



ROTARY CLUB of CLAYTON Inc.

District 9810 Victoria, Australia

Weekly Bulletin 2010-2011

Meets every Monday from 6:30pm at L'unico Restaurant
319 Clayton Road, Clayton (Melways 79C2)
(No meeting on public holidays)



28th March 2011

Volume 45, Number 35

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Upcoming Club Program

Date	Speaker	Chairperson	Desk	Visitors
28 th March	Meeting moved to the 29 th March at Mulgrave Country Club – GSE welcome dinner.	N/R	N/R	N/R
4 th April	Monash Heart – Anne Mennen & Dr Sarah Hope.	Jim Cochrane	John Drosis	Warren Fricke
11 th April	Conference Feedback – John & Gaye Barnes.	John Drosis	Warren Fricke	John Goldspink

Presidents Report

The conference is fast approaching and that means mountains of info being released on the greater world of Rotary, lots of fellowship, good food and learning. We have six Rotarians going which is good: I would have liked a few more but know work and other things prevent it. Those attending will be bringing back as much info as we can for our current and future committees.

Another Farmer's Market has been and gone, I would have rather attended but was having my insides studied by doctors at the time, fortunately with no issues found. I am told work and fellowship around the BBQ was amazing and our stall was about the busiest there but that does not mean huge returns because of declining stall numbers and people attending. We will be having a good look at our future there soon as returns should be proportional to efforts and there has been a lot of effort and it appears not exactly huge returns.

You may recall a few weeks back we looked at our club's Constitution and Bylaws which have now been amended according to RI changes and Corporate Law requirements. Our in-house lawyer Tom Portelli has prepared them and details have been circulated. They must now be voted on formally to adopt them so a vote for that is to be taken at our meeting on Monday April 11. Please try to attend.

Bill Sides

Rotary Four Way Test

"Of the things we think, say or do:

1. Is it the Truth?
2. Is it Fair to all concerned?
3. Will it build goodwill and better friendships?
4. Will it be beneficial to all concerned?"

Last Meeting & Notes

Last Meeting (21/03):

This week our guest speaker was Geoff Taylor who is a member of the Rotary Club of Mt Waverley. Geoff spoke to the club about the Lotus Childrens Centre in Mongolia.

In 1993 Didi Kalika, an Australian yoga teacher living in UB was moved by the plight of the children living on the streets and founded the Lotus Children's Centre. She started simply by giving food and basic medical care, and soon realized that serious change was necessary to make real impact.

With the help of friends, Didi arranged a yard in the ger district of Yarmag 15 km out of UB. The move to Yarmag was necessary to give children space away from their lives on the streets of UB. In 1995 Lotus Children's Centre was registered as an official Mongolian charity.

Towards the end of the 90's, the children Lotus served moved from mainly street kids to abandoned babies. Due to harsh economic conditions, some Mongolian families found it hard to keep their newborn babies. Mongolian authorities would ask Lotus to care for babies that were found under stairwells or in rubbish bins, often in the depth of winter.

Lotus started a Kindergarten at the Yarmag property in 1997. It was around this time that our summer camp started, sending kids to the National Park in Terelj for their summer holidays to play and swim. Didi was awarded Mongolian mother of the year award in 2001. She was also made a Paul Harris fellow by the Rotary Club of Canberra Sunshine.

Due to the lack of necessary paperwork for Lotus children to start at government schools, in 2004 Lotus converted an old general goods store in Yarmag into a primary school. The kindergarten was moved into the same building. This was necessary to guarantee that all Lotus children would have teaching up to the 5th grade. Around this time the situation of children in Mongolia gradually improves, with less babies coming to Lotus.



Lotus Centre is now home to up to 150 children at any one time. It carries out many children and family support activities aimed at helping family units endure, and to alleviate the poverty cycle to ultimately provide basic rights to children.

Lotus Centre goals are

Website - <http://rotarnet.com.au/users/9/98110/index.htm>

THE OBJECT OF ROTARY

1. The development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service;
2. High ethical standards in business and professions; the recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations, and the dignifying of each Rotarian's occupation as an opportunity to serve society;
3. The application of the ideal of service in each Rotarian's personal, business, and community life;
4. The advancement of international understanding, goodwill, and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional persons united in the ideal of service.

- to provide primary care to all of our children, including food, healthcare, clothing and accommodation.
- to provide the children with developmental care so that they can break free of the poverty cycle. As such we aim to give each child a quality education, counselling, self-esteem building tools and access to life skills.
- to provide the children with support in their 'post Lotus' lives so that they have a safety net and are able to find employment and tertiary education placements.

Accommodation

Lotus children form family groups of ten headed by a 'housemother.' These families live in basic Mongolian houses and gers. This technique provides children with a family environment that helps them to form close relationships and to develop conflict resolution skills.

The Centre provides this type of living environment for three reasons:

- it is a similar environment to where the children come from so they settle in easily.
- most of our children grow into adults who can afford similar accommodation. We aim not to build up their expectations and to foster realistic attitudes for adulthood.
- by living in the ger-town environment with a yard, a dog, a house and daily chores, there is less likelihood that the children will become institutionalized, a problem facing other orphans.

Education

The Lotus Centre views education as one of the most important tools in breaking the poverty cycle. Currently, the Mongolian education curriculum is relatively limited, especially in terms of providing children with vocational training and caring for children with disabilities.

For these reasons, Lotus Centre started its own kindergarten in 1997. The kindergarten evolved into a primary school program in 2004 which enables Lotus to provide a comprehensive academic education for all children in its care up to 5th grade. The school incorporates a program for children with special needs, and vocational training. After 5th grade, Lotus children attend different high schools in different areas of Ulan Bator depending on their individual skills and interests.



With 100 Lotus children under the age of 14, securing work opportunities

Special Announcements

3rd April – Reddy Kandadi Birthday.

15th April – Tom & Angela Portelli Wedding Anniversary.

27th April – John & Gaye Barnes Wedding Anniversary.

29th April – Jon & Phuong Breisch Wedding Anniversary.

30th April – Deb Simmons Birthday.

through post high school education is an important focus. In 2006 Lotus started a vegetarian café. In the future we aim to found our own guest house as well as other programs to continue supporting young adults.

Personal Development

Many of the children at Lotus have endured incredibly difficult life experiences including abuse, abandonment and suffering. Lotus is always conscious of developing programs which help children deal with their pasts and develop useful skill-sets for their future. Lotus has a small team of social workers whose role is to equip children with skills that will help them to have a positive outlook on life. These include services such as counselling, summer adventure camp, a tutoring program, career advice and conflict resolution and problem solving workshops.

Programs to keep families together

With 36% of Mongolians living in poverty, many families and single mothers who are too poor to provide for their children come to Lotus for help. Instead of always taking the child away from their family, Lotus has developed options for keeping families together.

These include:

- Food for work – families are given food packages in exchange for doing odd jobs around Lotus, thus providing short-term relief to families who are going through a rough patch.
- Lotus believes that just even a little assistance can keep a family together.

Staff

Lotus currently employs just under 50 Mongolian staff. The members of the staff play different roles, from teachers to housemothers to firemen that stoke the fire and keep everyone warm. The paid staff work extremely hard to ensure that children get the care that they need.

Meeting Notes:

- Craig Merson gave a Farmers Market update. Next market is on the 26th March and the roster has been setup. Craig reported that last month there were more stalls & people, but we still did not sell too much.
- Geoff Taylor gave a report and spoke about Blaze Aid. For more information go to www.blazeaid.com.
- Ralph Zuccaro reported that our attendance for February was 90%.
- John Barnes informed the club that the DG for 2013-2014 will be Merv Ericson from the Rotary Club of Monash.
- Conference bookings are now required and need to be completed as soon as possible. Bill Sides urged that new members should attend the conference.
- The meeting on the 28th March has been moved to Tuesday 29th March for the GSE welcome dinner at the Mulgrave Country Club, \$30 per head. See details attached to this bulletin.
- Jim Cochrane & John Barnes gave a progress report of the Women's Open Golf parking. They are currently waiting on the final response from Golf Australia on the total money which will be received for our support.
- Jon Breisch informed the club that the Annual Changeover this year will be on the 27th June at Hemisphere. Time is 6:30 for a 7:00 pm start. More details to follow.

Apologies = John Goldspink, Glenys Pattison & Bronwen Lamond.

Make Ups = Glenys Pattison (Board Meeting). Bronwen Lamond (Rotaract).

Leave of Absence = None.

Visitors = Somenath Gope (Guest of Jon Breisch), Geoff Taylor (Rotary Club of Mt Waverley).

What is MUNA?

It stands for Model United Nations Assembly.

Rotary International's relationship with the United Nations is as old as the UN itself. At the Charter UN Conference in 1945, there were 49 Rotarians in 29 of the different country delegations. The objectives of Rotary International are to encourage international understanding, goodwill and peace and this parallels those of the UN.

MUNA simulates the workings of the UN Assembly. Teams of two students in Year 11 represent a particular UN Country. Topics are debated on matters of world political and social concern. MUNA is held over a week-end to give sufficient time for all participants to be involved. Its main objectives are to develop in students an awareness of the UN, the international situation of other countries and to get students to see topics from another countries perspective.

Students are given topics well in advance. Resolutions cover issues such as Education, Environment, Health, Human Rights, Nuclear Proliferation, Poverty, Terrorism and World Peace.

Delegates must express the views of the countries they are representing and not their own and not Australia's.



Think Foundation Thoughts

March: Literacy Month

This week's Foundation Thought is about ...

Celebrating our Foundation. —The Rotary Foundation is recognized as one of the most respected private foundations in the world. Through the Foundation, we as Rotarians have an unprecedented opportunity to use our global grassroots strength and international prominence to help solve major problems such as food and water security – if the Foundation's financial resources keep pace. The twin pillars of Foundation support – the Annual Programs Fund and the Permanent Fund – are crucial to meeting world needs. — 2003-04 RI President Jonathan Majiyagbe

Important Club Dates

Saturday 26/03/11 – Monash Farmers Market. See Craig Merson for details and if you wish to be put on the roster.

Thursday 07/04/11 to Saturday 09/04/11 – 2011 District 9810 Conference. Our club is holding nine rooms at the Oaks Horizon at 104 North Terrace. The Oaks is immediately opposite the convention centre. Bill has asked that members requiring a room should contact the hotel directly. The phone number is 08 8210 8000. Once you have secured a room please let Bill Sides know. For more information visit this web page - <http://www.oakshotelsresorts.com/oaks-horizons/>

Sunday 17/04/11 – Rotary Club of Clayton 46th Birthday.

Thursday 21/04/11 – 90th Anniversary of Rotary in Australia.

Saturday 23/04/11 – Monash Farmers Market. See Craig Merson for details and if you wish to be put on the roster.

Sunday 07/05/11 – Annual District Assembly at Hemisphere.

Monday 27/06/11 – Annual Changeover at Hemisphere.

District 9810 News

District 9810 Rotary Leadership Institute comes to Yarra Ranges

The next series of Rotary Leadership Institute (RLI) sessions will commence on Sunday 3rd April at "The Hub" in Monbulk. This program will assist in building Rotary knowledge and prepare members for roles beyond that which they are currently involved in.

Incoming Presidents and President Nominees, Board members, and other interested members are encouraged to attend. It is preferred that attendees have been in Rotary for at least 6 months, so they can share in the discussions. The program operates through a 3 part series of "facilitated discussions" Sessions are run by a team of trained District 9810 Facilitators.

WHEN: Sunday, 3 April, 2011
Sunday, 1 May, 2011
Sunday, 5 June, 2011
8:30 for 9:00am to 3:30 pm

WHERE: "The Hub"
Cnr Main St & Moores Rd
Monbulk

COST: \$25 per session
Or \$60 for Full Series

CONTACT: PDG Jennifer Coburn
Phone: 0407 689 777
Email: jdowsettcoburn@gmail.com

Registration forms available at:

<http://operations.9810rotary.org.au/files/2010/10/REGISTRATION-FORM-SERIES-4-AND-5.pdf>

PLEASE FORWARD COMPLETED REGISTRATIONS WITH CHEQUE payable to RI D9810 and marked Rotary Leadership Institute by **Monday 28.3.2011** to

PDG Jennifer Coburn
3 Walbrook Drive
Vermont South 3133

Rotaract Club of Monash

Club Meeting Details:

The Club meets on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the Month at 7:30pm
Mulgrave Neighbourhood House
36 - 42 Mackie Road, Mulgrave
(Melways 80C3)

Upcoming Rotaract Events:

Rotaract Roster:

Date	Rotarian to Visit
6 th April	John Drosis
20 th April	Michael Ellinger

If you cannot attend on the night you are rostered, please organise a replacement to take your place.

Upcoming Events in Monash

Mulgrave Fun Day

Saturday 16 April 2011

11am - 3pm

Wellington Reserve, Mackie Road
Mulgrave, Melway Ref 80 C3

MC for the day - Colin Bogaars will be hosting The wonders of Fredrico Boogies's Magic Circus!

Paul Jamieson and Bongo the Cheeky Monkey have performed and been a great attraction at the Mulgrave Fun Day for the past few years.

Sail the Caribbean on the Pirate Ship and be dropped off in the magical world of the **Grimstone Laboratory** where your imagination can run wild!

Other activities and attractions are:

- Recycled arts workshop
- Painting workshop

- Face painting
- 6ft long Goanna to see

Come and join in the activities at the Wellington Reserve Community Centre, home to the Mulgrave Girl Guides, Mulgrave Scout Group and Mulgrave Neighbourhood House.

Proudly supported by the Monash Weekly.

INFOLINE 9518 3636

TTY (Hearing Impaired) 9518 3655

Upcoming Events in Kingston

Vintage Clothes Talk

Thursday, 7 April 2011
2:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Join Nicole Jenkins, author of the award winning book "Love Vintage" and owner of Circa Vintage Clothing store in Fitzroy, for afternoon tea and a talk about ladies fashions from the 1920s to 1960s.

Nicole will bring several original garments to illustrate cultural history, design, fabrics and construction. Bring your own classic garments for discussion too. Book by phoning 1300 135 668 or at any Kingston Library.

LOCATION: Cheltenham Library, 12 Stanley Ave Cheltenham

WEB: <http://library.kingston.vic.gov.au>

Where other Clubs Meet

A Rotarian can attend the weekly meeting of any Rotary club around the world. This is a "make-up" and counts as attendance credit when you are not able to attend a meeting of your own club.

Details for all District 9810 clubs can be obtained in the district directory or website www.rotary9810.org. Details for clubs around the world are available in the RI Directory (held by the club secretary) and on the RI website (www.rotary.org)

Reminders

Please ensure that the club is aware if you will be missing a meeting. Contact **Ralph Zuccaro** on **0408 991 741 by 4 pm** on the **day of the meeting**, if you are not going to be present.

Contributions for inclusion into the Bulletin should be passed to michaele@netspace.net.au by Thursday evening of each week.

Please remember if you cannot perform your rostered job, it is your duty to find a replacement to take your place.

Joke of the Week

A very elderly but bright-eyed man, hair well-groomed, great suit and necktie, gleaming shoes, flower in his lapel and smelling slightly of aftershave, walked into an upmarket cocktail lounge.

Seated at the bar was an older woman in a modest but very becoming cocktail dress.

The man walked over, sat alongside her, ordered a drink, turned to her and said: "So tell me, do I come here often?"

Rotary International News

Pakistan Project encourages literacy among girls

By Megan Ferringer
Rotary International News -- 18 March 2011

Rotarians in Punjab, Pakistan, and Delaware, USA, are working together to educate girls in a poor village in Pakistan.

The Pakistan Project, a collaboration between the Rotary clubs of Lahore Mozang and Wilmington, aims to build understanding and relationships between the two countries while promoting education and literacy among Pakistani girls.

Low income and local traditions have combined to create an imbalance in the enrollment of boys and girls in school throughout Pakistan. In the Punjab Province, only 20 percent of girls attend school.

The most recent initiative under the project involves supporting the Ghazali School, founded in 2001 by Lubna Javed, then president of the Lahore Mozang club. It has since been renamed the Unity School to mark the club's partnership with the Wilmington club.

Located in a low-income area of Lahore, the Unity School fills with nearly 240 students each day -- 100 of whom are girls. The Lahore Mazong club subsidizes some of the cost, but the bulk of funding comes from tuition from students' families.

"The need for funding for the education of girls from impoverished and low-income families is significant," says Almas Jovindah, past president of the Lahore Mozang club and chair of the Pakistani side of the project. "Education has always been a passion for our club."

Money for scholarships

The Wilmington club began raising funds to provide scholarships in September. According to Kathleen Meyer, chair of the U.S. side of the project, one year's tuition for a single student is US\$150. The club's goal was to provide a five-year scholarship to as many female students as possible.

After six months, the club had raised \$23,000 to cover schooling costs for nearly 30 girls for five years. The club raised an additional \$5,000 to add a



Parents and students gather at the Unity School for the annual parent's day. The 10-year-old school has grown to accommodate 240 students.
Photo by Lubna Javed

girls' sixth-grade class.

Twelve delegates from the Wilmington club recently completed a 10-day trip to Lahore to meet with members of the Lahore Mozang club and observe their work in promoting education and literacy across Pakistan. In addition to establishing the Unity School 10 years ago, the Lahore Mozang club has helped educate more than 3,000 people by arranging literacy centers throughout the city.

"My friends visiting from Wilmington came to see the school and were overwhelmed with emotions after meeting the students," says Jovindah. "We are lucky and privileged, but we don't always realize that until you can see the difference you've made, in person."

Meyer says the club's next challenge will be raising funds to expand the school with four additional grades.

"Ten years ago, nobody knew about the school, and it started with one class and one teacher," says Javed. "One visit from the Wilmington delegates not only had a remarkable effect on motivating more children to get enrolled in the school but also brought a fresh wave of understanding between the people of America and Pakistan."



Rotary International

District 9810 Victoria Australia

David Alexander (*Denise*)
Governor 2010-2011



24th March 2011

Club Presidents

Rotary International District 9810 Inc

District Assembly – Saturday 7 May 2011

The District 9810 Assembly for 2011 will be held on Saturday 7th May at Hemisphere Conference Centre, 488 South Road, Moorabbin (Melways 77 H5). There will be signs and guides available directing attendees to car parking and to the registration area.

The registration desk will open at 8.00AM and tea and coffee will be available. The Assembly will commence at 8.45AM and conclude by 12:45PM except for Presidents Elect 2011/12 and some others to be advised separately. They will stay on for a working lunch and additional sessions until no later than 3:00PM.

A Registration Form is attached along with a Flyer for distribution within your Club. There will be breakout sessions for the Avenues of Service and Club Operations. Please complete the Registration Form, showing the names of your club members and their designated roles and/or areas they wish to attend for those sessions. Please note that any Rotarians are invited to come to the Assembly and learn about the Rotary theme and specific activities for 2011-12. New members who have joined within the past one to two years are particularly welcome at any breakout session of their choice – please note their preference on the form.

Completed registration forms **should be returned by Friday 15 April** to PDG David Forster as follows:

By Post: 304 Porter Street, Templestowe Vic 3106, or
By Email: david.forster@ozemail.com.au

An invoice will be sent to Clubs shortly for the District Assembly Fee. As advised at last year's District Assembly, the cost is based on \$8.00 for every active member in the Club.

DGE Juliet Riseley and her District Leadership Team look forward to strong participation in the 2011 District Assembly as we prepare for the coming Rotary year.

Kind Regards

David Forster
District 9810 Training Chair (Elect)