



Stories

[Welcome to this weeks bulletin. Items include:](#)

- Preview of Guest speaker for Tuesday 3rd December
- Report on last week's meeting -includes report of the AGM and list of Directors and Office Bearers for the year to commence 1st July 2014
- A letter from the team in Laos where our International project has reached another milestone
- Duty roster for tomorrows meeting

Also for your enjoyment there are several new photos in the club album from;

1. the very interesting Vocational visit to the Kaglan Institute and the Fox Car Museum and workshop last Wednesday
2. more from the team in Laos and progress with the school project

[GUEST SPEAKER DECEMBER 3rd](#)



Fr BOB MAGUIRE
"Who cares, wins"

Fr Bob will talk about the work of his life, his foundation and his understanding of the importance that community and inclusion play in our lives. He will emphasise his passion for helping the 'unlovely and the unloved' in his former parish of South Melbourne.

Fr. Bob Maguire is a man of passion, creativity and humour; he is part Billy Connolly, part angry Old Testament prophet and part compassionate Mother Theresa. He would hate this categorisation.

From 1973 – 2012 (39 years) Fr Bob was parish priest of Ss Peter and Paul church in South Melbourne, Australia. From this base, and through his foundations, he has worked, hands on, with the homeless, sick, criminal and addicted. He has had successes and failures. In his own words, Bob sees his work as a "life-long attempt to empower teens, twenty-some things and even children to be their unique selves... unique contributors in recreating the world and the cosmos".

He believes that the Father Bob Maguire Foundation needs to be "urgent, sensitive to young peoples' fragile dreams and flexible in responding to young people of every class and creed.

[LAOS STUDENTS LOVE THEIR SCHOOL AID -Visit November 2013](#)

Posted by Tony Thomas



Our Central Melbourne-Sunrise members travelling in Laos could hardly believe the scene before them. It was a sensational turn-out of 500-plus students, teachers, and Communist and education officials for the official opening of our three-classroom renovation at Heu-Khang High School outside Luang Prabang.

The \$25,800 project, which included a \$7200 District 9800 grant, was concluded by International Director Roy Garrett snipping ribbons with a flower-decorated pair of gold-painted scissors, and his symbolic opening of a classroom door with a half-metre white-painted plywood key.

In the leadup to the opening our party was saluted by a squad of nine-year-olds wearing 'Junior-Communist' red scarves, who heaped wreaths on our women members. We were treated to ethnic dancing by 14 black-clad and tartan-sashed teenagers, and serenaded by local musicians and speeches from officials extolling the project.

Roy's speech explained our club's joint efforts with Melbourne's Your Own Two Hands Foundation, run by Rod Fraser. Roy said, "Annie and I love anything that helps the beautiful children here, like this well-renovated school building." The District Governor said, "A better building means better education and a better life for children from poor families. We are going to protect and maintain these new classrooms so they will have a long life for the teachers and students."



Upcoming Events

[Christmas Party](#)

RACV City Club

Dec 17, 2013 at 07:30 AM – 09:30 AM

[Board Meeting](#)

RACV City Club

Dec 18, 2013 at 06:00 PM – 07:30 PM

[Board Meeting](#)

RACV City Club

Jan 15, 2014 at 06:00 PM – 07:30 PM

Speakers

Dec 03, 2013

[Fr BOB MAGUIRE](#)

"Who cares, wins"

Dec 10, 2013

[DAMIAN SECEN](#)

"Russia, a riddle, wrapped in a mystery, inside an enigma"

Dec 17, 2013

[CHRISTMAS PARTY](#)

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 21, 2014

[Bernard McMenamin FCA, FCPA, CTA, TEP](#)

Estate Planning

[View entire list](#)

Bulletin Editor

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

Sponsors

We then gathered kneeling on carpets in one of the classrooms, bare of furniture but with a centrepiece of flowers and fruits, plus a whole chook which soon morphed into tough grey chook slices. The centrepiece was topped by elegant bunches of string. In long-standing tradition blending Bhuddism and animism, we circled the room on our knees and each teacher and official plucked a string from the centrepiece and tied it around our wrist. This is a tie of thanks and good luck for members of an extended family. By the end of the ceremony, each of us had wristfuls of strings.

We were then guests of honour at a big lunch, seated with the District Governor and directors. Local musicians were followed by our own party's guitarist, Guyon Wilson from Geelong (a friend of Roy's) who got the kids bopping with Waltzing Matilda and Click Go the Shears.

Our 13-member group, through the initiative of Roy, had kicked in \$1000 each earlier this year to finance privately a kitchen and six toilets for the school's boarders. There had clearly been a stampede to finish these projects as the concrete was barely dry.

The kitchen used to be a trio of unhygienic grass and reed huts. The dormitory still has no beds, just a raised platform where students sleep en masse with a partition between girls and boys.

The opening of the three classrooms was the climax of two days where our party visited, checked and planned projects within the 2012-14 Rotary years, involving club, third party and personal funding. Each of our members had carried into Laos a renovated laptop supplied in Melbourne by Rod Fraser, of Your Own Two Hands. Laptops are so prized in the Laung Prabang district that officials allocated one per school principal, mainly for computerising the administration-- which would be enormous for schools of 600-plus children.

Again, the laptops' handover involved a solemn ceremony. Each of the principals had ridden their scooters to a central admin building, joining local directors. The laptops were set out in a row on the table and each principal, glowing with appreciation, received one in turn.

Footnote: The 2013 Laos party was Roy and Annie Garrett, Kay and Robin Stevens, Alan and Robyn Seale, Tony Thomas, Peter Johnson (Shepparton Central Rotary) and wife Carmel, Guyon and Bron Wilson (Geelong), Sally Edwards (Melbourne) and Jane Camphin (Brisbane).

The 2012 party was the Garretts, the O'Briens, the Thorntons and the Greenwoods, plus friends.

To Be Continued Next Week

MEETING REPORT 26th November 2013

Chair: Neville John

Reporter: Mik Wells

Visitors welcomed:

Guest speaker – Sonya Clancy

Rotary Exchange student from Germany – Shirin Giesel staying with Neville and Rebecca John

Announcements:

Greg Cuthbert and Neville Taylor announced that we have an eminent speaker booked for the 10th December 2013 breakfast. Damian SECEN is a senior member of Macquarie's global infrastructure investment business, and spent three years based in Moscow between 2009 and 2012 running Macquarie's Russian and CIS infrastructure fund. He will be covering a lot of topical areas in his presentation "Russia, a riddle, wrapped in a mystery, inside an enigma" - A 2013 perspective from an Australian in Moscow – **if you are intending on bringing guests please let Neville Taylor know for catering purposes.**

Neil Salvano announced a big thank you to those who are volunteering to ensure that we can operate a Community Village in the CBD for this Saturday night.

Anne King announced a last minute reminder about tomorrow night's private tour of The Kangan Institute Automotive Centre of Excellence at 6 pm followed by a private tour of the Fox Classic Car Museum and supper in the workshop. It will be a fascinating opportunity for car enthusiasts and a jolly good evening of fellowship.

Director's Report

• Nil.




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President's Report

President Doug reflected on the previous Board meeting last week. There was a quorum despite four members overseas. President Doug reported on:

- Cash donation to the Philippines in support of disaster relief.
- The Board will also be looking at a substantial disaster aid amount next time.
- The Club has made enquires with Tower Insurance to establish a 'Tree of Joy' in the main reception of 333 Collins Street, Melbourne where Tower Insurance operates from. President Doug hopes that this will be the start of a positive corporate relationship.

Annual General Meeting

President Doug opened with the first motion to accept minutes of last meeting – carried.

The audited accounts had been circulated and were accepted without any questions.

Secretary Bruce McBain declared nominations for officers and directors of the club were one short of the number required and therefore all nominated were elected, as follows:

- Tony Thomas – Club Secretary ,
- Robin Stevens – International Service ,
- Yanpu - Treasurer,
- Doug Robertson - Foundation ,
- Jillian Cavanaugh – Vocational Service,
- Greg Cuthbert - Fundraising,
- George Mackey - Youth,
- Tom Callander -Vice President,
- Neville Taylor - Community Service
- Roy Garrett - President Elect

There is no President Nominee at this stage

The auditor has given notice of resignation following the current year. At the next AGM there will be a new auditor to announce

There being no other business, President Doug closed the AGM.

Guest; Mohamed Isha, Lantra UC Asylum Seekers.

Patrick Barry made a Community Service announcement concerning the Christmas hamper bag initiative and introduced Mohamed Isha from the Lantara UC Asylum Seeker Project.

Mohamed gave a heart-felt summary of appreciation to RCCMS for their support of the Project. He explained the adversity asylum seekers face leaving one country and arriving in Australia. Mohamed further explained how clients have fled their country owing to race religion, and persecution in the current political climate. Initially in Australia clients have no access to government assistance, no networks, family or friends while their status is considered.

He thanked our club because we are giving some hope to their client group because for many Christmas is generally a very sad time.

Sergeant's Session:

Sergeant Michael Bromby entertained us with the medieval adventures of Darcy using profound irony and the debauched pursuits continued with the next instalment by Bernie and Marjorie Gerlinger who thrilled us with their new twist.

Michael then introduced a moving musical piece "Pur Ti Miro" and who was Club Member who has a passion for this genre and it is favourite song? In fact it belonged to John Price who gave us an enjoyable insight about the origins of this opera. If you did not get enough you can easily listen to it again at your leisure by looking for the item on Youtube!

Guest Speaker: Sonya Clancy

Hot Desking: *Busting the Myth!*

(Does it save money and is it good for workforce productivity?)

Hot desking means unassigned desks for staff. Each day a person is potentially at a different desk i.e. they do not have their own desk. It can save on property costs and overheads. Hot desking is also seen as a key component of Activity Based Working [ABW].

ABW is a new model which is designed to provide workspaces that are suitable for different types of tasks e.g. team work, creative problem solving and intense focused research.

The ABW model relies on staff moving to the area that best suits the task they are doing at the time. Unassigned desks allow an organisation to maximize the use of its available space. There are many assertions about what this does for the financial management of the business but limited information on what this does to staff.

Sonya is also Chairperson of the Big Issue – expertise in leadership and marketing and communications.

Sonya gave a thought provoking presentation on the benefits of 'hot desking' also known as activity based working.

There are conflicting points of view depending what side of the fence you are sitting on and one thing made clear by Sonya is that there is a distinct lack of research on the subject matter. Therefore, Sonya's research and presentation through a lot of light on the issue and raised a lot of questions from club members at the end of her talk.

One school of thought is that 'hot desking' saves money for organisations, however, Sonya demonstrated that treating people like 'battery hens' is not conducive for good health and can cause detriment to employees and organisation. To put it in simple terms, Sonya used the example of one organisation saving \$13M p a [in property costs] but they were incurring costs due to 'hot desking' as no one had done a cost benefit analysis, the core costs in this instance were \$25 million pa. Mainly on account of time taken to set up and pack up each day, higher cleaning and hygiene costs ... you may need to wipe the desk down because of the previous worker, time getting your 'crap' (technical term) out of your locker all of which creates a minimum of 15-30 minutes of unproductive time. Also there were other un-intended problems and behaviours such as harassment and difficulties for team leads knowing where their staff are currently located. Other consequential behaviours – loss of connections, work arounds – bananas, dirty shoes, subtle levels of bullying ...

According to Sonya, organisations should want their staff to feel good about their workplace and hot desking does not necessarily achieve that. Hot desking would work well in those locations when people spend minimum time at a regular desk, e.g. sales staff who are normally on the floor ... or situations where you want to stimulate activity. But, she said, there is no research that supports this notion of advantage for 'hot desking'.

Concluding thoughts of Sonya – the numbers and dollars do not support it. "Because it is a trend, does not make it right."

There were lots of questions by club members and the jury seems to be out on whether hot desking is a good thing.

Thanked by Chair – Neville John

Meeting closed by George Mackey as President Doug had to leave early.

Duty Roster for Wednesday 3rd December 2013

Chair	Stuart Ellis
Sgt	Michael Bromby
Greeter	Brian Downey
Reporter	Justine Murphy
Photographer	David Jones
Door	Mik Wells
Director Report, Club Administration	Neville Taylor
Bulletin Editor	David Jones