

to the district gift. 'Rotary's arrangement with the Standard Chartered Bank in Sri Lanka enabled the money to be transferred at the best rates and free of commission,' commented Rob Jeffery, District 9600's Governor at the time of the tsunami.

The Sri Lankans were delighted! 'The gift truly brought home the spirit of Christmas!' wrote PDG Ravi Ravindran from District 3220. Ravi served as District Governor in the same year as Alan McCray.

The money will go a long way towards the rebuilding of the school which is estimated to cost around US\$490,000. It will provide schooling for more than 260 children. And the story has a delightful twist. Now that the linkage between the two countries has been established, another bond has come to light. In the years leading up to the coup in the Solomons the education system had broken down, and at present much of the aid effort from the EU and New Zealand is going to rebuild their system (Rotary of course is in there too!).

'The people of the Solomons have valued the help they are receiving, and it makes it so much more meaningful to them to contribute in a tangible way to this project in Sri Lanka,' says Rotarian Bruce Saunders, who was on the Solomons Fund Raising committee. 'In the near future it would be wonderful to establish a connection between the Sri Lankan school and one of our own schools, thereby sealing this gesture of friendship in perpetuity.'

## Roster:

	<b>This week</b>	<b>Next Week</b>
Program	Clare Walton MUNA	Major Craig Johnson The Role of Army Bands in Peace, War and Peacekeeping
Introduction	Tom Davies	Bruce Hall
Appreciation	Ros Osbourne	Gary Scott
Sergeant	David Fox	David Fox
Fellowship	Phil Ibbotson Rex Hunt	Keith Avent Ajit Banerjee
Raven Recorder	Ros Osbourne	Val Bland
Birthdays	nil	Janet Mukerjee 5th Mar
Anniversaries	nil	nil
Trash & Treasure	26th Feb Bruce Wyatt-Val Bland 12th Mar Ray Newcombe-John Gray	5th Mar Piers Booth-Ros Osbourne 19th Mar Shukry Sahhar-Ian Excell

# The Raven

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## Tonight:

### Clare Walton on **MUNA**

Clare matriculated from Radford College and was chosen to represent Australia in a team of 17 travelling to Europe to take part in The Hague International Model United Nations. This is organised by the United Nation's Youth Association, a non-profit organisation which has for forty years encouraged youth to strive towards a greater understanding of global issues and to be educated about United Nations. At The Hague they spend one week role-playing the operations of UN such as meetings of the General Assembly and the Security Council. Clare participated in the Disarmament Committee. Prior to the week at The Hague, the team spends two weeks team-building and studying the relevant political and historical issues of the country they were to represent – Denmark NOT Australia. Clare is happy to speak to her sponsors, such as the Rotary Club of Canberra Woden. She had to raise a major part of the \$8000 cost which she did through a range of fund raising activities.

## Last Week:

Gary Scott finalised arrangements for setting out the parking areas for the Show on Sat. 18 Feb. He reminded us to check the roster for our scheduled times of duty. Ros Osbourne reported that Dylis Hunt had just returned home from hospital. John Widdup reported that the group led by Piers Booth to Thailand had consisted of 36 willing souls. We have had Piers's report with last week's Raven, and John says we will get a further verbal report next week. A proposal for a new member was put forward by the Board. It was great to have Frank Sheldon attend the meeting after a long absence. He and Norma are planning to move to warmer climes. Neale and David did a Tweedledum & Tweedledee act as joint sergeants, wreaking more than the usual havoc.



**SERVICE Above Self**

## Guest Speaker:

Chris Redmond, Director of the Woden Community Service, spoke to us on their work. The Service was established by a group of volunteers in 1969, in the early days of Woden's development. It is one of six such organisations in the ACT, and now has a staff of some 220 full-time and part-time workers, plus about 100 volunteers. It receives some funding from ACT Government sources, as well as raising funds from its own activities.



Chris outlined an astonishing range of activities, covering a wide range of age groups, problems and needs. An interesting point is that the Woden area now has an ageing population, requiring special attention to this demographic group. He pointed out that there is a difficulty with shortage of community facilities in the area. At present the Service is checking not only on community needs but

also people's knowledge and understanding of its role. (The latter need has often been pointed out for Rotary too – what do people know about *us*?)

**Attendance matters:** Club Guest: Chris Richmond; Guest: Frank Sheldon; Make-up: Val Bland, Bruce Wyatt.

## Time to give something in return, say the kind folk of Solomons.

*(This article was kindly sent to the editor by PDG John Lawrence following the story published in the Raven on 8th February titled "Other Rotarians making a difference - in Sri Lanka.")*

The small country of Solomon Islands has been in the news in recent times as a receiver of assistance from its larger neighbours Australia and New Zealand. Through the joint efforts of the three countries working in partnership the people of Solomon Islands now have peace and security restored to their island nation. So when news of the terrible devastation caused by the Boxing Day Tsunami reached the Solomons many people there felt moved to do something in return to help these victims in some way. In the first instance the Prime Minister Sir Allan Kemakeza appointed a committee under his patronage and on behalf of the Solomon Islands Government pledged SI\$500,000. He then challenged the public to match the initial pledge. The people responded magnificently. Deeply touched by the extent of the tragedy, they gave



*The PM of Solomon Islands Sir Allan Kamekeza presents the Government's cheque for SI\$500,000 to SI's Tsunami Committee (with RTN Bruce Saunders standing behind the PM)*

generously, raising money through radio publicity including a telethon and several other promotional programs.

When the campaign came to an end the funds raised had almost reached their target, it was time to decide how to channel the gift in a meaningful way. An initial approach to one of the big aid organisations proved unsatisfactory. The money would go into an already huge basket and there was no way of tracking how it would be spent. Believing that the givers deserved to know that their gifts had been worthwhile, the committee then contacted Rotary to see if a suitable project could be identified.

Solomon Islands is part of District 9600, most of which is in southeast Queensland. The district's Tsunami Relief Committee had decided to focus its giving on one major project identified by PDG Alan McCray—the rebuilding of the Udayapuram Tamil Vidyalayam School in Sri Lanka under the auspices of the Rotary Clubs of Sri Lanka (District 3220). Buoyed by the assurance that 100% of their gift would be used for the project, the Solomon Islands added their money (in total just over US\$112,000)

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