

Presidents Report

I'm sure that every member has been inundated with emails, feedback or links to the International Convention held in Sydney last week but in case you've been off trekking through Outer Mongolia with a flat battery in your iPad or laptop, the following has been reproduced from the RI website.

Rotary International's 105th convention kicked off in a big way as 340 members and friends of Rotary climbed the bridge to raise money and awareness about the organization's campaign to eradicate polio.

The record-breaking climb across the Sydney Harbour Bridge raised enough money to protect 240,000 kids from polio. The 340 participants ascended the bridge eclipsing the record previously held by Oprah Winfrey for most climbers on the bridge.



Waving 278 flags, they also broke the Guinness World Record for most flags flown on a bridge.

Then it was announced that the World's Biggest Commercial,



Rotary's public awareness campaign for polio eradication, set a Guinness World Record for largest photo awareness campaign. More than 100,000 people from 170 countries have uploaded their

photos, including Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Bill Gates, Archie Panjabi, Jackie Chan, and many more. (You can view the three and a half minute commercial by clicking on <http://thisclose.endpolio.org/en/video/current>)

But the biggest news was the \$101 million pledged to polio eradication. Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott opened the convention on 1 June with a commitment from his government of \$100 million to the PolioPlus campaign.

As Rotary members from around the world filed into All-phones Arena for the opening ceremony of the 2014 International Convention in Sydney, they were greeted by news that the Australian government will commit \$100 million over five years to help eradicate polio.

Next Meeting

THURSDAY 12 JUNE

SPEAKER: FELICITY HUTCHISON

TOPIC: EASY STEPS TO TRAVELLING

CHAIR: MARY SEALY

AV: EVERY

CASH DESK: MIKE HEDE & GEOFF STOCKDALE

HOST: CHARMAINE JANSZ

THURSDAY 19 JUNE

SPEAKER: PE KEN MIRAMS

TOPIC: ABOUT OUR PRESIDENT ELECT

CHAIR: TONY MCKENNA

AV: CHRIS D'ARCY

CASH DESK: MIKE HEDE & GEOFF STOCKDALE

HOST: CHARMAINE JANSZ

THURSDAY

26 JUNE

CHANGEOVER NIGHT

VICTORIA GOLF CLUB

6.30 FOR 7.00

Unless stated otherwise venue is Victoria Golf Club
6.30 for 7.00

SERGEANT'S HOMEWORK TOPIC;

TASMANIA

Contents

- 1 Presidents Report
- 2 Notices
- 3- Tibetan Village Project Update
- 4 Club Structure / Picture of Week

Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott and New South Wales Premier Mike Baird were on hand to address the convention and assure Rotary members of Australia's commitment to their cause. Abbott has been at the center of attacks in recent days for his proposed federal budget, but he walked out to a standing ovation. "I don't normally get such an enthusiastic welcome," he quipped after the audience returned to their seats. "I just hope there are plenty of Australians out there."

"Please do not applaud the Australian government for what it does," Abbott added. "Applaud yourselves for what you do."

Other keynote speakers at the Convention included Gemma Sisia, founder of the School of St. Jude in Tanzania, sharing her ideas for fighting poverty through education and Brett Lee, Australian cricket star and founder of Mewsic, a foundation supporting music centers for disadvantaged children in India.

The last fellowship night of this Rotary year was well organised by Judi Hall and was a very relaxing evening enjoyed by 38 members and partners in a pleasant restaurant on Beach Road. The staffs at Il Lido were very attentive; the food was excellent and good value for money.

The Leadership Committee at the Beaumaris Campus have agreed to support the Farmers market with minor fine tuning to some details. The next step is for the School Council to agree at their meeting sometime this month.

Wednesday night is the changeover Board Meeting and the handover of some portfolios to incoming Directors and speaking of changeovers; the attendance for the 26th June at the moment stands at 93 with the possibility of some late acceptances.

On Thursday night the speaker is Felicity Hutchison, The Travel Guru, an acclaimed speaker and travel advisor, who has apparently travelled over one million kilometres and visited more than 30 countries. Should be a good fun night.

See you there,

Robert

More Snippets from the RI Convention

If progress is measured in numbers, Rotary has entered rarefied air in the fight against polio. Eighty percent of the world is now certified polio free, and two of the three strains of the disease have been eradicated, according to [Dr. Bruce Aylward](#), who heads the polio eradication program at the World Health Organization.

Still, major challenges remain, including the [international spread](#) of the disease, the insecurity in endemic countries, and geopolitical tensions. In May WHO declared polio a public health emergency, asking the world to step up its vaccination efforts for international travelers.

"The world has decided it will do everything possible to protect the progress of PolioPlus," said Aylward, who traveled from Switzerland to Australia to deliver Monday's keynote address. In Somalia, for example, hundreds of sites have been set up to vaccinate anyone attempting to enter or travel outside the country. Six months after setting up those sites, not one child had been reported polio stricken, Aylward added.

Polio was far from the only topic of discussion. [Mwila Chigaga](#), a former peace fellow from the Rotary Peace Center at Duke University and now a gender specialist for African Regions at the International Labour Organization, is striving for decent work and equal opportunities between women and men in Africa.

"Social justice, equality, fairness, and equal rights for women have been and will continue to be my lifelong passion," she said. "It defines me and what I aspire for." Though significant obstacles remain, Chigaga said she believes Africa is rising and "the mentality of the African has changed."

"I am no longer an invisible woman," she added. "I have a voice."

Maya Ajmera, a 1989 Rotary Scholar, accepted the Global Alumni Service to Humanity Award and spoke about the [Global Fund for Children](#), a literacy non-profit she founded in 1993.

Note; As part of our arrangement with Hocking Stuart discounts on agents fees are available to RCOB members.

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32 East Concourse
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Tibetan Village Project Update

Extract from RC of Brighton North Annual Report Submission by Don Cullen

During the past 12 months, we have twice travelled to our projects in eastern and central Tibet. We are continuing our work with Tagong Orphanage. We sponsor teachers and a cook, as well as providing school and sporting supplies. Clothing and bedding are also provided as required.

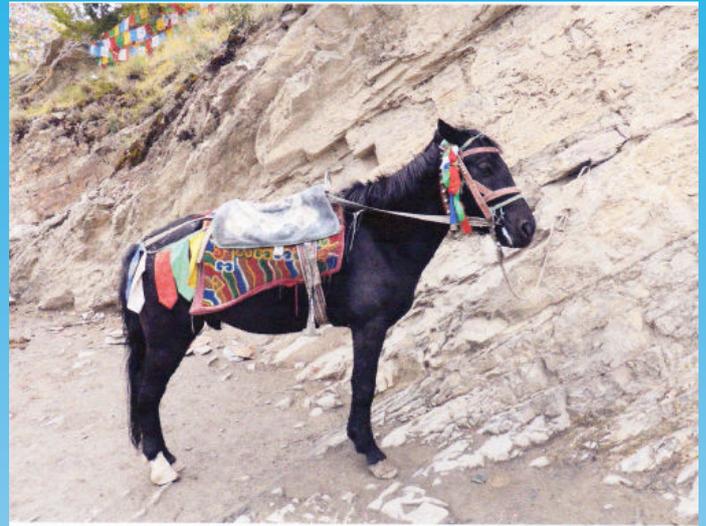
We have just provided another teacher to teach Chinese, which is a necessity in this part of the world. Plans are being drawn up for a much needed extensions to the cook house.

Suhurong Medical Clinic has outgrown its effectiveness and plans are now drawn up to build a new larger clinic. We provide medical supplies and pay a stipend to Dr Drolmo. The new clinic will be a two storey complex.

Our school that we opened just over 12 months ago, now boasts over 90 students, well on the way to our projected 300 over the next two years. The children are all borders and TVPA provide teachers, cook, school supplies, bedding, clothing and food. The children come from surrounding valleys and mostly are from nomadic families who cannot afford to pay for education for their children.

Our two larger Medical Clinics just outside Lhasa in central Tibet are going exceptionally well. Both Dr Ugyen and Dr Rinchen have a huge following among a number of villages, plus they are well known for their work among the poor and the infirm. We provide stipends to both, plus medical supplies, rent assistance and basic running costs.

The Little Horse Project, just outside Lhasa, is going well, though we are constantly reviewing this project in order to maintain its effectiveness. Because nothing like this program has ever been done before, we have to continually reinforce the concept to get the message across. The Tibetans have problems grasping the concept as it seems too good to be true, i.e., giving horses away to the poor. We are slowly getting the idea across!!



Finally, on our travels in April / May this year, we come across a very run down monastery, high up in the mountains. It is called GOWA Monastery and we found some 80 boys trying to study with one teacher. Their condition was very poor due to lack of food and general conditions. We could not believe just how bad things were, keep in mind this is really off the beaten track.

So, we immediately organised for food supplies from the next town, plus, blankets and other goods. All of this was provided by RCBN with their donation of \$2500 (This was split between GOWA and Dr Drolmo of our clinic at Suhurong.). We decided to also provide a couple of teachers to teach the boys properly. It has been added to our programs and we will continue to support them in the future.



CLUB STRUCTURE 2013 - 2014		UPDATED 18/03/2014	
		CLUB SERVICE	
President	Bob McArthur	Director	Ken Mirams
PE, VP	Ken Mirams	Auditor	Tony Phillips
Secretary	Roy Seager	Program	Greg Every
Treasurer	Malcolm Sawle	Meeting Attendance	Ken Mirams
Foundation	Martin Fothergill	Communications	David Lea
Membership & Marketing	Trish Smyth	Fellowship	Judi Hall
International	Fred Hofmann	Sergeant	David Hone
Youth Service	Rob Fenton	Photographer	Greg Every, John Beaty
Community	Chris D'Arcy	Almoner	Antony Nixon
Fundraising	Adrian Culshaw	Hosts & Cashiers	Roster
On to Conference	John Manks	Youth Protection Officer	Malcolm Parks
		New Visions	David Greenall
TEAM MEMBERS			
International	Community	Youth Service	Fundraising
Harry Wolfe	Geoff Abbott	Kerrie Geard	John Beaty
David Langworthy	Richard Shermon	Chris Martin	Heather Chisholm
Geoff Stockdale	Geoff Stringer	Mary Sealy	Roger Frewen
Ross Phillips	Tony Phillips		Megan Glenwright
Malcolm Parks	David Greenall	Golf	Mike Hede
Tony McKenna	John Sime	Jim O'Brien	David Rushworth
		Roy Seager	Charmaine Jansz
		James Glenwright	Antony Nixon
			Susan De Bolfo
	Membership and Marketing		
	Peter Flude		
	Richard Jones		

Dive Sight

Photograph by Matt Lasky, National Geographic

"I was diving off a live-aboard dive boat named Febrina in the Vitu Islands in West New Britain, Papua New Guinea,"
 "We found this friendly turtle at about 22 metres that was happily swimming around the divers, checking us out.

There was a large school of jacks closer to the surface, and I was fortunate enough to be below the turtle and see the jacks swimming in the opposite direction."

