

ROTARY FOCUS

VOL. 1 — ROTARY DISTRICT 7230 BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2002



Greetings From Down Under



Greetings to yourself and all members of Rotary in District 7230 at this time of the year - a time when the whole world recalls the devastating and sad events of September 11th, 2001.

Our Club - the Rotary Club of Warrnambool Daybreak in District 9780, Australia - wishes to assure all your members that we all shared the sorrow, horror and total disbelief that day must have brought to every one of you.

Members of Rotary International profess to uphold the ideals of "Service above Self". As we observed the unfolding events of September 11th here in Australia, we saw so many people giving of themselves to help others at that time. The heroic

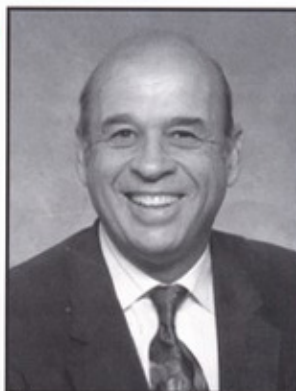
"Greetings..." *continues on page 2*

Roving Ambassadors from the Rotary Club of New York

New York Rotary members Helen Reisler and Bill DeLong have been travelling around "spreading Rotary good will" in various ways.

Helen is honoring a number of invitations she has received, to speak to Rotary Districts around the nation, since the NYC disaster. She describes her club's involvement in the crisis.....how individual members used their skills to help out at "the pit", how she created the "Disaster Relief Fund" with her foundation and how they disbursed the monies to "the neediest" so quickly and efficiently. Her talk

was received, enthusiastically, by three districts in Kansas City, as well as the Pleasantville Club. On September 11th she will be addressing over 350 Rotarians in Nevada City, California, where she was invited to be the speaker at a special memorial service to honor the Rescue Workers. The audience will include Fire and Police chiefs from



The Guv's Corner

Welcome to the first bi-monthly newsletter. As I travel around I sense the excitement of the new Rotary year. I believe this can be attributed in no small part to the philosophy of our new international president, Bhichai Rattakul. His desire to get back to the basics of Rotary should


inspire us all throughout 2002-2003 and beyond.

As you know there has been established a ☐ Rotary District 7230 World Trade Center Disaster Fund ☐. I have discussed it later in this letter. I want to encourage each of you, if you know anyone who qualifies, to submit application for these funds. Applications can be found on its web site, www.Rotary7230WTCfund.org.

By this time I trust that everyone has received his or her District Directory. If for some reason you have not please contact your club and have them request a copy through me. I also encourage you to look at the district web site, which is a marvelous piece of work, put up by Ted Nygreen. It contains everything you could wish to know about our district and then some.

I wish you all the best in the coming year and will continue to keep you informed on happenings in 7230

Yours in Rotary,


Bob

that area, as well as a "search and rescue" representative. The ceremony will be covered by the local media who will hear how New York City Rotary Clubs "made a difference" in the face of a local disaster. (Next stop--Houston, Texas)

"Roving..." *continues on page 3*

District Assembly Recommendations to WTC Fund

Rotarians are friends and friends can argue and disagree, but in the end come together with a plan for a solution. This is what happened Wednesday night Oct. 2, 2002 at our District Assembly. The history and current status of the World Trade Center Disaster Relief Fund was beautifully and thoroughly presented by PDG Andy Morzello. Several recommendations were offered to and approved by the Assembly. These recommendations will be presented to the World Trade Center Inc. Board of Directors for their review, and we trust approval and adoption. The highlights are summarized as follows:

The World Trade Fund's Board of Directors shall be expanded to allow for the election of one representative from each of the nine areas of the District. It is further recommended that the District Governor, District Governor

Nominee, District Governor Elect, and immediate Past District Governor be ex-officio members of the Fund's Board. *(The board has already put the District Governor, immediate Past District Governor, and District Governor Elect on the Board with full voting rights)*

The Board shall provide a ☐ Donor Choice Program ☐ whereby donors may choose where their monies go as long as the choice is consistent with the mission statement of the corporation.

Procedures will be adopted to more efficiently distribute the funds to qualified recipients.

The corporation on a monthly basis will communicate what actions have occurred and the then current status of the fund.

Full details in the report can be obtained by going to the District web site, www.rotarydistrict7230.org.

I trust the above will serve to clarify any confusion over this matter and that we can all move forward to make this fund a positive Rotary humanitarian effort that eases the suffering and meets the needs of the victims of the World Trade Center disaster.

Bob Benson, District Governor 7230

"Greetings..." *continues from page 1*

deeds, the total love and care shown amidst the destruction, was truly an inspiration to everyone throughout the world.

We know that you have all personally been greatly affected because of that day - and we only hope that time will help heal the scars for you.

R. J. President Bhichai's theme for this Rotary Year is "Sow the Seeds of Love" and we all hope that out of the terror and destruction of September 11th, 2001, some small seed of love will begin to grow as the world is brought together in remembering this Anniversary. Our prayer now is that the whole world

will strive to overcome terrorism and enjoy a peaceful future.

We as a Club held a special remembrance Meeting on September 11th in honour of all the victims of that terrifying attack.

We send our sincere thoughts and good wishes to all our fellow Rotarians in District 7230 - please convey to them the thought that they are not alone in their sadness at this time.

May God bless and care for you,
Yours in Rotary,

Leni Livingston, President

On behalf of all the members of the Rotary Club of Warrnambool Daybreak, District 9780, Victoria, Australia.



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We welcome your comments and submission of articles to be published in future newsletters. We reserve the right to select the materials to be published as well as to make any necessary grammatical changes.

Share Your Club's Project Success With the Rotary World

Is your club involved in a project that is having success?

E-mail Helen Reisler at Helenreisler@aol.com and describe the project, in detail. You may be a candidate for "Rotary Radio" which reaches Rotarians around the globe.





Photo by Hedy Marris-Malack 1992

From: District Governor

Fellow Rotarians, on remembering September 11th, let us concentrate on the extraordinary resiliency of our nation during the past year. Through the grief and the tears that were shed there emerged a spirit of recovery that has only grown stronger during the weeks and months following that horrible tragedy.

Rotarians worldwide have come forth with their gifts of time and money in support of our efforts to aid in the healing of New York. Nothing will be the same after September 11th, but you can rest assured that our country has never been more united or strong. If, God forbid, another attack should occur we will be ready. Let us, however, pray for peace and if we can follow this year's theme of "Sow The Seeds of Love" and impart those words to the actions of others, then perhaps we will not have any more 9/11s. That may be a naïve hope, but one to strive for nonetheless.

I wish you all the best in this Rotary year and those to follow as we go forward to achieve "Service Above Self".

Yours in Rotary, Robert O. Benson, DG 7230

"Roving..." cont from page 1

82 year old New York Rotarian Bill DeLong will represent the Rotary Club of New York and District # 7230 at the NYC Convention and Visitors Bureau Observance, honoring volunteers who gave service in New City's darkest hours. Bill was the first senior citizen to volunteer at the Salvation Army Canteen on "Day 3" of the disaster, at "Ground Zero." He worked until he left for Mongolia to deliver sweaters to the children who were affected by "the freeze." In October he will join a research team to study the after affects of "the fallout" on the children of Chernobyl.

The New York Post highlighted Bill as a NYC Hero.

ROTARY Great News!!

For United Nations Day
November 9th, 2002-

2003 Rotary International President

Bhichai Rattakul of Dhonburi, Bangkok, Thailand, will meet with our leadership team after the close of the Rotary session at the UN. Exact time and place will follow. I can't emphasize enough this opportunity for all of you to meet one of the truly great Rotarians and world leaders of our time. I have had the privilege of meeting him on several occasions and just being in the same room is an experience, much less getting to interact directly with him. I will



forward the registration form ASAP to each of you since you **MUST** register before the event and have the form in the hands of the UN prior to November 4th or you cannot enter the building. There is NO registration at the door. Please let Paul

Barton know either way if you can be there or not. Paul's e-mail is judithbarton@aol.com, his business phone is 914-345-3335 and home phone is 914-576-2826.

Let's have a good showing and make an extra effort to attend. You won't be disappointed. Bob

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