

From the President Alick Osborne

A really inspirational week with Tim Taylor telling us all about his epic 11,000 kilometre Lone Ride for the Homeless and Debbie Holmes on her plans to use the money raised during Tim's ride to provide homes for the homeless with Avalon Centre.



This was followed by reports from Hobart about the wonderful BusyFeet performance at the opening of the Australia New Zealand Rotary Conference receiving a standing ovation.



Lin called on Sunday morning to report in after a successful trip with news of tremendous interest in BusyFeet from all over Australia. Fitting acknowledgement for everyone who worked so hard to make this trip happen.

District Governor Bronwyn Stephens Our speaker at RCEM this week!



Looking forward to welcoming Bronwyn to Chadstone East Malvern on Wednesday 19th September. It will be a good meeting with updates from the BusyFeet performance and a couple of surprises planned for the meeting.

Update from the Board Meeting

The RCEM Board meeting reviewed team budgets last Wednesday. We still have some uncertainty regarding fundraising until we determine the extent of support from the City of Stonnington. Even so we have seen some good results from the BBQ's we have run so far, and we are optimistic about the potential earnings from The Market after the successful August market, and with good stall bookings for The Market on Saturday 10th November.

The Board approved the budget for Youth and Vocation in full as it essentially includes recurring programs.

For Community the Board approved the budget for all of the programs which have been fully described. Community had a number of projects which were still to be detailed. These will be considered on a case by case basis when Project Briefs are available.

Similarly the International Budget was approved including \$3,000 for the development of a garden in the village of La'ak near Siem Reap in Cambodia. This project will link with work being done by Build your Future Today (BFT) who will provide continuing oversight and maintenance. International has a \$5,000 allocation for Progress Pikinini however the project brief is yet to be considered by the team so this amount has not yet been approved and will be considered at a future meeting.

Regarding Progress Pikinini the Board is supportive of the work being done to gain RAWCS project approval. This intention is that with RCEM and RAWCS endorsement Progress Pikinini will be granted deductible gift recipient (DGR) status. The application requires an MOU between RCEM and Progress Pikinini and an RCEM Project Manager to be assigned to Progress Pikinini. We will continue to work through the process with Tracey and RAWCS.

We do expect to see a drawdown in the reserves held by RCEM during the year. We are trying to balance the many opportunities to fund solid projects with the need to prudently manage our hard earned funds. And of course we are working to make sure that our fundraising efforts, including the Family Fun Day are optimised.

Another item of discussion was for RCEM to work with Friends of Gardiner's Creek and the City of Stonnington to take responsibility for the care of a section of Gardiner's Creek. This would involve organising a Clean Up Australia Day event and more work on National Tree Planting Day. We will be looking to organise community participation in these events rather than just doing the work ourselves.



All of this and more can be discussed on **Wednesday 26th September** when we have the next round of **Team Meetings**.

Bunnings BBQ **Saturday 22nd September**

Morning Shift 8.30AM - 12.15PM
Alick, Lyle, Frank & Sandi

Afternoon Shift 12.15PM - 4PM
Dawn, Janet & Chris, Tracey & Raj

Anyone else who wants to stop in and lend a hand will be most welcome !

Meeting Roster

This week: **19th September**
Welcome – Trevor & Archna
Sergeant – Hein
Chair – Alick

Next week: **26th September**
Welcome – Hein & Rosemary
Sergeant – Tracey

Following week: **3rd October**
Welcome – Mark & Lin
Sergeant – Richard
Chair – Ros

Upcoming Dates – Reminder

In last week's Chaddy Chatter I featured a number of upcoming events. Please add them to your diary and try to be available. If you need a reminder the information is on the RCEM website – see the calendar and past issues of the CC. <http://rotarychadstone.org.au/>

BusyFeet in Hobart

What a fantastic trip over to Hobart for the BusyFeet children to perform at the Opening Ceremony of the Rotary Zone 8 (Australia) Conference in the huge Grand Chancellor ballroom. The group consisted of nearly 60 travellers, including 15 BusyFeet children (from Stonnington and Melton BusyFeet), their parent(s) and volunteers. Some children had never flown before or been in holiday accommodation but the flights went relatively smoothly. Accommodation was excellent, so close to the water and the venue, lots for families to do in their off time.

Thursday night's casual dinner at Mures Restaurant on the waterfront was a superb way for the families and volunteers to mingle and get to know each other even more. Friday morning saw a practice at a room at the Hobart town hall, with a lunch sausage sizzle prepared by Claremont Rotary.

A short walk in beautiful weather to the Grand Chancellor hotel, and whilst waiting to enter the main ballroom where 600 Rotarians waited, the Tasmanian Governor came over to say "Hi" and have photos taken.

Then it was time for the performance. Bronwyn and Lin had explained to the audience what BusyFeet was about. Even though the stage was small, the children and volunteers performed their 4 dances to stirring music that filled the ballroom. At the finish, the children, volunteers and dance teachers bowed and received a standing ovation bringing tears to many eyes, including Lin and Bronwyn. Afterwards at the BusyFeet booth we were inundated with congratulations, with many people interested in starting their own group. Many mentioned how they also had a tear during the performance.

Sincere thanks to Rosemary and to Ross and Annette Butterworth and the rest of the team for their commitment to the logistics, the financing through Rotary and council grants, and to pull off such a wonderful event. To Lyle, Lin, May, Anne, Sue, Fran, Lydia and Cheryl who travelled to Hobart thanks for your help in making the trip such a great experience for everyone concerned.

From a parent:

I am sincerely grateful to have S. be part of such an amazing group of people at BusyFeet. We all had such a wonderful time in Hobart, memories to cherish and stories to share with many others. Thank you to everyone wh0 was involved in making this trip a reality. Magic happened !



