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Town & Country Weekly

Your e-Zine from District 9800

Volume 3 Issue 49 – 29 June 2007

THE FINAL & COLLECTORS EDITION

DG BERNIE'S CONCLUDING MESSAGE

TIME TO SAY GOODBYE!

The journey that commenced three years ago is now coming to its end and the final step will be taken on Sunday at the District Changeover when I hand the regalia of office to John Davis who will be District Governor 2007-2008.

All around the Rotary world, the new teams take their places on 1st July from the RI President down to the Club officers. It is a time of spring in Rotary as this annual renewal takes place and the promise of another harvest is born.



We reflect on the past twelve months with a thin layer of nostalgia and a large measure of gratitude and it is time to say thank you to the many Rotarians that have Lead The Way during the year.

The Club Presidents and members deserve a huge thank you for their warmth and friendliness towards Margaret and me and we will have lasting memories of your kindness.

Thank you to the District Leadership Team and members of the various committees who made it happen during the year and I wish to acknowledge the superb support provided by the District Executive, especially by the District Secretary, Dennis Shore and District Treasurer, Bernie Gerlinger, who both have endeavoured to keep me sane this year.

I pay tribute to the Rotary Club of Hawthorn who had faith in my ability to carry out the duties required of an RI Officer. I will always be grateful to my Club for its patience and fortitude and the expertise of its members employed in the conduct of the very successful District Conference held in Canberra, an event that took a large committee over two years of organisation.

During the year, I have endeavoured to inspire and teach via my weekly and monthly Messages and, to round off the year, I will relate an event that happened in Salt Lake City. One of the speakers was a 22 year old young lady from Turkey who was born without arms but, at the age of 17 years, undertook the CLE literacy programme to improve her position in life. Her name is Emine and she not only completed the course, she also became a teacher of the programme who wrote by holding a pencil between her toes.

She was the most emotional of the speakers at the RI Convention but the event was extraordinary for a number of reasons. I happened to be the Treasurer at the Rotary Club of Hawthorn when we applied for a 3H Literacy Grant for Kurdish women in Turkey and I wrote the cheque for \$25,000 that was the principal contribution which gained a grant of \$US283,000 for that CLE programme. The Turkish Government adopted and promoted the programme throughout Turkey for the benefit of all.

On top of that, I had the privilege of helping to establish an Alliance between our District and District 2420 in Istanbul based on our common interest in Gallipoli. District 2420 provided a pair of prosthetic arms for Emine which she proudly wore on stage at the Convention.

This is a further story about the wonderful world of Rotary and how the world is becoming a smaller place where enemies of many years ago have joined together in a bond of understanding and peace. Everything is possible when we set our mind to it and, in Rotary, extraordinary things happen, even when you least expect it.

To be a District Governor is a great privilege and one is humbled by the humanitarian projects and community efforts performed by the Clubs, sometimes quite casually, for those less fortunate. I am proud to have had the opportunity to lead the Rotarians of our great District, who this year, have showed me, how to ***Lead The Way***.

Bernie Walshe

**District Governor
2006-2007**



A REFLECTION ON A YEAR GONE BY

This will be the last edition of Town & Country Weekly and next week a new publication will commence to show how **Rotary Shares** in the year ahead. It has been a pleasure to help Rotarians in District 9800 to **Lead The Way** in 2006 - 2007 by providing a forum for promoting Club activities and for sharing information from District. Each week DG Bernie has demonstrated how to **Lead The Way** through his thoughtful message to inspire or give us cause for reflection. That has been a big commitment and DG Bernie's diligence has been much appreciated by Rotarians in District 9800. Many Clubs have made a feature of the weekly message in their Club Bulletins.

There has been gratifying positive feedback for Town & Country Weekly which is most welcome but the value of the newsletter is a reflection of having wide readership and of Rotarians and Clubs making use of the opportunity to share information. Special thanks go to **Cheryl Pisterman** (RC Glenferrie) for setting up the template for the newsletter and repairing the glitches that have occurred from time to time. Thanks also to **Doug Kirkman** (RC Hawthorn) for revealing the mysteries of HTML, Front Page and cyber transfers. These are skills that I am only too pleased to have someone else achieve mastery thereof!

All the best to those involved with the Weekly newsletter in the year ahead.

Dennis Shore
District Secretary

ROTARY SHARES IN 2007 - 2008

IMPORTANT DISTRICT INFORMATION

1. DG CHANGEOVER LUNCHEON

RC Essendon looks forward to welcoming all D9800 Rotarians and the Family of Rotary who have advised their attendance at the DG Changeover luncheon to thank **District Governor Bernie Walshe & Margaret** for "leading The Way" during a wonderful year for Rotary, and to welcome and support **District Governor Elect John Davis & Joan** for the coming year.

Melrose Receptions - Cnr. Melrose & Carrick Drives, Tullamarine
12:00 noon for pre-lunch drinks
3 course meal, including all liquid refreshments + Entertainment by Divas Inc.

2. COLLECTION OF DG BERNIE'S MESSAGES FOR 2006 - 2007

Many Rotarians have regularly acknowledged how much they have enjoyed and been inspired by the weekly and monthly messages of DG Bernie.

These messages have been compiled into a single document, which in the fullness of time will surely become a collectors' item. It is a large file for those on dial-up connections but no challenge for those with broadband. The document contains photos and images of the Rotary year.

Visit the District website to download your copy.

There will soon be a new District 9800 website, but in the meantime please refer to the current website for other Rotary information

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

You can read back issues of Weekly News if you would like to review the last 2 years of Rotary in District 9800:

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