



Message from the President

Newsletter
23rd September 2009

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Hi All,

Thanks to Senior Constable Ben Harm from the Centenary North Beat, from what Ben said on Wednesday the area is a safe area with some hooning being the major complaint.

Ben has only been in the area for a few months and is getting to know the area and people. Ben went to high school at Oxley High. His father was head master at the school.

If there is any problems or if we require any information Ben has said to contact him direct at his office which is in the attached building at his house.

At our meeting next Wednesday we will be presenting the cheque to Kim Walters fund, so if possible please come along to support a worthy cause. We will be having a board meeting on Monday & approving the distribution of the remainder of the funds raised at the Fun Run.

Shelter Box Australia are short of funds & so we will be proposing at the board meeting a donation as we do each year to Shelter Box.

Rotarian Gary Bidner from R/C Goodna and a highly trained Response team departed last Friday week for Java to assist those displaced in the Earthquake.

In 20 days Shelter Box has distributed: 342 Boxes to Phillipines

324 Boxes to Taiwan

100 Boxes to mainland China

Australia Shelterbox Response team Rotarians where also deployed, Peter Pearce, Keith Robbins & Hans Van Dyke.

Lots happening in Rotary, aren't we lucky to have Rotary to supply humanitarian service throughout the world. So lets all continue our support & lets ask a potential new member along to join our club.

Andrew thanks Senior Constable Ben Harm for his presentation



News & Rotary News – At Home and Abroad

Despatch from the Battlefields Hi All

Spent our last few days in France at Amiens visiting WW1 battlefields of the Somme and Flanders. We had a delightful time. Everything seemed to go just right. Our guide's name was Sylvestre Bresson from Terre d Memories. He was a warm and friendly froggy who seemed to have a detailed knowledge about the war and its various battles and was able to cover them with moving stories – like this fellow F.J.I. Ballard whose name is amongst the thousands of names listed as missing on the very impressive monument at Villers Brettoneux. Apparently he was wounded and taking cover in a shell hole when the military ambulance bearers called to take him to safety. He waved them on convincing them there were others more severely wounded than he. However, he handed them a note in an envelope and asked that it be opened by his captain should he die. When the rescuers returned to pick him up they could not find him anywhere. So they handed the envelope to this captain who opened and read it. Sylvestre somehow had managed to get a copy. It read something like “Dear Mum and Dad – if you are handed this letter chances are I am probably dead and gone but do not grieve for me.> I’ve had a good life and am proud of what I have done for my country. The only thing I ask of you is that you try to organise someone to take my place and continue the work I have started. Your loving son – Frank” So the parents responded. They sent their youngest son and Frank’s brother to take his place. The good part of the story is that the younger Ballard survived the war.

Then Sylvestre had this story about another Aussie listed and recorded on the monument as missing but also listed in a private cemetery as having died in 1916 in the South of France. The riddle has only recently been solved by various investigations of survivors, DNA tests etc. Apparently the troop trains in WW1 had no toilet facilities, were very overcrowded and this bloke bared his bum out the train and somehow fell out and was killed. The Australian Government has arranged to have his name removed from the missing. When we saw it however, his name was still there.

It is quite an emotional experience to visit the battle areas whether you are looking at graves, headstones, monuments, trenches and shell holes now covered in grass. The numbers killed or missing from almost every nation is nothing but mind blowing. The hardship of those that fought and endured the freezing muddy trenches is equally beyond imagination. Of all the very impressive monuments and memorials spread throughout Belgium and Northern France – the one that struck me the most was the school at Villers Brettoneux built from funds raised by children in Victorian schools. This was no slab of concrete but as a school is a living memorial. It has a museum partly lined with a wooden panel in which are carved Australia's native animals. The Australian RU team on its last tour which included Mark Chisholm started a delightful tradition in that they play a game of Rugby against the primary school children. One of the more touching parts about the whole exercise is that the children from the school have reciprocated and raised and donated \$38000 AUD to assist victims in this year's Victorian Bush Fires. Love to all. Nev and Judy

Despatch No 2

From John & Alison Cridland - Sept 19

I am sitting in my hotel room in Berlin overlooking the route that the Marathon will be run on Sunday morning. Having trouble deciding on which of the many restaurants in a 5 min walk to try out. We were a little bit north of Nev in Budapest and Prague. Both magnificent cities with our leaning (just) to Budapest. □ No report for Monday. Have received most e-mails but cannot get News letters to open. Had a lot of problems in the old iron curtain countries. Will tell you about makeups when I return and my observations of Hungary. □ Regards to all. □ □ John

Despatch No 3.

Hi to all from Istanbul. Just finished Greek Island cruise, which was great, but Paris was also wonderful. Istanbul is a fascinating city as well - onto Conference in Croatia on Sunday. Obviously an apology from me for Monday night please - nothing pressing to report that I can think of. I am back on 28th so hopefully see you on the 30th if I survive the onslaught of the first week back at work. Regards, Neville Blomeley

Despatch No 4

Hi everyone, I'm an apology for Monday as well, as I'll be on Hamilton island. not quite as far as nev and john but a bit too far to come back for the meeting. see everyone when I get back. Thanks. Andrew Rogers

And finally the dispatch riders – Bruce and Joanne Wilson.

It was the annual Cycle Queensland 9 day bike ride. This year it started and finished in Toowoomba, visiting the towns of Goombungee, Kaimkillenbun, Dalby, Oakey, Pittsworth, Warwick and Clifton. Distance 565kms which means 28 hours sitting on a very small seat.



Upcoming Events

24 th Sept.	Beefbank Presentation @ R.C. Port of Bris. – G Stratford & volunteer (?)	
8 th Oct.	RC Jindalee – Movie Night (Julie & Julia) - contact Gabe Rowling	0407 228 174
10 th Oct	RC Sumner Park Annual Mystery Picnic	
16 th Oct.	Business Lunch & Auction – R.C. Bris. Planetarium – contact Bev	
20 th Oct.	Beefbank Presentation @ Centenary RSL – J Cridland & volunteer (?)	
24 th Oct.	Master Chef (Evening) – contact Bruce Wilson	
30 th Oct	RC Jindalee 30 th Anniversary (Evening)	

Rosters

Duty	23rd September	30th September
Chair	Geoff Williams	Bruce Wilson
Duty Officer	Graeme Stratford	Peter Tomlin
Fellowship Officer	Andrew Rodgers	Danny Strong
Vocational or Rotary Talk	Bill R-T	Tony Russell
International Toast	Gerry Gebert	Stephen Stoneley
Guest Speaker	Matthew Bourke – Councillor for Jamboree	Dr. Nigel Waterhouse – Mater Medical Research

ROTARY GRACE

Lord, make us more thankful for what we have received;
 Make us more content with what we have;
 And make us more mindful of others who are in need.