

Bulletin

Rotary Club of Prahran



Meets Monday
Mt Erica Hotel
Corner High Street and Williams
Prahran
12.45 for 1PM Luncheon

Website: www.rotaryprahran.org
Email: prahran@districtrotary9800.org
Prahran Chartered 27th December 1955

President	Peter Shneider
Vice President	Graeme Newton
Secretary	Helen Robbins
Treasurer	John Harris
Bulletin Editor	Pike Peters

No. 2320 Monday 7th July 2008

Club Forum

Mount Erica Hotel

12.45pm for 1.00 pm

Reception: Geoff Heeps Reiner Klapp
Cashiers: Pike Peters

Previous Meetings June 23rd Don Cullen & June 30th Club Forum

Apologies: Michael Morrison (LOA), John Harris (LOA), Dick Harham (LOA), Peter Betros (LOA)

Guests of Club: Don Cullen – Rotary Club of Brighton North
Make-ups: Pam Buxton – Marlin Coast

Don Cullen Tibetan Village Project:



Don Cullen from North Brighton Rotary Club grew up in Williamstown. Whilst in hospital for an extended recuperation 44 years ago he developed a fascination for Tibet. And what a fascinating place – starting with Nyatri Tsenpo – first King of Tibet in 600AD consolidated the occupants of the Tibetan plateau as one people. He took two wives – one from Tibet and one from China – as the ultimate act of diplomacy and as a result Tibet became a place of peace.

Kubla Kahn actually took lessons from the Tibetans on diplomacy and peace. The current 'Dalai Lama' is actually a Mongolian term that means 'oceans of wisdom'.

In 1904 Lt Francis Younghusband held siege to Tibet and entered the Potala Palace. He and his troops laid siege to the palace (not terribly effective as there are many secret entrances). After 3 months he met with the 12th Dalai Lama and promised British Protection for Tibet (begging the question as to where the British have been for the last 30 years!)



Younghusband



Potala Palace
George Mallory

Younghusband then had a religious experience – resigned and spent 12 years in seclusion. In 1916 he led the first trek to Mt Everest – and again led an expedition in 1918. On the 3rd expedition which included George Mallory, and Sandy Irvine they may have gotten to the top (Don thinks so!) but perished on the way down. Don was actually at Everest Base Camp in 1988 when Mallory's body and artefacts were found.

Don was coming back from a trek in Western Tibet into Lhasa when he was approached by two boys who asked for money. This request was unusual – so Don asked the boys where they lived and followed them to a house where 74 kids from 3 to 18 were living together and making a living through begging. Don was a 'corporate high flier' at the time – but was so taken aback by the situation that these boys were living in that he resigned to dedicate his time to helping those in Tibet. He personally gave \$10,000 to establish an orphanage in Lhasa.

He then sought help from Service clubs and organizations – but found none that operated in Tibet. In searching on the internet he finally stumbled across the Tibetan Village Project – run by a refugee Tibetan in Colorado whose mum was still in Lhasa named Tandum Wangdu. Don when hearing Tandum's story 'didn't believe a word' – but actually ventured back to Lhasa and found that all he said was true

The orphanage ended up being sponsored by a Chinese man and now is self sustaining.

He then found 5 doctors who were willing to head out to the hinterland and treat 300 people on a trip covering 400 Kilometers. Now the Tibetan Village Project has one fixed and one mobile clinics which treat 8,000 Tibetans per year. The Project also:

- Supports 1200 children with books
- Supplies cooks and food for school lunches
- Established apprenticeships for young Tibetans to learn woodwork, nursing and mechanics
- Training for medical assistants
- Make and sells artefacts to tourists.

The Tibetan Village Project is now part of RAWCS without a sister club in Tibet – but has charitable status and all donations have a charitable tax status.

The Club is considering supporting the project with the donation of a \$1700 Hothouse for villages to grow fresh crops year round.

**Book tip from Su Schneider: *A Perfect Mess*
by Eric Abrahamson & David H Freedman.**



Thanks from Caulfield Park Community School

Jan and David Rosenberg instigated a project in May to assist Caulfield Park Community School with computers sourced through Rotary's Dawn Watson. We have received the following letter from the School:

Dear Jan and Rotary,

Teachers and Students from Caulfield Park Community School would like to thank you for the computers donated to the school. It was a generous and highly appreciated donation.

We will use them to complete projects, resumes, etc. We will use them to the fullest extent of their capability.

Yours sincerely

*Students from
Caulfield Park Community School*

I will include more information on Caulfield Park Community School in the next bulletin. – Ed.



Reception for RI President DK Lee
Making Dreams Real for Children

Wednesday 9th July 2008
 Crown Casino Palladium Room C
 \$45 per head

Incoming Speakers

The editor will be checking in with the Program Directors - updates will be posted shortly!!!

Forthcoming Events

- 09.07.2008 Cocktails with RI President DK Lee – Crown Casino – 5.30 to 7.30 see Bookings with **Pike Peters - \$45 per head.**
- 28.09.2008 2008 Australian University Games – Volunteer help is required now. Refer Peter Angwin and Geoff Heeps for details.

For District News, please go to: clarice@rotarydistrict9800.org.au

	<u>07.07.2008</u>	<u>14.07.2008</u>	<u>21.07.2008</u>	<u>28.07.2008</u>
Reception:	F Slutzkin J Smith	L Woolf P Angwin	A Walton E Cohen	P Peters P Buxton
Cashiers:	C Southall C Ullin	P Betros P Buxton	D Crittenden R Hardham	J Plowright G Newton
Bulletin:	P Peters	P Peters	P Peters	P Peters

