



SERVICE Above Self

SERVICE ABOVE SELF

President's Ponderings
Eureka Tower and Bill Parker



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**Rotary
Awareness Month**

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Tonight you have seen a project of world standing. A piece of architectural sculpture that does Melbourne proud, as a great livable city. The quality of the architecture, engineering and construction is without peer anywhere in the world, and is due to the skill and capability of our designers, builders and contractors and we should all be very proud of their achievements.

The fact is that we have now completed and occupied 64 levels of the building with a further 25 levels to be occupied in the next six months, all whilst construction continues above them. Remarkable indeed, but due to dedicated design and implementation skills of the whole project team. So this mammoth undertaking is heading towards its end.

My role in this has been similar to that of 'a conductor of the orchestra', but required to have mastered almost all of the instruments. From the initial feasibility to buy the land, though planning, design, construction, sales and marketing and finally setting up the building management for the delivery of their homes to the happy purchasers, my role has been to orchestrate the activities of these groups, with the able assistance of dedicated team leaders in all aspects.

A number of times over the past year I have been asked 'what's next'. The answer is not always evident. What does one do when you have a project based business and career and you come to the end of a large project like Eureka, one that has absorbed almost six years of one's working life?

In the past, there have been other major projects on the immediate horizon, i.e. Southgate, but at the moment Melbourne is facing a period of up to five years of slowing growth, particularly in major projects.

So when I was recently offered the position of Vice President Projects (surely a demotion from President of Camberwell Rotary) for a substantial Sydney based Australian Private Property Development Group, the choice was obvious. Take the position and see where it might lead.

So at the end of March, I take up that position in San Francisco in sunny California, USA, to develop the initial project in that city, with two more in the offing, and responsibility to develop within northern California and into the adjacent states to the east.

On 1 January this year, Jenny, Michael and I visited San Francisco for two weeks to scout for an abode and to commence initial work on the first project.

Initially, I will be relocating and Jenny and Michael will join me when appropriate, as Michael is in VCE year 11 this year and will not be moving from his school until he completes Year 12.

As I will take Leave of Absence, Vice President Gary has agreed to step in and fill-in as president for the last three months of this Rotary year (on proviso that I do the annual report).

All of the Directors - Anne, Peter, Ron, Michael, Syd, David, Jim, Secretary Ivan, Treasurer Tim, Malcolm as Board Secretary, Art Show Chairman Jon, Sergeant Don, Peter on catering, Don on programme, Bern with our superb Bulletin, and PE Peter and VP Gary, have been most supportive of me through this year and I am sure will continue to lead the club in the same sterling way for the balance of the year. The work is done by you and them, not by me.

There will be many friends that I have made in Rotary, whom I shall sorely miss. Hopefully we will see some of you on your travels and you will be able to stay with us.

But nothing is forever, Hawthorn/Camberwell will be home, and we shall return.

In this instance the move to San Francisco is a sea-change of oceanic proportions, but a sea-change that we look forward to. I will not be lost to Rotary, as I shall to join a club in San Francisco, when my tenure is up this year.

To all members not with us tonight, my apology

that I was unable to address each of you personally

Thank you all for your friendship, fellowship and support to Jenny and myself for all of my 16+ years in Camberwell Rotary, we will cherish all of the memories and fun times and yes the Artshows.

Enjoy your week in Rotary, giving "Service above Self" with fun, friendship and fellowship.

Herald Sun
CAMBERWELL ROTARY
ART SHOW
AUSTRALIA'S LARGEST CHARITY ART EXHIBITION

Fellow Rotarians and Friends of the Art Show, Please complete the attached roster form and return to Peter Matthews in either Electronic, Faximile or hard mail. Considerable time and effort is required to assemble the final roster so your prompt attention would be a great help.
Peter Matthews

