



# DISTRICT LIGHTHOUSE



DISTRICT 9820:

ISSUE 11:

MAY 2015

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- \*From the DG
- \*Around the District
- \*Foundation – Polio update
- \*RC Warragul visits Cent. House
- \*RC Sale thinks outside the box...
- \*Disaster Aid Australia – Nepal
- \*Nepal eyewitness account
- \*RAWCS
- \*GSE team - Turkey
- \*Alternate Schoolies
- \*Emergency Relief funds – Tasman Peninsula, Longreach Drought Relief
- \*Shine On

## IMPORTANT DATES:

**MAY IS CONVENTION MONTH**

### RYPEN

29<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup> May, 2015

### World Convention

June 6<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup>, 2015 (Sao Paulo)

### District Leadership / COGS

14<sup>th</sup> June, 2015

### Finance Committee

15<sup>th</sup> June, 2015

### GSE Welcome Home Dinner

16<sup>th</sup> June, 2015

### Foundation Meeting

21<sup>st</sup> June, 2015

### District Changeover

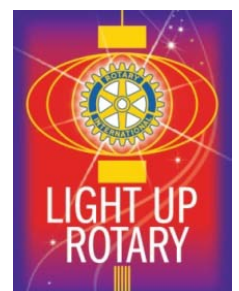
28<sup>th</sup> June, 2015

## From DG Charlie

May is time to promote the International Convention in Sao Paulo and so if you are not enrolled yet, you had better get moving. Go to the District website for details regarding registration, etc - [www.district9820.org](http://www.district9820.org). However, for those enrolled and planning travel imminently we wish you a safe and inspirational journey as you meet fellow Rotarians, share experiences and are inspired by speakers as you continue to Light Up Rotary. While the Convention celebrates Rotary, many of us continue to deliver Rotary Programs that have been in the planning stage for some months now. Programs such as the YEP completing the annual Rock to reef expedition, MUNA weekend, the GSE team's return and 'Shine On' have all kept a variety of people busy! Phew! Then we have RYPEN coming up on the last weekend of May! These events have kept many diaries committed over the past month as Rotarians involved have given their time and service to bring the programs to fruition. These activities are closely followed by the Club and District Changeovers (Pakenham - Cardinia Cultural Centre - on the 28<sup>th</sup> June) that are creeping into our diaries as we head into another Rotary year. The transition of the Leadership of Rotary is important to do as seamlessly as possible as we complete programs and start implementing next year's plans. Regardless of the leadership change, our challenge is to maintain the Rotary presence in our community both Locally and at an International level.

At this time we will also be focused on the dispersment of the funds we have raised and I ask all Rotarians to keep in mind the Rotary Foundation and The End Polio areas of Rotary service to make sure we support these as well as our planned Club Projects. As I look around I feel we have had a good year and supporting these International Funds will ensure we have future funds to continue to do great work in our Communities and Support Rotary International in its work in the our larger World Community. As mentioned above, the District had a busy weekend with the MUNA program being run at Forrest Edge with 28 teams from around the District representing their allocated countries in debates on Internationally relevant topics. It was great to see the costuming and the level of research that had been put into the weekend by the Students and also great that the prizes were shared around as well. In parallel with this activity we also had the Southern Region 'Shine

On' Awards Ceremony at Maryborough which saw 15 individuals with a disability being recognized for their outstanding contributions to their community as they volunteered to make a difference. It was touching to see the smiles as each participant was awarded for their efforts despite their disability.



## AROUND THE DISTRICT – JANNE SPEIRS

My goodness, so much is still happening but at the same time the Changeover invitations are coming in thick and fast and it really makes us realise the year is almost over – and there’s only one more newsletter after this. Wow! It’s great to see so much still happening around the District, not the least being Wonthaggi’s 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on the 28<sup>th</sup> May. Dandenong Club has also celebrated its 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary recently.

I am waiting on a number of photos of events which I will be adding to next month’s newsletter, so we look forward to those.

## FOUNDATION – POLIO UPDATE

The fight against Polio worldwide continues and by providing the following statistics I hope we may feel heartened by what we are seeing – even though, as can be seen by the figures, things certainly ballooned out of control in Pakistan in the latter half of last year. Let’s keep working towards that 2018 end goal!!

	YTD 2015	2014 YTD	END OF 2014
<b>GLOBAL</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>359</b>
PAKISTAN	23	66	306
AFGHANISTAN	1	4	28
NIGERIA	0	3	6
NON-ENDEMIC CTRIES	0	9	19

## WARRAGUL CLUB VISITS CENTENARY HOUSE

Warragul P E Richard Habgood sent photos to A G Kay Radford following a Club visit to Centenary House, commenting about how much they had all enjoyed the evening. He added the hope that the good work at Centenary House would be maintained – a wish shared by all in the District, I am sure.



## LATERAL THINKING BY RC SALE

Stepping outside the usual plethora of Rotary recipients, the Rotary Club of Sale encourages young Gippsland horse riders to better their skills through annual awards.

The Club recently presented 16-year-old Rebekah Male, of Stratford, with \$500 to assist with tuition fees.

Rebekah had applied for help under a Rotary Club of Sale offer to Pony Club of Victoria members in the east Gippsland Pony Club zone, from Trafalgar to Mallacoota. Later this year, at The Elms Show Jumping Classic and Grand Prix in Sale, which attracts the country’s top show jumpers, the Club will award two Pony Club members each with \$500 plus embroidered “Rotary” horse rugs. The money is drawn from a \$10,000 bequest by the late Jack and Nancy Williamson, OAM’s, who gave a combined 120 years to tutoring young Gippsland riders. Three years ago the Williamson estate invited the Rotary Club of Sale, as an enduring and credible entity, to manage the bequest. The Club was delighted to accept.



## **DISASTER AID AUSTRALIA – NEPAL**

(early May) While our Disaster Aid Response Team members (DARTs) – including Australians – are being assembled and briefed, we are already looking to move pre-positioned stock from India and elsewhere, ready to be deployed when assessments and logistics have been completed, in conjunction with other agencies and local Rotarians. Our 2014 deployment to Nepal brought significant relief after the autumn floods. Please help if you can – the full newsletter and photos as well as a response page can be found on [www.district9820.org](http://www.district9820.org)

## **EYEWITNESS ACCOUNT**

David & Dianne Waterhouse from the R C of The Entrance, (D9685) were in Nepal and have been working to get food and other necessities to stricken villages. Their account makes compelling reading and they have attached a number of photos. The full letter is on the website [www.district9820.org](http://www.district9820.org)



## **RAWCS**

PDG Terry Daley and PDG Mani Seneviratne District 9790 have sent through a request for 18 or so Volunteers to complete a job in Papua New Guinea. The project is to refurbish Howard Haus in Bomana, PNG by enlarging all the windows to improve ventilation, replacing the lino floor tiles with ceramic tiles, painting the interior and exterior of the units and undertaking repairs to the drainage system. Howard Haus is a block comprising four single-bedroom units and a common kitchen area. Howard Haus is located next door to Keaga Haus that was refurbished by nine RAWCS teams in 2013. If anyone is interested, please go to our website - [www.district9820.org](http://www.district9820.org) where further details and appropriate contacts are available.

## **GSE TEAM - TURKEY**

It's all over!! A hardy band of family and friends welcomed the team back to Australia in the early hours of the morning of the 26<sup>th</sup> May! It seems they have had an incredible experience and I have written to express the thanks of D9820 for the hospitality and warm welcome shown to the team! PLEASE consider joining the team at the Traralgon Golf Club for their Welcome Home Dinner and Team Presentation on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> June - there is a flier attached at [www.district9820.org](http://www.district9820.org). It should be a really enjoyable evening.

## **ALTERNATE SCHOOLIES**



The Rotary Club of Frankston Long Island has been running a volunteer trip to Cambodia as an alternative to the normal "Schoolies" to the Gold Coast or Bali for the past 5 years. We are once again offering students who are finishing Year 12 in 2015, the chance to participate in this amazing and life changing experience!

Our trip offers students the chance to "make a difference" to the lives of children in Cambodia and at the same time make a difference in their own lives. They will have a lot of fun, gaining knowledge of Cambodian culture, eating the delicious food and falling in love with the beautiful Khmer children at Krasang Roleung Primary School. This year, due to our involvement with the Landmine Museum and Relief Centre in Siem Reap,

we will also be working at a rural school, which they have built in an area recently cleared of the landmines that still litter the Cambodian countryside.

Our past volunteers have also found that volunteering in a developing country has helped them to reassess their future priorities and university preferences. Our references also look great in their CV's.

This will be our 6<sup>th</sup> Alternative Schoolies trip to Cambodia departing on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> November and returning to Melbourne on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2015. If anyone in your club knows of a student graduating from Year 12, who might be interested in our trip, please get them to contact Judy Rebecca on 0415 109 859 or by email: [judy.rebecca@bigpond.com](mailto:judy.rebecca@bigpond.com)

## **D9820 EMERGENCY FUNDS CONTINUE TO HELP!**

**TASMAN PENINGSULA** During April 2015 Kurnai College sent its 4<sup>th</sup> group of students to Tasmania to apply their learning into a practical setting by being involved within the fire affected community in the Tasman Peninsula. Students were extremely touched that they were given the opportunity to be able to aid this community to start rebuilding their lives and the community resources. Students saw first –hand how this devastation has affected people’s personal lives and the community as a whole. Through these experiences the students have developed a deeper understanding for what some people endure. The students have all come back with high praise for the opportunities they have had whilst in Tasmania, and are saying “it is one of the best experiences that they have ever had”.

This group continued on with the work of group 3, by transforming a farm shed that was erected last trip, into warm and comfortable living quarters for a husband and wife who lost everything in the fires and have been living in 3<sup>rd</sup> world conditions. Most recently, we were extremely proud that this ongoing project was awarded with the state-wide VCAL team achievement award.

Corinne Noblet



**LONGREACH DROUGHT** Seven drought-stricken families have been the recipients of emergency funds in order to assist them to get through the circumstances brought about by the drought in the area. Our attention to the drought was brought to us in a letter sent by the local District Governor (as featured in April’s newsletter) and following communications, these families have been identified by the efforts of the RC Longreach in their ongoing support of their local community. Our thoughts are with ALL those affected by this ongoing weather event!



### **SHINE ON AWARDS**

These were held in Maryborough on May 24<sup>th</sup> and as usual were very successful, highlighting the work of disabled people within their own or the broader community. Fifteen awards were handed out