



From the President Alick Osborne

It was just brilliant to see BusyFeet performing at the Multi-District Conference here in Melbourne. The affection with which this little band of dancers is held within the Rotary community is wonderful to behold. Well done and thank you to our BusyFeet folks for their role in putting this on! And a special mention to Lin and Rosemary on the BusyFeet stand both days – and Sandi on the End Trachoma now booth.

We enjoyed many great presentations on both days of the conference. Interesting, powerful, inspiring and entertaining. I have also thoroughly enjoyed seeing all of the RCEM Members there – Tania, Dawn, Sandi, Tracey, Paul, Louise, Lin, Rosemary, Cheryl, Lyle, Raj S, myself and Kirsty.

(Gosh I hope I haven't missed anyone but I am sure keen readers will notify the Sergeant). That is over 1/3rd of our members.



A very cheerful RCEM crew with Associate Professor Tillman Ruff AM – and Nobel Laureate.

Lots of interesting information at each of the stands and good ideas being shared all around.

I would also like to acknowledge the work that Sandi has done behind the scenes producing certificates for each of the speakers.

And I have to say well done to the organisers, particularly Mark and Bronwyn Stephens as well as all of the District Presidents and the teams working with them.

RCEM confirmed our pledge of \$5,000 to The Rotary Foundation to coincide with the annual conference. We will see how we go with projects and fundraising and with a bit of luck we will be able to top that up by the end of the Rotary year.



Paul trying to hide on the main stage – World of Difference/Cambodia.



The RCEM Crew on day 2 at the BusyFeet booth.

Clean Up Australia Day – Sunday 3rd March

Lyle and I caught up with Trevor from Friends of Gardiner's Creek to discuss this fast approaching event. Essentially our role will be to promote it to

the local community, provide some labour and coordination on the day, and to run a BBQ.

There is another group running an event upstream so we have tried to contact them to see if we can do the same with their group.

We met at the George Pepperell Gazebo and it was great to see that the City of Stonnington has already resurfaced the asphalt under the gazebo, and done work on the adjacent tables and seats.



New seating.



New asphalt and resurfacing under the tables.



Reminder - Upcoming Events

Australian Henley Regatta BBQ is on Saturday 23rd February.

And we have a **Bunnings BBQ** on Sunday 24th February.

Upcoming Meetings

Wednesday 20th February

Speaker: Brian Ashworth – Disaster Aid International.

Brian is a Director of Disaster Aid International. He is a recently retired Civil Engineer with 40 years of experience in the UK and Australian Water Industries. Previous board experience includes Maffra Hospital Board and the South Gippsland Health Service.

He has been a Rotarian for more than 20 years including being a Past President of his Club.

Welcome: Frank & Cheryl

Chair: Ros McMorrow

Sergeant: ~~Rod Kenafacke~~ We can't have Rod 3 weeks in a row!! Sandi Fulcher

Wednesday 27th February

Speaker: Mark Willis - RAWCS

Welcome: David & Christina

Chair: Alick Osborne

Sergeant: Chris Don

Wednesday 6th March

Cluster Meeting hosted by Prahran Rotary at Matthew Flinders.

Speaker: TBC

Wednesday 13th March

The schedule says we are due for another round of team meetings – but I wonder if we might not be better off having a **social evening with**

partners, friends of Rotary, volunteers and alumni?

Thoughts??

Wednesday 20th March

Preparation for the Family Fun Day / A Taste of France event.

Chair: Chris Don

Welcome: Tania & Hein

Sergeant: Hein

A letter from Timor Leste

I wanted to share this letter (as received) from Leo, the coordinator on the ground in Baguia who is helping with our Rotary Consortium project.

We may wonder if our projects actually make a difference. This letter was written to the WA Rotary team who was working there when Henry and I visited in October 2018, and also when Rod and John Walmsley were in Timor in May of 2018.

Dear Max, Ted and Tom and Mike and all the Rotarians who support Baguia for water supply from Odelale spring to Baguia town.

With my humble, on behalf of Baguia community specifically who are benefit from the water supply would like to thank you for all your hard work and big support to us in Baguia during dry season.

You are who knows better what community need. You understand our life and our difficulties. You are very supportive and give us water when there is no water.

This water supply is an extraordinary support. You support the future of our nation, schools and orphanage are the most needed. You also support the institutions and you rise more number of visitors at the Fort accommodation by putting water tanks and water running easily into accommodation.

You already assist the women who carry water everyday for accommodation. And a lot of people

from Nahae, Buibela until Larisula you helped they feel and they can see you share God's love with them.

We who leave around Baguia town, Our life during dry season last year feel a little bit comfortable because we have enough water for cooking and drinking. We have time table to run the water for community. Each day two hours water running for community. I will attach some photos.

Celestino was the controller. The community are feeling very safe and enough for drinking and cooking. I hope you will help the other community outside Baguia for water supply.

Love Leo



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