to do, we are not yet completely out of the woods, and there are plenty of reforms and challenges ahead, including outcomes from the Gonski/politics situation. What I really like is the way kids come up to me with ideas and many are good ones.

Two students were presented with Australian Defence Force awards .

They are Phong Tran (Year 10) and Cham Vu (Year 12).

The Long Tan Leadership and Teamwork Awards were presented by Commander Brian Nitschinsk OAM RAN, with 37 years navy experience.

Commander Nitschinsk said the awards, named after the battle in Vietnam in 1966, rewarded students showing leadership, teamwork, reliability and integrity. He said Phong Tran and Cham Vu had been 'awesome' candidates.

Other prizes went to Henry Frazer and Victor Fagundes (Certificate of High Distinction, Australian Mathematics Competition Awards); and Alexander Joshi and Victor Fagundes (High Distinction and Highest Results, National Chemistry Quiz Awards).

College dux was Moira Philip. #

MEETING REPORT DEC 17, 2013

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Pics: Roger and Pip get their award from Ross Butterworth; Annette and Mohammed receive their hampers; three choristers in full cry; three members in funny hats; red and green (blue) hampers for collection.



Our Xmas party on December 17 went with a swing, ably chaired by George Mackey. He welcomed DG Ross Butterworth and Annette and guests.

Ross made a special presentation of a District Award to Roger and Pip Thornton as Major Donors to the Rotary Foundation. He presented them with engraved diamond pins and a crystal ornament (left) and said such donations as the Thorntons had made, enabled the Foundation to produce its array of programs such as food, clean water, immunisation and medicine for third world communities.



George then introduced Anne Mitchell from Steps Ministry and Mohammed Isah from Lentara and gave them each \$750 worth of \$25 Woolworths Essential vouchers for their clients. The vouchers were donated by the ever-generous Marjorie and Bernie Gerlinger and by Robert Brunner, chair of Circle Credit Cooperative. Later our guests collected more than 90 hamper bags put together by members – and with organisational input from Margaret Thomas who acquired and parcelled up more than 80kg of spices, dates etc from a wholesaler.

Anne Mitchell described the work of herself and colleagues sitting at nights on the steps of Flinders St Station as first step to getting clients back into the mainstream community. The previous day she had been helped in wrapping presents for 200 homeless, by a 34 year old ex-client who had originally turned up as a 14yo client with a baby. She was at the time out of control and spat on Anne's colleague Sheila and kicked Sheila's car. The girl's life then turned around and she said she was now happy to help others less fortunate.



Mohammed said many of his clients would be having their first Australian Christmas and without RCCMS help could have had no presents and no money. "Australia gives everyone a fair go and welcomes newcomers not just now but through the year," he said.

We were then surprised and entranced by Melbourne's premier choral quartet, The Rotary Singers, namely Herb Greenwood, Kay Stevens, Robin Stevens and Mary Voice whose inspired interpretation made us feel that we were hearing "Silent Night" for the first time. They also ran



through the 12 Days of Christmas with a modern flavour.
Sgt Michael Bromby, Australia's if not the world's King of Comedy, read his poem "Ode to Christmas" lionising many members of the club, followed by the magical appearance of Father Christmas as interpreted by Kevin Walklate.



This was a fitting climax to a fun breakfast.
Pics: A grateful Anne and Mohammed pack their cars with hampers after the breakfast.