

District Governor's Newsletter

District
9820

DG Ken McDonald
& Margaret



AUGUST IS MEMBERSHIP AND EXTENSION MONTH

DISTRICT CONFERENCE AT ALBURY 20 - 22 MARCH 2009

Rotary year 2008 – 2009 has started and already one month has passed us by!

August is the month in our Rotary year that we turn our attention to Membership and Membership Retention. Margaret and I together with DGE Brian Norris and Kerrie, DGN David Piper and Aileen, Membership Chair Rotarian Julie Allgood, President Dick Ellis and Kim, Rotary Club of Lakes Entrance, President Diane Wood, President Elect Peter Saul and Rotarian John Ariens all from Rotary Club of Bairnsdale attended the International Membership Seminar in Canberra on 11 – 13th July. International President D.K. Lee was present to ask us all to do our utmost to increase membership. Many great ideas were suggested during the week-end and these will be disseminated throughout the District.

The statistics shown at the seminar clearly displayed a steady decline in Membership and we MUST at member, club and district level do all in our individual power to change the direction of the spiral. The catch-cry of the week-end was “Get your ASK into gear” and that may be what is needed, just ask a friend, acquaintance or any person. They may just be waiting to be asked.

It is with regret that I pass on the news that the Rotary Club of Heyfield’s resignation has been accepted by Rotary International. It is sad when we lose a single Rotarian, it is even sadder when we lose a whole club. We wish all our past colleagues the very best for the future and will be ecstatic if they choose to rejoin the Rotary Family.

Margaret and I have visited a number of Clubs and it is very clear that they have set their year to increase membership along with a host of programs to achieve a positive outcome. It is very pleasing to see the enthusiasm displayed by the members as a whole, and that meetings are full of fun and enjoyment. Indications from Clubs are that many have set their sights on attending Albury for the District Conference in March next year and have already booked their accommodation.

Rotary Club of Mitchell River is looking for other Clubs to join with them in application for a Matching Grant to assist the Villagers in Fiji to increase Fire Safety. The need has been identified by Chief Fire Officer Mark Reid, Suva, Fiji. Mark was previously the CFA Regional Officer for East Gippsland. Many villagers in Fiji and other Pacific Island Nations die as the result of fire. For further information contact President Ron Crosby of the Rotary Club of Mitchell River. ronaldcrosby@bigpond.com.

District 9820 Portsea Camp Board representative John Marshall of the Rotary Club of Mt. Martha is asking Clubs to make a donation to the Portsea Camp to help with the upkeep. John can be contacted on (H) 9787 3315 (M) 0425 721 884 or email marshalljj@bigpond.com. Portsea Camp has been supported by District 9820 for some time now and it would be a positive if we keep up our support.

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August 2008 District Governor's Newsletter

The week-end 19th-20th July Margaret and I braved the Youth Exchange camp at Forest Edge. The enthusiasm of the young as they were interviewed and tested to be chosen to represent our District during 2009 was amazing to behold. The Youth Exchange Committee has worked extremely hard to ensure outgoing students are fully prepared for the experience and for challenges they may face. I would like to thank each and every member of that committee for their efforts. I also ask that Clubs throughout the District assist the Committee any way they can as any assistance will be gratefully accepted.

By now you would have received a District Directory and I would like to thank those Rotarians who assisted with production. The directory is made up of information received from Members, Clubs and Chairs of Committees so if you find a mistake please take time to correct it. We have learnt that the production of the District Directory may never be perfect, so please accept it gratefully with any imperfections you may find.

Yours in Rotary

Ken McDonald

District Governor

Recent Visit to Melbourne by Rotary International President Dong Kurn Lee



President D K Lee with District 9820 Governor, Ken McDonald and Margaret



President D K Lee with District 9820 Secretary Val Nicholson

The above photos were taken at the recent Cocktail Party held at Crown Casino. This gathering enabled five hundred Victorian Rotarians to hear and meet this year's Rotary International President Dong Kurn Lee who spoke of his theme "Make Dreams Real". Among many matters of concern he spoke of membership development, water salination and children.

The evening also included a demonstration by Trevor Cochrane of the GardenGurus of the Vertical Garden Concept, a joint Rotary/Mitre Ten project for Fix Up Australia weekend.

ROTARY CLUB OF DROUIN DAFFODIL DAY

22, 23 AND 24 AUGUST 2009 10am to 4pm
McGLONES ROAD, DROUIN
(Follow signs from Golf Club)

Morning Tea, Lunch, Pick Daffodils, Support Cancer





NEWS FROM SHELTERBOX AUSTRALIA

ShelterBox Response Team (SRT)

Another District 9820 Rotarian joins the ranks

After being selected at a weekend training session in Melbourne in June, **Hans Van Dyk** from the **Rotary Club of Endeavour Hills** travelled to Cornwall UK in July for a rigorous nine-day intensive course with others from Australia, the USA and the UK. Much of the training was done at the renowned satellite earth station at **Goonhilly** on the Lizard Peninsula. Hans passed all the tests and graduated from the course, becoming a **ShelterBox Response Team (SRT)** member and entitled to wear the distinctive blue shirt. Training is an essential part of what ShelterBox does to ensure that its volunteers who deliver the boxes can '*Be Safe*', '*Represent ShelterBox*' and '*Get the job done*'.



Hans Van Dyk, second from left in back row, with fellow SRT graduates in Cornwall.

Other Australians (also in back row) are **Peter Pearce** (*Sydney* – fourth from left) and **Eb Friedrich** (*Woodend* – on right).

Hans Van Dyk is one of eight Australians who have qualified as SRT members and now stands ready to assist in the deployment of ShelterBoxes after a future disaster. **Darren Mayne** who heads up SRT training in Australia was also in Cornwall taking part in the program. **ShelterBox Australia** Chairman **David Langworthy** has also been trained as an SRT member.

As **ShelterBox Australia**, the international affiliate of the **ShelterBox Trust UK** is a project of the **Rotary Club of Endeavour Hills**, it is fitting that the Club now has three qualified SRT members within its ranks. Congratulations Hans.

Donations – update

In 2007-2008 Australian donations were a record **\$2.47 million** (up from \$1.14 million the year before.) Forty of our 50 **District 9820** clubs donated some \$113,000 in FY2008. Our objective is for at least '*One ShelterBox - Each Club - Each Year.*' A ShelterBox costs **\$1,200**. Donations can be sent to **ShelterBox Australia** at PO Box 790 Endeavour Hills Vic 3802. A Donation Form and all information is at www.shelterboxaustralia.com.au

PDG Ray Stewart

Administrator, ShelterBox Australia

Phone: 1300 881 913

email: shelterboxaust@westnet.com.au



Rotary Southern Districts Shine-On Awards

On Sunday 20th July 2008, the Annual General Meeting for the Southern Districts Shine-On Awards was held at International House, Melbourne University,

Office bearers for the coming year are:

Chairperson: Kathleen Kneebone, District 9820
Secretary: Dr. Dawn Watson, District 9800
Treasurer: Jack Watson, District 9800

The Rotary Club of Richmond, District 9800, will host the 2009 Shine-On Awards on 3rd May 2009.

In September the nomination forms and other information will be sent to the secretaries of each club in District 9820. We need to start looking for suitable people to nominate for this prestigious award. Those nominated must have made a significant contribution to their community, despite their disabilities.

The nomination forms must be received by 25th February 2009 and, as they take some effort to complete, it would be wise to start the process before the end of the year.

For further information please contact Kathleen Kneebone on 51341764 or by email at kathkneebone@vic.australis.com.au.

Kathleen Kneebone

Chair Southern Districts Shine On Awards Committee.

President, Rotary Club of Morwell

Request From the District Treasurer

District Treasurer Don Thompson requests all clubs to pay the District 9820 dues, no later than 31st August 2008. An invoice was sent to each club on the 10th June advising these dues totalled \$75.70 per member. Cheques should be posted to PO Box 2779, Rowville 3178.

The information delivered to Club Treasurers also advised that the RI dues for 2008-09 year are \$24.45US + GST per half year per member. The Parramatta Office of RDU advised on the 28th July that the exchange ratio is 1.06. Thus the half yearly payment direct to that office is \$28.52 Aus per member.

Vale PHF and PP Roger Griffith

On behalf of District Governor Ken McDonald, I wish to advise all members of Rotary District 9820 of the very sad passing of Roger Griffith. Roger had been a Rotarian since 1971, firstly as a member of the Rotary Club of Dandenong East, where he was president and received a PHF, and then the Rotary Club of Seaford Carrum Downs where he served as President and was Club Director in all avenues of service. He maintained 100% attendance during the 34 years and was a very active volunteer during his years of service.

A service was held at the Morning Star Winery, Mornington on Thursday 17th July.

Val Nicholson—District Secretary

The Royce and Jean Abbey Cultural Ambassadorial Scholarship Promoting agriculture in developing Asia – Pacific countries.

Since 2001, The Rotary Foundation has awarded scholarships to eligible people in neighbouring developing countries to help improve their agricultural skills. Up to US\$10,000 is available for each scholarship.

The scholarship provides for three months training in appropriate locations in Australia.

Food processors, foresters, other agricultural and environmental workers are eligible for the scholarship. It is expected that skills learnt will be used in the recipient's home country.

Training is provided to complement existing skills and to benefit the recipient's local community. Scholars are encouraged to undertake learning programs that focus on the development of practical knowledge and skills that are relevant to the needs at home.

Past recipients have benefitted from opportunities to learn a range of practical skills in agriculture and education that they can apply at the farm or village level when they return to their home country. In addition, they enhance their English language skills, experience working with a range of people, and develop the confidence to take on new challenges.

PD.G.David Loudon

District Foundation Chairman.

G8 renews commitments to polio eradication

At their 8 – 9th July summit in Japan, the G8 nations agreed to:

“Maintain momentum towards the historical achievement of eradicating polio. We will meet our previous commitments to maintain or increase financial contributions to support the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI), and encourage other public and private donors to do the same.”

Together, the G8 countries – Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States – account for more than half of all funding of the GPEI. The initiative is led by the World Health Organisation, Rotary International, the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, and UNICEF.

The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation welcomed the G8's renewed commitment to finishing polio. Following release of the G8's summit communiqué, the Gates Foundation stated, “In recognition of the G8's continued attention to polio eradication, the Foundation will commit at least US\$150 million to fight polio this year. This is in addition to the US\$250 million we have committed to date towards polio eradication efforts.”

Finishing polio worldwide remains Rotary's top goal. Vital to helping achieve that goal is Rotary's US\$100 million Challenge, the three – year funding effort to match the Gates Foundation's \$100 million grant to the Rotary Foundation for polio eradication.

Centurion Club Update

Throughout the past Rotary Year I received requests from several Centurion Club members for a direct debit facility for their Centurion Renewals.

I have discussed this with the South Pacific and Philippines Office in Parramatta, and I am pleased to inform you that the process of establishing this facility is now well in hand, and should be finalised in the next few weeks.

The new payment option will necessitate a slight alteration to our current Centurion Commitment/Renewal Form. A copy of this amended form will be forwarded to Club Secretaries as soon as it becomes available.

BUT – be not confused ! For donations not using the direct debit facility, it is “business as usual” and Centurion commitments and renewals are most welcome at any time.

Remember that donations to the Centurion Club are your personal contribution to the works of OUR FOUNDATION.

PP Kel Hobby—D9820 Centurion Chairman

Million dollar deal from a casual Rotary conversation.

As the riders to Conference were preparing for their epic ride, host club Mornington's Immediate Past President, Jonathan Mayne, was introducing Steven Cernotta to a kindly Rotarian and the conversation quickly turned to 422 hospital beds about to become redundant that appeared destined for scrap metal if nobody could mount a campaign to collect, store, containerise and fund the shipping of these beds to some needy country. "The task seemed beyond our capacity" said Steven.

One week later Jonathan met the kind Rotarian who said, "I've been having nightmares about those beds going to scrap metal, even if I pay for them all myself, we have to get those bed to needy people".

This Rotarian has form so Jonathan called Steven and said, "see your chiropractor, get your back in shape, the funding is assured and the project is do-able". Steven lit up with enthusiasm and together with DIK Chairman Andrew Walsh and Jonathan, a meeting was quickly convened at Monash Medical Centre where the deal was set out.

An initial 332 beds are being replaced followed by another 90. The new electronic beds (at \$4,500 each) arrive up to 27 per day, the patients are transferred directly into them and the older, manually adjustable beds are then moved to the loading dock. Steven and Jonathan got to work and were packing beds and mattresses into the truck when Jonathan said, "this mattress is still warm". The beds must be cleared from the loading dock on the same day they are placed there. The estimated value of each hospital bed complete with mattress is \$2,500.

As Sri Lanka is still reeling from the double whammy of the Boxing Day Tsunami and the continuing conflict with the LTA (Tamil Tigers) there is a huge need for hospital beds. Sri Lanka is also on a major shipping route and our District has direct links with the Teaching Hospital at Kununagala where Director, Dr Ananda Gunasekara has authority to sign off on the shipments, waive the import taxes and pick up the forwarding costs to the main hospital where the beds are further dispersed to outlying hospitals. The cost of a 40ft container to Sri Lanka is about \$2,600 and into each we can pack 65 beds and mattresses.

Neil Black, AG for the Peninsula cluster recently returned from Cambodia where he saw appalling conditions in hospitals. On learning of the bed campaign he put in for one container. Sorrento Rotarian, Kel Hobby also recently returned from an Interplast tour to Indonesia and felt Balikpapan would be a suitable recipient. Alas, Indonesia can be very difficult and the idea was put to one side but \$2,500 was donated by the Rotary Club of Sorrento to help pay for shipping. The Australia Sri Lanka Council will also pay for one 40 ft container.

Even Red Cross were so impressed that they also supported the campaign These hospital beds will fill more than six containers and whilst we are currently assured of funding for the first five, we still need a little more for the extra container or two if we are to avoid taking advantage of the above mentioned kind Rotarian. This is a District Project and to fund a container is under \$3000.

Contact Andrew Walsh, Steven Cernotta or Jonathan Mayne if your Rotary Club would like to have a piece of the action. You'll find us in the District Directory.



Steven Cernotta packing beds at Monash Medical Centre



Hospital beds at Monash Medical Centre

AMENDMENTS TO DISTRICT 9820 DIRECTORY 2008-2009

CONTACT DETAILS

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52	Endeavour Hills	Laurie Worsnop	H 9580 3803 Mobile 0412 814 592
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88	PDG Tom Boyle		Email: tomboyle1@bigpond.com
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Add 93	A.G. Tim Moore (Jane) Berwick		P.O. BOX 355, Berwick 3806 H 9707 5283 Mobile: 0418 175875 Email: tim@cinet.com.au
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Corrections from Frankston North:

David Cahill	W 1300 366 821	H 9775 7452	F 9775 0691
John Tame	Email jtame@optusnet.com.au		
Geoff Magor	W 9794 3727	H 9783 7532	M 0407 309 598
Rod Puls	W 5978 7900	H 8796 3672	M 0400 710 013

Correction for President of Mount Eliza:

Frank Flowers frank_a_flowers@iprimus.com.au

DISTRICT GOVERNOR'S OFFICIAL VISITS

Rotary Club of Cranbourne visit will now take place on 12th August.

Rotary Club of Sale Central visit will now take place on 7th October.

Rotary Club of Heyfield visit has been cancelled because Heyfield club has ceased to exist.

AUSTRALIAN ROTARY HEALTH RESEARCH FUND (Page 18 of the Directory)

More than \$18 million in health research grants have been made since 1986.

Contact District Chairman Frank Fisher on home telephone 5975 4185 or email

f.g.fisher@bigpond.com.au for more information on ARHRF.

Contact PP Wally Wedgewood on home telephone 5974 1453 regarding Mental Health Forums.

ROTARIANS AGAINST MALARIA (RAM)

District Chairman for RAM, Howard Roy, has advised of the commencement of, RAM Malaria Awareness Week, 30th April 2008 to 7th May 2009. It is hoped there will be extensive publicity for this inaugural, annual event.

Clubs are encouraged to get behind this Rotary initiative by including the Malaria awareness week into existing projects during the week. Or better still organize special events to support Malaria Awareness Week.

RI President, D K Lee, has asked all clubs to focus on projects that help & assist children. Of the 3,000 daily *Deaths* each and every day from Malaria, approximately 70% of these are Children under 5 years of age.

For further information, and support please contact Chairman Howard on 0419 571 402

Mirboo North Presentation



Picture shows District Governor Janet McCahon, President Mark Uren and Paul Mancarella

At the Rotary Club of Mirboo North's recent changeover dinner at the Grand Ridge Brewery Restaurant the members were delighted to have outgoing District Governor, Janet McCahon as a guest. Janet assisted President Mark Uren in presenting PHF and PP Paul Mancarella with an award for 40 years of continuous service to Mirboo North Rotary and the local community. Paul was humbled by the occasion but did state that he looked forward to the next 40 years!

Rotary Down Under – August

Another first for **ShelterBox Australia** with one of **Mark Pearson's** evocative Burma photographs on the front cover this month. Only one other regional RI magazine – Brazil – has ever had a ShelterBox cover, so we are all delighted.

In the last two years, there have been some five articles about ShelterBox Australia published in RDU and I record appreciation here to managing editor **PDG Bob Aitken** and his staff for their solid support for this project.

And this month sees the inclusion of the latest **Rotary BASICS**, arguably the best RI publication of its type. It is of particular value for newer Rotarians.

On page 17 there is information about *RDU Merchandise & Promotions*, the official Australian licensee for all Rotary apparel, regalia and other products. They are offering a 2.5% cash rebate to each Club on purchases made in this Rotary year. If you are thinking of ordering new shirts, caps, jackets etc please support our Australian official supplier.

PDG Ray Stewart

District *Rotary Down Under* Representative

Change of Venue:

The Rotary Club of Drouin now meets at the Drouin Golf Club, Princes Highway, Drouin. The time of meeting is unchanged at 6pm for a 6.30pm start.

August 2008 District Governor's Newsletter

G.S.E. FAREWELL DINNER

District 9820 has a great GSE Team of five young women, led by PP Garry Broughton, who are about to depart for District 7080 Canada in early October. The Rotary Club of Berwick is hosting a farewell dinner for them as follows;

Date: Thursday 18 September 2008
 Time: 6.30pm for 7.00pm
 Venue: Berwick Springs Hotel (Castellos)
 Address: Cnr. Clyde Rd. & Greaves Rd. Berwick
 Melway Ref: Map 131 B3
 Price: \$35.00 per head
 Drinks: Complimentary drink on arrival, balance at bar prices

Contact: Chris Booth secretary RC of Berwick PO Box 30 Berwick 3806 Mobile: 0408 880 816
 Home: 9707 4729

Please contact Chris and pay by Thursday 11 September so that he can advise the venue of the numbers.

Mark this date down in your diary and support Garry and his great team as they head off on one of Rotary's best programs.

Tony Spring
 GSE Chairman 2008-9

PLEASE NOTE:

Many clubs are failing to send in their attendance reports. Attendance reports should be sent to Lois Hateley immediately following the last meeting of each month.
hateley7@bigpond.com
 Telephone 5155 2871

1. Club Name
2. Month
3. Number of Members
4. Percentage attendance for month

District 9820 Attendance Report for July 2008

Club	number of meetings	number of members	attendance percentage
Bairnsdale	5	30	80.00
Bairnsdale Sunrise			
Berwick			
Bunyip/Garfield	6	15	96.00
Cranbourne	5	35	69.75
Dandenong			
Dandenong East	5	22	70.91
Dromana	5	36	81.00
Drouin	5	60	78.36
Endeavour Hills	5	25	83.20
Foster	3	41	76.70
Frankston			
Frankston /Long Island			
Frankston North			
Frankston Sunrise			
Hallam Valley	2		100.00
Hastings			
Hazelwood			
Heyfield			
Inverloch			
Koo Wee Rup/Lang Lang		28	75.73
Korumburra			
Lakes Entrance	5	20	65.00
Langwarrin			
Leongatha	4		
Maffra	5	40	92.40
Mirboo North			
Mitchell River			
Moe			
Mornington	5	26	85.80
Morwell	5		76.48
Mount Eliza		52	68.10
Mount Martha	4	30	77.60
Narre Warren	5	21	81.90
Orbost	5	25	
Pakenham		48	77.60
Phillip Island & San Remo	4	35	75.00
Rosebud	5	18	65.00
Rye	5	12	76.00
Sale	4	28	72.00
Sale Central			
Seaford Carrum Downs			
Somerville Tyabb			
Sorrento	5	41	61.90
Trafalgar		19	76.00
Traralgon			
Traralgon Central	4	20	76.00
Warragul			
Wonthaggi			
Yarram		22	17.00
TOTAL		749	