

Rotary Club of Mitcham

District 9810 Victoria Australia



Lunch Meeting

Bulletin
Tues 2nd June 2009



The President's Ponderings.

Can you believe it?

The Rotary Club of Mitcham has made a difference locally and in many parts of the world for 30 years. There are many members, past and present, who have made that possible.

TUESDAY 9th JUNE 2009, 6.30pm for 7.00pm

At Bucatini Restaurant, 454 Whitehorse Rd
Mitcham, VIC, 3132

Welcome Nibbles, 2 Course Meal
AND *Surprise Entertainment*

\$35.00 INCLUDES Red Box wines. (\$30.00 for non imbibers)

The night includes Changeover as President David Ayliffe hands the heavy chain of office to President-Elect David Murray who, glutton for punishment, lines up for a second sentence.

RSVP NO LATER THAN Tuesday 2nd June

Contact: David Ayliffe (by return email)
or email Past President Chris Ryan
cryan21@bigpond.net.au or ph 03 9872 4529

Payment to: The Rotary Club of Mitcham
PO Box 6, Mitcham 3132
For Credit Card payments please provide details to
Christine Ryan ph 03 9872 4529

Cheerio for now,

David



Rotary Club of Mitcham Newsletters for the current Rotary Year are viewable in the **NEWS** section of: www.rotarymitcham.com

June 2009



21st Chris Ryan
28th Merija Munoz



Wedding
Anniversaries

None

Rotary Grace

For good food, good fellowship and the opportunity of service through Rotary, we give thanks.

The Rotary Club of Mitcham needs you!

Helping Hands

The Rotary Club is looking for volunteer shop attendants to help assist in the continued running of our local op-shop.

Why not come and spend a few hours in our fun and happy environment and help support our community and have fun too!



Please call John Atkinson on **9873 3322** for more details!



PAUL HARRIS FELLOWS

Presented by the Rotary Club of Mitcham

1979 Geoffrey Prior	1999 Chris & Ian McColl
1980 Dr John Munro	1999 John Varley
1983 Bruce McLaughlin	2000 John Cook
1986 Maxwell Bloom †	2000 Jean & Ray † Rose
1988 William Wood †	2000 Brian Bergin †
1988 Alan Fraser	2001 Christine Ryan
1989 Tony Gibson	2001 Bill Mudford
1989 David Gawler	2001 John Atkinson
1991 Dr Peter Brown	2002 Wayne Lucas
1991 Robert McDowell	2002 Denis Bunn †
1991 Bruce Wainwright	2002 Michael Edney †
1993 Ronald Slattery	2002 Peter McPhee
1994 Vic Dye	2003 Dawn & Graham Whiteside
1995 Fr Kevin Dillon	2003 Keith Nunn
1995 Kenneth Rose	2004 Brendan Tunstall
1997 David Murray	2004 Colin Spencer
1998 Ian Young	2005 Fred Wiffrie
1998 Ron Frederick	2006 Les Marton

PAUL HARRIS FELLOW SAPPHIRE AWARD

2002 Bruce Wainwright

2004 Tony Gibson

2004 John Atkinson

2007 Brian Bergin (Dec)

2007 Bill Mudford

2007 Colin Spencer

FOUR AVENUES OF SERVICE AWARD

2000 John Atkinson

AUSTRALIAN ROTARY HEALTH RESEARCH FUND COMPANIONS

1994 Roy Knudson † 1996 Dr Peter Brown 1999 David Murray

Officers for 2008/9

BOARD

President:	David Ayliffe
Past Pres:	Sharon Partridge
Pres. Elect:	David Murray
Vice Pres :	David Murray
Secretary:	Philip Daw
Treasurer and Fundraising:	Wayne Lucas

PORTFOLIOS

Membership	David Ayliffe
New Generations	Sharon Partridge
Communication/Marketing, Public Relations and Photography:	Eva Anderson
International and on to Conference:	David Ayliffe
Vocational Service:	Ivan Munoz
Fellowship:	Fred Wiffrie
Attendance:	Fred Wiffrie
Foundation:	Ron Frederick
Bulletin and Program:	Wayne Lucas, Philip Daw and Colin Spencer
Sergeant and Community Service:	David Murray

Letter from Steph Woollard, our Guest Speaker for 16th June meeting



Hi all,

It's Steph Woollard here. I am now back from Nepal and this is a thank you email to all those who came on the walk with Contours to help orphans in Nepal.

The money donated by Contours all was \$650. This trip was my third trip to Nepal and I felt empowered being able to not only volunteer my time and energy but distribute resources and buy things to facilitate the people where there was the most need.

Here is a breakdown of where the money went and which people and organizations it aided.

Youth Vision is a college in Kathmandu which runs entirely on the tuition of students. It is a school which was created originally to create opportunities for those children in the villages who come from extreme poverty, to come to the city and be able to study and break the poverty cycle for them and their families in future. The school is seriously under resourced and most of the teachers are volunteers and do not receive a salary. Some students who come from a middle class background and were born in the city pay a bigger tuition and others pay a small amount depending on what they can afford and some pay nothing because they have nothing to give. I volunteered at this school teaching Anthropology and English every morning that I was in Kathmandu and decided the best way to contribute to the school was not to give money but I asked the principal for a book list of all the books needed for their subjects and I bought about \$200 worth of books to put in their school library for anyone to borrow. They were very grateful because they had hardly any books in that library and it is a problem for students if they are studying and do not have enough money to buy the course books. By the end of my trip I did not have enough money left to buy each student a course book each but I bought as many as I could and they can share them.

The principal wrote Contours a thank you letter which is in the photo folder in Contours if anyone would like to see it.

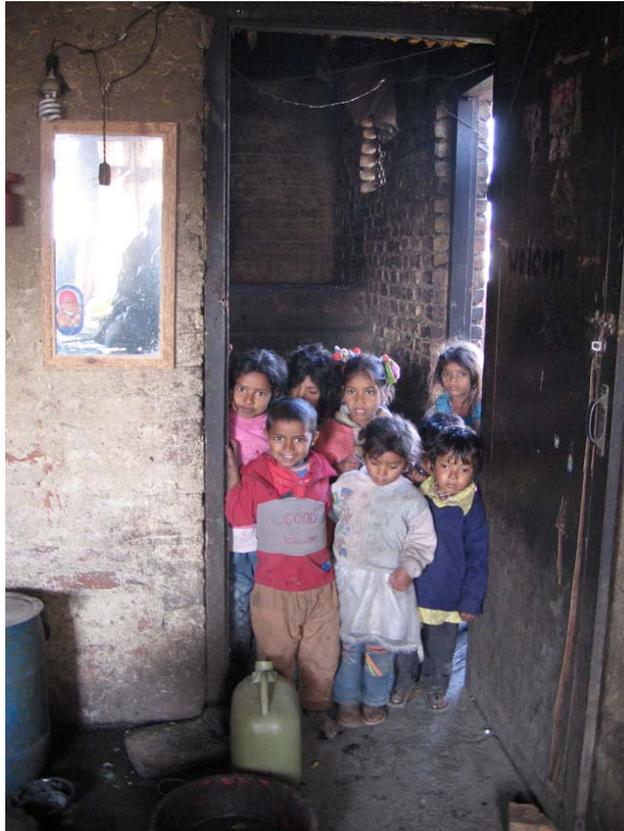
I worked a great deal with street kids this time in Nepal. There are two types of street kids: those who have no families and live on the streets (most of which sniff glue every day out of little plastic bags.), and those who are child labourers. Most of these have families who are involved in the same work and come into the main city of Kathmandu at 6pm everyday and work through the night until 5am in rubbish heaps collecting the types of plastics they can sell to recyclers like bottles and metal scraps. The recyclers then sell it to the plastic companies for more money. To give you an idea of how difficult this job is and how little money is earned for the hours spent- a kilo of plastic collected when sold to the recycler is about 15cents Australian. I was working closely with Sushil who I have known for 5 years. He is 20 years old and used to be a street kid himself. He has an organization called the *Child Labour Protection Center*. He is trying to find sponsors to give these kids the opportunity to go to school so they won't still be collecting rubbish when they are their parents' age. The potential in these kids is amazing. The older boys are the ones I'm really worried about because while the younger ones are still cute and small, tourists give them food and money but for the boys who are now 14, 15, 16, it is difficult. When one of them was saying to me he wants to learn, it really touched me. He said "I don't care if I have to start in a young class, I don't care if the other kids tease me, I just want to learn." Most of them can't speak English but with my Nepali, I managed to understand most things which was lucky. Sushil makes films about street kids and other problems in Nepal. The kids love and respect him. He has a way with the kids and they really listen to him. He also knows their families. I visited where they live many times and often Sushil and I would take them for dinner when they came into the city to collect rubbish and were hungry. I gave money to Sushil to buy the food, and other small things like when one of the boys needed school shoes. It's better to go through him, than handing them things myself because this would encourage begging from tourists and a dependency. It was pretty sad for me though on Christmas Eve when the streets were crowded with people out having fun with friends these kids were dodging in and out of the crowds collecting plastic. Most of these kids had knits and were very dirty with little or no education about basic hygiene. Sushil organized a day where all the kids, young and old, came to a school near their neighborhood and put up a big projector for them to watch his film. After the movie we ran a hygiene class about washing hands after collecting rubbish and before eating food, brushing teeth and how to clean your body etc. I thought this was a great success because we made it fun for the kids and it is so important for them to wash their hands after the toilet because in Nepal there is no toilet paper and they use their left hand. They also eat with their hands. There are also photos of these kids in the album at Contours. There is also a facebook group if you want to check it out.

There are also photos of these kids in the album at Contours. There is also a facebook group if you want to check it out.

A family I have known since volunteering building school in their community five years ago revisited again and stayed with them in the village. This time the little boy who is now 14 years old is studying in the main city. He stays with a family who pays for his schooling and in return he wakes up at 5am every morning and cooks, cleans the dishes, mops the floors, does the families washing and minds their little baby. When he gets home from school, he does his homework, cooks dinner for the family, cleans the dishes does any household chores he is told to do and minds the baby again. This is far too much work and stress for a 14yr old and I noticed a dramatic change in his behaviour and happiness. When I asked him how his boss was he said he hits him all the time and says bad things to him. The family is aware of it because twice a year he comes home on school holidays and he doesn't want to go back. His schooling costs too much for the family. They have six children. Some are married and the son Rajesh is in college and the financial strain of paying for Krishna's schooling is not possible for the family, although they have decided he will stop this job in two months when his school year finishes. If anyone would like to sponsor him to go to a school near his village, please let me know I have the perfect contact that can set it up and make sure the money is going direct and he is going to school. I also have the families address and many photos of when I stayed with them.

I took the friends I stayed their bed because they are old ones were putrid and cases, a doona and doona

There are many little tea the main tourist area. They families in India who know Nepal. They are very young little pay. Who knows what me immensely, especially have come to know. Each little bit older and this time them but it's difficult. If I was create many problems. Their families wouldn't be getting where would the kid live and being catered for by his boss from 6am in the morning to livering Nepali Tea to all the collecting the tea cups when get paid \$20 Australian a was freezing. My little friend because he was freezing three tea shop boys aged



with to buy a new blanket for quite expensive (\$50) and their black with dirt. We got new pillow cover. They were so grateful.

going to buy a jacket for one of them I was going to buy one for all of them. The jackets were 350 rupees each, twenty-one dollars Australian for the three. The boys wore them every day after that. Photos of the boys are in the album. I think of them a great deal and would love to send them a letter or something. They don't have a phone contact or address and they can't speak or write English. They speak Hindi and some Nepali. I communicated with them in Nepali. When I asked the boss if I could have his address where they stayed he didn't want to give it to me because he was afraid I wanted to take these boys away, and consequently he would lose his workers. So I guess I'll have to wait for next time I go to Nepal and find them on the streets somewhere.

shop boys in Nepal who work in are mostly sent to Nepal by their somebody who has a tea shop in and work extremely hard for very their future will be. That worries when I think of the little boys I year I went to Nepal they are a around I really wanted to help to put them in school it would boss would lose workers, their any money sent to them and eat if these things are no longer at the tea shop. These kids work 7pm at night running around de-different shops in town and then the workers are finished. They month. When I was in Nepal it asked if I could buy him a jumper and didn't have one. There were eight, 10 and 13 and if I was go-

Last time in Nepal I stayed with a Nepali family in Kathmandu for three months. The mother was old and has had a very hard life. She was married off in the village when she was eight years old and pregnant by the age of 15 with her first son. Then her husband left for another woman and she has lived life alone since. Her daughter and I mixed well but she is married to a Nepali man who is in the army and is an alcoholic and beats her. I didn't have time to take them away last time but I promised the next time I came to Nepal I would take them on a Holiday to one of the prettiest places in Nepal called Lakeside Pokhara. This time I had saved money to keep my promise. I treated them like queens for a week. They didn't want to return to the main city. It was the first time they had ever been outside Kathmandu Valley. We had many laughs and went to every place possible. The Nepali mum is very religious so we went to many Buddhist temples. We also went boating in the river, visited bat caves and climbed a mountain. It was great! It cost about \$500 AUD dollars, but I had saved and it felt it was priceless opportunity they will remember for the rest of their lives.

One of my friends in Nepal, 24 has never been to the dentist and I couldn't help but notice the state of his teeth. I knew if I didn't take him and pay the bill his teeth would probably fall out by the next time I came to Nepal. So we went and he was scared, but I was more afraid and had to sit outside. His teeth were treated and they told him to drink salt water for some reason and not eat anything too hot or cold for a week. But it was all good. For the amount of work they did I couldn't believe how cheap the bill was. Only \$15 dollars Australian!

I volunteered for an organization called APC Nepal. It was hard to know what to donate there because they had money coming in from France to buy many things. But I went to a book fair and there were brilliant posters for children to learn English, lots of good visual pictures as well. I bought a dozen posters of different topics such as body parts, animals, farm equipment, vegetables, transport, numbers and alphabet, animals etc. We put them up around the drop in center where they are free to come and sleep and eat and have English classes. This center is very basic but effective. If they do a session of English tutoring they get a meal ticket to have dinner. There is a first aid kit where they can come and deal safely with wounds. There were many kids who came with cuts and grazes, head cuts, open slashes in their arms etc. It really showed how rough and dangerous life on the streets is. One kid came in shaking with a big deep slice out of his arm and he looked terrified. The staff is very kind and care about the kids. If the child is willing and has family, the staff organize village trips to go help reunite and reintegrate them back into their communities and end their homelessness. Many of the families and relations reject them and want them to stay in the city because they have a false perception that they are being cared for more in an orphanage and more than they could be in the village because of extreme poverty. They think they are being sent to school and fed and clothed in the main city by an orphanage and don't know they live and sleep on the streets with stray dogs, form gangs and sniff glue.

One day I walked into my friends shop and there was his visiting mate looked really stressed. I'd never met him before so when I asked what they were talking about they wouldn't tell me. After persisting they said they were talking about life being a struggle. The boy was 22 years old, worked seven days a week from 8.00am -6.00pm for only 2500 rupees a month; which is \$50AUD. He was in strife and didn't know what to do because his income was not enough to pay his rent and eat for a month. So he had been borrowing money from friends and now was in even further debt and couldn't afford his rent again the next month. I gave him a card the next day and \$40 which would get him out of debt so he could start fresh the next month. He was so relieved.

There is still the cast system in Nepal which exists more in the villages. My friend I have known since my last trip is in the "untouchable" cast. He and all members from his village play instruments called Sarangis to earn a living. They walk around the tourist area of Kathmandu playing their handmade instruments hoping to sell them to tourists. When it is not tourist season they struggle for money. At the time of the main festival (our equivalent of Christmas) everyone is going back to their villages to stay with their families. He couldn't, so I gave him \$150 dollars to buy his ticket back to his village 6 hours away by bus and to buy some presents for his family. He was so very happy.

My friend Sushil's mother was very sick with a heart problem and needed to be taken immediately to hospital and his family didn't have enough money to travel to the appropriate treatment in India or for the costs to proceed with the operation. The cost was \$480. Thanks to the donations I received I was able to give him money when he really needed it and now his mum is doing well and very appreciative. His letter of thanks is in the photo folder if anyone wants to see it.

Before I left for Nepal I bought \$40 worth of pencils, textas, toys to give to kids and some sporting equipment which I donated to Youth Vision College and the drawing stuff to the two groups of street kids I was involved with.

I didn't keep an exact record of how much was spent to the dollar but I know I spent above and beyond what was donated because I saw so much need there. Every day I would give out different little things and most days buy food here and there for the kids and because the nature of how I decided to distribute the money here and there and to all different causes I felt it was better to spread the money around and help many people with practical things rather than hand it all over to one family or one organization. I didn't feel right doing this because in my experience that's what encourages corruption. Corruption is rife in Nepal.

Thanks to all the people who donated. I feel it enabled me to make a big difference in many underprivileged people's lives.

Thanks to all the women at Contours for raising \$650

Colin's Corner IT'S FUN BEING IN ROTARY!!!



The light turned yellow, just in front of him. He did the right thing, stopping at the crosswalk, even though he could have beaten the red light by accelerating through the intersection.

The tailgating woman was furious and honked her horn, screaming in frustration, as she missed her chance to get through the intersection, dropping her cell phone and makeup.

As she was still in mid-rant, she heard a tap on her window and looked up into the face of a very serious police officer. The officer ordered her to exit her car with her hands up.

He took her to the police station where she was searched, fingerprinted, photographed, and placed in a holding cell.

After a couple of hours, a policeman approached the cell and opened the door. She was escorted back to the booking desk where the arresting officer was waiting with her personal effects.

He said, "I'm very sorry for this mistake. You see, I pulled up behind your car while you were blowing your horn, flipping off the guy in front of you and cussing a blue streak at him. I noticed the 'What Would Jesus Do' bumper sticker, the 'Choose Life' license plate holder, the 'Follow Me to Sunday-School' bumper sticker, and the chrome-plated Christian fish emblem on the trunk, so naturally...I assumed you had stolen the car."

Advance Australia Fair

*Australians all let us rejoice, for we are young and free
We've golden soil and wealth for toil, our home is girt by sea
Our land abounds in nature's gifts, of beauty rich and rare
In history's page let every stage, advance Australia fair
In joyful strains, then let us sing
Advance Australia fair*

This Week ...

Tuesday 2nd June 2009
President David Ayliffe
Secretary: Philip Daw
Treasurer: Wayne Lucas
Desk : Colin Spencer

Rotary Clubs and Membership

Rotary is a worldwide organisation of business and professional people that provides humanitarian service, encourages high ethical standards in all vocations and helps build goodwill and peace in the world. Approximately 1.2 million Rotarians belong to more than 32000 Rotary Clubs located in over 200 countries.

Clubs may differ from each other in demographic terms, meeting times and venues, but all have the same aims of making the world a better place, locally and internationally, while at the same time strengthening established friendships and creating new ones.

One of 51 clubs in Rotary District 9810, the Rotary Club of Mitcham has served its local community, and participated in many international projects since its charter in 1979. In these busy days, it is not so easy for young business and professional people to set aside a little bit of time to participate in Rotary functions. Those who do, are rewarded beyond belief. Support for Camp Quality - Kids living with Cancer, the International Polio Plus worldwide Polio eradication program, International Student Exchange, Rotary Youth Leadership Awards and many other fantastic opportunities exist. Giving immense satisfaction to all who are involved.



... of the things we think, say or do.

1. Is it the TRUTH?
2. Is it FAIR to all concerned?
3. Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
4. Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

The Objects of Rotary

To encourage and foster the idea of service as a basis of worthy enterprise and in particular:

- first** The development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service.
- second** High ethical standards in business and professions, the recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations and the dignifying by each Rotarian of this occupation as an opportunity to serve society.
- third** The application of the ideal of service by every Rotarian's personal, business and community life.
- fourth** The advancement of international understanding, goodwill and peace, through the world fellowship of business and professional men and women united in the ideal of service.

Description of Rotary

Rotary is an organisation of Business and Professional persons, united world wide who provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations, and help build goodwill and peace in all the world.

www.d9810.rotary.org.au

Diary Dates

June 2009

ROTARY CLUB OF MITCHAM

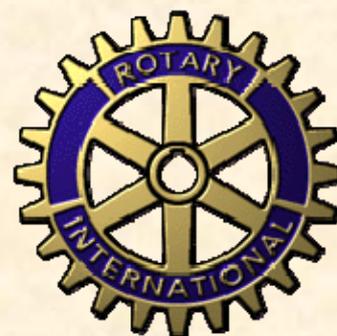
Meets at Mitcham RSL Club, 26 McDowall St. Mitcham

LUNCH Meetings:

Tuesdays 12:30 for 1:00pm for lunch

Know anyone who'd like to join Rotary? Invite them to a meeting!

All funds applied to Rotary Community Projects in Whitehorse



After another successful event, make sure you join us at the next market on a Sunday, 14th June 2009

8.00 am to 1.00 pm at:

**The Whitehorse Civic Centre 279 Whitehorse Rd
Nunawading. Enquiries 0438 550068**

www.rotarymitcham.com