



ROTARY CLUB OF CLAYTON Weekly Bulletin



11th September 2006

Vol 41No 11

Tonight: Clayton RSL Club 6.15pm for 6.30pm

New Generations month

Upcoming Meetings

Date	Speaker	Chairperson	Desk	Visitors
11 th Sept	Dean Calder, Clayton Rotaracter	Warren Fricke	Lesley Zuccaro	Tom Portelli
18 th Sept	TBA	Michael Ellinger	Warren Fricke	John Barnes
25 th Sept	Renee de Simone - Co-ordinator International Student Friendship Programme, Monash University	Jim Cochrane	Tony Hilliard	Bob Minter
2 nd Oct	Graham Crouch - Students Anzac Day Service (Will need the computer and sound on this night.	Michael Ellinger	Neil Rickard	Jon Breisch
9 th Oct	RYPEN speakers	Ed Alchin	Jon Breisch	Warren Fricke

Please organise a replacement if you are unable to attend on rostered days above.

APOLOGIES: Please phone apologies to John Barnes – 9544 2866 by Monday 4pm.

Coming Events

The Rotary Club of Clayton – Over 40 years of service in the community

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

Fellowship functions will occur around once every 6 weeks.

A Small program for fellowship this still to be confirmed.

September – A function at Toms farm.

October- A Sunday at the Sam Knott Hotel (Warbarton)

November- A day at Presidents Glenda's House.

December- Christmas Function.

January- Meetings at Rotarians houses.

February- A day at Safety Beach Jim & Jeans.

March – Shepparton conference

April- A Picture Night.

Rotaract Roster

Date	Rotarian to Visit
11 th September	John Barnes
25th September	Neil Rickard

Previous meeting

Last Meeting: Clayton RSL Club.

Apologies :John Goldspink

Make Ups:

Guests: Kerryn and Patrina from the Lighthouse Foundation

Birthdays:

Wedding Anniversaries

General Business

At the last meeting Kerry, carer's manager & Patrina carer from the Lighthouse Foundation Clayton House gave the Rotary club of Clayton a run down of the Functions they perform for the Lighthouse Foundation and an insight of some of their clients. Fundamentals I gathers from their speech was Building Relationships and Support plus a Stable environment.

Subs next week –See Neil Rickard

Conformation for the Golf Day for Monday the 29th of Jan.

3rd of Dec is the Christmas Function at Pelican Pantry at Dromana for 12.30 pm for a 1pm o'clock start. Jim has booked for about 20 people.

6th October Red Face District function, Clayton table is to be yellow so be wearing your best yellow suits and dresses

Forms for Working with Children check valid for 5 year. See Bill Sides.

Sharon Baker has badges and pens for sale for \$5 for the Leukemia foundation.

Board Meetings are held every 3rd Monday of the Month.

Rotaract club of Clayton Needs help with numbers of people aged 18 to 30 years.

Claytons Rotaracts Functions.

A day at Healsville Races November 25th.

Upcoming District events.

Friday 29th September – Launch of Shepparton Conference – The official launch of the 2007 District Conference will be held on Friday 29 September 2006 at the Alexander Room, Madeline's@Jell's (Old Tea House), Jell's Park, Waverley Road, Wheelers Hill (Melways map Reference 71K7).

Friday 6th October – Red Faces at Good Shepherd Parish Hall – 34 Academy Avenue, Wheelers Hill – Hosted for District by RC of Mont Albert & Surrey Hills – Major Beneficiary – ARHRF- Cost \$15.00 per person – includes tea, coffee, cake and amusements. BYO Drinks and Nibbles – Contact Robyn Pearson 9857 3577

Friday 23rd and Saturday 24th February 2007 – 24 hour Rotary Club Meeting – details to be provided.

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?"**

Welcome - September 2006



“One of Rotary’s most splendid efforts in behalf of young people...is in the sponsoring of visits in the communities of other countries where they are guided, housed, and befriended by Rotarians. The consequences of such an experience at an impressionable age are incalculable.”

RIPP Gian Paolo Lang 1956-57

What is your favourite New Generations program? Gosh, what a tough question. In this our **New Generations month**, the simple answer is “they are all great”.

Contemplating my measured response, I thought firstly of the Youth Exchange Program and the shy special ‘Rotary Smile’ of the arriving students and the heart warming, often amusing, stories of the returning students. This Rotary year we have welcomed 14 students from 9 countries. If the opportunity arises, extend a warm Rotary welcome to our new guests and you will be repaid in kind. Fourteen (14) students sponsored by clubs of District 9810 will leave in January 2007 for a life changing experience. Having met these students I am sure they will be great ambassadors for Australia, Victoria, their schools, families, sponsor clubs and District 9810.

While the Youth Exchange Program has a special place in my heart, programs such as National Youth Science Forum (NYSF) and the Model United Nations Assembly (MUNA) are not far behind. Earlier this year I also attended Rotary Youth Program of Enrichment

(RYPEN) and Camp Awakenings and I was blown away by the nature of these programs, the commitment of Rotarians making a difference and the pleasure exhibited by the attending students, even if punctuated by the occasional shrill whilst taking self defence lessons or on the rope course.

Regarding MUNA, mark 5/6 May, 2007 in your diary to go to State Parliament for this Rotary year's program. I guarantee if you plan to stay an hour you will want to stay much longer, such is the attraction of the program which encourages Secondary School students to explore the culture, attitudes and international position of various nations.

Last Rotary Year PDG Philip Hedley launched, yet another great New Generations program, the 4 Way Test Public Speaking contest for Secondary Students and I am looking forward to our second year being coordinated by PP Kevin O'Donnell (RC of Doncaster Sunrise). The final will be held at our 2007 Conference in Shepparton. In case you have forgotten the conference dates are 29 March to 1 April 2007.

As mentioned during our club visits, Rotaract has my support and guided by DRR Kylie Brown our Rotaractors are 'creating a ripple' and are working together to build a stronger, vibrant and proactive Rotaract. At the same time the RC of Waverley is working to re-establish Interact in our District.

We have a lot to be proud of in District 9810 and we continue to 'Lead the Way' in our New Generations activities, part of this success flows from recognising our responsibilities to our youth. You will be aware of the need to apply for a Working with Children Card and if you are involved with our Youth please proceed with your application for the card as a matter of urgency.

Before closing, Jill and I, on behalf of our Assistant Governors thank you for your warm welcome at the time of our Club Visits, it is truly a great experience to share Rotary with you. We look forward to the remaining 30 visits (as at 1 September).

Friends in Rotary

DG Bob Richards

The Rotary Club of Ringwood will be holding a Brownlow Medal Night Fundraiser on Monday, September 25, 2006. Would you please pass on the information on the attached flyer to your members. Further information regarding cost and venue is on the flyer. We are looking to fill 16 tables x 10. However, "the more, the merrier".

Many thanks for your assistance

Fran McLean
Secretary
RC Ringwood
9728 8698

Vision Australia Heritage Collection

Being unable to see in the 1800s was not easy. Australians who were blind were not allowed to vote and many were very poor. In addition, people who lost their vision after the age of 16 could not receive a

pension. There were no schools, libraries and hardly any services. How would you feel if you were blind at this time? What would you do to bring about change?

Vision Australia was founded to improve the lives of people who were blind or vision impaired. Our story begins with a man named Reverend James Miriam. Blind in one eye, he pledged to devote himself to helping people who were blind if the sight in his other eye was spared. It was and in 1866 Reverend Miriam called a meeting, from which the Asylum and School for the Blind was formed. At that time, the word asylum also meant a safe place. This was Australia's first school for children who were blind. It is now part of Vision Australia.

In the 1800s many people who were blind couldn't get a job due to a lack of training. To fix this, the first employment workshops were set up in Victoria in 1870 and in NSW from 1880. People were taught a variety of skills, which included brush making, mat making and basket weaving.

At this time, there were still many other barriers facing people who were blind. Born in 1873, Tilly Aston was totally blind by the age of seven. Tilly read and wrote using a different kind of writing called Braille. Braille letters are made of combinations of up to six raised dots, which are read by touch. Tilly was very good at school and became the first Australian who was blind to continue her education when she entered the University of Melbourne. However, at that time there were hardly any Braille textbooks. Tilly's tutor had to help her slowly copy her textbooks into Braille. In the end the strain became too much, forcing Tilly to leave university early. How would you feel if that was you?

Despite feeling very sad and frustrated, Tilly was determined to bring about

change and in 1894 she called a meeting of friends and supporters. From this meeting Australia's first Braille Library was formed by the Victorian Association of Braille Writers (now part of Vision Australia). What would you do if you were in this group?

Braille training courses began and within seven months 93 volunteers were learning to copy Braille. It took great patience - by hand each page took an average of about half an hour to produce. Can you imagine learning to read by touch?

An important part of the library service was making sure that the books were available to all readers. In 1899 the libraries were successful in getting free transport on the railways for all Braille books - a world first! How do you think people who were blind in other countries would have felt about this breakthrough?

Discrimination and prejudice were still widespread. To fight this, Tilly called another meeting of friends and supporters to fight for greater independence, social change and new laws. In 1895 the Association for the Advancement of the Blind (now also part of Vision Australia) was formed. The Association fought for and won Australia's first voting rights for people who were blind. They also were successful in having the much hated travel bond abolished in 1901. Before then, people who were blind had been discriminated against. Branded as 'undesirable' they were forced to pay extra money, (a 'travel bond') to be able to travel interstate. Imagine if you couldn't travel freely in your own country?

Another major problem was the appalling living conditions for people who were blind, many of who were living in poverty. In 1909 the Association opened Australia's first nursing home in Melbourne for people who were blind. Other homes were later established across Victoria and New South

Wales.

Did you know that during World War I many Australians soldiers lost their sight? Many groups gave money to assist. One group that benefited was Vision Australia library. Braille takes up a huge amount of space. For years the library had been temporarily based in members' homes and leased offices. In 1918, Trustees of the Edward Wilson Estate made a large donation for a library to be built in South Yarra. This remained its home for the next 83 years until its relocation to Kooyong in 2001!

Are you surprised to hear that blind cricket is a popular game that is played throughout the world? Invented in Melbourne in 1922, the game uses a cane wicker ball with metal pieces inside that make a noise when the ball is thrown. This helps blind cricketers to know where the ball is. The world's first sports ground for blind cricketers was developed at Kooyong in 1928 by the Association for the Advancement of the Blind (now part of Vision Australia) and is still used today. Can you imagine using your ears to work out where the ball is instead of your eyes?

Over time services have developed to meet the needs of people who are blind. In 1972 Australia's first low vision clinic began, which helps people get the most out of their remaining vision through the use of aids such as magnifiers and lighting equipment. Radio is a good way for people to get information. In 1981 the first radio station for people who can't read standard print was started. Two years later Australia's first talking newspaper service began.

Many people who are blind listen to talking books. When introduced in 1934, these were very bulky records and the sound quality was poor. Today, books are recorded on CD, which are very compact

with crystal clear sound.

Another major change has been in Braille production. Braille typewriters and printing presses largely replaced hand frames in the 1900s. They enabled duplicate copies and printing on both sides of the page. From the 1980s, computers have been used which have made production much faster and cheaper.

All services have needed money. One very well known fundraising event has been Carols by Candlelight held each Christmas Eve since 1938. Have you seen it on television? Many singers and celebrities such as Guy Sebastian have performed. Sydney also has a big fundraising event, the annual Black and White Ball that has been running since 1937. Each year people dress up in ball gowns and dance the night away.

Can you imagine what it is like to be both deaf and blind? Helen Keller was and spent much of her life fighting for better rights and services for people with disabilities. In 1948 she visited Australia. During her visit, she said that services for Australians who were blind needed much improvement. Her comments led organisations such as Vision Australia to focus more on enabling people who were blind or vision impaired to become equal and independent citizens.

From the 1960s, Vision Australia has worked to help people who are blind access general community services rather than providing specialised care. Where possible services assist children who are blind or vision impaired to be educated in mainstream schools. Instead of providing separate nursing homes the focus is on making all homes accessible. Employment services enable people who are blind or vision impaired work in jobs they want. Current clients include engineers, lawyers, farmers, bank tellers, masseurs,

spot welders and psychologists.

Today Vision Australia works with more than 38,000 Australians who have vision loss. Much of this exciting history has been recorded in the organisations heritage collection.

JOKES FOR THE WEEK

Secret

An old man was relaxing at his hundredth birthday party when a reporter went up to him. "Sir, what is the secret of your long life?"

The man considered this for a moment, then replied, "Every day at 9 PM I have a glass of Red wine. Good for the heart I've heard."

The reporter replied, "That's ALL?"

The man smiled, "That, and cancelling my voyage on the Titanic."

Meeting Closed 7:35pm

Relevant Rotary Web sites.

<http://www.rotary.org/>

<http://www.9810.rotary.org.au/>

www.rotarnet.com.au

Other club websites of interest.

<http://www.rotary-belleville.org/index.htm>

<http://www.rotaryclubofbrisbanemidcity.org/contents/home.asp?>

<http://www.rotary.org/newsroom/rotaryworld/index.html>