

# A Great Bendigo Yarn

One of the greatest – but little known – Bendigo yarns of recent times took a new twist on Thursday, October 26th, when the Rotary Club of Bendigo Sandhurst formally opened the new base for its East Timor Knitting Project.

The project, which has been running for 10 years, will officially move into its seventh (and hopefully last) home when it throws open the doors of its new facility at the California Gully Mechanics Institute.

The project has evolved to become one of the biggest in Rotary's regional Victorian activities and is estimated to have helped improve the lives of thousands of East Timorese mothers and children in the highlands region around Maubisse, a historic town in the hills 70 km south of Dili

The new base was developed by the Rotary Club of Bendigo Sandhurst with major assistance from the City of Greater Bendigo and the Rotary Club of Eaglehawk. Its opening marks a new highpoint in a project which already has a strong list of achievements.

In its 10 years so far, the knitting project has:

- Assembled a team of more than 400 knitters from across Australia.
- Sent more than 13 tonnes of knitted infants' clothing and wraps to Maubisse.
- Helped lower the infant death rate in East Timor.
- Won recognition throughout Australia.
- Consumed more than \$1 million worth of wool.

The project began when an earlier charity expressed concern at donated clothing not getting to the targeted babies and mothers in Africa. Project creator and co-ordinator, Patti Cotton, spoke to local Rotarians linked with Maubisse projects and the idea swiftly developed a momentum of its own.

"Within three weeks we had 30 knitters on board," Patti said. From there, it just took off by word of mouth and there are now more than 400 knitters throughout Australia putting their needles to the task.

"They just keep on popping up," she said. In a recent event, she was asked to pick up a huge load of knitting from a group she had not previously heard of. The knitters come from many Victorian country towns and as far afield as Melbourne and Queensland and with ages ranging up to 103.

Patti said it was likely that many of the knitters saw the work as socially important, for them as well as the families of **the Maubisse region. "People are just so generous. I know most would want to help in a heartbeat. But they get** something from it too, such as the satisfaction of being able to make a difference to the poor mothers and infants

Contributed knitwear is created to a set of patterns, transported to Bendigo, sorted and sewn and stored before being packed into aid containers and sent to East Timor. But the massive flow of knitted infant clothing and care has created its own issues. Patti – known locally as a champion networker – has become a champion knit-worker, harnessing the efforts of up to 30 of her friends from the Friends of the Bendigo Art Gallery to sew much of the knitted work together. Bendigo Sandhurst Rotarians organise it, oversee its storage and co-ordinate its shipping to East Timor.

The official opening of the new permanent home for the project will be the first time that many of the knitters, sewers and **supporters have met**".

George Waters, President

Cover picture shows Bendigo Sandhurst Rotarians Patti Cotton and Ray Carrington checking the stocks in the new base.

Some of the women and children of the Maubisse region with some of the Bendigo project work already delivered.



"Many hands make light work," or so the saying goes. Those leading the Rotary Club of Bendigo Sandhurst's East Timor Project had no idea when it started, almost 10 years ago, of how much it would grow.

Members of the Rotary Club of Bendigo Sandhurst's East Timor Project know its new home as 'the ranch'. To the uninitiated, it looks just like any of the other steel sheds on the grounds of the Mechanic's Institute Hall in California Gully. But behind the roller door is a work and storage space bursting with colour.

The walls are lined with rows of meticulously labelled, colour-coded tubs full of knitted baby garments and blankets. Stacked in the shelving units are piles of fabric and countless bags. The black garbage bags contain kits ready for baling and shipping to mothers and infants in need in East Timor. The white bags are full of handmade blankets, created and donated by a central Victorian community. Striped bags with pink tags are full of materials ready to be sewn into garments and assembled into kits.

Demand for woollen items might seem strange to those familiar with the mostly tropical climate of **East Timor**. But the project's champion, Patti Cotton OAM, said the residents of the hillside town of Maubisse were in need of blankets and warm attire. Items are distributed at maternal and child health centres - an incentive for mothers and children to attend for services such as vaccinations, antenatal and infant care, and parental support and guidance. The Carmelite Sisters of East Timor, the provincial administrator in Maubisse and the Bendigo Maubisse Friendship Committee oversee the distribution and advise those in Bendigo about the demand for items. Garments are shipped to Maubisse from Bendigo about four times a year.

Based on the wool alone, the Rotary Club estimated the total value of donations since the project started at more than \$1 million. The garments and blankets amount to more than 13 tonnes of charity over about 10 years.

When the project started, Mrs Cotton said there were about 30 people involved. She believed the number of knitters now was **"probably tipping 500". "A lot of them, I will never meet,"** Mrs Cotton said. Word about the project has spread throughout Victoria and interstate, to New South Wales. Destinations from which the contributions originate are too many, an too varied, to list.

A permanent home for the project was urgently sought after Radius entered into administration last year. For eight years, the disability agency was the home of the Rotary Club of Bendigo Sandhurst's East Timor Project. The Radius site in Eaglehawk served as a site to receive and sort the goods, to pack the items and store them until needed by the families in Maubisse.



The Rotary Club of Eaglehawk came to the project's rescue, offering the use of the Mechanic's Institute Hall in California Gully. All that was needed was a convenient spot for storage.

With the help of the City of Greater Bendigo, and backing from the Friends of the Bendigo Art Gallery, the Rotary Club of Bendigo Sandhurst received the support it needed to add an extra shed to the grounds at the Mechanic's Institute Hall. Assistance from Tim Miller Electrical, 2D Plumbing and Gas and Bolts and Fasteners enabled helped the club to erect and fit out 'the ranch'. Mrs Cotton said the project was made possible by the generosity of many. But she reserved special praise for the knitters, without whom she said the initiative would not be possible. No matter how far away the contributions come from, Mrs Cotton said she did her best to make people feel included. "I write to them twice a year," she said. "I send them photographs. I do everything I can to keep them in touch with what we're doing." She was appreciative of the effort that people went to be involved in the initiative.

Mrs Cotton was aware of participants who devoted a portion of their pension to buying a few balls of wool for the project, each week. They then volunteered the time and skill necessary to transform the yarn into garments for people they would likely never meet. Photographs of mothers and children in Maubisse using the hand-crafted items were precious to those involved in the project, Mrs Cotton said. A few display boards, stored in 'the ranch' ahead of Thursday's celebrations, showcased photos of the garments in use.

bendigoadvertiser.com.au/story/5000567/knitting-projects-new-patch-for-aid-photos/

### Rotary Peace and Conflict Studies Fellowship – A Reflection



It has now been two months since I returned from the Rotary Peace Fellowship at the Peace Centre at Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok, Thailand. Almost daily I reflect on my three months in Thailand, which included an eight day field trip to Cambodia. I am often asked what was it like over there, what did I do, and what did I learn? I am back in the South West of Victoria managing a large Police Division which covers five Local Government Areas. I am living in Warrnambool with my wife Wendy, who I must acknowledge for her support and understanding whilst I was away for three months.

The Rotary Peace Centre is situated in a newly built, multi story building at the University. The facilities are first class and staff absolutely wonderful. The university celebrates its centenary this year and is Thailand's premier learning institution with around 30,000 students.

I feel privileged to have studied there with so many knowledgeable fellows from around the world. As I have mentioned in previous correspondence 23 fellows representing 19 countries formed Class 23. Close bonds have been formed and lifelong friendships made. The networking aspects of the program are very important as we work individually and collectively to make the world a better place.

Professor Emeritus Tom Woodhouse, from the Bradford University, lectured on Conflict Analysis tools. His knowledge on the subject is recognised around the world. Tom is travelling to Australia with his wife Gill later this month to do some work in Sydney on the Global Peace Index with the Institute for Economics and Peace. He is then travelling to Melbourne for a week of rest, relaxation and sightseeing. My wife and I will be meeting up with Tom and Gill whilst they are in Melbourne. I plan on becoming a Global Peace Ambassador and will be discussing my plans with Tom.



During the program we received lectures from subject matter experts in the field of peace and conflict, we conducted role plays, we gave presentations, we visited other institutions and we even danced and sang. I can't say that I was very good at the dancing and singing part. Most importantly we continued to absorb information and grow through the experiential learning process. Lecturers from the around the world filled us with knowledge and made us think about what we are doing and what we can do to make the world a better place.

The program is made up of four modules:

- \* The Concepts and Values of Peace and Conflict Studies
- \* The Diagnosis and Analysis of Conflict
- \* Conflict Resolution Skills, Approaches and Strategies, and
- \* Conflict Transformation and Building Sustainable Peace.

Each module had a number of sub-topics taught by experts in the various fields of study. They included university professors, a retired Army General from Nepal, Directors of NGOs and Dr Vitoon Viriyasakultorn, the Deputy Director of the Rotary Peace Center. Dr Vitoon is a credit to the center and taught us all a great deal through his lived experiences in peace building. I must also acknowledge all the Rotary Host counsellors, who looked after us during our stay in Thailand.



My Rotary Host Counsellor Quanchai Laohaviraphab, from District 3330 – Thailand, made me most welcome. Quanchai was a District Governor between 2014-2015. A visit to the Rotary Club of Phrapadaeng for a family night where we shared a Chinese banquet was very special. I spoke to the club about policing in Victoria which was well received and I have a club pendant to present to District 9800. I will continue to correspond with Quanchai and hopefully will visit him in Thailand in the future.

On one of our days off I travelled with three other fellows, from Australia, New Zealand and Romania, to Hellfire Pass in Kanchanaburi.

I read Sir Edward (Weary) Dunlop's biography many years ago never thinking that one day I would get to

walk along the pass and reflect on the horrors that WWII prisoners of war experienced working on the railway and in labour camps. I also walked across the **'Bridge on the River Kwai'** Having spent many years in the Australian Defence Force Reserve the day trip to Kanchanaburi was very special to me.

The eight day field trip to Cambodia was a highlight for me. During our time there we consolidated the theory we had learnt as we focussed on transition from conflict to peace and then nation building. The trip included the following visits:

The Documentation Center of Cambodia (DC-CAM). The Centre is an independent research institute, which aims to help Cambodians heal the wounds of the past by documenting, researching, and sharing the history of the Khmer Rouge Period.

Extraordinary Chambers in the Court of Cambodia (ECCC). A special Cambodian court which receives international assistance through the United Nations. The court consists of both Cambodian and international legal staff and Judges. The court can only prosecute two categories of alleged perpetrators for alleged crimes committed between 17 April 1975 and 6 January 1979: Senior leaders of Democratic Kampuchea: and those believed to be responsible for grave violations of national and international law.

The Cambodia Center for Human Rights. A nonaligned independent non-government organization that promotes and protects democracy and respect for human rights primarily civil and political rights in Cambodia.

The Anlong Veng Peace Center. The Centre is dedicated to memory, reconciliation, peace-building, and it achieves these objectives through peace studies and genocide education.

A visit to S21 (Security 21) a former secondary college converted into a prison and torture centre by the Khmer Rouge was very confronting as was a visit to the Killing Fields. I reflect on the horror experienced by the people of Cambodia under the Khmer Rouge, which highlights to me how lucky we are to be living in Australia. This is reinforced by the stories I have listened to from other fellows on the program when talking about the hardships experienced in their own countries.

We also visited the ancient temples of Angkor Wat, which are quite extraordinary. Our last night in Cambodia was spent at the Phare Circus. The circus is described as "Uniquely Cambodian, daringly Modern. More than just a circus, Phare, the Cambodian Circus performers use theatre, music, dance and modern circus arts to tell uniquely Cambodian stories: historical, folk and modern".

Phare artists are graduates of Phare Ponieu Selpak, a NGO school and professional arts training centre in Battanbang, Cambodia. It was founded in 1994 by nine young Cambodian men returning home from a refugee camp after the fall of the Khmer Rouge. The circus is in Siem Reap and if you are ever visiting Cambodia I highly recommend you go. I hope to return to Cambodia one day, the people there are amazing considering what they have been through and in many cases still suffering from, due to poverty and hardship.

What now? As a Divisional Superintendent with Victoria Police I am working with the Aboriginal community in the South West and we recently released our multi-agency South West Aboriginal and Torres Strait Family Violence Peace Protocols. In late November I will be attending a two day forum **"Cultural Respect and Cultural Safety"** engaging respectfully with Aboriginal Australians. The workshop will help me further recognise, understand and respond to racism, including institutional racism. It will enable me to be better resourced in my work supporting and implementing initiatives and priorities for Aboriginal Australians.

This month I will also be conducting presentations on the Peace and Conflict Studies Fellowship to Rotary Clubs in Warrnambool and Geelong.

I feel I have returned to Australia a better person due to the experience and I am sure my leadership skills have been enhanced. I will continue to work in the area of peace building. Exactly where the road will lead I do not know, but I do know that I will do my little bit to make the world a better place.

Thanks to Rotary for the experience and investment in my professional development. Special thanks to the wonderful staff at the Rotary Peace Center and to Rob Helme and Bob Fels for your support and guidance.

Peter Greaney November 2017

https://rotarypeacechula.wordpress.com/tag/class-23/

https://rotarypeacechula.wordpress.com/2017/07/04/policing-for-peace/



### District Governor Peter Frueh's November Message

Throughout the Rotary International world, November is Foundation month. Many clubs are recognising this in their program or by specific events, but for practical reasons, some are planning for presentations or events later in the Rotary year.

Whatever time, it is always a good time:

- To find out about Rotary's own charity;
- To see how the Rotary Foundation allows clubs to "Do Good in the World"
- To appreciate how one of the world's best Foundation operates with low costs and high sustainability and transparency
- To help finally eradicate Polio, for future generations
- To think about making a contribution, whatever suits you, to help extend the good work that Foundation allows.

Whenever we discuss Foundation we need to remember that experienced Rotarians have perhaps "heard it all before" and can switch off. However, more than 800 Rotarians have joined our District in the last three years, and many of them would not have had the chance to understand the Rotary Foundation. I can say honestly that I didn't in my first three years in Rotary.

You will see many articles about great projects being done around the world and in Australia with the help of **Foundation grants. There are many global grant and peace scholars who are "Making a Difference" using** Foundation funds. None of this is possible without the funds put in by Rotarians, clubs and friends of the Rotary Foundation - in our District and around the world.

I have made the Rotary Foundation my charity of choice and can politely tell door knocker and other paid/volunteer fund raisers that, "sorry but I give to the Rotary Foundation".

Peter Frueh District Governor 2017-2018





# Peace Fellowships 2017

The Rotary Foundation funds up to 100 Peace Fellowships worldwide each year; 50 for candidates undertaking Master's courses at 5 approved Universities (Uppsala in Sweden, Bradford in the UK, International Christian University in Japan, Duke University and University of North Carolina in the US, and the University of Queensland in Australia). As well as 50 for candidates undertaking the three month professional development certificate at Chulalongkorn University in Thailand.

District 9800 has been successful in having a candidate funded in each of the 15 years the program has been in operation at a rate of just over two per year; an outcome that remains intact with the recently announced successful candidates in 2017 who will be taking up offers during 2018.

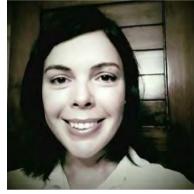
In fact our success rate this year has been outstanding. Amra Lee has been offered a Fellowship to study at Uppsala University. She has been working in Beirut for UNHCR and the Australian Government of Foreign Affairs and Trade with victims of sexual and gender based violence.



Kelly Lawson is an Inspector with Victoria Police and is the local area commander for the City of Darebin.

Jennifer Grover has been working with RedR as a training officer.

Both Jennifer and Kelly will be participating in the professional development certificate course.





Two other District endorsed candidates are listed as alternates for candidates who may not be able to take up offers in the program.

They are Catherine Harris, working for Australian Red Cross in Fiji, who is an alternate for the program at Duke University and Jean Noel Melotte from RedR, currently in Sierra Leone working on a post disaster needs analysis for victims of the mudslides in that country, who is an alternate for the professional development course.

Clubs involved in mentoring applicants this year were Brighton, Kew and the Rotary Club of Melbourne.

All seven of our District endorsed candidates were amazing individuals who have proven their worth to us by their actions, fully encompassing the Rotary motto of service above self. We wish them all well in their future careers and life. Hopefully some will become Rotarians in due course.

If any Rotarian in the District reading this summary is alerted to a potential applicant known to them who may be interested in applying for a Fellowship 2018, now is the time to begin the conversation.

My e-mail address for follow up of candidates expressing interest is <u>rhelme@bigpond.net.au</u> Robert Helme

Chair, District 9800 Peace Fellowships Committee

# Royce and Jean Abbey Agricultura Vocational Scholarship

Christopher Ochaya from Uganda, was the recipient of the Rotary Foundation "Royce and Jean Abbey Agricultural Vocational Scholarship". We had the pleasure of meeting him on the 04<sup>th</sup> February 2017 when we picked him up from the airport to begin his 3 months Scholarship program in Victoria and NSW. Chris runs a model farm (Tamarind) in Uganda teaching locals to grow food. This skill was lost to the community through years of war.

Our responsibility was to arrange his program and assist him where required to assure that Chris had every opportunity to gain the knowledge required for him to make a difference. We understood what the Scholarship Program wanted to achieve. It was a challenge how we could make this happen in such a short time. The first week with Christopher gave great confidence that we could make a difference and by the end of the 3 months program. We achieved all planned and more.

The program involved many individuals, Rotarians and Friends and could not have succeeded without their moral and financial support. More importantly, it is the ongoing support that cannot be measured.

The program had to be regularly monitored and altered to make sure Chris was able to get the full value out of visiting each farm as circumstances vary from farm to farm, eg flock changes, breeding times, harvest times.

This scholarship program included chicken farming, vegetable growing, pig raising, goat farming, day seminar re growing sustainable timber in Otways, rice growing and dairy farming.

It was also important to understand the needs of Chris and his community, so we could train him in the farming systems that would give him the most benefits. During the program it was very clear that everything we could hope to achieve could not be possible without quality, reliable water. This International project needed to include financial support to build the infrastructure.



Chris attended and spoke at the District 9800 Shepparton Conference. Because of his enthusiasm and inspiration many people, including the Rotary Club of Werribee and The Rotary Foundation have contributed \$30,000 financially to this project in Uganda.

This demonstrates what can be achieved from a Rotary Foundation Scholarship.

Brian Ahmed, Rotary Club of Werribee PDG Ian Knight OAM Rotary Foundation Royce and Jean Abbey Scholarship Committee

LEFT: digging the bore.

e. BELOW LEFT: the water flowing. BELOW RIGHT: water flowing through hose into water carriers





# Remembering the Battle of Beersheba at DIK

#### The Battle Of Beersheba, 31 Oct 1917:

"At a mile distant their thousand hooves were stuttering thunder, coming at a rate that frightened every Turkish defender. "The Australian Light Horse were an awe-inspiring sight, galloping through the red haze of the desert, knee to knee and horse to horse, the dying sun glinting on their bayonet points." These were the words of trooper Ion Idriss who rode in Australia's great cavalry charge at Beersheba, 100 years ago.

The Rotary Club of Essendon gathered for a dinner meeting at Rotary's "Donation's In Kind" (DIK) shed. We were joined by DG Peter Frueh, DGE Bronwyn Stephens, DIK's Bob Glinderman, Rotarians from Keilor East, Flemington & West Footscray & members of CWA including the State President & Treasurer & CWA Chair of International who all travelled many miles to attend last night's dinner.

It is not every day however that you can dine & sip champagne in such a huge shed surrounded by wheelchairs, hospital beds, computers, desks & thousands of boxes but there were fancy lights & of course candles & "sparkle"!

Together we were privileged to hear a fantastic talk given by RCE member Peter Baker, about the great Battle of Beersheba. "The 'mad Australians' was a common description. They were brave, they were heroes, they turned the tide of history & made history. We remember 100 years later the 32 Australians who died at this Battle & remember that Australians are always there to help each other & help others in need.

Thank you also to Bob Glinderman, of Rotary Club of Melbourne & Manager of DIK. Bob did a **tour of the old shed & talked about DIK's vision for the future. This project needs money &** volunteers to develop even further. It is a brilliant project & proudly RCE can say they have played a huge part in the making of this history & continue to be heavily involved. Want to **help, please let us know. This project is a wonderful example of Rotary's motto** Service above Self but at the same time all the volunteers enjoy so much fellowship & have a lot of fun.

We were also very fortunate to hear an inspiring talk from Wendy Earwicker, CWA Chair of International, about some of CWA's long history starting in 1922 to some of their great work today. We all talked about how important partnerships are & let's all work together when every single one of us, no matter if we are a member of Rotary, CWA or a volunteer at DIK, are striving to Make a Difference in the world.



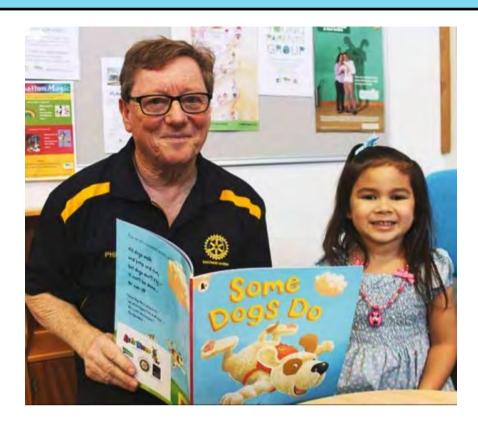
And let us take a moment to think about the significance of that year 1917, not only were our brave Anzacs at war but.....

Rotarian Arch Klumph's idea for an endowment fund dedicated to "doing good in the world" planted the seed of **The Rotary Foundation in 1917** was born. Thanks to his vision and staunch advocacy, and the extraordinary generosity of Rotary members worldwide, that fund has become one of the world's leading humanitarian foundations. In 2017 we remember our history & work together for the future.





# **Bacchus Marsh Rotary Ramping up Reading**



Rotary Club of Bacchus Marsh President Phil McBean with 4 year old Nevaeh.

The future is bright for young Moorabool children as a popular literacy program is funded for a further two years. The Let's Read program was introduced to the region in 2006 and is a national initiative that promotes reading wirth children from birth to 5 years.

The program is delivered and funded by the Rotary Club of Bacchus Marsh and Moorabool Shire Council.

President Phil McBean said literacy is one of the most important foundations for success in school and life. "It is well documented that an individual's literacy levels affect their opportunities in life for education, employment, income and wellbeing," said.

In 23016-2017 the program provided 1211 literacy packs to local childrren. Resources are provided at Maternal and Child Health visits which are conducted at the Darley early Years Hub at 4 months, 12 months 18 months and 3 and a half years.

The Let's Read program was developed by the Centre for Community Child Health at the Murdoch Childrens Research Institute and the Royal Childrens Hospital.

By Jessica Howard, The Moorabool News

# Rotary backs Epic Melbourne-Canberra Walk

Rotary clubs from Melbourne to Canberra backed the 703km walk by the Salvation Army's Major Brendan Nottle last month.

His epic 40-day walk to Canberra via the Snowy's, which began on September 8, raised national political and community awareness about the homeless. It culminated in a meeting with Prime Minister Turnbull and Melbourne's Lord Mayor Robert Doyle AC, who describes Brendan as 'an urban saint'.

Brendan spelt out the need for a bi-partisan national strategy on homelessness, as he did with community leaders at all towns he visited along the route.

On his last lap from the old to new Parliament House, he was accompanied by Opposition Leader Bill Shorten, Minister for Human Services Alan Tudge and Adam Bandt (Greens MHR). His arrival achieved heavy media coverage including evening news on three TV channels. The walk also raised \$130,000, easily beating the \$100,000 target.

The Rotary Club of Melbourne coordinated Rotary clubs along the route and in Canberra. The Appin Park Club at Wangaratta hosted Brendan to an evening barbecue in a log cabin. He became guest **speaker for the Batlow Club's weekly meeting, also attended by the** Tumut Club President and District 9710 leaders. Then in Canberra Brendan was guest at the weekly meetings of the Canberra East and Weston Creek clubs.

During the walk he slept in an accompanying campervan. Tobin Brothers provided a car and driver travelling ahead to warn oncoming motorists. Many other groups, from unions to commercial businesses and sports clubs, backed his walk.

Brendan says, "When you scratch beneath the surface you see people who've experienced absolute hell in their life. I get inspired by their incredible resilience in the face of huge issues - serious mental health issues, horrific abuse and trauma that's been evident in their life for years - and yet they keep going. That's the remarkable thing. Their stories put my challenges into perspective."

Brendan leads the Salvo's Project 614 in Melbourne, a team that works with the homeless, those with mental and addiction issues, and others suffering from social poverty. They interact daily with people from 9 to 93.

To invite Major Nottle to talk to your club, contact <u>brendan.nottle@aus.salvationarmy.org</u> Phone 03 9653 3295

By Tony Thomas



# **Rotary Flemington Connecting with Community**

Community Connects was the title and premise for a forum run by the Rotary Club of Flemington recently. Based on the Rotary Connects model promoted by James Pullar from RC Melbourne, this forum invited residents and community groups to come together and identify issues and possible projects.

Held at Kensington Town Hall on a sunny Sunday afternoon, attendees heard from Victorian Multicultural Commissioner Mr Sisay Dinku; Past President of the Rotary Club of Flemington, former GSE Team member and current District Community Service Chair Del King; Nelson Alexander Flemington Owner Paul Harrison, the Good Karma Effect founder Amy Churchouse and Coburg Good Karma Network chair Nerina Papanastasiou and Kensington musician Tim Solly.

Round table discussions on 4 focus areas {The Arts, Multicultural activities, Business contributing to community and a miscellaneous group} then took place with suggestions,



ideas and issues being debated for projects which Rotary could support and work with local groups to deliver. The excited conversations and engaged participants made for a happy buzz in the room and produced excellent ideas. At the end of the forum, 18 possible projects were identified which the Board of the club will clarify and commence discussions with the various groups to define.

With Club President Sam Nicol's year focus being on local community; and engaging with and supporting community groups, this forum has brought together several disparate groups and produced some strong links.

Mr Sisay Dinky said at the end of the discussions that he was very impressed with the concept and was keen to further develop and support Rotary and its efforts for local community.

MC Tim Solly runs the Q&A session with Paul Harrison, Amy Churchouse, Mr Sisay Dinku, Nerina apanastasiou and Del King.

The new Flemington Rotary banners greeted attendees as they entered the hall.





Community Connects Project team leader Fabiola Pantea,

MC Tim Solly, and Coburg Good Karma Chair Nerina P apanastasiou



# Annual Phonse Tobin Awards

2018 will mark the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Annual Phonse Tobin Award, created in honour of Phonse Tobin, former member of the Rotary Club of North Melbourne (and former President of the North Melbourne Football Club.) The annual event created in recognition of his contribution to the community of North Melbourne, continues his legacy and recognises volunteers in the community who actively serve their community.

This year's awards, held on 12<sup>th</sup> October, 2017 presented awards to 4 highly dedicated volunteers, recommended to the club by sporting, cultural and educational organisations in the North Melbourne Area to celebrate their contributions to community.

Close to 100 guests attended and witnessed the presentation this year including a delegation of a table of members and friends from the Rotary Club of Southbank who moved their meeting night to coincide with the event and continue a strong partnership between the two clubs which grew out of last year's District Conference.

Other attendees on the night included our Past District Governor Neville John, wife of the current District Governor Anne Frueh, guest speaker for the night Peter Hollingworth who spoke of his early days in North Melbourne as a Parish Priest, and how then and now, the city of North Melbourne presents challenges to social inclusion. Representatives of the nominating organisations and Tobin Funerals as sponsors of the event were also present.

North Melbourne Rotary would like to make the event even better next year – looking to expand its reach and partner with other Rotary Clubs in our District who want to recognize people in their communities who make a difference. With the 25<sup>th</sup> year of the awards, it is sure to be an event to remember.

For further information, about how your club can participate in future awards, please contact: Neville Page, Secretary, Rotary Club of North Melbourne (<u>page@ghp.biz</u>) Manjula Pragasam, President, Rotary Club of North Melbourne (<u>manjulapragasam108@gmail.com</u>)



Hamdi Mohamed – Volunteer at the Huddle @ North Melbourne Football Club (http://www.nmfc.com.au/huddle) Hamdi came to Australia in 2011 at age 15, sponsored by her sister and is inspired to help young people overcome the challenges they face within their community.



Anne Shepherd – Retired Child Psychologist at Simonds College (www.sccmelb.catholic.edu.au) he longest serving volunteer (since 2012) at Simonds College is Anne Shepherd, a retired Child Psychologist.

George Te Whaiti (pronounced te Fighty) – volunteer at Hotham Mission

(http://hothammission.org.au George, formerly a resident of Ozanam House has given back to the community he became a part of, by working collaboratively with service providers which provide support for long-term homelessness in the North Melbourne area



Arshi Abdi – Volunteer at Somali Women's Development Association www.facebook.com/ WomensDevelopmentAssociation/) Arshi had been injured in Somalia and like many others came to Australia as a refugee.



#### North Balwyn's Container to the Solomon Islands packed and ready

Members from the Rotary Club of North Balwyn have been busy at Donations in Kind filling a container with a range of educational materials, hospital equipment and other goods.

The container destined for The Solomon Islands which the locals call "The Happy Isles" was packed at Donations In Kind last Thursday.

The container and shipping costs to the Solomons was provided by The Don Bosco organisation and the goods from our Donations In Kind store and member donations. Thanks go to the many of you who donated Children's Picture Books which were requested to assist reading and English language learning at Henderson.

Donations In Kind was able to provide the many other needed items such as medical supplies and hospital furniture, fabrics, chairs and so on.

Our Club bought bike service and repair equipment to accompany about 35 bicycles. Sewing machines and materials, computers, wheel chairs and sporting goods were also sourced by DIK, Members and others.

The Happy Crew, loading up the container.

Thanks Andy Steinicke and Bob Glindemann for helping us.







Some of the books donated by local Schools and Members

By Rob Head

# Vale Jack Campbell Rotary Club of Caulfield

Jack Campbell, Past President and long standing Secretary of the Rotary Cub of Caulfield died on September 24th.

This tribute was presented at his funeral by colleague John Lord.

Jack exemplified the humanitarian ideals of Rotary International in his private and public life, bringing care and compassion to everything, which he did. He was the yardstick by which others within our club measured their own contributions and social conscience. He was instrumental in connecting the Club with other community groups as his community networks were wide, varied and a source of constant surprise.

The Club arranged for him to be recognized with the highest accolade in Rotary, being named by the Rotary Foundation, as a Paul Harris Fellow.



The member of parliament for Caulfield, David Southwick ensured that Jack was recognized earlier this year for his outstanding voluntary work.

Every project the Club undertook, Jack could be relied upon to be there quietly, handling so many aspects from making a large creative fruit platter at Caulfield Park Community School, to attending almost every fundraising BBQ held by the Club. He was invariably the first member to arrive in time to help set-up and one of the last to leave after cleaning up.

#### Rotary has a keen desire to improve the life of 3<sup>rd</sup> world or developing countries

Jack worked on various Rotary projects to help eradicate polio, and substantially reduce Malaria infection in Timor Leste and New Guinea, send doctors and nurses to the Pacific Area to repair broken and burnt bodies and many other international projects.

For some 39 years the Club organized and sponsored a December Festive Season Lunch for those who found it difficult to leave their homes. On many occasions Jack organized the logistics of collecting the guests from their homes, ordering the food for up to 120 people and helping to set up the venue for the lunch, including decorating the tables and arranging enter-tainment. Felicite would collect the cooked food and organize a production line of volunteers to plate and serve the meal and clean up afterwards. On one occasion some years ago, due to a miscommunication, the food was not ready on the day, so Jack drove his iconic blue campervan around the neighbouring suburbs until he found a Red Rooster with the quantity of chickens required.

The cost was substantially less so we switched to our new supplier for future years. No-one figured out this had all occurred accidently and Jack was complimented on his initiative and thrift for the club.

Young people were very much at the forefront of Jack's social concerns. In 1994 Jack and I established the Youth Photographic Exhibition, which has run for many years and which the Council took over as principal sponsor in 2000. He was instrumental in placing young people on the Alma Doepel Training Ship and to enrolling our youth in various Rotary Youth Leadership Training Programs.

Jack used to man the entrance to our Murrumbeena Community Market. This reminds me of one Saturday just 3 years ago when he and I were welcoming visitors at the entrance and inviting them to donate a gold coin to our community fundraising projects. About 11.00am Jack said to me, "I will have to leave for about an hour." I replied: "that's fine, take your time". The reply came back; "I've got some Meals on Wheels to deliver." So at the sprightly age of 93 Jack was ensuring that house-bound senior citizens would receive their lunch.

Jack and Felicite hosted many Club events at their home, providing gracious hospitality including holding the Glen Eira Artists Society after parties, following the Society's various Exhibitions.

Jack never stopped learning. He challenged himself constantly and he enjoyed attending the various Rotary Conferences and Forums. The most recent one was on Homelessness and this led to Jack agitating for the Club to become more involved in the actions being taken to alleviate this social ill.

The Club will honour his memory and his concerns with a donation to a charity working with homeless people. Jack Campbell was an extraordinary man who gave so much to the community over so many years.

Sharing anecdotes

Jack has shared a number of anecdotes with me over the years. Let me now share one with you.

- In 1952 Jack agreed to accept a posting to ICI's head office in London for a couple of years.
- He decided to order a new car, from a London Ford car dealer, so not only would he have a means of transport while there, but he could ship it back to Australia at the end of his tenure.
- Not long after he arrived, he visited the dealer's warehouse in inner city London to pick up the car.
- He drove out of the warehouse and decided on a right turn, figuring out he'd recognize some landmarks before too long, so he could proceed in the right direction.
- Two Hundred metres down the road, he did a left turn and drove straight into Piccadilly Circus. Some of you will know this iconic part of London the busiest thoroughfare/roundabout in central London.
- Instead of panicking, Jack, true to form, drove around three or four times and chose an exit route that he thought was about right.

What do we learn from this: it was just Jack demonstrating his great ability to navigate his way either through or around any problem.

#### Finish

I consider myself very fortunate to have Jack as a colleague for the past 25 years. Jack's business experience with one of the world's largest chemical companies, his work in personnel management and industrial relations, his time in local government – one could not have had a better mentor.

Farewell Jack - we will always remember you



# A little interlude embracing my passion for AFL football and the culture of teams.

Following the success of two AFL clubs who were considered to be 'in the wilderness and came to succeed in the last two seasons – Lessons to take note in your Rotary club.

Visioning – connection, find your own form. The club – links – work together for each other. Members – willing to embrace the role they have been given **new players who embrace the culture and 'step up'** stand behind your leader and give them support President –find a mentor who is a steadying influence be prepared to take advice be open to all kinds of new ideas be prepared to change your leadership style dare to dream – leave a legacy for the future dare to be imperfect to make yourself perfect Ask – what can I do to make the club better?

The captain of the new Premiership group wanted the group to connect and work as a team. When each member of the team stood before his peers and openly spoke of his life, fears and goals, the renewed focus of the team members and respect for each other turned the club around. Be involved in the community. You are measured by what you give back. **Develop a Business plan and above all 'Believe in the path you are taking'.** 

I was fortunate to be a part of the North Melbourne Football club during the remaking of the club by a brilliant team and a coach who has forged lifelong lessons on his players, staff and members. In my classroom I had across the blackboard of the time 'Mr. Barassi says'.

This was the years involving the drawn grand final and the book 'The Coach' written by John Power.

Anne Peace, Rotary Club of Bendigo South

### 4 Times 30+ for Rotary Club of Camberwell

The Rotary club of Camberwell is blessed to have so many long serving members still making a valuable contribution to our club and the community.

Gerry Lavender (PHF) recently celebrated 32 years active membership & Ian Feder (PHF 3 sapphires) celebrated 35 years in Rotary with the last 15 years @ Camberwell.

In November Peter Matthews (PP, PHF 3 Sapphires) will celebrate 35 years & John Phillips (PP, PHF) will celebrate 33 years @ Camberwell after transferring from RC Auckland.

Gentlemen, well done on a fantastic achievement! As a club we should be very grateful to the people who actually asked these members to join Camberwell Rotary.

Our membership and services are what make Rotary strong. To keep it strong, membership recruitment has to be a priority and I urge everyone to ask just one person to be their guest and attend a club meeting.

Maybe some of them will say no, and that's OK. But we do not want any of them to say they are not Rotarians because nobody ever asked.

President Patrick Docherty Rotar6y Club of Camberwell

### Rotary District 9800 Annual General Meeting



Notice is hereby given of the Annual General Meeting of Rotary International District 9800 Incorporated to be held at International House, Room 1, George Hicks Building, 241 Royal Parade, Parkville on Thursday 9th November 2017 at 7:00pm.

The ordinary business of the AGM is -

- To receive a report on the activities of the District during the previous year and any (i) other relevant matters:
- To confirm the appointment of the Office-bearers and the ordinary Directors of the (ii) Board:
- To receive the Financial reports of the District for the preceding year and to present (iii) that report to the meeting for adoption;
- (iv) To receive the District Auditor's report on the financial affairs of the District for the preceding year and to present that report to the meeting for adoption.
- (v) To reappoint Darren Park as the Auditor for 2017-2018.

General Business of the AGM is to consider and vote upon the following Special Resolution of which notice is hereby given -

That this annual general meeting ratify the bylaws and appendices adopted by the Board in the form that accompanied the Notice of Meeting for this meeting.

This resolution is proposed by the Board of Rotary International District 9800 Incorporated.

MARJORIE GERLINGER District Secretary

Rotary International District 9800 Incorporated Reg. No. A0046132N ABN 30 764 979 582 www.rotarydistrict9800.org.au

District Governor: PETER FRUEH 26 Cheviot Road MT WAVERLEY Victoria 3149, Australia P: 03 9888 1196 M: 0438 690 850 E: dg@rotarydistrict9800.org.au

District Secretary: MARJORIE GERLINGER **5 lpydene Court** CHADSTONE Victoria 3148, Austrelia P: 03 9807 8320 M: 0419 302 109 E: secretary@rotarydistrict9800.org.au

District Treasurer: BERNIE GERLINGER **5 Ipydene Court** CHADSTONE Victoria 3148, Australia P: 03 9807 8320 M: 0419 302 104 E: treasurer@rotarydistrict9800.org.au



Stephanie Woollard, Founder and CEO of Seven Women, Rotary Peace Scholar, and recipient of one of just six Rotary International Responsible Business Awards, would welcome the opportunity to speak at your Club.

Stephanie speaks on a number of topics around the world:

- The journey of Seven Women
- How everyone of us can 'make a difference'
- Rotary Peace Fellowship
- Social entrepreneurship and innovation
- Gender equality

- Responsible / Ethical Business Practice
- CSR and Philanthropy Impacts on communities
- Sustainable Tourism

To arrange Stephanie to speak at your Club, contact Sandi Fulcher on email sevenwomenea@outlook.com or call mobile 0416 063 434.

How to host a screening and raise some much-needed funds for 'Seven Women' in Nepal?

Filmed over a period of four years, this film follows a group of Nepalese women whose lives have been empowered through education, skills training and income generation. This is a story of courage, resilience and strength as these women seek to create a better life for themselves, their families, and other women in Nepal.



You are invited to host a film event to raise awareness and encourage people to take action to end trafficking in the fashion



Contact Sandi for your 'How to Host a Screening Pack' Email sevenwomenea@outlook.com

#### Have you read Stephanie's book?

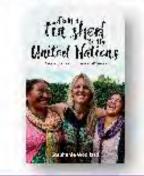
"From a tin shed to the

#### United Nations"

It takes you on Stephanie's entrepreneurial journey, exploring how every one of us can make a difference.

Cost is just \$29.95

Order your copy <u>online</u>, or invite Stephanie to speak at your Club and she can personally sign your copy



"Empowering marginalised women in Nepal through skills training, employment and education." www.sevenwomen.org

# What does Australia have that the other developed nations of the world don't? Trachoma!



It's an eye disease that is still endemic in Australia. The World Health Organization has a goal to eliminate Trachoma globally by 2020.



Soon, Rotary will be celebrating 100 years in Australia. Let's mark this special milestone by every Rotary Club in Australia coming together to eradicate Trachoma from our country.

Every Aussie kid should look like this and our combined Rotary Clubs can make it happen.



EndTrachoma by 2020 Rotary - Building Healthy Communities



www.endtrachoma2020.org.au Rob McGuirk (Rotary Melbourne) Kerry Kornhauser OAM (Rotary Melbourne) Dr Murray Verso (Rotary Williamstown)

# Welcome to our new Rotarians .....



Stella and Matthew Proctor were inducted into the Rotary Club of Albert Park by President Joan Robison on their Lift the Lid day. Welcome!

Rotary Club of Rochester proudly announced the recent induction of new member Debbie Bish. the first father /daughter membership in club history. Debbie recently completed

the RLI program at Bendigo. A Quote from Debbie-

I am privileged and excited to (finally )become a member of Rochester Rotary. I want to honour the work and accomplishments of past and present members and help the club to continue working in the local and global community and to move forward with enthusiasm.





The Rotary Club of Richmond has inducted 2 new members this month—

Anna Walpole who was joined by her 4 children on the night.

They also inducted Annette Pepper is Tasmanian born, grew up in Stanley and undertook General Nursing Training in Launceston. She is the mother of one son and two grandchildren who are domiciled in Hong Kong.

Rotary North Balwyn welcomed John Sewell and Margaret into the Club. John will serve under the classification Construction & Project Management. John is well known to many Members already through the Greenacres Golf Club and is keen to share the Rotary experience with us



# Welcome to our new Rotarians .....



The e-Club welcomed two new members last week. The wonder of being in an e-club is that they were able to invite their family along to our meeting, with their guests joining us from Spain, Italy and Austria. Welcome Angelica and Antonio.

Angelica is a cyber security researcher within the cyber security group at the National Research Council in Pisa, Italy. I currently live in a nice coastal town near Pisa in Tuscany, Italy. Her experience within the Rotary family began when she joined Rotaract in 2011. During the 2016-17 Rotaract year she served as President and is currently International Director.



Antonio was formerly a member of the Rotary Club of Sierra Madrid but had to l eave due to business travel. This was the reason to join an e-club. Antonio works in environmental and safety management, mainly in construction. He has worked in Spain, Portugal, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Colombia, Kuwait and Oman. He now lives in Salamanca with my wife who is a retired school teacher.



On Sunday 29 October Brighton North Rotary supported the 1st/14th Brighton Sea Scouts at their annual Water Activity Community day held at Karkarook Park, Heatherton. We provided our Rotary barbecue trailer and volunteers to cook for the around 190 registered participants.

The charities supported this year were the Mirabel Foundation and Family Life. Children who attended took part in a day of various watercraft activities - sailing, kayaking & paddle boarding organised by the Sea Scouts. Once off the water, participants appreciated the hot sausages cooked up by the barbecue team!

Brighton North Rotary is a long-time proud supporter of the work of the 1st/14th Brighton Sea Scouts.

### Around the Clubs ......



RC Yarra Bend are continuing to implement RIP Ian **Riseley's injunction to plant trees.** They are continuing to maintain and support the over 100 seedlings planted back in April at Yarra Bane National Park. They have had an excellent success rate.



SERVICE

Mike McFarlane and Lloyd Knight from RC Kew recently attended a gathering of the International Fellowship of Flying Rotarians in Tasmania which was attended by the International President. Here Mikl presents banners to President Carl.

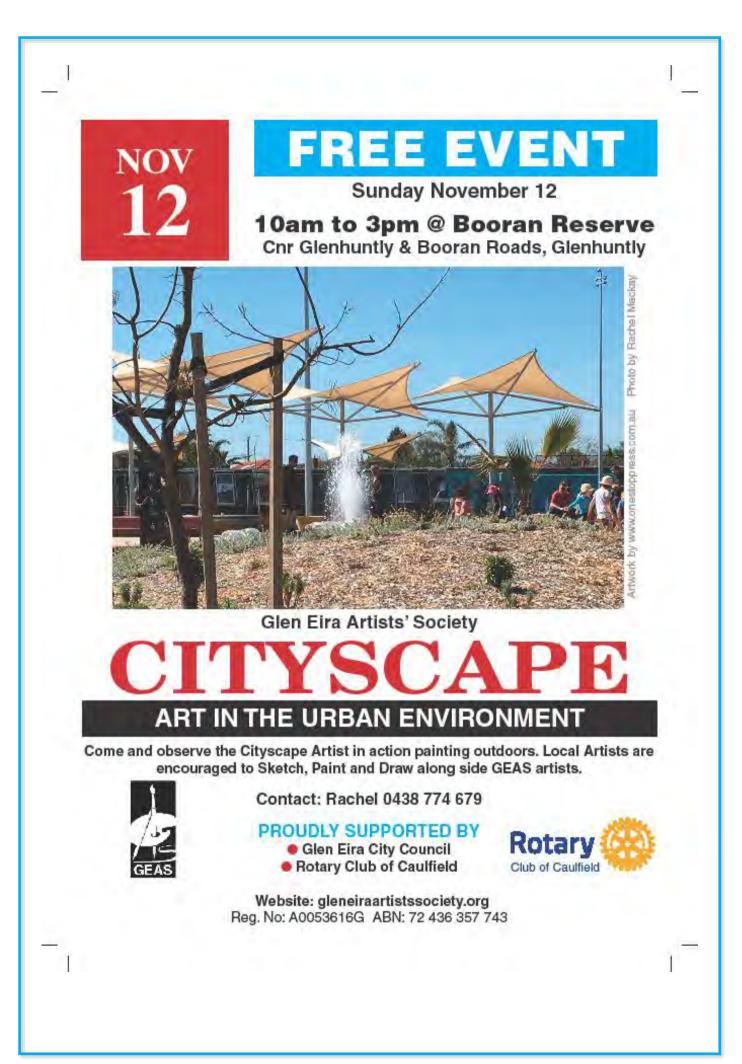


Rotary Laverton Point Cook presented the First Point Cook Scouts with cast iron cooking sets, billy cans and GPS units that were purchased using a \$1000 District New Member Grant.



Edition 8: 2017-2018

ntal





Registrations are now open with the Early Bird rate effective until 30th November. First time conference attendees have been offered a significant price reduction. <u>http://www.rotaryconference.org.au/register.html</u>

### **ROTARY DISTRICT 9800 CONFERENCE SPEAKERS**

Watch this space as speakers are confirmed for the Conference.



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THE TRUE MATE



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Early Bird registration ends on November 30th.

http://www.rotaryconference.org.au/register.html

### Notices and Events . . rotarydistrict9800.com.au/content/36/club-events

#### #itsinthebag - is on again!



18th November to 2nd December 2017

Rotary Albert Park donated a whopping 75 bags last year and we need your support again this year. Over the coming weeks if you can bring your bags filled with goodies to our meetings, we will

arrange to have them delivered during the 18 November and 2 December! Any questions speak to Deb Renshaw-Jones.

You have the power to make life better for a woman or girl experiencing homelessness or poverty this Christmas. Donate to our Christmas collection **"It's In The Bag"** and provide pads and tampons, personal hygiene products and everyday luxuries to homeless women, women at risk or women experiencing domestic violence. **It's simple.** Choose a handbag you no longer use, fill it with items that would make a woman feel special, pop in a thoughtful note or Christmas card and show her someone cares. Show her that she matters. **Next time you're at the shops,** collect a few items for your Christmas handbag. What goes in the bag?

Your handbag can be packed full of useful things and little luxuries for someone experiencing homelessness or in crisis. So what do homeless women need? Chances are, she needs the same personal care and sanitary items you need.

# KEILOR EAST ROTARY

presents

"A Cambodian Story"



an inspirational evening with special guests from the Cambodia Rural School Trust (CRRT). Studier Ambassadors Songeas and Veun! Coming al theway from Sem Reap. Cambodia, they will share their personal journeys with you of what its like growing up in tural Cambodia and now their twes have changed through CRRT.





When: Monday 20th of November 2017 Time: 6:30pm for 6.45pm Venue: Keilor East RSL Hoffmans Rd, West Essendon. Meal Cost -\$20. Not eating - Free Please help us by confirming your attendance and any special dietary requirements through clicking the RSVP button.

RSVP

#### About Cambodia Rural School Trust

The Trust was set up by the Palti family after their daughter, Steph, decided to join her high school's project to volunteer to build houses in rural Cambodia.

#### Aviv Palti

Based in Melbourne, Aviv provides, leadership and direction to the NGO team. Aviv is the CEO at Lifestyle Brands, one of Australia's leading marketers of photographic, stationery and home decor products, with worldwide distribution channels.

The organization is unique in that 100% of its funds are used for its educational and community programs.

In January 2017 they launched the CRST Ambassador Program, with the belief that international travel to developed countries will provide their leadership team with an invaluable educational experience and open their eyes to possibilities for their future and the future of their country.

### Notices and Events . . rotarydistrict9800.com.au/content/36/club-events

### **ROTARY CLUB** OF **GLEN EIRA**



1987 - 2017

Invitation

to join our Celebrations

on

Saturday 18th November, 2017

6:30 at

Tivoli German Club 291 Dandenong Road, Windsor

Buffet dinner \$45.00 per person Drinks at bar prices.

> RSVP 1 November, 2017 to gleneirarotary@gmail.com



essential as numbers are limit Online rotanjtoorakiorg.au

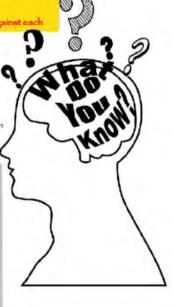
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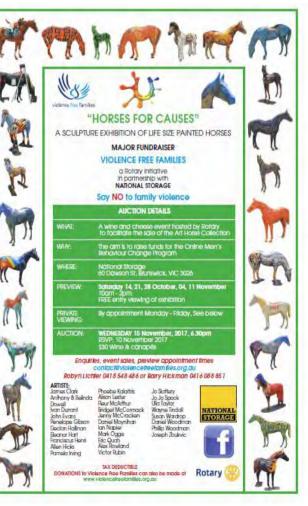
allman@bigpond.tet.au

Mobile: 0409 850 930

OF Rans rans reid@gmail.com

Mobile:0430 144 288





# **Our Contributors**



Peter Frueh is the current District 9800 Governor.

He is a member of the Rotary Club of Balwyn.

He and Anne are busy visiting clubs.



Rob Head President Rotary Club of North Balwyn



George Waters President Rotary Club of Bendigo Sandhurst



Rob Helme Rotary Club of Melbourne Chair, District 9800 Peace Fellowships Committee

Peter Greaney Rotary District 9800 Peace Scholar



Tony Thomas Rotary Club of Southbank



PDG Ian Knight OAM-Rotary Foundation Royce and Jean Abbey Scholarship Committee



Brian Ahmed, Rotary Club of Werribee



Jenny Foster President Rotary Club of Flemington



John Lord Rotary Club of Caulfield