

AN EXTRACT FROM ROTARY CLUB OF RICHMOND'S
PRESIDENT'S NEWSLETTER FOR 13-02-06 FOR EZINE.

I have recently had friends from NSW staying with me, author, David Burke and his wife, Catherine.

As a consequence of David's current research on a member of the "squattocracy" of late 1800 and earlier 1900, we went to Geelong to visit a member of the Historical Society there. What a fabulous city it is now! Apart from visiting a Vietnamese ROMAC patient at the hospitals there, and driving straight through, I have not visited Geelong since I last sailed there, when we still had the long January ANA weekends! (Now sailing enthusiastic sailors take a half week off, rather than a weekend, if Australia Day does not fall on a Monday or Friday!)

The Geelong Harbour is wonderfully restored; the Art Gallery is beautiful with great exhibitions on, which are changed frequently. (There is a little gift shop there which has reasonably priced gifts for young and old.) Across the road, there is a large Entertainment Centre, with an extensive program of live performances for this year.

The Historical Society is next door to the Art Gallery, but we did not go in there, as we had coffee at the Entertainment Centre with three members of the Society. The town oozes history, and there are beautiful old buildings to see. There are many cafes along the restored waterfront, and we had a delicious lunch at the "Sailor's Rest".

I really felt quite excited by my visit as this is where our District 9800 conference is to be held in March. Apart from the wonderful Rotary information that we are all going to learn, I can highly recommend Geelong as a place to visit. If you have not registered yet, it is not too late. Come and join us, and have fun.

Janice Kesterton