

new school. Architect Aruni Malalasekera, a local Rotarian who helped construct the school, took visitors on a tour of the facility.

Rotary was one of the first organizations to offer help in the massive rebuilding effort set forth by the education ministry after the tsunami completely destroyed 92 schools and damaged 90 others, affecting some 85,000 students and 3,400 teachers. Microsoft Corporation, Room to Read, and the American Red Cross are also supporting the project in various ways. "This wonderful project highlights the dedication and ability of Rotary [in] Sri Lanka and showcases to the world what [we are] capable of doing," said Giay. "I congratulate and commend the Rotarians of Sri Lanka for this great project."

By far, the loudest applause was reserved for 14-year-old Imesha Udhari de Soysa, a student at Randombe. "You have built us a new palace in place of our school, and we thank you from the bottom of our hearts," said Imesha, who hopes to become a physician one day. "We will repay you in the only way we can — by studying hard and excelling in our examinations."

News from Thailand. I have been expecting some news from Piers Booth and the other workers on the Accommodation Project in Chiang Raibut but unfortunately it has not arrived at the time of going to Press. Hopefully I will be able to report next week! *Des*

Roster:

	This week	Next Week
Program	Jessica Walker CARE Australia	Chris Redmond Woden Community Services.
Introduction	Ray Newcombe	David Fox
Appreciation	Rex Hunt	Ian Excell
Sergeant	David Fox	David Fox
Fellowship	Eric Taylor Des Pain	Des Henderson Kelly John Gray
Raven Recorder	Robin Cromer	Ros Osbourne
Birthdays	nil	Frank Macklin 17th Feb
Anniversaries	Des and Helen H-Kelly 10th Feb	Jacki and John Cauchi 16th Feb
Trash &	12th Feb Robin Cromer-Ajit Banerjee	19th Gary Scott-Eric Taylor
Treasure	26th Feb Bruce Wyatt-Val Bland	5th Mar Piers Booth-Ros Osbourne

The Raven

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Tonight:

Jessica Walker
on
CARE Australia

Jessica has been with CARE Australia for three years, first in a volunteer capacity, than as the Communications Coordinator, and finally as the Media and Communications Manager for the past two years. During this period Jessica has done work for CARE in a number of CARE country offices including Cambodia, Thailand and Indonesia (Aceh).

Last Week:

P.P. Peter Evans opened the meeting, welcoming visitor Bernadette Capello, a consulting pharmacist and auto enthusiast, also the guest speakers and Rotarians – Barry Howe from Canberra East and Harold Small from Ginninderra Club.

Congratulation to **Pixie Gray** for her Award, the OAM, were tendered to John who thanked us on her behalf. John also made comment on our **membership numbers** now standing at 30 with three resignations including a change to Honorary Membership for Murray Crowe. The T & T Roster is getting tricky with an imbalance between those with tow-bars and others. Ian Excell emphasized that T & T times will need to be more frequent to cover spaces in the roster.

At this time, a cheque was presented to Ros Osbourne, President of Inner Wheel for the generous assistance her members gave with catering to the **Canberra Scenic Bike Ride** last October.

Carlo Binutti introduced the speakers, two engineers who have provided much time



SERVICE Above Self

out from their work in planning the reconstruction of the facilities at The Greenhills Conference Centre. The construction of the new **John Louttit Memorial Rotary Hall** is to be launched at a Public Meeting on Sunday 26th February 2006 at the site near the Cotter with completion by mid-year. **John Louttit** had been active in the development of the Centre until the time of his death, hence the memorial attribution to this Past District Governor.

Barry Howe and Harold Small took us through the history and considerations for the restoration process. Using a projector they showed images of the disaster in January 2003, being present as the firestorm overran the Centre and sketch drawings and plans of new buildings. **The decision** was made early to rebuild.



This Centre is a place for camps and conferences with budget cost accommodation, for churches, schools and with an emphasis on youth, to be self-supporting but to maintain a strong support from volunteers. Accommodation now reconstructed provides for 66 beds (in unit blocks of 22). The final design is for 176 beds. The **Memorial Hall** site is above the road leading to the Dining/Auditorium building (undamaged by the fires) and on the same level to improved access between these two. It also commands an impressive mountain view. Full facilities are planned for the 100 participants in meetings.



Funding of the \$1.5 million to date and \$485K estimate for the Hall will come from insurance, Uniting Church Mission sources, Presbytery and from the public (here read Rotary!). As a note in concluding, there have been revisions due to building code up-grades - some advantageous, but less volunteer hands-on contributions can be accepted as fully professional workers are mandated on site. However, **Rotarian support** can be generous by donations from clubs and individuals over the next two years.

Thanks to Raven Recorder: Ken Goard

Attendance Matters: *Visiting Rotarians: Harold Small (Canb-East), Barry Howe (Ginninderra); Other Guest: Bernadette Capello; Honorary Members Frank Macklin, Murray Crowe; Make-ups: T&T 3, Thailand 4; Members present 18. Percentage 78.5%*

Other Rotarians making a difference - in Sri Lanka. A year after the December 2004 tsunami devastated the island nation of Sri Lanka, children in the village of Ambalangoda are returning to a rebuilt and modernized school, thanks in part to Rotary. Randombe Junior School is the first of 25 schools to be reconstructed in a nationwide initiative called Schools Reawakening. Led by Rotarians in Sri Lanka in cooperation with Standard Chartered Bank and Sri Lankan Ministry of Education, the project is rebuilding schools to meet government standards. Participating schools will be upgraded with facilities such as well-equipped libraries, state-of-the-art computer centers, gymnasiums, and science laboratories.

During a moving ceremony dedicating the school on 8 December, RI District 3220 Governor Nihal Bogahalande welcomed visitors, including RI President-elect Bill Boyd, Past RI President Luis Giay, and District 1170 Governor Andrew Herniman, representing Rotary sponsors from North Devon, England. Fifty Rotary clubs from around the world pooled their money with funds from The Rotary Foundation of RI to realize the estimated US\$12 million project.

“I am here today as a representative of an international organization of over 1.2 million people, and I do wish they were all here to be able to share [this] wonderful emotion,” Boyd said in his address.

Nearly the entire population of Ambalangoda turned out to welcome the visitors with colorful flags and banners during the dedication. As part of the ceremony, Rotarians helped unveil a specially commissioned monument dedicated to three groups: those who perished in the tsunami, those who survived, and those who helped build the

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