

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

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|------------------------|------------------------|
| 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. 2361 Monday 18th May 2009

Club Forum – Five Year Plan

12.45 For 1.00 PM – Mt Erica Hotel

Reception: J Mahon
Cashier: R Swann



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.

Life in Port Phillip Bay

Speaker: David Bryant



Leafy Sea Dragon

David Bryant has a huge passion for Port Phillip Bay. A 40 year old who has been scuba diving for the past 20 years, David says that he is 'biased towards diving in Port Phillip Bay'.

The basic reason is that the Bay is a geographic phenomenon. Once a fertile valley with the Yarra running to dramatic waterfalls where the heads now stand, the reefs in this submerged valley are magnificent. In most parts the Bay is shallow – 12 meters on average. At the heads the Abyss is some 93 meters deep (and hard to see anything so deep).

The Bay is also huge – so big in fact that 38 Sydney Harbours could fit inside the area. The colours of the wildlife in the Bay is extraordinary. One curious and very sought after creature for the diving fraternity is the weedy and leafy sea dragon. These creatures are incredibly well camouflaged. The mating is different to as the male carries the fertilized eggs around and gives birth to live young. Underwater photographers from around the world come to see this incredible creature.

Another sought after resident is the tassled angler fish.



Tassled

Angler fish.

David thinks that the Bay is holding up really well ecologically. As a huge body of water it sustains itself really well – considering the huge city at its northern extreme.

One consequence of shipping is the invading Northern Pacific Sea Star – this lovely looking yellow sea star with the purple tinge is invading and eating lots of native creatures. Then when the food runs out it eats itself.

The Bay was mapped in its entirety by Charles Robbins – a young marine Lieutenant working with Matthew Flinders in the early 1800's. From that comprehensive survey – the bay is still a place to discover and enjoy.

David will return to the Club and play his video.



Blue Devil Fish



Grogorian Coral

DISTRICT GOVERNOR'S WEEKLY MESSAGE

Continuing to Support Bushfire Recovery

It is important to bring our clubs and members up to date with what has been happening with our involvement in the bushfire recovery program and where we are heading.

Earlier this week, our D9800 Bushfire Recovery Chairman Mev Connell, PP Greg Matthews of the RC North Balwyn and I visited the townships of Marysville and Kinglake and met with volunteer organisations in both towns to discuss ways in which our Rotary District may assist with helping the recovery efforts in those two badly affected areas. The following are extracts of a report written by Mev Connell last week.

“The Rotary Bushfire Recovery Program is now operating on a number of fronts with significant progress although it is really still at the very beginning of the operations phase.

To date the D9800 Bushfire Recovery Fund has accumulated just under \$500,000. The greatest proportion of the donations has originated from overseas and interstate Rotary Clubs, Rotary Districts and Rotarians.

Other Rotary Districts in Victoria have also raised significant Recovery Funds, but none is presently as large as the D9800 Fund. Our Rotary colleagues from Tasmania have offered an exceptional contribution of more than \$560,000.

Analysis of damage and loss in fire affected areas shows that D9790 is by far the most seriously affected, with D9820 having also experienced very significant impacts. The following crude comparative assessment by districts of property damage and loss is quite illuminating:

District 9790 - 86.42%

District 9820 - 10.33%

District 9800 - 2.37%

District 9780 - 0.83%

District 9810 - 0.00%

D9790 is adjacent to D9800 and includes the area between Whittlesea and Kinglake, the corridors between Yea and Yarra Glen and Alexandra and Healesville. These areas are not far from our District's Clubs and Rotarians are encouraged to offer their assistance.

A picture is said to be worth more than a thousand words, but believe me a real life visit to these areas is far more revealing ... there is devastation and hardship to be seen all round and as winter approaches the circumstances for the survivors will become more trying.

Work done:

I know that some clubs have been working on relief and recovery projects on their own initiative. Fence reconstruction, property clean-up, and humanitarian assistance has been delivered and well received.

If you are working on projects in the area, please keep me informed of what you are doing so that I can report back on your initiatives through regular updates. We would like to add the work you might be doing to our data base of projects.

The Rotary Club of Carlton continues to distribute sewing machines and overlockers donated by Janome across the neediest areas.

D9800 has provided financial support for the K.I.D.S. Foundation – Burns Survivors' Network, to assist with the activities to be provided to bushfire burns victims and their immediate families. The community of burns victims is one of the most severely impacted by the fires and they need and deserve support during the period of their recovery from injury. That support will take into account both the physical and psychological impacts resulting from burns. The Rotary Club of Southbank submitted the original request from the K.I.D.S. Foundation and has volunteered to continue to work with them, monitoring their activities and assist where possible to deliver a positive outcome.

D9800 has also agreed to provide to Global Care a range of equipment to assist that body to operate more effectively. Global Care is a Christian Organisation that is dedicated to providing assistance wherever it might be needed. It usually operates in

developing countries but has now established a base at Kinglake and intends to extend its bushfire recovery operations into Gippsland. Global Care has an abundance of young, fit volunteers and expertise in the form of occupational health and safety and arborist operations but lacks tools and equipment such as chainsaws, log splitters, and fence construction equipment. D9800 has agreed to purchase and loan to Global Care a kit of chainsaws, log splitters, and a tractor equipped for fence post driving. This equipment is to be used to make safe burnt trees on private property that endanger life, limb, and property (such as caravans, sheds, and surviving houses). Local Government will not do such work and the commercial solution would be prohibitively expensive for the land-owners. Internal fence reconstruction work will also be undertaken. It is desirable that a Rotary Club or Cluster take responsibility for routine liaison with Global Care and the Batman Cluster has been invited to take on that task.

The "Donations In Kind" Store, under the capable direction of Bill Dagg, has been very helpful in sourcing and supplying goods and clothing needed by fire survivors in D9820 (Gippsland) and D9790. The innovative and cooperative approach taken has been very much appreciated by all of the Rotarians who have used this assistance and by the recipients of the goods and clothing.

Clubs in the Goldfields Cluster continue to assist with the Recovery Program in the Eaglehawk and Redesdale areas. They have established very effective operational linkages with funding agencies and other participants in the recovery work. Such networking is very important to maximising success.

Tools of varied description continue to be in demand and are still being supplied by clubs and individual Rotarians.

Where to from Here?

The D9800 Bushfire Recovery Committee has certainly not been inundated with proposals for projects. We need to have suggestions as to what might best deserve support such as down to earth tasks / works / projects that are not being addressed properly or at all by others. It also has to be constantly borne in mind that availability of funds is reasonably limited; therefore projects have to be prioritised and some will not be approved, but that is not a reason to refrain from proposing a project.

The humanitarian needs are great and I urge Rotarians and clubs to do whatever they can to demonstrate to the bushfire survivors that Rotarians are continuing to think about their predicament and offer support, particularly as winter sets in. There are many despondent people living out there in the bush in tin sheds, caravans, and even tents. If someone can just talk with them, hold their hands, or socialise with them, that is worth a lot. Some of us have done these things and the benefits are very evident."

By Mev Connell,

Chairman of the Unified Rotary Districts in Victoria and Tasmania Bushfire Recovery Committee and the D9800 Bushfire Recovery Committee.

Mev and his team are doing a great job ... congratulations Mev! Let's keep supporting them, as there is a job to be done in assisting our fellow Victorians.

ARTICLES

How Can Your Cub Help In the Bushfire Recovery?



Some Ideas...

Rebuilding Work

Assistance in rebuilding community halls, facilities, monuments, etc., as well as private residences – this will be an extensive task. Building materials, water tanks, fencing, hardware, excavation and clearing equipment, etc will all be required.

Assisting members of the public in rebuilding their homes and assisting in rebuilding infrastructure such as sports grounds, playgrounds, schools, toilets, picnic and/or tourist facilities.

Replanting

Replanting of community and residential gardens. Equipment, seedlings and manpower will be required.

1. Private gardens/vegetable gardens
2. Public street and park planting
3. Farm and rural planting

DIK

Involve and utilise existing DIK centres and expertise.

R&R for affected people

1. City holidays.
2. Buying expeditions.
3. Private one-on-one or group activities.
4. Day trips, weekend or extended timeframe.
5. Support for country people needing medical care in the city and/or their relatives who need to be close for visiting.

Assistance with business recovery

1. Mentoring business re-establishment.
2. Community tourism re-establishment support, marketing and promotion.

Plant raising

Tree and shrub growing.

Seedlings for vegetable gardens.

Fruit trees.

Give blood

Giving blood via the Red Cross is a tangible way to provide support that can save lives.

Dont forget that rural communities are already badly affected by the poor economic conditions so please ensure that the well intentioned work done by volunteers does not take away work opportunities in the affected communities.

Asking What is Required

We cannot presume what is required entirely – it is important that we ask how we can be of assistance at all times

Incoming Speakers

Forthcoming Events

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>18.05.09</u> | <u>01.06.09</u> | <u>16.06.09</u> | <u>23.06.09</u> |
|------------------|---|-----------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| House | | | | |
| Committee | J Mahon | R Swann | R Leibmann | F Slutzkin |
| Duty | R Swann | R Liebmann | F Slutzkin | P Angwin |
| | 12.30 start; 6.00 Night Meetings | | | |
| Bulletin: | P Peters | P Peters | P Peters | R Swann/J Dethridge |



Bridge Club Roster (7PM to 8.30PM)

19.05.09 G Heeps; P Angwin

26.05.09 P Angwin; R Swann

02.06.09 R Swann; H Robbins

09.06.09 H Robbins; J Smith

16.06.09 J Smith; P Angwin