

The Brunswick Rotary Club Inc.
PO Box 152 Brunswick VIC 3056

THE BULLETIN Vol 53 No. 5
7th August, 2005



SERVICE Above Self

FIRST UP

After the birthday celebrations of last week, the meeting this week was a little more low key, but this will be short-lived as we look forward to next week. Don't forget that we will be celebrating again this week (see below) and the Board meeting is this week (details below).

GUEST SPEAKER

Iain Finley - AFL Advocate

Iain presented a very entertaining account of the past and present operations of the tribunal system.

Not all people involved in the Tribunal hearings viewed the main purpose as being to ascertain the truth of charges made. I also got the very unfortunate impression that Iain did not look very favorably on members of the **Black & White Army.** (*Can't blame the man for good taste Terry!*)

One of the numerous stories that Iain told was about the player who was fined \$1,500 for shaking the goal post when one of his own team members were aiming for goal. I believe that he was very disappointed that he had to miss his monthly Mensa meeting to attend the hearing.

Thank you to Greg for arranging a very enjoyable guest speaker.

BEING PRESIDENT IS A HARD JOB

Poor old Doug was getting enthusiastic because attendances have been increasing but, unfortunately, this week we had only 13 members plus 2 visitors to hear an excellent guest speaker provided by Greg Suell.

We can expect a renaissance in future weeks because we will shortly be having 3 new young members joining us and I am sure that the attendances of older members will improve.

DANCE INTO SPRING

Mal gave another commercial and introduced the brochures for this most important event for the early afternoon of Friday September 2nd. Please keep yourself available that day and assist the organisers in any matter requested.

THE SERGEANT

The Sergeant was trying his hardest to justify fines to the sub-editor, but fortunately some others made their way into the firing line. Congratulations on a job well done Sergeant O'Meara, although I think Jammo wants you to pick on someone else next week!

THE MEGA RAFFLE

Greg reminded us to start thinking of avenues for sales in the MEGA RAFFLE. With only 200 tickets to sell if we have a positive attitude, I'm sure we will get there. If anybody has ideas they need help with, let Adam or Greg know and we might have a Raffle mini-meeting.

COMING EVENTS

Tuesday 9th August – Board Meeting – Brunswick Industries 3 Syme Street 5.30pm

Thursday 11th August - Guest Speaker - Gary O'Donnell - It is a real coo for Greg to arrange Gary as a guest speaker (not for the first time). Members are all exhorted to be polite and to refrain

from mentioning September 1990 to Gary. (Yes I know that I am living in the past but it is much better than the present).

Some special matters to be dealt with before the normal meeting proceeds:

Three new member inductions. Make sure WE ARE ALL there to welcome them to our great club!

Special General Meeting to pass new By laws and constitution.

ANYTHING FOR THE BULLETIN? Email adam@mbrgroup.com.au or miss out

Indian Rotarians assist survivors of disastrous monsoon rains

Rotarians have joined relief workers in Maharashtra, India, to assist the victims of flooding and landslides caused by torrential monsoon rains, the heaviest on record. Close to 1,000 people in the state are feared dead after more than a week of intermittent rainfall that has disrupted cleanup efforts.

Up to 20 million people, most of them residents of India's financial capital, Mumbai (formerly Bombay), have been affected by the disastrous downpour. The city received 940 millimeters (37 inches) of rain on 24 July, the first day of the rainfall.

"I have never seen anything like this in the 58 years I've lived here," says Shyam Rupani, president of the Rotary Club of Bombay Bandra. Like many other Rotarians from the city's 70 Rotary clubs, Rupani is doing double-duty taking care of the immediate needs of family members and extending a helping hand to survivors in even more dire straits.

"We are taking care of many people who have lost everything, including their homes," says Rupani. "But it is not easy. Communication is still difficult. Cellular phone service was restored only three days ago. Up to now, it [has been] hard to get through on land lines."

Many people in Rotary International districts 3130 and 3140 are in immediate need of food and other emergency relief items. Area residents have lost 10,000 homes, as well as 15,000 livestock and more than 200,000 acres of crops. Maharashtra revenue department officials estimate that the state has suffered US\$3.4 billion worth of damage to infrastructure and property.

Other affected cities include Pune, Raigad, Ratnagiri, and Thane. Deepak Shikarpur, president of the Rotary Club of Pune-Shivajinagar, reports that the members of his club distributed food to hundreds of train passengers who were stranded in the city when the rails were washed away.

"We assisted over 500 passengers," says Shikarpur. "They really appreciated the timely help from our side."

Since the crisis is far from over, he explains, the Pune-Shivajinagar club is undertaking several projects, including offering home hospitality to Rotarians from worse-affected areas; distributing clothes, food, and medicines; and providing educational assistance to children orphaned by the disaster.

Rotarians in District 3130 have distributed relief items that were either donated or purchased from local markets, utilizing funds from an already existing district welfare relief fund. The items include three truckloads of food, 1,000 donated blankets, and medicine and medical supplies. More details about their efforts, including contact information of relief coordinators, are available on the club and district relief pages on the RI Web site.