

ROTARY CLUB OF MANSFIELD

A MONTH IN MANSFIELD

AUGUST 2008

[FROM THE PAGES OF THE LOCAL MEDIA]



Our current recruitment display in the
local Bendigo Community Bank.

PRESIDENT

Graham Irvin

5775 1257 (home)

5775 1288 (work)

0438 751 288 (mobile)

SECRETARY

Wendy Hunt

5775 3298

ATTENDANCE

Maurie Walsh

Apologies by 6.00pm Mondays

5775 2919(home)

5775 2337(work)

ROTARY NEWS - 1 AUGUST

All the months in a Rotary year are dedicated to a particular facet of the organisation. August is Membership Month and so I thought I would answer some questions for my readers.

1. Who can join Rotary? Membership is open to any adult person of good character.
2. What is the expected commitment to Rotary? A weekly dinner meeting on a Wednesday of 2 hours that members are expected to attend 50% of the time. In addition 3 - 4 hours a month of service work in the community.
3. What does Rotary cost? Fees of \$200 per year [that's \$4 per week], plus of course the cost of dinner!

If these answers do not scare you off, why not contact our Membership Director Liz Bannister at lizban@mcmmedia.com.au for a fuller run down on the Rotary experience.

At our last dinner meeting, in line with the membership theme, the club inducted 2 new members under the watchful eyes of our Assistant Governor David Anderson. David Kendall is a new face to Rotary but Liz Webb has previously been a member of Kew RC. A big welcome to both of you from all the members.

One member missing last week was Russell Purdey. Russell wasn't at home with his feet up though - he was in fact in Fiji on a Rotary project building homes in a small village. This well illustrates the international side to Rotary. I have mentioned The National Youth Science Forum before and the fact that the Mansfield club had decided to nominate 2 local girls for the 2009 program. I am very pleased to announce that Bonnie Comerford has been selected to represent our Rotary district at the forum in Canberra next year.

ROTARY NEWS - 8 AUGUST

We in Rotary are never too backward in listening to and supporting our fellow service organisations here in Mansfield. So this week our guest speaker was Liviah Haymes from the St Vincent De Paul Society more commonly known as Vinnies. You are all aware no doubt of the great work Vinnies does here in Mansfield but Liviah filled in the wider work of her organisation.

In 1833 a group of Uni students in Paris formed a Society to help the poor. Less than two years later the small group had grown to more than 100 members and today the

Society has more than 45,000 branches in 112 countries. As well as Op shops St Vincent de Paul undertakes special works such as:

- aged care facilities
- a range of services for homeless people
- prison visitation & support for their families
- support for migrants & refugees
- holiday homes for families in need
- soup vans providing friendship & food for the homeless

The branches & op shops are managed separately but both are responsible to regional, state and national councils & the international council in Paris.

As far as the work of Rotary goes, the Trash & Treasure market was held last Sunday and all who attended had a good time. The re-roofing of the Historical Society's train carriage has been put off till more clement weather. We are working on a mobility scooter donated to the club some time ago which after re-furbishment, will become a great asset to the elderly at Bindaree, or to those members of the community who need it short.

We are all looking forward to 20 August when our new District Governor Peter Gilbert and his wife Barbara will be making their first visit to our club. It is tradition that each new DG visits all the clubs in their district during the beginning of their year. Spare a thought for Peter & Barbara who have to undertake 60 club visits in the space of 5 months!

ROTARY NEWS - 15 AUGUST

Australia's progress over the past 200+ years has rested on a tradition of volunteering - just look at the CFA, SES, Red Cross etc. This tradition thrives in service clubs like Rotary, Apex and Lions. However the volunteer class is ageing and service clubs are finding it harder to recruit new members.

It would be a sad and expensive day for society to see taxpayers funding the work that has been done by volunteers. The tradition of lending a hand needs to continue. Do you have it in you to step up and give something back to our community by joining a service

club? Rotary would welcome your input. Why not contact our Membership Director Liz Bannister at lizban@mcmmedia.com.au for a fuller run down on the Rotary experience.

The Rotary organisation in general and the Rotary Club of Mansfield in particular, have two main elements - fund raising and service. You will be well aware of our club's fund raising efforts, from wood raffles to BBQ's to the Trash & Treasure Market. However our service projects are also very important to our image as a service club. We are always on the lookout for new ways in which we can serve our local community. If you have or know of a particular service project that Rotary may be able to assist with, please drop us a line at PO Box 352 Mansfield 3722.

Last week our usual club meeting was a Club Assembly. For non Rotarians, this is a regular opportunity for the club members to give input to the Board on various issues. This assembly was once again fruitful and a few issues will be put before the Board at their next meeting.

Some advance warning of a big Rotary event headed our way. Starting in Melbourne in March 2009, the Australian Rotary Health Fund will be running the biggest cycling event of its type ever to be staged, to raise awareness of the problems of mental illness. Over 7 stages, it will conclude in Melbourne in October 2009. Stage 3 will take the ride through Mansfield and our Rotary club is currently looking at ways we can assist this event.

ROTARY NEWS - 22 AUGUST

One of the highlights of any Rotary club's year is the annual visit of the District Governor. Last Wednesday night, members and their partners welcomed DG Peter Gilbert and his wife Barbara to their weekly meeting.

Peter brought greetings from Rotary International President D.K.Lee, whom Peter met recently when he attended a Presidential Membership Conference in Canberra. Peter was impressed by the work of the Mansfield club in the past & our future plans in both the local and international fields.

He emphasized the need to provide the global population with health, food, water & literacy. D.K.Lee has asked us to Make Dreams Real for the world's children. President Lee formulated this theme when he became aware that 30,000 children under the age of five years die every day from preventable diseases. We need to

revisit previous plans addressing these health issues, especially the continued success of the polio plus program.

The remaining polio endemic countries are Afghanistan, Nigeria & Pakistan & there is much to do in India before the immunization against polio is completed. The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation has committed \$100 million to the program which is conditional on Rotary raising a similar amount.

Following Peter's address Barbara nominated her charity for the year, Wheelchairs for Kids. Wheelchairs for Kids was initiated by the Rotary Club of Scarborough in W.A. There are countless thousands of poor disabled children in third world countries, victims of mines, disease or birth defects whose lives can be dramatically changed by simply providing them with a wheelchair. The Wheelchairs for Kids workshop produces 250 chairs a month & they are distributed by established aid agencies & Rotary Clubs to create a new life for children in Cambodia, India China etc. President Graham presented Barbara with a donation of \$250 from the club for this worthwhile charity.

If the local Rotarians needed their batteries recharged, then the inspirational talks from Peter and Barbara certainly reenergised us for our service in the future.

ROTARY NEWS - 29 AUGUST

On many occasions this column has mentioned the assistance that the Rotary Club of Mansfield gets from various businesses around town. One such benefactor is DAVE DARBY at ALPINE BUTCHERY who is always ready to assist our fund raising efforts. In this column I want to single out two other businesses that have gone above and beyond recently to assist us.

With the arrival of our Youth Exchange Student Maria Fandén from Sweden and her interest in snow sports, the call went out from Rotary for some help. Only too happy to answer the call were MMBL who came up with a free bus pass for the season, and BULLER SKI LIFTS who put up a lift pass for Maria. Please accept this as a public thank you for your generosity to Rotary.

The Rotary Club of Mansfield is currently seeking members of the community who would like to participate in the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA). RYLA is an intensive training program for community youth leaders. Young people ages 18-30, chosen for their leadership potential, attend an all expenses paid 7 day residential conference

organized and run by Rotarians with records of achievement. The conference covers such areas as:

- Fundamentals of leadership
- Ethics of positive leadership
- Importance of communications skills in effective leadership
- Problem-solving and conflict-management
- What Rotary is and what it does for the local community
- Building self-confidence and self-esteem

This year's conference will take place from 7th to 13th December 2008 and nominations close on 21st November. If you are interested then call Rolf Attley 0427 077 984 for further information.

Till next month continue to enjoy life.