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### Incoming Speakers

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

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### Forthcoming Events

- 03.08.2008 Tree Planting – Come one! Come all! Let Graeme Newton know if you are coming on the bus!!
- 28.09.2008 2008 Australian University Games – Volunteer help is required now. Refer Peter Angwin and Geoff Heeps for details.
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For District News, please go to: [clarice@rotarydistrict9800.org.au](mailto:clarice@rotarydistrict9800.org.au)

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	<u>21.07.2008</u>	<u>28.07.2008</u>	<u>04.08.2008</u>	<u>11.08.2008</u>
Reception:	A Walton E Cohen	P Peters J Mahon	C Southall H Robbins	G Newton F Slutzkin
Cashiers:	D Crittenden R Hardham	J Plowright G Newton	E Cohen A Walton	
Bulletin:	P Peters	P Peters	P Peters	



Club Directory changes to:

[Pike.peters@bibstillwell.com.au](mailto:Pike.peters@bibstillwell.com.au)

Subscriptions due! \$295 to treasurer

# 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](http://www.rotaryprahran.org)

Email: [prahran@districtrotary9800.org](mailto:prahran@districtrotary9800.org)

Prahran Chartered 27<sup>th</sup> December 1955

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

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No. 2321 Monday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2008  
Anne Scott – PP Rotary Club of Hawthorn  
Helping Grandmother's in Zambia

Mount Erica Hotel

12.45pm for 1.00 pm

Reception: Lewis Woolf, Peter Angwin  
Cashiers: Peter Betros, John Plowright

Subscriptions due! \$295 to treasurer

## Previous Meeting

Michael Morrison acted as Sergeant – fleecing winning footy supporters and those who had been away on holidays.

Michael has just returned from Hawaii, the Inland passage in Alaska and Vancouver in Canada. He is off for a couple of weeks – getting a bionic hip. Speedy recovery to you Michael!

President Peter has purchased a *fantastic* new portable speaker for our new venue. Frank Slutzkin has authenticated its effectiveness!



## Guide Dogs Victoria

Joan Smith – Speaker  
Beverley Boulter – Joan's Driver  
Benson – Labrador Guide Dog



Independence is what Guide Dogs Victoria gives to people with a vision impairment.

Joan Smith knows first-hand – having lost her sight in her mid 30's. Her daughter Robyn lost her sight at the same time – and both benefitted from the independence restored by guide dogs. Joan and her daughter benefitted from the 4 weeks of residential training – provided free by GDV.

Guide Dogs Victoria is considered one of the most innovative blindness charities in the world – with visitors from many countries coming to the Kew headquarters to experience what this great organization does.

### **The dogs:**

GDV have their own breeding stock – after 25 years the dogs are compliant with high initiative. The path for a successful guide dog is:

Birth – at 8 weeks given to a volunteer family – at 12 months given a 1 week assessment for suitability – if suitable then into 5 weeks training. At the end of the training each dog is assessed and matched by temperament to the clients.

The dogs are trained to ignore all distractions – once the harness is on the dog's job is to concentrate. The dog is only ever fed from his or her bowl and must not be patted or talked to when working. Once the harness is off – the dog is a normal pet. In the case of Benson – Joan says that he is a 'total hoon'.

The dogs learn to guide clients around obstacles – but the most challenging is destination training – finding the train station, regular destinations, stairs, toilets, and counters. When successful – Joan says, “their whole back end wags” – greatest reward and challenge for the dogs.

Joan says as a result, Benson is the best male ever to shop with – he will go on to Myer after a stint at David Jones and Joan never gets a hurry up!

#### **The clients:**

The clients themselves stay for 4 weeks at a residential course. They only go home for the weekend. The program caters for all ages from 5 years old to much older people. With successful training the clients regain their confidence and their ability to enjoy the outside world again. The dogs are allowed by law on all public transport – even on airplanes.

There is no cost to any clients – the cost of breeding, raising, training and maintaining the dogs is borne by Guide Dogs – and runs to \$25,000 per dog. Guide Dogs only receives 7% of their funding from the government – the rest is through fundraising and the support of volunteers.

Joan encouraged us to respond to the calls from GDV – as she says – the call centre is in Kew, not in India – and the need is real!

#### **Joan’s story:**

After Joan lost her sight – she was hugely impressed by the independence that a guide dog gives. She started working at Guide Dogs Victoria – establishing the Volunteers program.

Her husband wasn’t too keen on Joan working – but he then was afflicted by a severe back injury and couldn’t work himself. Joan’s son lost the use of one arm. Joan’s daughter Robyn died suddenly leaving 3 children.

Joan says that her story is one to rejoice in – through guide dogs she can be the mainstay of the family. She has been very successful in her career, and most importantly for her grandchildren she can do ‘what any normal nanna can do’.

A truly inspirational tale (tail!) and the Club donated \$200 to Guide Dogs Victoria.

## **2008-2009 Members Directory Update**

We are currently compiling the directory and call on all members to update their details:

- Home address
- Business address
- Business or home telephone
- Email address
- Mobile phone
- Spouse or partner

Can you please update your details by **Monday 28<sup>th</sup> July** by emailing or sending changes to Pike Peters: [Pike.peters@bibstillwell.com.au](mailto:Pike.peters@bibstillwell.com.au)

Fax: 9510 9925

Or simply hand me your updated information at the meeting.

## **DABYMINGA PLANTING DAY – Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> AUGUST 2008**

### **AGENDA**

**8:30** Registration at **DPI/DSE office in Broadford**. All to register and be grouped for morning planting. Tea and coffee will be available.

### **GROUP 1**

**9:15 Stephen's planting site** for the morning. Group 1 will have morning tea on site. After morning tea, group will head to Wilmot's planting site.

Stephen's site is a priority for salinity and biodiversity. Site is located on a gradual slope and will need manual holes dug for planting. Lovely views of Mt Piper.

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**11:00 Wilmot's planting site** until lunch.

Site is a priority for biodiversity and adjoins the Tallarook State Forest. Site is located on a gradual to steep slope and will need manual holes dug for planting. Great views across the Glenaroua/Seymour valley.

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**1:00 – 1:30 Morris's planting site and lunch**. Group 1 and Group 2 will meet up at this planting site with a BBQ lunch waiting.

Site is a priority for biodiversity. Site is located on a gradual slope and will need manual holes dug for planting. Site is along a seasonal waterway hidden within the Tallarook valley.

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### **GROUP 2**

**9:30 Robert's planting site** for the morning until lunch. Morning tea will be held on site.

Sites are a priority for biodiversity. Sites are located on gradual slopes and some manual digging will be needed. Sites are located on the flood plains of the Goulburn River with many iconic large old River Red Gums standing proud.

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**11:00** Morning tea

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**12:30 – 1:30 Morris's planting site and lunch**. Group 1 and Group 2 will meet up at this planting site with a BBQ lunch waiting.

Site is a priority for biodiversity. Site is located on a gradual slope and will need manual holes dug for planting. Site is along a seasonal waterway hidden within the Tallarook valley.

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**1:30 BBQ lunch at Morris's**. Sausages, rissoles and veggie burgers plus salads, fruit and cake.

**2:30 Departure**

**Please let Kim Wilson 5784 0623 know of any special dietary requirements.**

### **WHAT TO BRING**

Yourself, personality and big smiles.

On a serious note - Dress appropriately for tree planting. You will need to prepare for all weather types, both wet and dry. So please bring gardening gloves, rain/wind coat, wet weather sturdy footwear, sun hat, sunscreen and drinking water for out in the field. If weather is wet, it is a good idea to bring along a clean (and dry) change of clothes for the trip home.

Also if you would like to bring your own planting equipment such as a pick or mallet, please bring it along for a swing.