



Town & Country Weekly

Your e-Zine from District 9800

Volume 3 Issue 26 – 13 January 2007

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DG Bernie's Weekly Message **EXPERIENCE THE POWER OF ROTARY**

Like an avalanche gathering speed as it races downhill, the District Conference 2006 is but a few short weeks away and for those who have not yet registered, it starts with the Welcome Reception on Friday 9th March at the National Museum of Australia in Canberra.

I know this is going to be an exciting Conference because of the record number of Early Bird registrations already received.

The main Conference will be held at the Australian Institute of Sport on Saturday and Sunday of our long weekend, 10th and 11th March with the Gala Dinner Dance to be held on the Sunday night and you can take the Monday holiday to travel home or take in the attractions of our National Capital.

Attendance at the Conference is not compulsory but, if you want to get the most out of your membership, a District Conference should not be missed.

The Conference will feature excellent speakers and presentations and reports on the work of Rotary in our District, however, this is merely only a part of what is on offer in Canberra. If you talk to regular Conference attendees they will tell you the main attraction of a District Conference is the fellowship. All attendees enjoy the company of their fellow Rotarians and especially the opportunity to meet members of Clubs other than their own.

Canberra promises to be a magnet on the first weekend in March and once there, you will find the accommodation costs most reasonable and most of the numerous attractions, free.

Experience the power of Rotary and expand your appreciation of our great organisation and be enthralled by the aeronautical presentation by Australia's own Astronaut, Andy Thomas, or hear of the exploits of VC recipient, Keith Payne. Be inspired by the founder of Shelterbox, Tom Henderson, out from the UK and listen to Stuart Diver, our great survivor, and many more to entertain and challenge you. All this will be tied together by the doyen of MC's, Tony Charlton.

I am grateful to the Chief Minister of the Australian Capital Territory for the assistance given in staging this important event and to Lexus of Blackburn who is the main sponsor of the Conference.

Please don't delay and register today to join the fun and fellowship that the District Conference provides.

Log on to the website www.rotaryd9800.org/conference to register.

Lead The Way by **Experiencing the Power of Rotary.**

Bernie Walshe
District Governor

DROUGHT ASSISTANCE

On the 23 January 2007, Woolworths (Safeway) will be donating its entire supermarket's profits for the day to the drought relief. The funds will primarily be used by the CWA for immediate support for rural families with the remainder to help fund research into sustainable farming practices. This is expected to be in excess of \$3 million dollars. So, if you do your normal shopping on the 23 January you will be helping farming families who are currently doing it tough.

Rotary D9800 is not promoting Woolworths (Safeway) but this is an opportunity to help support those suffering direct hardship from the drought and worth consideration by all.

You may read full details about this proposal at the Woolworths' website.

<http://www.woolworths.com.au/woolworths+ceo+pledges+support+for+drought+relief.asp>

JANUARY IS ROTARY AWARENESS MONTH

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN CLUBS

Brimbank Central Rotary Club

Combined Clubs Meeting – Western & Northern Suburbs – Wednesday 24 January 2007

Guest Speaker: Justice Lance Pilgrim of the County Court, a sometimes controversial, but always challenging and amusing speaker.

Venue: Courtyard Room, Taylors Lakes Family Hotel, 7 Melton Hwy, Taylors Lakes – 6.30pm for 7.00pm start.

Visitors welcome. RSVP & Enquiries – Robert Chessell 0407 312 716.

RC Brunswick

Meeting venue/time updates:

January lunch meetings - at the Lomond Hotel, 225 Nicholson St, Brunswick East (traditional January meeting venue) - no guest speaker, just an informal lunch. 12:45pm for 1pm Thursdays, same time as usual.

Night meetings - The first Thursday in Feb and March (1/2/07 and 1/3/07) will both be night meetings, continuing tradition from before Christmas. Time is 6pm fellowship for 6:30pm meeting.

All other Feb/March meetings will be at the usual Thursday lunch time (12:45 for 1pm).

All details are at <http://www.brunswickrotary.org.au/> as usual.

RC Elsternwick

Change of Venue - The Rotary Club of Elsternwick now meets at Hopscotch, 313 Glenhuntly Rd Elsternwick 3185 at 7.15 for 7.30 am

RC's Flemington + Maribyrnong-Highpoint

These 2 Clubs will conduct Joint Weekly Meetings on Tuesday 16th January and Tuesday 23rd January at Quest Apartments, Epson Road, Flemington, commencing 7.15 for 7.30am

RC Gisborne

CHANGE OF VENUE - The Rotary Club of Gisborne Inc. now meets at the Macedon Family Hotel - 33 Smith Street Macedon at 6.45 for 7.15 pm.

RC Port Gellibrand

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

RC Prahran

RC Prahran will meet at Lago Restaurant, Cnr. Queens Road & Lakeside Drive, Albert Park (in lieu of usual meeting place at Club Tivoli) on Monday 29 January, 2007 at 12.45pm for 1.00pm. Thereafter meetings will revert to Club Tivoli.

1. CHARITY DINNER WITH FUTUROLOGIST BERNARD SALT

The Yarra Cluster Clubs invite all Rotarians and friends of Rotarians to a fascinating breakfast address by renowned demographer and futurologist, Bernard Salt to talk on: **"Generationally Speaking" - Is generational change shaping your community?** [Click here](#) for details

Bernard is the author of the best-selling book *The Big Shift* published in 2001, now in its 3rd edition and more recently *The Big Picture* published in 2006. He will address the issues of:

- Is generational change shaping your community?
- Are the Boomers guilt ridden, indulgent parents and grandparents?
- Where have all the X Gen gone?
- Generation Y - are they footloose and fancy free?
- Will this Fearless Generation become the Disappointed Generation?

Where: **Leonda by the Yarra**, Wallen Road, Hawthorn (Melways 45 A11);

When: Friday **23 February 2007**;

Time: **7:15 am** for 7:30 am sharp;

Cost: **\$37.00** per head or \$350.00 for a table of 10

2. SUPPORT FOR IMPORTANT MEDICAL RESEARCH

[Click here](#) to read about an opportunity for District Clubs to take up the challenge to assist funding to complete important medical research. If Clubs would like more details about how they may be able to help, please contact PDG Des Jones.

3. ROTARACT ANNUAL DINNER DANCE

The Rotaract Clubs of Lilydale and Noble Park would like to invite all Rotarians to the Rotaract International Dinner Dance, which is being held on Saturday 17th March 2007. [Click here](#) to read a flyer with all the details. It will be a great night, not to be missed!

4. Rotary Youth Exchange – 2007/8 programme

While our current intake of students arrived only in July and our 2007 outbound students have yet to leave it is already time to start thinking about next year's program. [Click here](#) to read further details.

5. **ROMAC UPDATE**

In the December District Governor's Newsletter you read about the remarkable story of Afu Fan who arrived in Australia in Sept 2006, as a near quadriplegic, and was facing death within six months.

Afu flew out in early January from Melbourne to Darwin, where he was met by Rotary and accommodated overnight and flew on to East Timor exactly 3 months after he arrived. At least four times at Melbourne airport he had to be "found" prior to his departure as he raced around and yet just a few months ago, at the same airport, he could not walk and had months to live.

Afu is very appreciative but his dad is just overwhelmed by Rotary & Rotary people. As a Christian he said we were all blessed by God. Cecilia Goncalves, on behalf of the Timorese community & the Timorese Association in Victoria committee has written to say thank you to all the members of Rotary for helping Afu's Family & especially their son. The boy is very happy & full of hope & strength to face life in the future.

6. **COCKTAIL PARTY FOR MS**

A fund-raising Cocktail Party will be held on Saturday **10th February** 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.

7. **ROTARY IMAGE IN ACTION**

Astute Rotarians who are regular travellers on Melbourne's roads will have noticed that Rotary is being promoted in spectacular fashion by massive signs at 2 sites. One sign is at the corner of Dynon Road and Sims St in West Melbourne and the other in Dorset Road in Bayswater North. The space on these signs has been donated to Rotary and this gesture is greatly appreciated.

8. **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

9. **CAFE INTERNATIONALE**

Cafe 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 Cafe 2007 to **Interplast** Australia. Keep **5th May 2007** free to attend this event.

Click here for essential details about Cafe 2007 and please indelibly mark Saturday night 5 May 2007 in your diary for "**Cafe 2007: The Golden Globe**". If you have further questions about Cafe 2007, please contact Cafe07@gmail.com District 9800 Rotary Clubs will receive a formal invitation for Cafe 2007 early next year.

10. **AUSTRALIA DAY 2007 INVITATION - STOP PRESS**

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 & appreciate the benefits of our remarkable country & its people, to reflect upon & acknowledge the history that led us to where we are now & to look forward to the future that we can create. So have fun & help to improve the lives of those with less cause to celebrate.

Mike Williamson, OAM is guest speaker & with Channel 7 taking back the AFL football telecasts in 2007 will reflect on his time with Channel 7. Items to auction include a rare Brownlow Medal montage of signed photographs of 40 medallists & AFL legend **Bob Skilton** will be on hand to present to the lucky purchaser. **Len Thompson** another AFL legend remembered by many Collingwood supporters will also be attending.

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 Brunswick

David Earley (Insurance Services)

[Click for a photo of David](#)

RC Melbourne North

Andrew Georgiou (PP 98/99)

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.

RI Exchange Rate

The January Rotary exchange rate for the AUD is 1.28

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

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>