



SERVICE Above Self



In the August edition of *The Rotarian* RI President, Carl Wilhem says, "August is the Rotary Month of membership and extension, an area of great importance to our organisation."

Rotary is only as strong as its clubs and we must invite good men and women to join our ranks. I believe there are men and women in the community who possess the drive, the qualifications, the qualities

and the passion that determine Rotary membership. These people are Rotarians in all but name, people who want to make a difference in their community and just need an invitation from us to join Rotary. Remember, at some point in time, a Rotarian asked each one of us to join this great organisation.

Membership is a major focus this year and my goal is to again have 3,000 members in our District. Carl-Wilhem has asked for a net increase of one member per club, which seems an achievable goal for every club. However if we are to reach 3,000 all 72 clubs will need to have a net increase of two members which I believe is also very achievable.

District Membership Chairman Mel Gray is committed to membership recruitment and has already conducted membership forums at club level. He can help your club in your drive for new members. Contact Mel on 0407 202 403 or mel_gray_xx@hotmail.com

DG John Wigley



President Alan Freedman of the Rotary Club of Toorak inducts new member, Toni Royston. **(left)** In his presidential year, Alan is concentrating on increasing the membership of the Rotary Club of Toorak.

Many of the clubs focussed on inducting new members during August including Richmond, Altona City, Melbourne Central Sunrise, Kyneton, Carlton and Brighton North with many clubs inviting past members to rejoin. Congratulations.



New member Izzy Sargin joins the Rotary Club of Altona City in August 2005.

District 9800

DG's Update

August 2005

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August is Membership Month

Rochester Farm and Road Safety Expo

On a clear and crisp mid-winter morning over 1400 mainly Primary level school children with teachers and some parents descended onto the Rochester Showgrounds to attend the annual Farm and Road Safety Expo which is the major project of one of our smaller clubs.

The Rotary Club of Rochester have been conducting this event for the past six years and its popularity was in evidence this year as Fran and myself joined in. The purpose of the expo is to demonstrate and teach the children on the aspects of safety on their farms, at home and on the roads.

There are most of our emergency service organizations in attendance including Victoria Police, Country Fire Authority, State Emergency Service, Safe House, Rochester Pony Club, Vic Roads and many more.

Students come from far distances eg. Kyabram, Shepparton, Bendigo and Moama in NSW and the Probus club helped with a BBQ sausage for all. At the end of the day there are plenty of tired children who are much better aware of the need for safety awareness in their daily lives.

DG John Wigley



Club visits continue

In August, DG John and Fran continued their visits to the District's Clubs where they were made most welcome by Presidents and members. The visit to the RC of Footscray was most confronting for a died-in-the-wool Melbourne supporter like John who was overwhelmed by the sea of red, white and blue at the home of the Footscray "bulldogs" Football Club. He was definitely in a minority on the night. Pictured left are Fran Wigley, DG John and Emmanuel Tumino, President of RC Footscray.

Introducing your District Executive



Back Row:

Bernie Gerlinger (District Treasurer); David Pisterman (District Secretary); Marjorie Gerlinger (AG's rep); Gary Goldsmith (Chair Admin)

Front Row:

DGE Bernie Walshe; DG John Wigley; PDG Judy Nettleton and DGN John Davis

The Rotary Liver Cell Bank

In March, 2000 the Rotary Club of Footscray, in association with the Rotary Club of Brunswick, launched the Rotary Liver Cell Bank (RLCB) with the aim of providing the Murdoch Childrens Research Institute (MCRI) at the Royal Children's Hospital with the equipment necessary to collect and store liver cells for implantation into the diseased livers of children.

The implantation of healthy cells enables the liver to regenerate and can negate or at least defer the need for a major liver transplant. Cell implantation costs only \$10,000, compared to more than \$150,000 for a transplant and the need for life-long anti-rejection drugs may be avoided.

Since that time, the RLCB has raised over \$400,000 for the equipment and the salary of a staff member to research the separation, cleaning, storage and thawing of liver cells.

Whilst the advantages of this procedure are clear, the full benefit cannot be achieved as the shortage of organ donors means there are not enough livers to meet the demands of full transplants plus the cells needed by the RLCB.

This has necessitated the search for alternate sources of cells and the team at the MCRI is currently researching the switching of stem cells (from bone marrow and cord blood) to make available an unlimited supply of liver cells. They also propose to research the use of live donor cells from a portion of liver (probably from a family member of the same blood group).

This is another example of Rotary providing support and encouragement to dedicated medical scientists who choose to continue their work in this country rather than take up higher paying positions overseas.



Vic Parsons, Rotary Liver Cell Bank, and researcher Daphne Cheah

with thanks to Vic Pasons

Attendance and Membership - June 2005

	Members June 2005	Attendance %		Members June 2005	Attendance %
Albert Park	44	49	Kangaroo Flat		74
Altona	28	77	Keilor		76
Altona City	29		Keilor East	40	86
Bacchus Marsh	42		Kew		
Balwyn	74		Kew on Yarra	20	81
Bendigo	78	75	Kyneton	40	84
Bendigo Sandhurst	46	77	Laverton Point Cook		
Bendigo South	42	76	Malvern		74
Bendigo Strathdale	40		Maribymong Highpoint		
Boroondara	19	79	Melbourne	239	53
Brighton			Melbourne Latrobe	13	
Brighton Beach	25	60	Melbourne North		
Brighton North	41		Melbourne South	52	63
Brimbank Central	33	80	Melton		84
Brunswick	22	75	Melton Valley	18	
Camberwell	68	76	Moonee Valley		55
Canterbury			North Balwyn	93	83
Carlton	41	72	North Camberwell - merged with Canterbury		
Castlemaine	55	79	Northcote	16	81
Caulfield		67	Point Gellibrand	37	65
Cent Melbourne Sunrise	56	56	Prahran	37	
Chadstone E Malvern	38	79	Richmond	43	
Collingwood			Richmond Hill		
Daylesford		65	Rochester		92
Eaglehawk		84	South Yarra		
Echuca-Moama	26	83	Southbank	41	73
Elsternwick	18		St Kilda	19	46
Essendon		52	Sunshine		75
Essendon North			Toorak	33	
Fitzroy	30	79	Tullamarine	17	50
Flemington		79	Werribee	45	
Footscray	50	71	West Footscray	33	60
Gisborne	25	64	Williamstown	32	59
Glen Eira		74	Woodend	20	77
Glenferrie		73	Wyndham	29	72
Hawthorn	70	65	Yarraville		68
Hoppers Crossing	23	79	Total	1980	

**NB: Club Attendance Officers - Figures by 15th of month to attendance@rotaryd9800.org
 Club Secretaries - Figures by 15th of month to membership@rotaryd9800.org**