



Town & Country Weekly

Your e-Zine from District 9800

Volume 3 Issue 23 – 9 December 2006

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DG Bernie's Weekly Message - OUR FUTURE FAMILY

One of the joys that a family experiences is to support their young ones in the various activities undertaken in the pursuit of one's self improvement and, when the week is over, to drive to the site and ferry their charges back home, comfortable in the knowledge that it has all been worthwhile.

Well, it happened in Rotary this week. The annual RYLA live-in was conducted at Wonga Park and 52 eager young adults embraced the outdoor life and commenced their week long seminar. The Rotary Youth Leadership Award is a seven day seminar for 18 to 25 year olds who commit to this leading program and discover their unique talents and abilities and how to use these in their immediate environment and wider community.

An energetic, positive and non-judgemental team provides an exciting and memorable experience. There is an opportunity to practice leadership and team building while being encouraged to recognise and embrace one's personal vision. They find out how to contribute to the life cycle of a group, be an effective speaker and be willing to clearly describe and share one's emotions.

The program is aimed at encouraging and developing leadership and social skills so that awardees can, more effectively, contribute to their communities in a practical manner.

So, what has this got to do with the Family of Rotary?

There were attendees at the seminar that are already involved in social work and helping young homeless youth. I had the privilege of meeting two young men from the Sudan who have already experienced life in its rawest form. They are so positive that one could feel very proud in their company and admire their courage and willingness to not let anything stop them from improving their life and the lives of others. There was also a young lady from Somali who is also involved in social work on the streets.

This is a dynamic part of the Family of Rotary and it drew many Rotarians to their presentations and dinner on Wednesday night at the camp. It was great to also see Rotarians turning up on Friday to take these young people home again, their week concluded. Each Rylarian, because that is what they are now, clutching their certificate acknowledging that fact.

So you didn't go, you didn't know it was on, your Club did not sponsor a young person, you could not attend the dinner and presentation during the week, you couldn't find the place, you had too many other things to do?

Make sure you get involved next year and ensure you are going to nurture part of the Family of Rotary, because, if you cannot, part of our future will slip away.

Lead The Way by involving yourselves with and encouraging our young adults.

Bernie Walshe
District Governor

BENDIGO ROTARIAN NAMED BUSINESS WOMAN OF THE YEAR

Margot Spalding, co-Owner and co-Director of Jimmy Possum Furniture Pty. Ltd. has been named **2006 Telstra Australian Business Woman** of the Year at the National Telstra Business Women's Awards presentation held in Sydney. Margot is a **member of the Rotary Club of Bendigo** and President John Krakowiak says the Club is ecstatic about the honour earned by such an important member.



Margot was presented with the prestigious award by Telstra CEO, Sol Trujillo and Telstra Business Women's Awards Ambassador, Ms. Holly Kramer, after earlier winning the National Westpac Business Owner Award.

The Jimmy Possum business, a furniture design and production company, was established by Margot and her husband 11 years ago in a small shed with just one employee. Today the company employs over 150 people and offers a thousand products through five own-name retail stores as well as supplying furniture to 66 stores across Australia.

Margot says being named 2006 Telstra Business Woman of the Year has been an amazing experience for not only herself, but for the entire Jimmy Possum family. "As a family we have worked incredibly hard," she said. "It meant so much to win as everyone with me was so excited. The boys and girls were yelling, cheering and crying. I couldn't believe that anyone could be recognised so significantly for doing something they love. It is a great reward for seriously hard work and effort."

She said there is not a strong enough representation of women in business in Australia and "women need to believe they can be successful in business and go for broke.... believe, believe, believe."

Congratulations Margot on behalf of all Rotarians in our District and we are proud of her achievement and fulfilling her vocation in such a stunning way.

We acknowledge some excerpts above were drawn from Telstra Corporation Limited

DECEMBER IS FAMILY MONTH

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN CLUBS

RC Elsternwick

Change of Venue - As from Tuesday November 21, the Rotary Club of Elsternwick meets at Hopscotch, 313 Glenhuntly Rd Elsternwick 3185 at 7.15 for 7.30 am

RC Gisborne

CHANGE OF VENUE: from Tuesday 5th December The Rotary Club of Gisborne Inc. meets at the Victorian Tavern Hotel - 22 Aitken Street Gisborne at 6.45 for 7.15 pm.

RC Port Gellibrand

Early notice for the big Masked Fort Ball - 31 March 2007

With Christmas on the way early booking is recommended so that you do not miss out on this stellar occasion to be held at historic Fort Gellibrand.

Numbers are strictly limited and bookings need to be made well before 1 February when tickets will be mailed out - [click here](#) for details

Read all about the Big Bay Swim for 2007, the major fundraising event for RC Point Gellibrand, scheduled for **25 Feb 2007**.

RC Hawthorn

Purchase the finest quality Christmas Hams and Chocolates for your family, friends, colleagues, and staff with orders closings December 8. Don't miss out on this succulent opportunity to share in this superb Christmas fair!

Go to <http://www.hawthornrotary.org/projects/ehams06-orderform.pdf> for the order form

RC Prahran

Christmas Function will be held at Kooyong Lawn Tennis Club at 6.30pm for 7.00pm on Thursday 14th December. This function is in lieu of the luncheon meeting 11th December

RC Richmond

FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITY FOR YOUR CLUB - [Click here](#) High quality hamper with your personalised Club gift card for member's to sell as staff, customer, other gifts. Please take time to look at the attached brochure.

1. COCKTAIL PARTY FOR MS

Saturday **10th February** has been chosen for a fund-raising Cocktail Party to coincide with the annual MS Global Dinners held around the world.

The D9800 Rotarian Action Group for M.S. Awareness (RAGMSA) is spearheading the function to be held at International House, at the Melbourne University and is looking to District clubs for their support in the committee's commitment to '**Help Prevent & Find a Cure for MS**' - More details will follow in January

2. D9800 DONATIONS IN KIND - HOLIDAYS

The DIK store will be closed from Thurs 14th Dec until Tues 16th Jan 07

Emergency only - Call **Bill Dagg** - 0425741045

Please buy the 1 cent Exercise books from Officeworks in JANUARY 07 to donate

A big thank you to all Clubs & Rotarians that have made your DIK such a success again this year

3. MELBOURNE METROPOLITAN ROTARY BOWLS DAY

FRIDAY MARCH 30, 2007 – 12.30PM AT KEW HEIGHTS SPORTS CLUB,
397 Barkers Rd., Kew 3101 [click here](#) for details and entry form

4. RYPEN HOSTS WANTED

We invite interest from Clubs that wish to host the RYPEN Camps next year that will be held on:

Friday 27th to Sunday 29th April 2007 & Friday 19th to Sunday 21st October 2007

This is a great opportunity for Clubs to experience working with our youth and enjoying fellowship over the three days with your Rotary Club members.

To register your interest and to seek further details, contact Marc Fookes at:

mfookes@bigpond.net.au or ring him on 0439 456 120.

5. CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

SAVE!! AND WIN!! HURRY!!

EARLY BIRD SPECIAL!!! NOT TO BE MISSED

Register by 13th December 2006 to Be In The Running To Win A Weekend Of Luxury

Courtesy Of Lexus Of Blackburn. Just a short 45 minute drive from central Melbourne, The Sebel Heritage Yarra Valley is part of the prestigious **Heritage Golf & Country Club** and **Heritage Retreat & Dayspa**. This weekend includes one night's accommodation at The Sebel Heritage Yarra Valley in a deluxe room, including buffet breakfast for 2, access to all recreational facilities and the first private Jack Nicklaus designed signature golf course in Australia.

To travel to your destination in style and comfort, the winner may select a Lexus vehicle of your choice for the duration of a weekend, courtesy of Lexus of Blackburn.

Rotarians, please to let us know of anyone who should be receiving Conference updates.....just send an email to: conference@rotaryd9800.org or Telephone: 03 9810 3509

6. **CAFÉ INTERNATIONALE**

Café International 2007: The Golden Globe promises to be an exciting night of fine dining and sparkling performances inspired by film and television classics over the last 50 years. 2007 also marks the 50th anniversary of International House. In celebration, the student residents have decided to donate 100% of profits from Café 2007 to **Interplast** Australia. Keep **5th May 2007** free to attend this event.

[Click here](#) for essential details about Café 2007 and please indelibly mark Saturday night 5 May 2007 in your diary for "**Café 2007: The Golden Globe**"

District 9800 Rotary Clubs will receive a formal invitation for Café 2007 early next year.

If you have further questions about Café 2007, please contact Cafe07@gmail.com

7. **AUSTRALIA DAY 2007 INVITATION**

The Rotary Club of St Kilda invites Rotarians, friends and family to the annual celebration of our National Day on **Friday 26th January 2007**. Join us for brunch from 10am at the **South Melbourne Town Hall**. We look forward to seeing you there - [Click here](#) to read all about it.

Australia day is a wonderful opportunity to enjoy and appreciate the benefits of our remarkable country and its people, to reflect upon and acknowledge the history that led us to where we are now and to look forward to the future that we can create.

So have some fun and help to improve the lives of those with less cause to celebrate.

Mike Williamson, OAM is our guest speaker and some items to auction include autographed Brownlow Medal memorabilia.

For most of us, Australia is indeed a Lucky Country. Help us to share that around.

Booking is essential - please [click](#) to access the booking form.

New Members - A big Rotary welcome to:

RC Melbourne Miklos Pohl

NOTICE: [Royce Abbey Room](#) (International House)

The "new" Royce Abbey Room is still undergoing renovations but good progress has been made. In the meantime all meetings scheduled for the "Royce Abbey Room" will be continue to be held in the "old" Royce Abbey Room in the Greycourt building.

Changes to RI Exchange Rate

The December Rotary exchange rate for the AUD remains at 1.31

You can always check the back issues of Weekly News if you missed something: 2005-2006

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Speakers Bank Update: [Click here](#)

District 9800's website: <http://www.rotaryd9800.org>