

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

### **DOWN BUT NOT OUT**

As reported last week, Lauri Penttila is booked into hospital soon for a knee replacement.

The urgency of this operation has been superseded within the last week by a rush to Royal Melbourne Hospital for open heart surgery.

Keep your spirits up Lauri. We all send you our best wishes and look forward to seeing you again soon.

I am sure that Lauri would like to receive our individual written best wishes and that a few visits would also be welcome if approved by the hospital.

### **ANNIVERSARIES**

Barry Cross celebrated his 18<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in Brunswick Rotary and Michael Leahy has been with us for 16 years.

### **THANK YOU TO DEAN KENNEDY**

In the absence of President Doug and with acting President Barry unable to speak much because of some problems with his teeth, yours truly had to preside and arrived at the meeting place spot on 1pm. I called for a volunteer to be Sergeant and Dean was straight out of the blocks.

### **GUEST SPEAKER**

Len Ralph - "The Bulldog Road"

Len is an old friend of Malcolm Dubock who saw service in Papua New Guinea in 1942/1943.

Len was situated in the Central Highlands in an area not far from a Jap airbase. The Australian authorities were concerned about the need for an emergency escape route should things get too hot and they worked on building a track from the town of Bulldog to safety. Because of the nearby Jap airbase it would have been fatal to try to fly our troops out.

The track was carved through jungle areas populated by some nice friendly people and also head hunters and crocodiles. It was a long and necessary project just wide enough to accommodate a Jeep with a trailer and constructed to minimal standards in order to be built as quickly as possible in case it was needed. Fortunately, Bulldog Road was not needed and very quickly reverted to jungle. If it had been needed, it would probably have become famous like Kokoda.

Len gave a fascinating talk and, in answer to the question as to whether he has ever returned, he said that he would not do so now because the raskols have probably made Papua New Guinea more dangerous today than it was in 1943.

Len donated a couple of books that he has written and they were won as the raffle prize by Sally Garden.

It was great to see one of our newest members (Sally) bring a guest to lunch. She is putting those of us who have not brought a guest to lunch recently to shame. But never fear, you can all redeem yourselves by bringing guests to the changeover. We have done our best to make it a great night, a night that the club can be proud of, and all that it needs to make it a resounding success is for you to bring as many people as possible.

## ***It is now up to you***

Please get your numbers to Adam this week so we can make appropriate arrangements with Moonee Valley.

### **FORTHCOMING AGENDA**

June 29<sup>th</sup> - Our guest speaker will be Barbar Saeed - Rotarian and author from Pakistan. Lets make sure we give a good showing for our international visitor.

July 1<sup>st</sup> - Saturday Night - District Governors Change Over Dinner Dance

July 8<sup>th</sup> - Saturday Night- Change Over at Moonee Valley.

July 13<sup>th</sup> - Rebecca Anderson- Teacher in East Timor

July 26<sup>th</sup> - Wednesday – Combined Meeting with our “Mother Club” – Essendon – to be held at Fredericks Restaurant in Mount Alexander Road Essendon. We will be looking for a show of numbers this week to ensure Essendon can cater for all of us.

## From The Rotary International Convention:

### Literacy the key to breaking cycle of poverty: keynote speaker

By Joseph Derr  
Rotary International News  
Photo by Alyce Henson  
13 June 2006



RI President Carl-Wilhelm Stenhammar presents Sister Ethel Normoyle with a check for \$10,000 to continue her work in South Africa.

Copenhagen, Denmark – After seeing the "ravages of poverty and the paralysis of illiteracy," Sister Ethel Normoyle said that when people can read and write, it helps solve a myriad of interlocking problems. Literacy's benefits can include increasing feelings of self-worth and helping people find work.

Sister Ethel, a Catholic nun and nurse, works in the slums of South Africa in the Missionvale shantytown near Port Elizabeth. In her 12 June keynote address at the Rotary International Convention, she set the tone for discussions about Rotary's role in breaking the cycle that connects poverty, disease, and illiteracy.

"There are so many factors to the human tragedy, but illiteracy in South Africa is the main factor that will most definitely lead to poverty and prevent people from getting out of it," said Sister Ethel. "Literacy is the only ticket out of poverty, as it encompasses all aspects of personal, emotional, social, and economic development," she said.

The Irish-born nun has worked in South Africa since 1972 and since 1988 has focused on the 100,000 people in Missionvale, one of South Africa's most poverty-stricken areas. While working there, Sister Ethel has spent countless hours cleaning children's maggot-filled wounds, comforting the dying, and cupping a candle in a dark shack as children did their homework.

Missionvale suffers from a 90 percent unemployment rate, a soaring incidence of HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases, and lacks sanitation. But with Sister Ethel's tireless work and community support, the Missionvale Care Center has expanded. The clinic she built now treats 170 patients a day.

The Rotary Club of Port Elizabeth West, South Africa, which has been working with Rotary clubs in Missouri, USA, has helped the center grow through a mix of programs. These include providing a powder for a nutritional soup and a Christmas gift drive for children.

Many Rotarians were visibly moved Sister Ethel's speech, which she concluded by lifting up her arms and singing a simple prayer. "Let the children have a world where there is no pain or sorrow," she sang.

Following this, RI President Carl-Wilhelm Stenhammar and his wife, Monica, praised Sister Ethel's tremendous work and presented her with a check from Rotary International for US\$10,000.

After the general session, Rotarians filed into rooms to discuss how they could get involved in literacy.

Many Rotarians said that literacy should be continually emphasized. "If we have this continuity, then we can adapt literacy programs to our own communities' needs and make a difference," said Biodun Odeleye, past governor of District 9130 ( Nigeria).

Bill Benbow, governor of District 9450 (Australia), mentioned that even though they have a local program in Perth, Australia, involving a volunteer tutoring program, he urged clubs take up international literacy projects to help redress the imbalance of literacy in developing nations.

Other topics included the Concentrated Literacy Encounter (CLE) program, computer literacy, dictionary projects, the best way to donate books, problems of adult illiteracy, working with immigrant groups, and more.