

## Incoming Speakers

6<sup>th</sup> April - Paul O'Connell Buteyko Institute of Breathing & Health

## Forthcoming Events

7<sup>th</sup> April – Board Meeting – Bib Stillwell BMW – 6PM

9<sup>th</sup> May – Café Internationale – International House Melbourne University

27<sup>th</sup> May – RC Malvern's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – Malvern Town Hall – official RC Prahran Meeting

4<sup>th</sup> July – Christmas in July - Rotary Foundation dinner at Lynne Wilton's – Book with Andrea Walton!

For District News, please go to: [clarice@rotarydistrict9800.org.au](mailto:clarice@rotarydistrict9800.org.au)

	<u>06.04.09</u>	<u>14.04.09</u>	<u>20.04.09</u>	<u>27.04.09</u>
House			<b>NIGHT</b>	
Committee Duty	P Peters E Cohen	E Cohen J Smith	H Robbins A Walton	R Liebmann M Morrison
	<b>12.30 start; 6.00 Night Meetings</b>			
Bulletin:	P Peters	P Peters	P Peters	P Peters



## Bridge Club Roster (7PM to 8.30PM)

07.04.09 J Harris; P Buxton

14.04.09 P Buxton; J Mahon

21.04.09 J Mahon; P Peters

28.04.09 P Peters; D Rosenberg

# 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.au](mailto:prahran@districtrotary9800.org.au)

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

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

**No. 2355 Monday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2009**  
**Paul O'Connell – Buteyko Institute of Breathing and Health**  
**12.45 for 1.00 PM – Mt Erica Hotel**

Reception: P Peters

Cashier: E Cohen

## Michael Coleman – Clock Maker

### The Concept of time and early measurements



Michael Coleman knows a lot about clocks and watches. We also found that he is fascinated by time and man's attempts to measure 'the most precious of commodities'.

So now for a quick history of time – why is it so and where does it come from?

The Egyptians were the first to regularly measure time as they had a need to predict seasons of flood upon which their agrarian wealth was based. Their clocks were shadow based clocks – based on a Marquette and Bob from about 1400 BCE. In addition the priests used a rod with a v shaped groove called a deacon to watch the stars and predict the seasons.

Some famous shadow clocks include Cleopatra's needle in London.

The Chinese were the first to devise mechanical clocks – with a three and a half storey tall which was the most accurate in predicting seasons in the ancient world. The Chinese also had incense clocks that were very accurate.

In Constantinople the Byzantines were using gears to adjust shadow clocks based on location, making them more portable and more accurate.

The Egyptians devised a measurement of work time based on available light (10 hours daylight and 12 hours of night) – which varied by the season. This system endured for centuries – and only ended in Japan in 1875 – so in winter one would work short hours and in summer up to 17 hours. Having said that, the Egyptians used Babylonian mathematics to devise their time keeping with 6 as the basis as used today in our minutes. Their year was one of 12 months of equal days with 5 public holidays a year and worked 'perfectly' according to Michael.

Some early clocks also worked on the basis of outflow – water pouring out of a vessel. The accuracy of these clocks started to falter as soon as they were used as the water made the hole bigger. But the water clock was popular – and used in such places as the Law courts in Rome. In fact, rich Romans would often bribe the clock keeper to add extra water so they could 'but time'.

But with corruption and inaccuracies the years got wildly out of touch with the seasons, so by the time of Caesar the calendar was 200 days out. To adjust, the year 46 BC was 445 days long to get the calendar back in line. But the Romans couldn't help themselves. Emperor Augustus thought the month he was born in

should be 31 days long, so he took a couple of days from February and made August 31 days long!

The great technical breakthrough was the pendulum – making accurate clocks possible. Michael then showed us some of his fabulous clocks – BUT of course we ran out of time talking about time, so we need the next installment...

### **Warrenbayne Dinner – Saturday Night – a report from Roving Reporter Geoff Heeps:**

Warrenbayne is 12 ks off the Hume Highway, South of Bennalla.

Due to a motor car event ( Morris 850 ) at Winton, accommodation was tight at Bennalla.

So Peter & Su stayed in a B & B ( whci they said was "jucky " - lace doyleys every where; John & Margaret Plowight stayed with friends, and Rosemary and I stayed at a motel in Euroa.

Warrenbayne was originally a cattle station named after two fellows, Warren & Bayne, but now is just a Community Hall ( in very good condition ) and a deserted primary school. For the Bicentary, the Government built a couple of tennis courts, and equipement for joggers to exercise on. The locals told us there was never a hotel, because the area was settled by Methodists ! And I guess they were not allowed to dance - that could lead to unspeakable things.

The Rotary Club of Benalla supplied the mobile BBQ ( by the way - where is our Club's BBQ ? ). A joint effort was setting up the trestles and tables and decorating them with local foliage. Peter, John and I cooked the meat, whilst the ladies prepared the salads.

We fed about 65 persons, and they really enjoyed the event and our Company. There was a mountain of snags; hamburgers, steaks etc. and they tasted great.

There were a couple of movies organised in a separate part of the hall, but the locals preferred to sit around and chat. So the children watched a movie.

Rotary in Action !

Cheerio,

Geoff.

### **Colin Miur – District Governor Elect**

We were delighted to have incoming District Governor Colin Miur for lunch on Monday.

Colin is encouraging all of our Club members to come to Perth for Conference next March. His aim is for all of us to explore a fascinating part of Australia and he is looking at introducing some more cost –effective and flexible arrangements at conference for attending partners and for the evening Gala offering two alternatives.

For all members who have not attended a conference, or haven't done so in a while – plan ahead for March 4-7<sup>th</sup> 2010 in Perth!

**Lewis Woolf has sent an email reporting that his recovering is progressing well now at home is going very nicely.**

