

Rotary Club of Mitcham

District 9810 Victoria Australia



Lunch Meeting

Bulletin

Tues 9th February 2010

Letter from Stephanie

Hi Guys,

How are you?

I can't tell you how grateful Youth Vision College is to receive help from you guys!

I thought I will write you an email now while it is fresh in my mind and I remember all the details of what they said, because meeting with them really made me so happy that Rotary could make a difference to a real problem.

The 4 teachers I met this morning are all lecturers at Youth Vision College and very committed. They all have their own businesses apart from their role at Youth Vision and are there as 100% volunteers because they believe in education. The 4 teachers I met with were 4 of 7 on the committee for Youth Vision. The 3 others were downstairs being inundated by students filling the applications to sit their (end of Nepali year), board exam. I learnt by observation that this is a very difficult time for both the students and the staff of the college as the students are not allowed to sit their exam unless they have paid their tuition fees for the month. Although this is a tiny amount, because Youth Vision College's students are all from very poor families in some of the most remote areas in Nepal, they have no money to pay the months fee for their study. The College operates to give such young people practical skills for the future so they can have better opportunities than to work as a poor farmer as most of the older generations here - (their parents.) The teachers however a well as volunteering to teach many times have has to pay the students fees also out of their own pockets because they know their situations very well and their determination to study but lack of money.

Sucil Pant, is one of the teachers. He is the reason I came to know about Youth Vision, when I booked a travel ticket at his travel agency. The college is in the morning from 6am until 10am and he goes straight to work from there. He personally has given - since Youth Vision began 10 years ago, more than 10,000 Australian dollars from his own pocket. This is an extraordinary amount of commitment and I admire him for it.

During out meeting this morning, students were continuously knocking on his door and calling him out to ask him for a lend of money to pay the last months tuition fees, so they can sit their final year exam which is an extra 1500 rupees \$17 dollars. He didn't even tell me that I heard it myself with my understanding of the language. I asked him about it and he said his heart can't say no to them because he knows their situation very well and he has seen how hard they study and how much they love coming to the college.

(Continued page 5)



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

February 2010



Gail Murray 9th
Bill Mudford 25th



Wedding Anniversaries

Nil



PAUL HARRIS FELLOWS

Presented by the Rotary Club of Mitcham

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1979 Geoffrey Prior | 1999 John Varley |
| 1980 Dr John Munro | 2000 John Cook |
| 1983 Bruce McLaughlin | 2000 Jean & Ray † Rose |
| 1986 Maxwell Bloom † | 2000 Brian Bergin† |
| 1988 William Wood† | 2001 Christine Ryan |
| 1988 Alan Fraser | 2001 Bill Mudford |
| 1989 Tony Gibson | 2001 John Atkinson |
| 1989 David Gawler | 2002 Wayne Lucas |
| 1991 Dr Peter Brown | 2002 Denis Bunn † |
| 1991 Robert McDowell | 2002 Michael Edney† |
| 1991 Bruce Wainwright | 2002 Peter McPhee |
| 1993 Ronald Slattery | 2003 Dawn & Graham Whiteside |
| 1994 Vic Dye | 2003 Keith Nunn |
| 1995 Fr Kevin Dillon | 2004 Brendan Tunstall |
| 1995 Kenneth Rose | 2004 Colin Spencer |
| 1997 David Murray | 2005 Fred Wiffrie |
| 1998 Ian Young | 2006 Les Marton |
| 1998 Ron Frederick | 2009 Eva Anderson |
| 1999 Chris & Ian McColl | 2009 Sharon Partridge |

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

Rotary Grace

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

Officers for 2009/10

BOARD

- President:** David Murray
- Past Pres:** David Ayliffe
- Pres. Elect:** Wayne Lucas
- Vice Pres :** TBA
- Secretary:** John Atkinson
- Treasurer:** Wayne Lucas
- Membership:** Philip Daw
- Fundraising:** Colin Spencer
- Community:** Ron Frederick
- New Generations:** Sharon Partridge

OTHER PORTFOLIOS

- International and on to Conference:** Wayne Lucas
- Fellowship:** David Murray
- Attendance:** Sharon Partridge
- Foundation:** Ron Frederick
- Bulletin:** Philip Daw and Colin Spencer
- Program:** Philip daw / members
- Sergeant and Community Service:** Colin Spencer
- Public Officer:** Ron Frederick
- Internet / Website:** Colin Spencer
- Op Shop:** Jack Butler/ John Atkinson

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!

President David Murray 2009 2010



Our goal for this year must be on building up our club membership. We still need to grow in order to guarantee the future of the Rotary Club Of Mitcham.

Today we are fortunate to have Mr Kevin Harrison and Mr John Williams with us. Both Kevin and John are here representing the 9810 district membership committee.

They come equipped with many new and innovative ideas to share with us, to ensure failure is not an option. But without your help it will be an uphill battle.

Stephanie has sent us an email (front page). It sounds like our support through her is really making a difference, it just goes to show that one person can make a big difference to many. I am amazed how committed and motivated she is.

District Conference is coming up very quickly and there is a good chance those who are not yet registered will be able to join in the fun, just talk to Wayne Lucas and he will organise it for you.

**Enjoy the week,
President David**

(Continued from page 1)

This email has become larger than I planned. My heart really goes out to these students because there is very little opportunity for Nepali people with no education. They love learning and they are so determined to get great marks. The top student at the college is a blind boy who is 18 years old. His name is Maharjan. He was sponsored by Sucil to study there and completes his exams by a transcriber.

I suppose what surprised me the most is... there are so many NGO'S operating in Nepal. There are so many receiving foreign aid. There are so many children's homes that have misused the money and become corrupt. Youth Vision College has been operating for just over 10 years and I am the first foreign person who has visited, taught English, got to know the students and the genuine need for help. They have received no help from anyone, hence the teachers forking out money themselves to give the students opportunity. They don't even get wages. It's incredible. They have never once asked me for a donation, or seen me as a potential donor. From the first time I came to the college Sucil introduced me as a student who has come to give her time and knowledge and allow you to practice your English. The only reason I know the teachers are volunteering is because I asked. The commitment the staff have to these poor village teenagers is inspirational. They are doing it themselves. I am so happy to have met them at such a crucial time to discuss these problems and at a time where I could see myself the desperation of the students to meet the financial deadlines to further their study. Heavy burdens that are almost non-existent for students in Australia. What stuck in my mind was Sucil's comment that sometimes when he goes to work after his morning at youth vision, he feels so stressed for these student's situations he can't even focus properly at his own job.

So I said to them this morning, -with my knowledge of how to donate effectively, to cover what they can for the students in the immediate future, but to know they have 1500 from Rotary to use if they need it for the students to be able to sit their exam's and pay the previous months fees. I said that I think it's better to have two meetings. One today where they expressed the biggest need Youth Vision is currently facing and then to go away and have a separate meeting with those committee members that were busy today, and discuss again how they think the best way to use the money will be.

I told them I don't want to be like other donors who tell them how to use their money because they know far better the most effective way to use it. Sunday is the last day for the students to pay their fees for both the last month of study and their exam fee. depending of how much they can afford their monthly fees range from 100 rupees (\$1.40) to 900 rupees (\$10.80) So I said before our next meeting in a week, to make a total of how many students are in such a position, how many need help, and how much they need, and instead of the teachers having to cover the cost like every other year, the money from Rotary can cover some of this money. My Dad has also given \$500 for me to use in Nepal for such a purpose and an old man from my mum's pilates class gave me \$300. I have attached them also to this email. I will use all of this money for this purpose at Youth Vision. This is a real need and those helping are not rich themselves but believe in the students who attend and their desires to become something more than a street vendor or farmer in future.

When we meet in a week, we will sort out the financials and I also asked them to make a 5-10 year plan of the needs of Youth Vision, problems they face in running the college, and future hopes and plans for youth vision. Two future visions they expressed today were to give scholarships to disabled students who often are badly discriminated against in Nepal. And to attract more wealthier students from Kathmandu itself to come at study at Youth Vision to bring more money to the college. But this would need more money initially to make the facilities better to compete with the many well equipped colleges in Kathmandu Valley.

^Continued on page 6)

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 9th February 2010
President David Murray
Secretary: John Atkinson
Treasurer: Wayne Lucas
Desk : Sharon Partridge

Continued from page 5

Thanks Rotary for donating money to such a worthy cause that can make a real difference. I feel so empowered to be able to help this college through you. It's so good to be able to facilitate such great work that will impact the lives of these students. I can't wait to show you photos and explain more when I get back. I will send you another email after the next meeting next week. Please write asking more questions, I have so much more information about the college that i have not included in this email. I wished I had taped the conversation i had with the committee this morning, to illustrate what a great job the staff of Youth Vision are doing and to hear their passion.

It's great stuff!
Hope you're well

Steph
Hope there is not too many spelling errors, I have been typing so fast.
(Yep, but I have corrected most of them. Ed.)

Colin's Corner

Question 1:

If you knew a woman who was pregnant, who had 8 kids already, three who were deaf, two who were blind, one mentally retarded, and she had syphilis, would you recommend that she have an abortion?

Read the next question before looking at the response for this one.

Question 2:

**It is time to elect a new world leader, and only your vote counts.
Here are the facts about the three candidates. Who would you vote for?**

Candidate A -- Associates with crooked politicians, and consults with astrologist. He's had two mistresses. He also chain smokes and drinks 8 to 10 martinis a day..

Candidate B -- He was kicked out of office twice, sleeps until noon, used opium in College and drinks a quart of whiskey every evening.

Candidate C -- He is a decorated war hero. He's a vegetarian, doesn't smoke, drinks an occasional beer and never cheated on his wife.

Which of these candidates would be our choice?

.....

Decide first.... No peeking, then scroll down for the response.

Candidate A is Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Candidate B is Winston Churchill.

Candidate C is Adolph Hitler.

***And, by the way, on your answer to the abortion question:
If you said YES, you just killed Beethoven.***

Pretty interesting isn't it? Makes a person think before judging someone..

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

JANUARY 2010

ROTARY CLUB OF MITCHAM

Meets at Mitcham RSL Club, 26 McDowall St. Mitcham

LUNCH Meetings:

Tuesdays 12:30 for 1:00pm for lunch

Coming meetings:

?????

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, 7th March 2010**

8.00 am to 1.00 pm at:

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

www.rotarymitcham.com