

The Brunswick Rotary Club Inc.  
PO Box 152 Brunswick VIC 3056  
Charter No. 906 District 9800  
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**SERVICE Above Self**

### **NO MEETING THIS THURSDAY!**

As previously advised, we will be sharing a Combined Club Meeting at Abruzzo with our brethren from adjoining Clubs. Meet at 6.30PM for a 7PM start.

Ron, don't blame me after you turn up alone on Thursday.

We are looking forward to a good attendance as enthusiasm is really kicking up with 23 members plus 2 guests present today.

### **CONFERENCE TRIP**

Lauri presented a detailed itinerary for travel to and attendance at the Conference between March 27th and April 2nd involving some hotels, walks and hitting the slops at high quality restaurants. Unfortunately, there is just one little problem.

#### ***WE DON'T GOT ENOUGH PEOPLE!***

If you can find the time and see great value in this proposed trip, please call Lauri immediately because it looks like being cancelled.

### **BOARD MEETING NEWS**

Dean Kennedy is jumping right into taking responsibility and is assuming control of our website. As he explained in some detail what can be done, ignorant people like Barry Cross, Peter Johnstone (and me), wondered what he was taking about. Peter Johnstone and Reg Geary are going for a trial of an amplification system which can be used in conjunction with the hearing aids of members. If successful, we will purchase it.

### **GUEST SPEAKERS**

Previous RYLA attendee, Claire Ormerod and our next attendee Tom Curtis spoke to us.

Claire spoke very enthusiastically about her experience and about the work of RYLA in general. It provides Leadership training for young people aged between 18 and 25, (excuse the tautology), and she said that it is not necessarily always targeted at those whom we would consider to be the obvious prospective leaders. The purpose of the program is to encourage young people to make a difference in their communities and to gain confidence in facing challenges.

Tom is a marketing student at university who is enthusiastically looking forward to the programme.

Claire is a great advertisement for either RYLA or the selection process.

## **RAFFLE**

Lauri Pentilla had his third win and other winners were Graeme Douglas, Kate Hardwick and Doug Walsh.

## **ROTARY FOUNDATION THOUGHT** (with thanks to RC of Melbourne Bulletin)

The mission of The Rotary Foundation is to support the efforts of Rotary International in the fulfilment of the Object of Rotary, Rotary's mission, and the achievement of world understanding and peace through local, national, and international humanitarian, educational, and cultural programs. In fulfilment of its mission in 2003-04, The Rotary Foundation spent \$114.1 million on:

\$41.6 million on Polio Plus; Since Rotary began its PolioPlus program, the number of polio endemic countries has declined from over 125 in 1985 to 6 at the end of 2003

\$36.7 million on Humanitarian Grants; Life-saving, sustainable projects that are bringing clean water to people in places around the world, preventing the spread of disease; supporting micro enterprise projects that help people escape a life of poverty; giving more people access to health care; and enabling people to read and write who never before had an opportunity to learn.

\$35.8 million on Educational Programs; Ambassadorial Scholarships, Group Study Exchange and Rotary World Peace Scholarships... all Life-changing programs that are helping to build a firmer basis for achieving greater world understanding and peace.

## **The DISTRICT 9800 ROTARY FOUNDATION SEMINAR *An absolute must for all new Rotarians.***

The District Foundation Information Seminar will be held at International House, 241 Royal Parade Parkville on Friday evening, 4th November at 6-00 for 6-30 pm, finishing at 9-00 pm. Light refreshments will be served before the program.

The Seminar will be focused on Club activities and we encourage Presidents, Presidents Elect, Foundation and International directors and committee, and especially newer and interested Rotarians to come and learn of the capabilities and programs of YOUR Foundation.

The program will include the following topics:

"What is Rotary to you" PDG Ann White

"The Rotary Foundation demystified, how it operates and what it does in this world" PDG and Zone Coordinator John Reddish

"How your Club or Cluster may develop a Matching Grant" PDG Jeffery Bird

"The Annual Program Fund, how it operates" PDG Ian Knight

"The World Peace Fellowship Program" Peace Fellow Tania Miletic and Lots Lot's more,

RSVP PDG Don Jago Ph 98194277 Fax 98191839 [foundation@rotaryd9800.org](mailto:foundation@rotaryd9800.org)

## ***POLIO ERADICATION UPDATES***

**These articles have been sourced from the RI website.**

### **20 September 2005**

The Global Polio Eradication Initiative has announced a plan to carry out a series of massive immunizations across eastern Africa between September and October to stop the spread of polio back into countries that have been rid of the disease.

Targeting more than 34 million children in eight countries, the rapid immunization program was prompted by the confirmation of a case of polio in a 17-month-old baby in Somalia in late July. The country was on track to being certified polio-free after three years of reporting no new cases.

Although reduced to anarchy by infighting warlords since 1991, Somalia presented an extraordinary polio eradication success story because the poliovirus was eliminated there without the administrative resources and oversight of a central government. But the absence of a central authority may have made a polio comeback more likely.

"In a country like Somalia, access makes it much more challenging," Oliver Rosenbauer, a World Health Organization spokesman, told the Associated Press. "Insecurity, population movements, low vaccination coverage - all that increases the risk."

Bruce Aylward, coordinator of WHO's global polio eradication program, told the news agency, "This series of campaigns in the Horn of Africa are going to be even more urgent than originally expected."

The organizations spearheading the Global Polio Eradication Initiative explained in a 13 September press release that the accelerated immunization plan was finalized amid growing concern that outbreaks in neighboring Ethiopia and Yemen, from across the Red Sea, could spread to Somalia.

According to the release, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and other donors, including the European Union, are the major contributors of funding for the forthcoming immunizations.

"The polio eradication initiative has shown the world that even in the poorest countries, widespread and debilitating disease can be defeated," said Patty Stonesifer, the Gates Foundation's cochair and president. "Today, as a resurgence of polio threatens to roll back the amazing progress of the past 20 years, it is more important than ever that governments and donors support the final push to eradicate polio."

Rotary International provides ongoing support for polio immunization activities in Eastern Africa and Yemen.

The Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, and Sudan, as well as Yemen, will be covered in the campaigns.

### **23 September 2005**

Close to 24 million children in Indonesia received the oral polio vaccine during National Immunization Days held 30-31 August. To ensure that all targeted children were reached, more than 750,000 health workers and volunteers went door-to-door or staffed strategically located vaccination booths across the nation's 6,000 inhabited islands.

"[More than] 2,000 Rotarians participated in the NIDs in 15 out of 32 provinces," says Ritje Rihatinah, chair of Indonesia's National PolioPlus Committee. Rihatinah is also the immediate

past governor of RI District 3400, which comprises Indonesia's 102 Rotary clubs. "Each club monitored and supervised 20 immunization posts and provided T-shirts for volunteers and Rotary members, and balloons for the children. They also did social mobilization and participated in independent monitoring, designed by WHO (World Health Organization)."

The mass campaign, the largest conducted on Indonesian soil, was aimed at countering a polio outbreak after a 20-month-old child in West Java province contracted the disease in March 2005. The virus, which has since spread to several other provinces, including Banten, Central Java, Jakarta, Lampung, and West Java, struck Indonesia after 10 years of reporting no cases of polio.

Rotarians from Hong Kong, Malaysia, Singapore, and Thailand joined their Indonesian neighbors to help defeat the poliovirus to ensure it would not spread to the entire region.

Genetic sequencing at a WHO laboratory traced the origin of the poliovirus that has reinfected Indonesia back to Nigeria, which was the epicenter of a 2003 outbreak that later spread to 19 other countries in Africa and the Middle East.

Aware of the risk of further poliovirus importations into other polio-free countries in the Asia-Pacific region, the Global Polio Eradication Initiative is supporting accelerated immunization activities in Indonesia with financial contributions and technical expertise.

"As with other infectious diseases, the poliovirus does not respect borders," explains Dr. David Heymann, WHO's representative for polio eradication. "The government of Indonesia has assured the polio partners that it is fully engaged and committed to stopping this outbreak and to doing everything it can to prevent further international spread of the virus."

Rotary International, a pioneer and leading member of the initiative, contributed US\$250,000 to support emergency immunization efforts in the nation of more than 241 million.

"We are more-than-ever committed to the attainment of a polio-free world," says Frank J. Devlyn, chair of The Rotary Foundation Trustees.

According to Rihatinah, local Rotarians will participate in more social mobilization aimed at improving on the 95 percent rate of coverage in the end-of-August immunizations.

"If we could reach 100 percent of the target, meaning no unimmunized children," says Rihatinah, "we may say that [our] rapid response drastically reduces the chances of the poliovirus spreading into [other] Asian countries."

"Reaching every single child requires a massive communication effort, in highlighting to parents the dangers of the current polio outbreak and of the need to immunize every child," says Alan Court, director of UNICEF's supply division. "This is our best chance to protect Indonesia's children, safeguard vulnerable children across the region, and keep a polio-free world within our sight."

Despite the reinfection of several polio-free countries, the wild poliovirus is endemic in only six African and South Asian nations: Egypt, Niger, and Nigeria and Afghanistan, India, and Pakistan.

### **12 October 2005**

South Asia's three polio-endemic countries held polio immunization campaigns aimed at reaching tens of millions of children in September.

In Afghanistan, seven million were targeted during nationwide immunizations in the first week of the month. Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz of neighboring Pakistan launched the latest round of National Immunization Days on 27 September. On 25 September, India launched intensive Subnational Immunization Days in high-risk areas.

In all three countries, especially India, government officials and representatives of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative are optimistic that they are close to halting the spread of the poliovirus.

"We are faced with the best case ever for the interruption of polio in India," says Deepak Kapur, chair of the India National PolioPlus Committee. "From what we can tell, India could be free of polio by the end of this year."

Kapur says that the oral polio vaccine was administered to children first at centrally located centers and then house-to-house in the least accessible neighborhoods.

"The main target was to reach 100 percent of the children in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh," he says.

Bihar and Uttar Pradesh states carry the bulk of polio cases reported so far this year, with 12 and 18 children, respectively, infected. Only three cases have occurred elsewhere: Delhi, Jharkand, and Uttaranchal.

"But even this is an artificial [description]," says Kapur. "Delhi is right next door to Uttar Pradesh, and before they were created into new states, Uttaranchal and Jharkhand were part of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. People are related across state borders and they move freely. So, in reality, polio now occurs in only two clusters. That becomes clear when you look at a polio surveillance map."

In Uttar Pradesh, the polio cases are mostly confined to five administrative districts, Kapur explains.

That would be thanks to a heightened awareness of the stakes among governments of infected states and a redirection of resources where they are most needed. For example, in the most recent subnational campaigns, state officials and civil servants were closely involved with mobilization and immunization activities, alongside religious and civic leaders.

"We [the India National PolioPlus Committee] are putting 90 percent of our resources toward polio immunization activities in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh," say Kapur. "One big initiative is to have polio mobilizers - essentially volunteers, both Rotarians and others - go into communities where there is still significant resistance to immunization."

Fortunately, the nature of resistance to polio has been changing, according to Kapur. For a long time, many parents who opposed having their children immunized were reacting mostly to fears created by rumors that the oral polio vaccine would cause sterility.

"Now, the resistance is from repeated immunizations," he explains. "It is more passive. Now, [reluctant parents] would say: 'No, our kids have already received several rounds of the vaccine. Why are you giving them more drops?'"

According to Kapur, in the past, resistant parents were simply ignorant of the benefits of polio immunization. If parents understand that the vaccine isn't harmful, he says, then it's easier to persuade them to bring a child for follow-up drops of the oral polio vaccine.

"But delivery [of vaccine] is still a big problem, especially in Bihar, which is a poor state," says Kapur. "Still, where we have reached, surveillance medical officers are confident that we have achieved near-universal, considerable coverage. Only about 6 percent of children are not yet reached during immunizations."

## ROTARY INTERNATIONAL



11 October 2005

To 2005-06 District Governors

Dear District Governors:

We are deeply saddened to learn of the recent earthquake that hit Pakistan, Afghanistan and India, and of the floods and mudslides in Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico and Nicaragua caused by Hurricane Stan. We are touched by the commitment of Rotarians to assisting the communities affected by this disaster. To learn of these catastrophes that have taken the lives of more than 30,000 people is devastating.

We are writing to you to provide you with information on how you may work through Rotary to make a contribution toward alleviating this major humanitarian crisis. Although Rotary International does not have a fund to provide immediate relief to individuals in times of disaster, RI's International Service section provides information resources regarding club and district disaster relief efforts on the RI Web site ([www.rotary.org/programs/wcs/disaster/reliefforts.html](http://www.rotary.org/programs/wcs/disaster/reliefforts.html)). Rotarians wishing to contribute funds and/or donated goods to disaster victims may visit the Web site for opportunities to work with clubs in the affected areas. Please note that contributions to these relief efforts do not qualify for Rotary Foundation recognition.

As always, we encourage you to work with organizations such as UNICEF and the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to meet the immediate needs of victims affected by the earthquake.

While an immediate response is necessary at this time, we encourage you to begin thinking of long-term assistance projects. Please visit the RI Programs Web pages on the RI Web site ([www.rotary.org/programs/wcs](http://www.rotary.org/programs/wcs)) for information on the World Community Service Projects Exchange and The Rotary Foundation Web pages ([www.rotary.org/foundation/grants](http://www.rotary.org/foundation/grants)) for information on Humanitarian Grants.

It is our hope that with your rapid response to this appeal, you will be able to help thousands of innocent people impacted by this crisis rebuild their lives. Thank you for your commitment to helping those in need and in demonstrating "Service Above Self."

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Carl-Wilhelm Stenhammar in black ink.

Carl-Wilhelm Stenhammar  
RI President

Handwritten signature of Frank Devlyn in black ink.

Frank Devlyn, Trustee Chairman  
The Rotary Foundation

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