

Incoming Speakers

2nd March - Suchit Janie – Club’s 2008 RYLA attendee
 2nd March – Lyn Haywood – Teaching at School of St Jude, Tanzania

Forthcoming Events

Monday 2nd March – NIGHT MEETING – New Generations
 District Conference – 9 days to go!



9th May – Café Internationale – International House Melbourne University

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

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

	<u>02.03.09</u>	<u>10.03.09</u>	16.03.09	23.03.09
House Committee Duty	J Smith G Newton	*Tuesday* G Newton C Southall	C Southall T McCarthy	T McCarthy J Mahon
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. 2350 Monday 2nd March 2009
Suchit Jain – Club’s 2008 RYLA Attendee
Lyn Haywood – Teaching at School of St Jude

6.30 for 7.00 PM – Mt Erica Hotel

Reception: J Smith
 Cashier: G Newton

Najaf Mazari: The Rugmaker of Mazar-e-Sharif



Najaf is from Northern Afghanistan. He grew up outside of and then moved to Afghanistan's second largest city Mazar-e-Sharif. Najaf lost his father in the conflict with the Taliban. Najaf was working on becoming a shepherd, but following his father's death, he and his family moved to the city. Najaf's oldest brother also killed in the war.

End of 2001 left to come to Australia to escape Taliban. Najaf's journey was treacherous and traumatic. He escaped through Pakistan, then onto Indonesia and then to Australia. Najaf comments that, 'I am one of the queue jumpers' as referred to by the then Australian Government.

Najaf's first experience in Australia was at Ashmore reef. He was then moved to Darwin and then was held at the Woomera Detention centre.

Najaf's education started in Australia in Woomera. In his words he spent 'every day learning' at Woomera.

Upon his release Najaf was given \$250 and his visa. He says that he prayed 'please God help me to send to Tasmania so I can continue my shepherd work', but alas was sent to Melbourne.

During his time in Mazar-e-Sharif Najaf worked as an apprentice rug maker from age of 12. This proved to be a very fortuitous skill for Najaf in his new home where as he says 'there are a lot of dogs who damage the rugs. But the road to success was rocky and strange.

Najaf started off in share accommodation in Dandenong for \$40 per week. He realized his \$250 release money wouldn't last. He went from factory to factory looking for work and was asked – 'give me contact number', so he bought cheapest mobile with most of his dwindling funds.

Luckily Najaf is naturally friendly, and he met a lady on bus in Dandenong. He used a lot of body language, and eventually told her she was a rug maker. She introduced him to a rug shop owner in High Street, Armadale.

Najaf was asked to look at a repair to see if could do such work. He cut out the repair and showed how to repair the rugs properly. From there Najaf was taken advantage of as he was on a temporary protection visa. He was given a job and paid \$12 per hour. The situation was SO difficult. He was not allowed to have a cup of tea during the day. He went to another rug shop, where he had to take the rugs for repair on trolley on the train. There he was given \$500 per week to work each day from 8AM to 8PM.

- Najaf was able to find a backer which allowed him to rent a shop in High Street. A Sydney dealer asked Najaf to consign a

large number of rugs that he couldn't sell. In two days Najaf had sold two rugs in and covered his rent. Even with his success he was terribly lonely. He slept in back of shop and took showers at Prahran Pool. In desperation he went to housing commission, but couldn't qualify because he had a business.

He had also left his family in Afghanistan - Left 6 month old daughter; 6 years old when she came in to Australia.

Najaf now has a thriving business, his family has joined him and he has written a book which sold out of the first 8,000 edition and is now in its second edition. The book is now part of the VCE curriculum.

He is also founder of the Mazar Development Fund and has raised enough money to purchase an ambulance for his home town – he returned to dedicate the ambulance.

The Mazar Development fund has 80 members and will be holding an Afghani night at Richmond town hall on 20th March to raise funds.

www.mazardevelopmentfund.org.au



Special International Guest Dr Emmanuel Abiba-Kiiza Prime Minister Bunyoro-Kitara in Uganda

The Rotary Club was delighted to welcome Dr Emmanuel Abiba-Kiiza – Prime Minister within Uganda Bunyoro-Kitara Kingdom to our Monday meeting.

Emmanuel is the Prime Minister of a nation with civilization stretching back 4000 years and he is a Rotary Member. He is the youngest Prime Minister in Africa. In Uganda there are 5 kingdoms, and each Kingdom has a king, so each has a PM to assist.

In Bunyoro-Kitara there are 2.5 Million people.

Emmanuel's Rotary Club has 13 members and while not yet registered, they have been through the induction 9200 District and meet every Thursday 6-7 PM.

During his visit Emmanuel says that Australian's generosity has touched his heart. He helped unpack goods at the Salvation Army to assist those affected by the bushfires.

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Emmanuel proposes that we hold exchange visits with Uganda between the Clubs. As he says, we all have lessons to learn – keep the exchange of ideas – help to fund study tours – very dynamic young people who would like to study in Australia.

Emmanuel needs will establish a leadership training centre to help young people to become future leaders in his country by February next year.

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 fundraising efforts at Symphony Under the Stars raised \$1,000.

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.

Kind regards

Jim Studebaker
District Governor D9800

