



# DISTRICT LIGHTHOUSE



DISTRICT 9820:

ISSUE 9:

MARCH 2015

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## IMPORTANT DATES: MARCH IS LITERACY MONTH

### District Conference

March 27-29th, 2015

### Presidential Citation Applications close

March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2015

### GSE Farewell Dinner (Dandenong)

April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015

### RYLA

April 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> 2015

### Outgoing GSE Team Farewell

April 12<sup>th</sup> 2015

### World Convention

June 6<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup>. 2015 (Sao Paolo)

## From DG Charlie

Rotarians never cease to amaze me! This month I have shared in fund raising events, been involved in final Conference planning and heard some exciting Rotary stories. I was invited to be present at one Club where a large cheque to be handed over for Motor Neurone Disease research...a good news story that turned out to be a classic case of starting a conversation, joining the dots and bringing parties together for a super outcome. The conversation between the Pakenham Inner Wheel and Rotary Clubs regarding Motor Neurone Disease fund raising and research grew to someone drawing in a third party, introducing that person to a fourth party (researchers) and creating an outcome whereby a five year funding agreement resulted in a cheque for \$3 million – yes, you're reading it correctly! – handed over from the Stafford Fox Medical Research Foundation to the Florey Research Institute to accelerate research into finding a cure for Motor Neurone Disease. Well done to all concerned – you continue to LIGHT UP ROTARY.

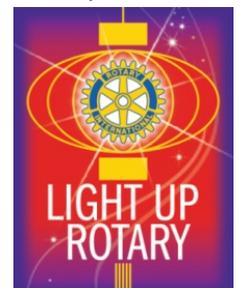


With March being Literacy Month, I am happy to let you know that we have progressed literacy within our own country by supporting a Global Grant to access Library books for an indigenous community near Cairns in Queensland. This is a slightly different use for a Global Grant being used in Australia rather than overseas but desperately needed nonetheless.

As Presidents, remember that statements towards Presidential Citations close at the end of March – at this point of time I only have a few so please consider the work done by your Club during the year and even if you are unsure, it costs nothing to forward the completed brochure to me. If I have any questions or queries I will contact you to clarify potential areas of possibility.

As you would be aware, Vanuatu has been devastated by the recent weather event and as we usually do, D9820 is already looking at how best to use some of our Emergency moneys toward the RAWCS fund. This has been put together by the District Governors in Australia after a very legitimate looking email was circulated requesting monetary donations from a reliable source, but which turned out to be a scam. As a result, an immediate RAWCS fund was introduced. Disaster Aid Australia has also moved

quickly to look at how best it can provide support at this time. As we tend to do, however, D9820 has held back on offers of any other aid until the need is known more fully and the country moves into recovery mode. Watch this space. We have Clubs in the District which already have operations in Vanuatu and they are also keeping their ears and eyes open for areas of opportunity to assist.



See you in Shep! Charlie

## **AROUND THE DISTRICT – JANNE SPEIRS**

What a busy period it's been recently! We've had the excitement of the Turkish GSE team with us, fishing competitions, Foundation Seminars, Art Shows, you name it.... and of course, for many of us in this neck of the woods, final preparations for Conference. It was great to be at Maffra the other night as they introduced five members of the local community to Rotary and its ideals – I hope this interest translates into new members. I apologise for missing some recent visits but GSE and grandchildren have been a bit tricky! It's great to know how much is happening in the District though. I thought this month's photos could "go Turkish" – with the team's first presentation at Berwick, lunch at Centenary House and at 'Turkish Magic' in Stratford.



## **OFFICER SPECIALIST SCHOOL**

The Rotary Club of Pakenham Youth Chairman Tim in conjunction with District 9820 Donations in Kind Chairman Roger Thornton receives a certificate of appreciation from the Officer Special School Principal Sue Campbell.



## **DIK: ROTARY; WOMEN HELPING WOMEN** – with a lot of help from Men



International Women's Day provides us with an opportunity to thank all of the Women Volunteers who devote so much time at West Footscray Donations In Kind and who are the backbone of the Store in many areas. Without their help the Store would not operate.

If you are looking for a project to help Women, contact Lyn Leonard 0428550574 or [dik.vic.rotary@gmail.com](mailto:dik.vic.rotary@gmail.com)

## **ROTARIANS, THE COMMUNITY AND DONATIONS IN KIND WORK TOGETHER**



A local Berwick Primary School needed to give away 24 desks and 20 chairs so they contacted DIK Chair Roger Thornton, who asked several clubs in the area for assistance and got responses from 3 local clubs – Berwick, Pakenham and Bunyip Garfield.

The desks were all collected and delivered to DIK Footscray and Rotarians back home by 1pm.

Thanks to those clubs for their assistance, Roger

## **ROTARY CLUB OF CRANBOURNE: THE FOOD TRUCK**

The food truck is operated by the Uniting Church in Cranbourne, being used 4 nights per week between 6.30pm and 8pm to provide a hot meal to the needy and/or lonely. It also distributes non-perishable food stuffs as required.

At times it also is able to distribute bread, fruit and vegetables, depending on availability.

The Rotary Club of Cranbourne has contributed towards equipment needs and is presently constructing a garage facility to house the vehicle.

Several members and partners participate in the roster of people that drive and staff the truck.



## **FOUNDATION**

The Rotary Foundation committee held two seminars on Sunday 15 March, one at Sale and the other at Berwick. These seminars were attended by 53 Rotarians from 33 Clubs around the District. Thank you to all those who attended with special thanks to DG Charlie and Janne, DGE Merv, DGE Lynne, PDG Ray Martin and PP Paul Harvey for their input to the day. That means that 33 Clubs are now qualified to apply for District Grants and Global Grants in 2015-16 once they have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). All information regarding Grants can be found on the District website, including the two presentations which will be placed on the website shortly.

**PLEASE NOTE that District Grants applications for 2015-16 have to be sent to Paul Harvey NO LATER than 30 April, 2015.**

Tony Spring

Foundation Chair, 2015-16

## **PAKENHAM ROTARY / PAKENHAM INNER WHEEL / MOTOR NEURONE DISEASE RESEARCH!** What a combination!



The Stafford Fox Medical Research Foundation was established in 2013, after the death of Moyna Fox, and named in honour of her late husband, James Stafford, an Australian BP executive. To date the foundation has given a number of grants for research including grants for Chronic Fatigue Syndrome, and Stroke induced Dementia.

Some time ago, Ken Wallace, Trustee of the Foundation and good friend of Rotarian Terry Carmichael, asked Terry if Rotary was involved in medical research. This year when Ken was investigating possible recipients for the current year's program, Terry mentioned the work the Inner Wheel club of

Pakenham had been doing to raise funds for Motor Neurone Disease. It wasn't long before donor and recipient, Dr Brad Turner, of the Florey Institute were introduced.

The Rotary Club of Pakenham became the broker of the deal which will see 2.5 million dollars over five years, go to the research done by Dr. Turner and his team. A special evening was held to hand over the cheque and bring the parties together with the Rotary club who instigated the deal, and the Inner Wheel club who was the catalyst for the research that the foundation supports.

**RYLA** – PLEASE REMEMBER THAT OUR RYLA WEEKEND IS COMING UP ON APRIL 10 – 12 AT SOMERS EDUCATION CAMP, SOMERS. FOR DETAILS PLEASE CONTACT PETER KINGSBURY AT [pak56@bigpond.net.au](mailto:pak56@bigpond.net.au)

## **BLOOD DONATIONS!!!!**

As you may have seen in a recent RDU magazine, the Red Cross wants your BLOOD!! The “Vampire Challenge” encourages Rotarians to save more than 4000 lives by donating blood, led by Bruce de Graaf from RC Crows Nest NSW who has already donated more than 200 litres, which has been used to save the lives of unborn babies, trauma victims and emergency surgery patients. It is expected that 1 in 3 people will need blood in their lifetime but only 1 in 30 donate – a mismatch you’ll agree. The challenge will run all year and invites all members over 16 years of age to give blood.

## **CENTENNIAL GSE TEAM FAREWELL DINNER – WEDNESDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> APRIL**

AFGHAN RAHIMI RESTAURANT  
23 - 29 Walker Street,  
DANDENONG

Food: Banquet - \$35 per head  
BYO Drinks (Keeps cost down)  
6.30 for 7.00pm. Closes 10.00pm

Please contact Con Meehan (RC Dandenong South East)  
[cmeehan@sandhurst.net.au](mailto:cmeehan@sandhurst.net.au) by Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March.



## **2014 – 2015 DISTRICT CONFERENCE, SHEPPARTON, MARCH 27-29**

Well!! It’s all about to happen – the speakers are ready, the band is ready, the golf competition and Friday wine tour are both ready and now it’s up to all of us to fill Shepparton with the buzz of a Rotary Convention. As a Club we look forward to welcoming you all. As I complete the newsletter in Shep, I can even add hot off the press photos of the Ride to Conference crew who took off this morning in beautiful weather for the first of their six days of riding! As I said to Charlie when we got back in the car, “Conference has started!!!!” The third photo shows YEP student Vincent leading Harold into Euroa PS on Day 2 for the first school visit by the crew.



Visit the website at [www.district9820conference.org](http://www.district9820conference.org)

