



## BULLETIN

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### GUEST SPEAKER TUESDAY 26th AUGUST

#### **DISTRICT GOVERNOR'S VISIT.**

DG Dr Murray Verso and Irene join us to outline the year ahead and how we can achieve Rotary International President Gary Huang's challenge to *"Light up Rotary"*



Murray first joined Rotary because he wanted a break from the stresses a general practitioner faces every day. It was an opportunity to meet new and interesting people outside the context of the doctor's room.

"As a GP you do get to know people and build those relationships and trust. In some ways it's a bit of a dependent relationship, because patients expect you to solve their problems all the time. In Rotary there was the opportunity to chat with people from different backgrounds about other matters."

GP's will be familiar with the pressures of the waiting room – having to meet a patient every fifteen minutes leaves them little time to reflect on issues.

Murray has been asked to take on the role of district governor on and off for several years – but it has only been recently that he has taken up the offer. He had been considering reducing the time he spent working to a part-time basis, but also saw the opportunity to get more involved with Rotary. "I decided, 'I ought to give this a crack' – because I enjoy rotary so much, passionate about it. I'd like to think I can motivate other people".

Having retired in June, 2013, Murray says it was the perfect time to take up the challenge of District Governor.



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He was always told he would be busy, but couldn't understand quite why. He says anyone looking at taking up the position of district governor really will need to dedicate two years of their life to the position.

As for after the two years – Murray says he might return to the practice on a part-time basis, but he is keen to get more engaged with overseas volunteer work, where he can put his medical skills to use.

Extract from *Rotary Down Under* 2013.

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## **DUTY ROSTER AUGUST 19th 2014**

Chair	Roy Garrett
Sergeant	Bernie Gerlinger
Greeter	Kevin Walklate
Reporter	Mik Wells
Photographer	Tony Thomas
Door	Pat Barry
Director Report - Youth Service	George Mackey
Bulletin Editor	David Jones

## **MEMBER NEWS**

### **SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES**

Birthdays:

- Dick Mitchell 3rd September
- Kerstin Steiner 6th September
- Rob Hines 7th September
- Lou Butterfield 27th September

No Rotary anniversaries in September.

### **IN THE COMMUNITY**

Is Alan Seale our most photographed member? He is certainly very active in the community. In the photo Alan is the tradesman with a persuader in his hand and not wearing a bowtie in the workshop.

[Copied from City of Melbourne Magazine]



Tony and Alan at the new Fed Square Men's Shed

## BUILDING FRIENDSHIPS AT THE MEN'S SHED

The City of Melbourne's second dedicated Men's Shed is now located right in the heart of the city at Federation Square.

The first Men's Shed was set up in Carlton four years ago and operates from a community workshop at the base of a high-rise public housing tower off Lygon Street. It runs art projects, furniture repairs and other group activities and is popular with local residents.

Geoff Kennedy, Supervisor at the Men's Shed in Carlton said, 'activities focus on both personal projects and the repair of furniture for people on low incomes. Many members have found great personal satisfaction in providing assistance to others and discovering new skills at the Men's Shed. It's really good news to hear we now have a second Men's Shed as well.'

Future Melbourne (People City) Councillor Richard Foster expressed the City of

Melbourne's support and appreciation for the initiative, 'for the Fed Square Men's Shed we are contributing \$160,000 over five years which includes the space fit out, rental subsidy and contribution to fit out. The Victorian Government is also funding \$60,000 for capital works. This second Men's Shed strengthens our commitment to supporting the health and wellbeing of our residents.'

Tony Bright, Chair of Melbourne's Men's Shed sees Men's Sheds as creating a pathway into a support network, 'Men's Sheds are places open to everyone, where members can come together, learn and build friendships while participating in hands-on projects that combine woodwork, metal work and new social experiences related to health promotion.'

'Often men feel reluctant to discuss their feelings and emotions publicly, this behaviour leads to poorer health outcomes. At the Men's Shed, they can come along for

**'This second Men's Shed strengthens our commitment to supporting the health and wellbeing of our residents.'**

a chat and express emotions while tinkering with equipment and working on projects.

'Current Men's Shed activities at the new Fed Square location include gardening at the Pop Up Patch, making children's toys for the Royal Children's Hospital, a social hub and a weekly urban walking group supported by the Heart Foundation, there's loads to get involved in,' said Tony.

### MEN'S SHED FED SQUARE

Open from 10am Monday  
Level 1, Carpark, Federation Square

### MEN'S SHED CARLTON

Thursday and Friday 10am - 5pm  
510 Lygon Street, Carlton  
[info@melbournemensshed.org](mailto:info@melbournemensshed.org)



FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT  
[www.bit.ly/MELBmensshed](http://www.bit.ly/MELBmensshed)

## MEETING REPORT 19TH AUGUST

Posted by Richard STONE OAM

### Welcome

President Roy Garrett welcomed everybody invited Chairman for the day Neville Taylor to lead the proceedings.

### Rotary Visitors:

Grant Godina Chairman Rotaract Australia and Member Tullamarine Rotaract Club  
Greg Hanley Strathmore Rotary Club

**Visitor:** Tony Fritsche

### Members' Reports

- **George Mackey** Reported Tony Thomas was guest speaker at the Brighton Rotary on the topic "Climate Skeptic and that naturally such a topic received a mixed

reception.

- **Richard Stone** Reported on the launch dinner last night at Airlie College of the Victorian Police Leaders Mentoring Program – Stream One and that Neville John spoke and proposed the toast to Rotary International. He also mentioned that the Chief Commissioner addressed the Business Mentors for 40 minutes on the importance of the mentoring program to Victoria Police.
- **Herb Greenwood** Reminded members of the DIK working bee on Saturday 30 August 9am to 12 noon, volunteers are urgently required.
- **Mike Wells** Reported that Shine for Kids [supports children with a parent in jail] are looking for bikes that can be repaired. Any bikes provided will be repaired and provided to a needy child. In addition to receiving the bike they will also be provided with learning on the need for bike safety.
- **George Mackey** Reported that two of the three club nominees for the prestigious National Youth Science Forum had been selected. He also mentioned that usually only 1 in 4 nominees are selected.

### Director's Report

- **Frank O'Brien** Provided a very interesting report on the Club's International Service activities.

Highlights included:

- 2 years since we had a new International Committee Chairman
- Laos's school project in its third year will continue and 2015 activities have yet to be finalised.
- Fitzroy project in conjunction with local indigenous leaders and the CEO Circle has still be finalised. Bob Hines will be visiting Fitzroy Crossing in October to further develop the project.
- Our club will provide support to the Rotary against Malaria project in New Guinea that provides people with protective sleeping nets.
- Club will also donate \$800 to the Rotary Disaster Aid Fund.
- Relationships with the Sister Rotary Clubs will continue.
- Support for International House will also continue
- Frank repeated the need for support for the DIK project on 30<sup>th</sup> August.

### President's Report

President Roy advised:

- Honorary Member Brian Downie had informed him of Elizabeth Moorfield's death and that funeral arrangements have not been announced. [Her husband Mel was an early President of the Club who died a couple of years ago]
- District Governor, the Batman Cluster Leader and their wives will be guests at our next club meeting. Roy's wife Annie will also be joining us.
- Russell Rolls is sick.
- Board meeting is next Thursday.
- The club is supporting our Rotaract Guest Grant Godina's nomination as a Rotary Exchange Student.

### Sergeant's session

Bernie Gerlinger advised that Tom Callander and John Barker were celebrating their birthdays and that it was the anniversary of Stuart Ellis of join the club.

Bernie then provided the meeting with one of his more humorous jokes.



**Speakers for the day:****1. Stella Avramopoulos - Person behind the Badge**

Neville Taylor then introduced one of our newest members Stella Avramopoulos CEO Kildonan Uniting Care.

Stella related her families' migration to Australia from Macedonia in the northern Greece. Their home in Australia became the meeting place for new arrivals and at times 40 people would be crowded into their home. It was said that her grandfather would find them somewhere to live and her grandmother would find them someone to marry.

Her father, a tailor by trade, commenced a men's clothing business in Brunswick and, for the benefit of Neville Taylor, supplied many of police with suits.

Greek was her first language and was the only language spoken in the home.

Her father was obsessed with education and worked 6 days a week from 7am to 7pm so she could go a private school. It was his dream that she would join him in the business, but at 23 after obtaining a University Degree she became a criminologist and correctional officer at Barwon Prison, which of course upset her father. She then talked to her father about working in the not-for-profit sector helping needy and disadvantaged people – he said "this is what people should be doing".

Stella considers Australia provides a world of opportunity and that boat people are not bad.

After her prison work experience she determined she wanted to prevent people from going to jail and joined Kildonan Uniting Care. Twelve years ago she became a team leader and for the last six years has been the CEO.

Also she mentioned that she has two children and is married to a Police Officer. Her biggest management challenge to-date was the Black Saturday Bushfires in 2009, when for 30 days she worked from 7am to 10pm assisting people who had lost family members and/or their homes especially in the Kinglake area. Kildonan was one of major service providers and because of their involvement in the fires their staff at that time increased by 30 people to a total of 90 people.

Today they have some 200 people with a budget of \$18 million and in passing she mentioned Neville John's great assistance as a board member. Stella emphasised assisting people in need was her passion and that in the future she would like to be involved in coordinating the community sector response – she mentioned today there are

some 1,600 community providers in Victoria.

She sees “rap around” community services fitting into the four categories:

- Tertiary;
- Prevention;
- Early intervention; and
- Universal

Her desire for the future is to align Rotary activities to the local community sector and she looks forward to working with Rotary to achieve this alignment.

As a charter member, we are blessed to have such an inspirational community leader in our Rotary Club.

## **2. Yanpu Zhang – Person behind the badge**



Neville then introduced Yanpu who has been wonderful hardworking member of our Rotary Club and has exposed many of us to the best Chinese Cuisine in Melbourne.

Yanpu entitled her life story as a “cross-cultural life journey with tripods” Her tripod which gives meaning to her life has as its foundations:

- Work;
- Rotary; and
- Her church life as a Christian.

She provided an overview of her cross cultural life in the following dimensions:

- Born into the Chinese culture which she describe as child – adult.
- Her migration to Melbourne and living as an adult –child.
- Moving to New Zealand where she saw herself as an adult teenage [junior].
- Back to Melbourne as an adult teenage [senior] in her continuing growth in a western culture.

Yanpu then related how she had enjoyed a privileged childhood in China up until 1966 and when the Great Cultural Revolution started her family was sent to the countryside for re-training in the new way of thinking in China. It was a very unsettling time as people would come in the middle of the night to see what the family was doing.

After three years of reform the family returned to the city where she immersed herself in learning music and the English language. She taught herself English using books her father would collect and the use of a gramophone player. She did not realise then that this would become her career.

Her family would have liked her to study medicine but she was afraid of “blood and dead bodies”.

In 1977 she sat for the National Entrance Examination and people were surprised when she achieved good marks and so began her career as an English teacher.

She enjoyed university life with a passion and she spent some 18 years at the Norman Bethune University of Medical Sciences. *[I was surprised with the name of the hospital so I did some research and found the following:*

*In January 1938 Bethune {a Canadian doctor} travelled to China. There he joined the Chinese Communists led by Mao Zedong. In China, Bethune performed emergency battlefield surgical operations on war casualties and established training for doctors, nurses and orderlies.*

*In the summer of 1939 Bethune was appointed the Medical Advisor to one of the leading Chinese Generals.*

*Stationed with the Communist Party of China's Eighth Route Army in the midst of the Second Sino-Japanese War, Bethune cut his finger while operating on a soldier. Probably due to his weakened state, he contracted blood poisoning and died of his wounds on November 12, 1939, statues in his honour can be found in cities throughout China].*

Yanpu enjoyed her English language studies and progressed from being a lecturer to the Deputy Head of the Department. During this time she completed her master's degree, but she continued to teach. She also won a number of scholarships including with the World Health Organisation [Ministry of Public Health] and one for a PhD through the Ministry of Higher Education.

At this time she developed her third tripod leg of being a practicing Christian.

In 1996 she came to La Trobe University where she completed her PhD research and in 2000 she migrated to Wellington New Zealand with her son. There she worked for the Victoria University of Wellington, the New Zealand Crown Agency and the New Zealand Department of Labour. Then in 2005 she moved back to Melbourne where she has worked at Victoria University, Deakin University and the Australian Council of Educational Research.

She ended her wonderful “life story of a cross cultural life journey with tripods” by referred back to the three legs of her tripod - work, Rotary and her church life.

We are indeed fortunate to have such a wonderful and clever person as member of our Rotary club.

President Roy thanked the speakers and closed the meeting.