



# NETWORKER



Issue 38, 12<sup>th</sup> April, 2010

A publication for Rotarians and all community-minded people

## April is Rotary Magazine Month

### Unsung Heroes



DG Colin Muir and Pauline

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How often do we watch TV and see wonderful humanitarian projects in action, and then wonder to ourselves about how they started? “Gee! - I wonder who thought of that?”

And sometimes I see a program and think: “Isn’t Rotary involved in that?” Like the time I saw children having plastic surgery and asked myself: “Isn’t that an Interplast Project?” I watched to the end, but no mention of Rotary. Often there is little credit given to Rotary’s involvement.

I mention this because Melissa Jenkins’ article on *Brochure to help visiting Seafarers* appeared in the Sydney Morning Herald on March 31<sup>st</sup> 2010, mentioning several organisations that were involved, but no mention of Rotary. Fortunately, President Bronwyn Stephens of RC Melbourne South had already sent us details of Bob Iversen’s ideas that were the source of the project, so we took the liberty of adding Bronwyn’s information to the article on Page 2.

The project on the *Brochure to help visiting Seafarers* aptly demonstrates the very best ideals and possibilities of a Community or International Rotary Project:

- Firstly, one person having the passion to present an idea to a Club
- The vision then being embraced by their Rotary Club.
- The Club’s District, and other organisations becoming involved in the Project
- And finally the project being started by the Club and eventually handed over to others.

And you should never despair if little credit is given to Rotary’s efforts.

My Aunt Sheila once said “Rotarians remind me of ants: each one doing a little bit here and there - and the final result is amazing!”

So keep up your great work, Rotarians - you are unsung heroes and wonderful people.

**Colin Muir**

**District Governor 9800**



## Brochure to Help Visiting Seafarers

Melissa Jenkins AAP and Bronwyn Stephens RC Melbourne South  
March 31, 2010



Alienation, isolation and sleep deprivation. These are the trials of life at sea.

Australian seafarers can be away from their loved ones for up to six months at a time.

But seafarers on international ships are regularly away from their homeland, often the Philippines, China or India, for a year or more and are at heightened risk of depression.

Rom Kucera, manager of seafarers' support centre Stella Maris, said international sailors were a marginalised group and often became depressed.

"They work under extreme pressure, isolation, and depression is all part of it," he told AAP. Mr Kucera said international sailors are at sea on large commercial ships for an average of nine months, but this can be prolonged to a year or more. He said there was a reluctance from international seafarers to report mental health difficulties to their superiors for fear of getting sacked.

A brochure has been designed to offer mental health information and support to the 60,000 seafarers who visit the Port of Melbourne each year.

The booklets were the idea of South Melbourne Rotarian Bob Iversen, and will be distributed in several different languages, including Russian and Chinese. It was launched on Tuesday to coincide with the International Year of the Seafarer.

Bob Iversen, a retired fishery biologist and former member of the U.S. Navy, observed throughout his maritime career the high incidence of depression and mental illness in mariners confined for long periods on ships. He conceived a project to assist seafarers with depression, which came to fruition with the help of Melbourne Port Welfare Association, Beyondblue, The Mission To Seafarers Victoria, the Stella Maris Seafarers Centre and the Rotary Club of Melbourne South.



Bob has fitted the Rotary ideal of "service above self" in a very practical sense over his Rotary life. In June 2006 he was presented with a Paul Harris Fellow recognition, and in response to his work for the mental health of seafarers, a sapphire was added to his Paul Harris recognition at the recent District Conference.

## Rotary Leadership Institute

Another group of Rotarians started the Rotary Leadership Institute last Sunday by completing the Part 1 course which covered topics such as Rotary Beyond the Club, Membership Retention, Introduction to The Rotary Foundation, Leadership and Team Building and Service Projects.

The participants voted 89% of what they learned was of much benefit to them and if you would like to improve your Rotary knowledge and learn more about leadership in a voluntary organisation then I encourage you to enrol.

The timetable for the next two months is as follows:

May 2 Part 2    May 23 Part 3    June 6 Part1    Additional courses arranged if required.

Contact Vicki Teschke at [vicki.t@tacobill.com.au](mailto:vicki.t@tacobill.com.au)





## Facts of the Matter – Ocular Health

by Shirley Stephenson  
*The Rotarian* -- April 2010

Around AD 62, the Roman philosopher Seneca wrote of the magnifying properties of a water-filled glass ball. By 1000, Italian glass blowers had created “reading stones” similar to contemporary hand-held magnifying lenses. The exact date of the creation of reading lenses remains unknown, but reports from 1300 indicate that Germany, Italy, and the Netherlands manufactured and sold spectacles. Benjamin Franklin commissioned the first bifocals in 1760 for his own use.

Eyeglass donations from developed nations can help stimulate the global economy. According to various estimates, there are hundreds of millions of people with visual impairments that can be corrected with eyeglasses who cannot afford them, resulting in billions of dollars in lost productivity. The majority live in developing countries where a pair of glasses can cost two to three months’ salary.



The United States has 1 optometrist per 4,500 people. India has 1 per 100,000. Sub-Saharan Africa has 1 optometrist per 1 million individuals.

Seventy-five percent of the world’s approximately 1.4 million blind children live in developing countries. Socio-economic factors and access to eye care make the difference between curable problems and permanent blindness. Measles, vitamin A deficiencies, and cerebral malaria are among the causes of childhood blindness. Immunization programs, vitamin supplements, and other preventive efforts deliver cost-effective, life-changing results.

Cataracts are responsible for 48 percent of the world’s vision loss, affecting an estimated 18 million people. They are the leading cause of visual impairment in developing countries. The average cost of cataract removal in the United States is \$2,900 per eye. The average cost in India, which markets its medical tourism services, ranges from \$300 to \$1,100 – a big savings for travellers from wealthy countries but still out of reach for the many people who earn less than \$1 per day in India.

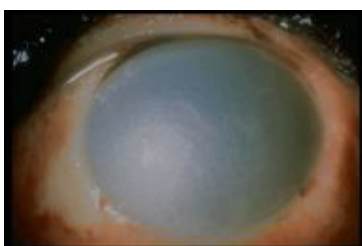
Other leading causes of visual impairment worldwide include glaucoma, age-related macular degeneration, corneal opacities, diabetic retinopathy, childhood blindness, trachoma, and onchocerciasis, also known as river blindness.

Trachoma and onchocerciasis are infectious, preventable diseases that cause vision loss. Trachoma affects up to 90 percent of preschool children and women in poor regions of Africa, Asia, Australia, Central and South America, and the Middle East. Water shortages, flies, overcrowding, and poor hygiene contribute to the high rates. Treatment and prevention strategies include hygiene, antibiotics, surgery, and environmental changes.

Southeast Asia has the highest rate of avoidable blindness, followed by Western Pacific nations, Africa, the Eastern Mediterranean, the Americas, and Europe.

Since July 2004, The Rotary Foundation has awarded 265 humanitarian grants to support eye health, totalling \$3,091,552 in 43 countries, with projects in India receiving the most help.

<http://www.rotary.org/en/MediaAndNews/TheRotarian/Pages/FactsoftheMatter1004.aspx>





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## Readers' Letters

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Dear Clarice

*I am concerned that there was an advertisement for RI Insurance below the item for the RI Convention in the latest edition of The Networker..*

*The Australian Rotary Insurance covers all Rotarians and partners and spouses for their travel to the RI Convention and any other holiday travel associated with it.*

*Details of the policy is available from our District Insurance Officer Mark Perree [mark@mibrokers.com.au](mailto:mark@mibrokers.com.au)*

John Wigley PDG

Chairman Rotary National Committee

Clarice replies: Thanks for pointing that out, PDG John. The insurance advertisement appeared only in the web version. It was a "space filler" that had been inadvertently left there, and was not related to the RI Convention. We apologise for any confusion.

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Prime Minister Kevin Rudd has appointed Tony Burke as the nation's first population minister, amid growing concerns that the number of Australians will rise to unsustainable levels.

You may be interested in this letter from world leading reproduction expert Professor Roger Short, to Dr Peter Clarke, RC Melbourne:

Dear Peter

*It was great to speak to you this morning, and I look forward to meeting you and your colleague in the near future.*

*Rotarians might wield considerable influence in raising concern about population growth here in Victoria, but it would be great to get Rotary International involved in the Big Picture of the coming Plague of People.*

*When you and I were born, there were 2 billion people on earth. Today there are 6.8 billion, and the latest UN projections suggest we will have reached 9.1 billion by 2050. If Australia increases from the current 22 million to 35 million in this time, and the United States from 307 million to over 400 million, this will have an enormous adverse impact on the global environment.*

*But 95% of future population growth will take place in the poverty-stricken countries of Africa, Asia and South America. This will only increase their plight, since many children make you poor. This will result in massive civil unrest, hatred of the affluent developed world, and terrorism.*

*If we could ensure that in every country, women had easy access to contraception, so that every birth was a wanted birth, the problem would be solved.*

*That's the challenge we face!*

Regards

Roger

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Dear Clarice,

*Literacy in District 9800 - Please pass my congratulations to all Rotarians in our district who made Literacy a focus for their work during March, and special thanks to the clubs of Brimbank Central and Wyndham for inviting me along to speak about this important topic, and the role Rotary plays in addressing the problems of illiteracy around the world.*

*Also please note that Rotary Clubs are able to apply for Australian Settlement Grants to undertake or continue work that we do to help refugees and immigrants settle in our country. This money could be especially used to develop and implement Literacy and Educational Assistance Programs, in areas of need in our District. For more information Google "Australian Settlement Grants". This could be just the thing to motivate and inspire your club.*

*Celebrating our literacy achievements – Now is the time for all clubs to send me a short outline of any literacy projects or undertakings that you have been involved in this year. The information you provide will be used to document our District Report for the Zone Literacy Committee. (this includes literacy / educational guest speakers) You could also consider applying for a District or Zone Literacy Award. Google "Rotary Literacy Awards" for more details.*

Bronwen Scarffe – Rotary Club of Daylesford. [bronwenscarffe@harboursat.com.au](mailto:bronwenscarffe@harboursat.com.au)



## Marketing Tips

### Getting Photos Published

When taking photos to promote your Rotary Club or to send to the media or to *The Networker*, it's worth keeping a few things in mind if you want to see your work published and gain publicity for your club's efforts.

#### *Make The Photo Newsworthy!*

First and foremost, the photo needs to be interesting! The photo should sell the story – the photo should not require the accompanying story to give it relevance or interest.

A picture of just a group of people, or someone behind a lectern, or someone holding a certificate, or someone standing in front of something – each may hold relevance or importance to the subject or the to those in attendance, but to the uninitiated reader (or editor), it holds little interest.



Instead, make the photo *remarkable!* It should be something people don't see everyday, something that makes them open their eyes. Involve the person viewing it!

Show interaction. Show emotion. Show action. Show smiles. Show expression. Show something unusual and attention grabbing. Show humour!

A photo that evokes an emotion is more likely to get published than one that merely shows what went on.

## Welcome New Members

Rotary Club of Melbourne have Inducted:

Hava Balci - 111 Parkville Ave PARKVILLE,

Graeme Whitelaw - 5 Madden St BALWYN,

Harding Richard (Mike) - 50 Hotham St E MELB



Rotary Club of Caulfield has inducted Natasha Westbrook - Education



But not the three fellows on the right - they must have crept in from the previous article. Isn't it nice when readers send us photos?



## Notices and Events

### District Governor's Changeover Lunch

The Rotary Club of Toorak invites you to attend the DG Changeover Lunch at Crown Palladium 11.30am for Pre-Luncheon Drinks **Sunday 27 June 2010**

Entertainment by Singer/Songwriter Dianna Corcoran - Female Artist of the Year

FREE PARKING in multi level car park - Entrance off Kingsway and Clark Street, Airbridge to Crown. Take ticket to cloak room for validation.



Bookings by Friday 12th June 2010 to: Rotary Club of

Toorak Inc. PO Box 397 Toorak Vic 3142

Phone: 0419 357 864 Fax: 03 9509 7935

Email: [alan.l.freedman@bigpond.com](mailto:alan.l.freedman@bigpond.com)

Booking form available from:

[http://www.rotarydistrict9800.org.au/uploads/downloads/Members/2010\\_04\\_Messages/District\\_9800\\_Changeover\\_flyer.pdf](http://www.rotarydistrict9800.org.au/uploads/downloads/Members/2010_04_Messages/District_9800_Changeover_flyer.pdf)



### Brimbank Central's New Website

Brimbank Central have a new Club Website, which has been re-developed over a number of months and is quite different to many other club sites.

The web address is [www.brimbankrotary.org.au](http://www.brimbankrotary.org.au)



### District Literacy Representative

Expressions of interest from Rotarians who would be interested in becoming the District Literacy representative. It is an important aspect of our work and one which brings great satisfaction. As the rep. you would serve as a member of the District Vocational Committee under the leadership of its new head Bob Slater and I would be very happy to mentor and support you, throughout the year. For further information contact Bronwen Scarffe on 53 48 1112 or 0418 592 432 or email [bronwenscarffe@harboursat.com.au](mailto:bronwenscarffe@harboursat.com.au)



### Footscray Annual Charity Golf Day

Rotary Club of Footscray in partnership with Vic Police

**Monday 19th April** at Medway Golf Club.

Registration from 11.00am. Shot Gun Start 12.30pm. Putting Comp Starts 11.30am.

Trophies for Nearest the Pin, Longest Drive, Putting, 4 Ball Ambrose Competition Handicap and Non-Handicap Players. Individuals will be included in teams of 4.

Cost \$75.00 / Player, includes Green Fees; Boxed Lunch and Finger Food at Trophy

Presentation. For further information and registration, contact Ron Hunt 0400 205 858 Fax 9731 1381 or [ron@tradesmart.net.au](mailto:ron@tradesmart.net.au)



### Futurist Speaker Rohit Talwar

Rohit Talwar is an internationally renowned futurist, award winning inspirational speaker, consultant and change agent. He has worked with over 30 international associations and government agencies around the world and has been profiled as one of the top ten global future thinkers.

**Tuesday 20 April**, 7am for 7.15 breakfast. The Palladium, Crown Towers, Southbank.

\$50 ticket: profits to The Rotary Club of Southbank's Community Fund, in partnership with the Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation

Bookings and payment to RC Southbank, PO Box 20, South Melbourne, VIC 3205, fax-03 9690 9494, email-Narina Amvazas at [narina.amvazas@rotary.to](mailto:narina.amvazas@rotary.to)



### GSE Farewell Dinner

The Group Study Exchange team, led by Ken Vazquez will go to Spain at the end of April. A Farewell Dinner will be held at Grand Star Receptions, Grieve Parade, Altona to farewell them and give you a chance to meet the Team.

**Friday 23rd April** - 7pm till midnight. 6 Course Dinner with unlimited Beer, Wine, Soft drink, Orange Juice, Tea & coffee. Great entertainment and a night of fast paced fun guaranteed! ONLY \$50 PER PERSON ALL INCLUSIVE.

Bookings: phone Bryan Goodwin on 9226 3821 or email

[bgoodwin@bigpond.com](mailto:bgoodwin@bigpond.com).





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We care. We share. We all gain.



## Café Internationale

Bookings are now open for Café Internationale, International House, Parkville on **Saturday 1st May**.

Drinks from 6.30, Show starts 7.15 Dress - Black Tie.

Tickets are \$75.00 Contact Dawn Lo - 0433 018 180 or Luciana Orr - 9345 7576 [café.int2010@gmail.com](mailto:café.int2010@gmail.com) [orrl@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:orrl@unimelb.edu.au)



## Clean Water and Sanitation with Livelihood Seminar.

In response to RI President John Kenny's and Water Sanitation Rotarian Action Group challenge to clubs to initiate long term water and sanitation projects around the world, Rotary Brighton Beach will host the Clean Water Livelihood – BioSand Water Filter Seminar. Included with the technology behind the BSW filter is an opportunity to create a livelihood project for the community at a cost of \$50 per filter.

Venue: International House Greycourt Theatre, 241 Royal Parade, Parkville **1st May, Saturday** 8:30 – 12pm., Entry \$10 with light lunch.

Registrations are essential. Contact Anthony Langley or Julie Avery 0418364191; 95919591 [alangley@bayside.vic.gov.au](mailto:alangley@bayside.vic.gov.au) [julie@brightontravel.com.au](mailto:julie@brightontravel.com.au);



## Macedon Ranges MS Cycle Challenge

The Rotary Club of Gisborne is holding the Macedon Ranges Cycle Challenge on **Sunday 2nd May**. This recreational road ride will take riders through one of the State's most interesting regions on good sealed roads. Register now, as rider numbers are limited to 300. Starts at New Gisborne: Two route options are available: a 131km challenge ride including the climb over Mount Macedon or a shorter, flatter 77km route for riders that prefer to take things easier. Funds raised for community projects.

All inquiries to Barry Wills on 0408 284 510, or

[rangecyclechallenge@gmail.org](mailto:rangecyclechallenge@gmail.org) [www.gisbornerotary.org.au](http://www.gisbornerotary.org.au)



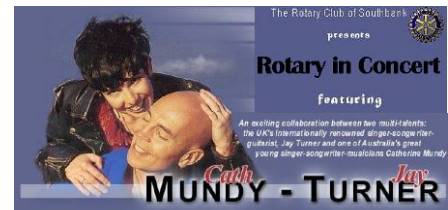
## RC Southbank: Rotary in Concert

*Cath Mundy & Jay Turner have regularly been invited as major performers at Port Fairy Folk Festival, Woodford, and at other festivals in Australia and UK. Both performers are impressive vocalists, able to inject melodies with depth and pathos.*

**Tuesday 4 May** 6:00 for 6:30pm to 8:30pm River Room, Crown Towers Hotel, Southbank. Admission Price \$45 includes Dinner, Drinks, Concert and Free Parking at Crown. Rotary in Concert is a Benefit Event for Susubeen East Timor a project of the Xanana Trust.

ADMISSION MUST BE PRE-BOOKED BOOKINGS CLOSE 27 APRIL

To book online go to [www.rotary.to/events/rotaryinconcert/](http://www.rotary.to/events/rotaryinconcert/)



## Pie and Port Night

The Rotary Club of Rochester will hold its Pie and Port Night on **Friday 7th May** at the Historic Court House Moore Street Rochester. Contact Noel Lucas - 0427 841 262



## Brimbank Central Charter Anniversary

Come and join with us to celebrate our 35<sup>th</sup> Charter Anniversary **Saturday, 8 May** 6.30pm for 7.00pm start Starlight Room, Taylors Lakes Reception Centre, 7 Melton Hwy, Taylors Lakes \$30.00 per head (3 course meal).

Plus a 35 Year History Booklet. Drinks at Bar prices.

Musical Entertainment by : Michael Lapina – Tenor, Plus music for dancing.

Cheques payable to : The Rotary Club of Brimbank Central,

PO Box 81 KEILOR VIC 3036 Bookings close 30 April.

Enquiries : Barbara or John Rafter 9331 5662 or 0419 135 185

[barbara@craftbooks.com.au](mailto:barbara@craftbooks.com.au) or [johnrafter@craftbooks.com.au](mailto:johnrafter@craftbooks.com.au)





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## District Assembly - 16th May

All Rotarians are invited to the Rotary International District 9800 Assembly to be held on **Sunday 16 May, 2010**; from 9-00 am start to 1-00 pm finish.

We will be providing a substantial morning tea and fellowship opportunity during the Assembly.

For the very first time this will be held at Melbourne Grammar School, Domain Rd, South Yarra, which is easy to find and easy parking.

[http://www.rotarydistrict9800.org.au/uploads/downloads/Members/2010\\_04\\_Messages/lvens\\_District\\_Assembly\\_Invite.doc](http://www.rotarydistrict9800.org.au/uploads/downloads/Members/2010_04_Messages/lvens_District_Assembly_Invite.doc)



## Dance Expo

Rotary Club of Caulfield is hosting a Dance Expo to showcase a broad spectrum of dance styles to promote dance as a professional occupation, for well-being, social recreational opportunities and multi-cultural connections.

Styles from Classical to Contemporary, Jazz, Fusion, Tap, Bellydance-Cabaret and American Tribal Style, Flamenco and Folk-including Israeli, Scottish and a Ukrainian Cossack group.

Dance related Exhibitors, Blood Pressure testing and the opportunity to buy detergent free and water saving Green Clean Laundry Balls.

**Sunday May 23.** 10am-5pm Demonstration performances hourly from 11am to 4pm Glen Eira Auditorium (upstairs) cnr Glen Eira and Hawthorn Roads, Caulfield. Free Entry (gold coin donation appreciated) Light refreshments: served by students and staff from Caulfield Park Community School Proceeds to Rotary Club of Caulfield's Annual Festive Season Lunch for the Aged. Volunteers Needed-For backstage and front of house. For more information, ph 9568-7190 or [rotary.dance.expo@gmail.com](mailto:rotary.dance.expo@gmail.com)



## Camberwell Rotary Art Show- Exclusive Preview & Opening

Caulfield Racecourse, Station Street, Caulfield

**Thursday 27 May**, 6.30pm – 9.30pm Opening Night, Preview and Awards Presentation. Be the first to purchase from an estimated 2,500 paintings.

Many from acclaimed Australian artists.

This is a popular annual opening event on Melbourne's arts calendar and not to be missed.

Tickets \$30 - Double \$55 (book 'double' ticket on-line and Save \$5)

Includes welcome drink. On-line booking details soon!

Enquiries Telephone: 0431 286 483

[admin@camberwellrotaryartshow.org.au](mailto:admin@camberwellrotaryartshow.org.au)

<http://www.camberwellrotaryartshow.org.au/>

