



The Weekly Bulletin of the

# Rotary Club of Essendon North

Wednesday, May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2014 (Editor: grant@grantmaggs.com.au)



## This Week: 2014 Global MS Dinner

### Kiss MS Goodbye

- 7.00 for 7.30pm start
- Fredricks 980 Mt Alexander Rd Essendon North
- \$45pp includes 2 Course Dinner, Tea or Coffee. Drinks at Bar Prices. Complimentary Glass of Champagne on arrival. (Please notify special dietary requirements when booking.)

Fabulous speakers, entertainment, auction, "Door Prize" and raffle . Guest speakers:

- Florey Institute of Neuroscience & Mental Health - Speaker PhD Student Gerry Ma
- MS Ambassador –Speaker Carole Cooke

### Wear Something Red!

- RSVP May 16th, 2014 to Barry Coleman, [bgdcoleman@optusnet.com.au](mailto:bgdcoleman@optusnet.com.au), or 0427 852 062, or [enquiries@fredricksrestaurant.com.au](mailto:enquiries@fredricksrestaurant.com.au), Tel. 9379 3247
- Funds raised go to MSA projects, MSRA and MSIF.

## Rock To Reef – Safari 2014

*Judith Whelan*

District 9800 Youth Exchange Students Inbounds had their 21 Day Safari trip, starting in Melbourne on 13 April. In recent years we have combined with District 9780 (Geelong to SA Border) but for the first time this year we had 8 student from District 9640, (Sth East Queensland). In the end there were 35 students in total, 26 girls and 9 boys... an interesting mix but it seemed to work well. Everyone bonded and by the end of the trip were very close, with what I am sure were lifelong friendships made.

The trip was full on, starting on a Sunday, and by Tuesday we were at Uluru!! Melbourne to Adelaide the first night, Adelaide to Coober Pedy, the second etc. We did 10,500 km in those three weeks. Initially I thought it

was too much and why were we going so fast, but as time wore on I realized I was looking at it from my perspective and that young kids are just interested in particular experiences. The bus driver gained another day at Great Keppel this year, based on earlier trip comments, so that added to the hours per day on travel from Alice to the coast.

Experiences were what they thrived on, about 27 were fortunate to climb Uluru, given it is closed about 75% of the time now, then Kings Canyon ,scuba diving on the Great Barrier Reef, Great Keppel Island ...more snorkelling, climbing the Sydney Harbour Bridge etc.



About 12 or more nights we were under canvas, except one night when we got in late and had to be up at about 4.30 am next morning we actually slept on top of the tents under the stars. Most days we were putting tents up and down in the dark up at 5.30am and in at 6pm in many cases. As you can appreciate this would normally be a logistical nightmare to get teenagers so organised but really they were all fairly good. Ground rules were set prior to the trip, I guessed based on past experience and when a departure time was set it was usually achieved, or close to anyway.

The Tour was operated by Bendigo Bus Lines and staff were very professional but at the same time friendly and flexible. Most meals were served from a small trailer at the back and were of a fairly high quality considering the conditions and numbers that were being served. Although I don't think I need to have any salad sandwiches for lunch for a long time. We looked at DVD's on the bus, played a few games, had trivia but have to say that due to the long days and early starts you just looked back and the whole bus was asleep.

Some funny things; was a great commotion at about 3 am just after we had been at a reptile park. Screams and crying and two girls saying there was a snake in their tent. After everyone was up and the tent emptied, cowering in the corner of the tent was about a 3 inch caterpillar. Another time I was in the toilets when all this moaning could be heard. Someone eventually came out with a towel around her shaking and saying there was an animal in the shower. On investigation it was fairly small beetle. Most creepy crawlies were just dispatched with a slap of a thong or transposed by tissue outside, but I guess it reinforced for them there perception that Australia has many venomous snakes and the outback is dangerous.

They were a great bunch of kids and reinforced what a great program Youth Exchange is for Rotary. To offer them the chance to experience a year away from family, friends and country, to develop independence and experience another culture, is a wonderful gift that will set them up for a fulfilling life.

I would urge anyone to take up the opportunity if it arises to go on Safari. You won't regret it.

## From the Oval Office

*David Pagliaro*

I'd like to thank everyone at our Club for their very warm wishes and the beautiful flowers that were kindly delivered to the hospital by Mr Secretary Noel Osborne.



Zara Grace and Sacha are doing well and should be home from hospital on Monday.

I am getting very accustomed once again to the night shift having spent a few sleepless nights at the

hospital.

As you can see from the photo, Damon is also very prepared for the time ahead with his construction ear muffs.

## Key Outcomes from Board Meeting

*Secretary, Noel Osborne*

The board has agreed to a further donation of \$2,000 for the reconstruction works in the Philippines Disaster Recovery effort. Again this will be channelled through the RC Brimbank Central and the Rotary Club of Ilo Ilo to the people of Bayas island.

The Board noted with concern the closure of the "Street Health service" due to withdrawal of all government funding. This was the nominated charity for support at the start of his year by President David. The Board now propose that this funding to be available to redirect to a joint RC "Men's Shed" with RC's Essendon & Strathmore and with MVCC. The project is still being investigated & a business case prepared. An amount of \$10,000 has been set aside for this project.

The Board noted that exchange student Eline leaves on the 9 July 2014. A farewell function will be held on Wednesday 18 June with host parents invited to attend.

The Board advised MVCC that our Club would be interested in being involved in the future development of Thompson Reserve (adjacent to Keilor Rd) when Council plans are sufficiently developed. We have now received preliminary plans and discussions are pursuing.

The Board has also agreed to transfer an amount of up to \$10,000 from the project account to the term deposit account when it comes due.

## Birthdays and Anniversaries

Happy Birthday to Terri Mott: May 13<sup>th</sup>, Marie Daffey: May 18<sup>th</sup>, Judith Whelan: June 4<sup>th</sup>, Cheryl Harvey June 9<sup>th</sup>. Happy anniversary to Grant and Anne Maggs: June 4<sup>th</sup>, John and Barb Boundy: June 6<sup>th</sup>,

## Coming Soon...

- May 28<sup>th</sup>: Pete Jensen "Dealing With Depression- An Alternative View", Chair: David Ursic
- June 4<sup>th</sup>: Desiree Du Sart (Head of Molecular Genetics) and Melissa Chow (Medical Scientist), "International Training in FSHD Diagnostics" (funded by our club)", Chair: Les Jones
- June 11<sup>th</sup>: Greg McDonald (Vocational speaker), "Air traffic control", Chair: Kerry Warner
- June 18<sup>th</sup>: Scott Mullen (Principal) "Essendon North Primary School", Chair: Judith Whelan
- June 25<sup>th</sup>: Handover Gala Evening: Goodbye to David P, and welcome David U!



We gratefully acknowledge sponsorship by the Strathmore Community Branch of the Bendigo Bank.

Rotary Club of Essendon North meets every Wednesday at 6.00pm for 6.30pm at Fredricks, Mt. Alexander Road, Essendon. [www.home.vicnet.net.au/~rccsnth/](http://www.home.vicnet.net.au/~rccsnth/)

Contact Rotary Club of Essendon North: Membership Director, David Ursic (9374 1255) or President, David Pagliaro (0419 469 182).