



PORTFOLIO

ROTARY DISTRICT 9820 GOVERNOR'S NEWSLETTER

JANUARY IS ROTARY AWARENESS MONTH

JANUARY 2008

Greetings fellow Rotarians

The first one hundred and eighty two days.....

....but first Grant and I would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year and hope that 2008 is a good one for us all.

Reflecting on the first one hundred and eighty two days (and nights!) it started with a wonderful Changeover, then the personal increase in emails and phone calls from July 1st was incredible, then we started our club visits.

Also in the one hundred and eighty two days, Exchange students have been selected and attended camps in preparation for their year away; we have said hello to inbound students and farewell to those who have enjoyed their year here. We have had the activity of filling containers with generous donations ready to leave our shores for the under privileged. School gardens have been tended, judged and won. We have had floods and fires where many Rotarians have spent many hours cleaning up and clearing up.

The eight Assistant Governors have given helping hands where needed and supported their clubs. The 50 new club presidents have learnt to be fantastic presidents, some with the attitude of 'sink or swim' and as a result have learnt to be excellent swimmers.

Clubs have celebrated Charter Nights and other special occasions, they have awarded Paul Harris Fellows and have worked tirelessly to raise money for their favorite part of the many Rotary programs. Program directors have found a plethora of guest speakers and have involved their clubs with vocational visits. Car parks have been manned, sausages have sizzled, markets have been run and at the same time members have attended to the day to day running of their clubs.

The Chairs of the various committees have also worked tirelessly and have all achieved wonders. We also had an enlightening Foundation seminar following the District's AGM, under the leadership of PDG David Loudon.

Meanwhile the Conference committee has been busy planning what we think will be a fantastic Golden Anniversary celebration on February 29th and March 1st and 2nd. Although we are a little disappointed with the slow registration of delegates. There is a conference update further in this edition of 'Portfolio' and from now on look for your weekly updates that will be sent to all club secretaries. And all this in just 184 days.

At this time DGE Ken is attending the International Assembly in San Diego and he will arrive home full of enthusiasm like all D.G.E.'s have in the past. Following in the footsteps of all accompanying partners, Margaret will return with an overweight suitcase.

Group Study Exchange Team leader, Tony Spring and his 'girls' have just completed their first week in District 2980 in India. It appears that the welcome mat has certainly been rolled out for them and they are having an incredible time. They have attended the District 2980 conference and



DG Janet McCabon and partner Grant Ellers

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PORTFOLIO is the monthly newsletter of Rotary International District 9820, Victoria, Australia

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still had time for some vocational visits. I am also told that so far their tummies are coping well. (There has been no mention of cricket either)

I would like to take this opportunity to thank PDG Dennis, PDG Ray Martin and PDG Ray Stewart and District Secretary Garry for 'holding the fort' for me over the past three weeks while I attended to a family crisis, it was a welcome relief to close the Rotary door temporarily.

New Years Cheers from both of us and here's to the next 183 days!

Janet & Grant.

9820 Conference update

Golden Jubilee Conference

This month, I thought I would bring you a few more details about the conference and to start, I would like to introduce to you our MC, Don Jones.

Don was born in Shakespeare's country and started off as a musician during his National Service days in the Royal Air Force. The RAF band regularly toured all over the north of England and Scotland, performing at the Edinburgh Tattoo, The Royal Tournament in London and in France. After leaving the RAF, Don continued to entertain at a variety of clubs and pubs as a comedian.

Don and his family migrated to Australia and in 1974 returned to the theatre restaurant scene with a group of performers to present an Old time Music Hall Show. For eight years "Hancock's Theatre Restaurant" was a popular place for people to have a laugh and a singsong. During the late eighties and into the nineties, he toured with his comedy show at social clubs, football clubs, bowling clubs and RSL clubs in Victoria and NSW. Don has been a support act for many international and local celebrities: Al Martino, Chubby Checker, Engelbert Humperdink, Kamahl, Frankie Holden and Denise Drysdale.

As well as being a funny comedian, he is also an accomplished magician, and he writes and performs comedy songs and monologues. In addition, Don presents comedy storytelling shows to schools and is a regular cast member at the Tivoli Theatre Restaurant in High Street, Malvern, performing up to 100 shows per year. He also does the odd bit of MC'ing and I am sure will be a highlight of our conference!

Next, we are very excited to announce that we have secured the famous British philosopher, Professor Alfred James Price as one of our guest speakers. Professor Price gained international notice with his first book, Truth and Logic, published in

1963, where both his endorsement and development of the ideas of logical positivism are first presented. Professor Price will definitely not bore you with his amazing presentation.

Following Professor Price will be Mike Letch, Churchill Fellow and Scuba Diver. Mike is a former Australian International Speedway rider, who competed as a professional motorcycle racer in the British Speedway League before being injured in a racing crash that ended that career and resulted in paraplegia. A licensed pilot before "the crash" he was one of the first Australian wheelers to get a pilot's license with hand controls and flew in Royal Victorian Aero Club competitions for many years.

A former skin diver, surfer and life saver as a teenager, he re discovered diving 7 years ago and has spent the rest of that time playing catch up! He became an Assistant Scuba Instructor with the Professional Association of Dive Instructors (PADI) in 2002; the same year he sat and passed his Instructor's Exams, only to be told that the examiner didn't like the way he looked in the water so wouldn't certify him! However in 2006 he qualified as an instructor with

Conference Golf Day

Widely regarded as one of Melbourne's hidden treasures and rated in Australian Golf Digest's "Top 100 Golf Courses" Long Island Country Club is a golfer's dream come true.

Long Island's ti-tree lined couch fairways and immaculate greens make this 18 hole, par 72 golf course a memorable experience. Established in 1938, Long Island Country Club, at the gateway to the beautiful Mornington Peninsula, offers the challenge and pleasure of a true traditional "sand belt" golf course.

From its rich history to its idyllic surroundings, Long Island promises captivating moments to all its guests."

There are still plenty of places left for any budding golfers who wish to register to play a round of golf at the magnificent Long Island Country Club with a BBQ lunch and player gift pack thrown in. For \$40.00 it's great value access to this exclusive, members only golf course.

Register today and experience for yourself one of the finest championship golf courses in the country.

the International Handicapped Scuba Association in USA. Diving passions include wreck and free diving.

Mike's personal mission is to redefine the expectations of disability to include not only outstanding achievement, but also adventure! In 2006, he established the Disabled Diver's Association as a not for profit organization aimed at creating opportunities for many people with a variety of disabilities to access snorkelling and scuba diving. In 2007, Mike was awarded a "Shine on Award" from Rotary District 9820.

Whatever you do, don't miss the Friday evening plenary sessions!

For all you football fans, you probably know that Frankston is to be the new home of St Kilda Football club and we will be hearing all about what they have planned for the future of the club from one of their Board members. And there are lots more surprises in store, some of which may be revealed in the next DG's newsletter in February.

Don't miss out! The Golden Jubilee of our District is a 50 very good reasons to be attending this conference. It's not too late to get your registration in, but please do hurry!

Home hosting beds are still available. Contact Teresa Sealey on 0414 425 039 to book your room.

Come along and join us as we celebrate this very special party - the Golden Jubilee District 9820 Conference.

Judy Rebecca

Conference Chairman

District 9820 Foundation Matching Grants

A number of Matching Grants projects have become available for District 9820 Clubs to participate in.

All projects are within District 3400 Indonesia and are awaiting immediate implementation. Paperwork on all the applications has been partially completed.

Individual Clubs or a group of clubs may be involved by financially assisting a project. Only one club is permitted to take on the role as International Partner.

There are some District Foundation funds available to assist with the implementation of the project if required. Some of the projects have already had funding allocations from other Rotary International Districts & clubs.

This is a great opportunity for clubs to become involved in the Matching Grant program and provide a better standard of living to residents in a third world country.

Any Club interested in these projects can obtain full details from the District 9820 Foundation Committee – Merv Williams (Mt. Martha) Allison Towner (Hallam Valley) or Terry Williams (Pakenham).

Closing date for applications is **March 2008** but **ASAP is preferable.**

Merv Williams

District 9820 Foundation Committee
Chairman Programs & Administration



Dragon boat racing at Mt Martha Cove

The Rotary Club of Frankston Sunrise were the Rotary winners in the Dragon Boat races at Mount Martha Cove's Aquafest on Sunday. If you look very closely at the photo you will notice that there are ladies in the team. So isn't obvious to the all male club that as winners you should always have girls in your Rotary team?

Congratulations to President Jonathon Mayne from the R.C. of Mornington and everyone one else who made the day a great success for the second year. Well done to all the winners and especially the organizing committee and lets see if we can make this a bigger Rotary day next year with more clubs competing.

Rotary Foundation news



Our GSE Team Departs for Tamil Nadu India

Based on all the wonderful things we have seen and heard so far, our team has been well prepared by PP Tony Spring and are ready for the experience of a lifetime as GSE Team Members and to serve as ambassadors for Rotary, District 9820, Australia, and of course their own families. We are all very proud of their efforts and can't wait to see and hear about their adventures after their return to Australia on 2nd February.

At Tullamarine Airport on New Year's Eve it wasn't hard to see the excitement and enthusiasm about this wonderful opportunity and amazing trip that they were about to embark on. So, for Tony, Keren, Emma, Michelle and Deborah now it was finally happening and you can see their joy as they're about to leave on the 5:00 o'clock flight en route to Tamil Nadu India.

They were farewelled by Foundation Chairman PDG David Loudon and GSE Chair Anne Cox, seen here with Tony and his team. Tony's wife Carla and a multitude of team members' family and friends also came along to the airport on a 42 degree day to cheer them off on their big adventure.

Anne Cox
GSE Chair

District 9820 welcomes the Group Study Exchange Team from District 2980 Tamil Nadu, India

(Duration 17th February to 20th March 2008)

GSE Team Leader: Maruthavanan Ganapathy

Ganapathy was born in Chidambaram in 1961. He comes from an Agricultural family and had his preliminary school education at Madras and at a



public school in Wellington, Ooty. Then had his Under Graduation in Agriculture and a Post Graduate degree in Agronomy from Tamil Nadu Agriculture University.

At present Ganapathy works as a Professor in the Department of Agronomy, Annamalai University. His major responsibility is teaching Agriculture, Research and Extension activities for farmers.

He joined The Rotary Club of Chidambaram in the year 1987 and has held several offices at Club and District level, but mainly associated with International Service, The Rotary Foundation and as coordinator for the Group Study Exchange program.

He has been instrumental in the success of many projects including implementing many Matching Grant Projects, the Children's Opportunities Grant, and the Low Cost Shelter Programme for his District.

During Rotary's Centenary year, he was a District Administrative Secretary, South Asia Solidarity Fund Secretary and RI Tsunami Relief Fund Secretary.

He is married to Mrs Sathiyavathi and they have one daughter Vandana who is a first year Under Graduation in B.Tech (Information Technology). Ganapathy's family runs a special school for physically and mentally handicapped children and also those with hearing impairment.

Team Member: Pragadeeswaran Shunmugavelu

Pragadeeswaran holds a Bachelor of Mechanical Engineering degree and also a Doctorate in Business Administration.

He has ten years experience in teaching students of Business Administration at university level. Included in his teachings are research and extensions activities. He is a Management Consultant, Yoga Master and Students' Career Guidance Counselor. Eswar's hobbies are singing, meditation, and mimics.



He lives at Chidambaram with his wife who has a qualification as Master of Textile and clothing. They have two daughters Aswandini aged 4 and Anandhitha aged 1.

Team Member: Jaffer Ali Mursitha Banu



Banu holds a Master of Arts degree in English and a Bachelor of Education.

An inspiring and dedicated School teacher, she teaches English and History. She has been teaching for 14 years. Part of her teaching entails writing articles and presenting projects in English also organising seminars and projects for students, including English classes for rural children. She is the Rotary Interact Club coordinator at School.

Her Hobbies are reading, nature watching and Gardening.

Banu's husband is a Quality Control Inspector at

The Steel Authority of India and they had one son, Faheema, aged 7 and one daughter, Fazil, aged 5.

Team Member: Hari Krishna Raj Ramasamy



Krish holds a Master of Science in Applied Microbiology and Master of Philosophy in Life Science.

A committed college teacher, he has eight years experience in teaching and research in Microbiology. He is proficient in immunology, molecular techniques, virology, bacteriological & biotechnology fields.

His hobbies are playing with micro-organisms, essay writing, elocution, dancing and singing.

His wife is also a Microbiologist and a Professor in a private college.

Team Member: Sukumar Dhanadapani



Kumar holds a Bachelor of Veterinary Science degree. He is a veterinary surgeon and practitioner with nineteen years experience of rural practice in the area of animal welfare. He specializes in veterinary Obstetrics, gynecology and frozen semen techniques for cattle breeding.

His hobbies include badminton and singing. Together with his wife and two sons, Sanjak aged 10 and Akshay aged 7, they live in Sankarapuram.

Welcome Dinner and Farewell Dinner for the GSE Team from Tamil Nadu India

Welcome Dinner

Monday 18th February

hosted by the
Rotary Clubs of Morwell/Hazelwood

Venue – Morwell RSL. Corner of Elgin & Tarwin Streets, Morwell

Cost per person is \$25
(exact cost to be confirmed)

Welcome Dinner Bookings, contact
Mike Answerth, ph: 0438 048 150 or
email Mike on

michael.answerth@adm.monash.edu.au

Closing date for bookings:
12 February

Farewell Dinner

Tuesday 18th March

hosted by the Rotary Clubs of
Wonthaggi and Inverloch

Venue – Wonthaggi Workmen's Club
75 Graham Street, Wonthaggi

Cost per person is \$25.

Farewell Dinner Bookings, contact:
Ian Munro, ph: (03) 5674 2921, or email
info@eugenies.com.au

Closing date for bookings:
Friday 14th March

Group Study Exchange Welcome Home Dinner

**District 9820 Team
returning from District 2980,
Tamil Nadu, India**

President David and members of The Rotary Club of Frankston North warmly invite you to the 'welcome home dinner' for the GSE Team upon their return.

Team Leader:

Tony Spring – Rotary Club of Frankston North

Team Members:

Deborah Flack (Frankston), Michelle Hutchins (Traralgon Central), Emma Haylock (Moe) and Keren Fuhrmeister (Bairnsdale)

Date: Saturday 9th February 2008

Time: 6.30pm for 7.00pm start

Venue: Frankston High School Hall,
Towerhill Road, Frankston

Cost: \$35.00 per head for a three course meal – drinks at bar prices

RSVP: to The Rotary Club of Frankston North by 6th February

Further information:

redgar@netspace.net.au

or Ian Gardner

0418991511 or Bob Edgar 0408531594

The President and members of the Rotary Club of Frankston Long Island would like to convey our sincere condolences to DG Janet, Grant and Janet's family and to notify the district that PHF Joan Ford, Janet's mother, passed away on Monday 14th January 2008.

Joan was a tireless worker for the Mornington Peninsula Hospice and was still helping out at Corowa Court Opportunity Shop until quite recently. Joan will be sadly missed by family and friends.

ROMAC news

For your interest here is a copy of the reply received from the office of the Governor General in relation to the 2006-2007 ROMAC Annual Report which was sent to him in December.

John Benger



District 9820 Attendance Report for November 2007			
Club	number of meetings	number of members	attendance percentage
Bairnsdale			
Bairnsdale Sunrise			
Berwick	3	68	71.67
Bunyip/Garfield	3	15	80.00
Cranbourne	3	36	77.40
Dandenong	3	34	69.00
Dandenong Central			
Dandenong East			
Dromana	3	36	73.40
Drouin	3	56	79.39
Endeavour Hills			
Foster			
Frankston	3	50	80.60
Frankston /Long Island			
Frankston North	3	37	100.00
Frankston Sunrise			
Hallam Valley			
Hastings			
Hazelwood	3	29	62.00
Heyfield			
Inverloch			
Koo Wee Rup/Lang Lang	3	23	75.96
Korumburra			
Lakes Entrance	3	22	79.00
Langwarrin			
Leongatha			
Maffra	3	33	89.20
Mirboo North			
Mitchell River			
Moe	3	33	89.00
Mornington			
Morwell		49	83.64
Mount Eliza	3	52	91.13
Mount Martha	3	32	77.40
Narre Warren	4	21	91.67
Orbost	4	25	81.00
Pakenham			
Phillip Island & San Remo	3	32	75.00
Rosebud	4	21	64.00
Rye	3	14	84.00
Sale	3	28	70.00
Sale Central			
Seaford Carrum Downs	2	15	70.00
Somerville Tyabb	3	19	64.00
Sorrento	4	39	88.80
Trafalgar	3	21	57.00
Traralgon	2	37	86.00
Traralgon Central			
Warragul	3	53	67.00
Wonthaggi			
Yarram			
TOTALS	102	839	

Article guidelines

Please compose any article you wish to appear in Portfolio in either a word processing program or as emailed text. Due to constraints on time it is not possible to extract or reconstruct information supplied as hand written or as hard copy. Send contributions to me by the 5th day of the month to have it included in the next issue.

Email: rhowell@tmlc.com.au

Richard Howell
Portfolio Editor