

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

Previous Meeting:

Guest Speaker:	PP Jonathan Main (Mornington) – Dragon Boating
Guests	Jonathan Main (Guest Speaker)
Apologies	Lewis Woolf, Jenny Dethridge, Pamela Buxton
Make Ups	Hal Levy – Bridge, Pamela Buxton – Cairns Marlin Coast X2

No. 2360 Monday 11th May 2009

David Baker: “Marine Life under Port Phillip Bay”

12.45 For 1.00 PM – Mt Erica Hotel

Reception: J Dethridge
Cashier: J Mahon



750ml

13.5% Alc/Vol 8.3 standard drinks
Preservative 220 added
Mt Erica Hotel
Cnr High St & Williams Rd
Prahran Victoria 3181

50th Anniversary – RC Malvern

THIS WILL BE AN OFFICIAL MEETING – no meeting on 25th May...

A Gala Dinner will be held at the Malvern Town Hall, the same venue of their charter meeting 50 years ago on **Wednesday, 27 May** at 7pm for 7.30pm. The tickets are \$70 a head. A four course formal dinner will be served including refreshments Guest speaker will be Dr. Alan Gregory the Club's first Ambassadorial scholar who attended Bombay University 49 years ago.

Bookings and further information contact Peter Milburn on 9801 6180 or email milburnp@yahoo.com.au

District Assembly - Reminder To All Incoming Club Officers And New Members

This year's District Assembly (originally scheduled for 24 May) will be held at Wilson Hall, Melbourne University commencing at 9:30AM on **Sunday, 31 May**.

Heritage Cluster will be the host Club and any Rotarian seeking further information should contact AG Chris Wang at cwi@labyrinth.net.au or President Victor Sullivan of RC Carlton at V.Sullivan@unicol.unimelb.edu.au or watch 'Networker' for details.

Dragon Boating

Speaker: PP Jonathan Main (Mornington) Canoeing Champion and Dragon Boat Maven



Jonathan joined us on his way home from a Dragon Boat race in Los Angeles – and then one in Wodonga – via Rotary Club of Prahran to speak on the issue. This gives a picture of dedication and passion that Jonathan has for the sport.

Jonathan actually introduced Constantine Panoussi to the Club – so this was a homecoming of sorts...

Jonathan's passion for Dragon Boat racing derived from a very successful career as a canoeist. The attraction to canoeing stemmed from a childhood bone disease that saw him in traction as a young lad, so when he started school he never hit a ball – and didn't participate in rough games. His sister dated a canoeist – and Jonathan was the chaperone on many occasions. He was often taken to the canoeing club and dropped off to occupy himself whilst his sister and her friend escaped his watchful gaze.

This chain of events saw Jonathan win the Australian Canoeing Championship 38 times (the last time only 2 years ago in the over 55's – when Jonathan was 68).

Jonathan was involved in Dragon Boat racing as a part of Melbourne City Council's cultural development fund that in 1982 allocated \$100,000 to the sport to broaden the connection with Chinese Australian's and this newly emerging international sport. Jonathan got involved because he knows how to paddle. He now is the leading commentator on the sport – as he puts it he is 'a sharp observer of little details' that have an impact on a race.

Dragon Boat racing involves 20 paddlers – 10 per side in a boat with a drummer to keep the beat and an oarsman who steers from the stern of the boat. The development of the sport goes back some 2,700 years in China where an ‘old sage’ drowned because the village fishermen couldn’t paddle quickly enough – so the sport emerged as a developmental exercise.

Now some Chinese competitors can row 140 strokes per minute, but the technique is important and the US and Canadian rowers dominate – along with the Iranian women’s team who have come to dominate. Their Russian born coach was a champion canoeist.

Dragon Boating’s popularity rose with the promotion of the sport by Dr Don Campbell in Vancouver who introduced it to patients recovering from breast cancer as a gentle exercise. Those who participated saw the abatement of lymphodema - or fluid retention in their limbs, better health and no depression. This launched hundreds of teams of Breast Cancer survivors around the globe.

The most important factor in a team is to ‘be of one mind’.

Jonathan coached a Navy team who went to compete in China. The Chinese had an interesting way of starting the race by saying ‘GO!’ in Chinese first, and then in English – giving a 2 ½ second advantage to the home teams. The next year they had a translator who signaled the team on the first call – and the Aussies won! This was the first defeat for 500 years – so there was a challenge to a 10 Km race the next day – in which the endurance canoeists from Australia handily won as well.

Jonathan was involved in the inquest following the drowning of a member of the Malaysian team in 1992 (where another team member subsequently died). There were a few contributing factors including the fact that the team had been fasting for Ramadan – so were weak when their boat tipped as a result of one member having an asthma attack. But Jonathan mentioned that this was the ONE boat that hadn’t had its eyes dotted by the Buddhist monks – so there may be something in that blessing.

Incoming Speakers

Forthcoming Events

9th May – Café Internationale – International House Melbourne University

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

31st May – District Assembly -

4th 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

	<u>04.05.09</u>	<u>11.05.09</u>	<u>18.05.09</u>	<u>01.06.09</u>
House				
Committee	J Dethridge	J Mahon	R Swann	R Leibmann
Duty	J Mahon	R Swann	R Liebmann	F Slutzkin
	12.30 start; 6.00 Night Meetings			
Bulletin:	P Peters	P Peters	P Peters	P Peters



Bridge Club Roster (7PM to 8.30PM)

12.05.09 C Southall; G Heeps

19.05.09 G Heeps; P Angwin

26.05.09 P Angwin; R Swann

02.06.09 R Swann; H Robbins



Congratulations to John Morey for 46 years of Service and to Jim Smith for 29 years of Service!