

Incoming Speakers

16th February – Najaf Mazari: ‘The Rugmaker of Mazar-e-Sharif’

2nd March - Suchit Janie – Club’s 2008 RYLA attendee

9th May – Café Internationale – International House Melbourne University

27th May – RC Malvern’s 50th Anniversary – Malvern Town Hall – official RC Prahran Meeting

Forthcoming Events

Monday 2nd March – NIGHT MEETING – New Generations District Conference – 16 days to go!



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

	<u>16.02.09</u>	<u>23.02.09</u>	<u>02.03.09</u>	<u>09.03.09</u>
House Committee	P Angwin	R Swan	J Smith	G Newton
Duty	R Swan	J Smith	G Newton	C Southall
	12.30 start (6.30 Night Meetings)			
Bulletin:	P Peters	P Peters	P Peters	P Peters



Bridge Club Roster (7PM to 8.30PM)

24.02.09 J. Plowright; H Robbins

03.03.09 H Robbins; G Newton

10.03.09 P Schneider; P Angwin

17.03.09 P. Angwin; R. Swan

24.03.09 R. Swan; D. Hardham

31.03.09 D Hardham; J. Harris

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.au

Prahran Chartered 27th December 1955

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

No. 2349 Monday 23rd February 2009
Najaf Mazari : ‘The Rugmaker of Mazar-e-Sharif’
12.45 for 1.00 PM – Mt Erica Hotel

Reception: J Smith
Cashier: R Swan

Des Grogan – Prostate Cancer Australia



Don Grogan gave us a very comprehensive talk on Prostate Cancer. He shared his personal experiences and detailed the afflictions related to the Prostate and what the symptoms are of Prostate cancer. His major message is for men to **talk** about their prostate health and for men with a family history to get regular checks from 40 years old.

Some symptoms to look for:

- weak urine stream
- difficulty starting urination
- straining to urinate
- stopping and starting while urinating
- dribbling at the end of urination
- a sense that the bladder is not empty at the end of urination
- urinating frequently at night
- an urgent need to urinate, sometimes with leakage of urine

Victorian Bushfire Response



President Peter recognized Eric Cohen's efforts in raising over \$10,000 for Bushfire relief and also several members of the Club for their generous support. The Club will be working with Clubs in the affected areas on medium- to long-term projects.

The following article was published in *The Age* on Saturday 14th February and is reproduced with the permission of Andrea Walton and *The Age*:

Don't gape at us, your good little victims

Date: February 14 2009

Andrea Walton

MY FAMILY lost our home at Cockatoo in the 1983 bushfires. My parents had moved to the town a year earlier and rented while they built their dream home. It was barely finished when they moved in, just six weeks before the fire.

A quarter of a century later, recollections are still vivid, emotions raw. This week as I relived in memory the terror of the bushfire that destroyed our home, I was also reminded of how the devastation can be intensified by unthinking responses from those who live safely in the city.

What people don't understand is that for the first few weeks you're pretty much cushioned by shock. It's almost as if you are an actor in disaster movie, you go through the appropriate motions, register with the right people. You agree that at least you have your lives, and that is the main thing. You live by the platitudes that are offered to you, and try to make some sense of the situation. It isn't until weeks later that the pain of your lost life takes hold.

That's about the same time that the "sightseers" start arriving. You may be one of them. You don't consider yourself a ghoul, you gave to the bushfire relief appeal, but you are curious about how a town could be so completely wiped out.

It has been a few weeks, the road blocks are down and the people you work with have got over the shock of the fires on television. Your life is back to normal. It seems reasonable to go for a drive on the weekend and have a look at those fire areas that you recently heard so much about on the news.

But there is something you haven't thought about. Us: the people on those razed blocks, living in borrowed caravans. Spots of colour in that odd grey-brown dust bowl that will turn to fine, sticky mud when the rain finally comes.

We are numb and shocked, but you can hurt us still further. You become a tourist, driving past while we are trying to clear the mess that used to be our home, our family history and our inheritance. You point out of the car windows at us and the pathetic little campsites we pretend are home.

You hammer into us the knowledge that we are victims in a surreal, inescapable landscape, stripping away our privacy and using our loss and tragedy for your weekend entertainment. We try to soldier on, pretend we don't care that you stare at us, and ignore the indignity. You accelerate away after viewing our little window of misery, and cruise on to gape at our neighbours' loss, making them feel like performing animals in a cage, cringing inside, cursing the dust your car raised.

So you ran over someone's dog. There weren't any fences, they were all burnt. Don't bother stopping to help, you might have to face the boy who was four days away from his 16th birthday when he lost everything he owned, except for his dog. The one you just injured so badly that the vet says his back is broken and he has to be put down.

But the father explains to the vet that the dog is all the traumatised boy has left, and they take him to the animal hospital where by skill and miracles he is kept alive. It costs the father some thousands of dollars he can ill-afford, but it saves the boy, my brother, some pain at least: he has had so much to deal with recently.

Some people we barely knew are so kind to us; generous without wanting or expecting gratitude, helping in quiet ways that make life a little more tolerable. Others, who we had thought were friends, find us too hard to know any longer. They lost nothing more than the sheets they left on the clothes line, and look so guilty when we see them stocking up on the free groceries at the relief centre.

We are brave, we say we will rebuild our home. We keep our chins up, and try not to complain. Others lost their lives, we are supposed to count ourselves as the lucky ones.

When the cold weather sets in we try to stay positive and buy ourselves thermal underwear. When we cry in our lumpy, caravan beds at night we do it quietly, so we don't wake the rest of our family sleeping too close to us.

We are tired of this stupid caravan that was so kindly lent to us. We are desperate for some privacy. We hate this horrible flickering television set we were given and we can't even get comfortable while we watch it.

We have been good little bushfire victims, but we are tired of it now, and just want some comfort and warmth. We want to go home — but we have no home.

Andrea Walton is an active member of the Rotary Club of Prahran, and will be helping with the bushfire relief collection at Stonnington's Musical Melodies in the Park tonight.

The fundraising efforts mentioned in the article above amounted to over \$2,000.

***A Message Regarding The Victorian Bushfires From
Rotary D9800 District Governor, Jim Studebaker.***

Jim and Carol Studebaker



Along with all Rotarians throughout Australia, I am deeply saddened by the extreme loss of life and property that has occurred in the bushfires over the last week.

As I am sure you will realise, I have been inundated with enquires about what our Rotary District is doing to help. I have taken advice from a senior emergency management professional in our District and have implemented our District Emergency Recovery Plan.

We have established a Trust Fund with all the necessary approvals and encourage any fundraising efforts to be directed to this fund. Recognising that there are many Government and Non-Government Organisations already working in the affected areas, we intend to use these funds on medium to long-term assistance with a primary emphasis on community rebuilding.

Donations of goods are specifically not sought through Rotary due to difficulties with their distribution. We simply don't have the resources to warehouse and distribute goods.

The attached document to this email will give you more details about how to help our District's efforts.

Kind regards

Jim Studebaker

District Governor D9800

**Please note: change of night meeting
date to Monday 2nd March.**

