



Lauri

It is with great sadness that we advise the passing away of Lauri Penttila. The club observed a moment's silence in honour of Lauri.

It is the good memories of our great friend and wonderful Rotarian that we must remember for ever.

There will be **no meeting next Thursday, August 31st** due to Lauri's funeral.

Lauri's funeral will be held at St John's Anglican church, corner Toorak and Orrong Roads, Toorak, Thursday 31 August 2006 at 2 pm followed by a private cremation with refreshments in the church hall afterwards.

Kieth Frampton and his wife send their condolences to the club.

Max and Reg

Peter reported that Max's operation was a success, although he's very sore.

Eric advised that Reg Geary is struggling at the moment with his health. He misses Rotary, but is trying.

Membership Month

Adam is happy to speak to prospective members that anyone has in mind.

Dance Into Spring

Michael Landry requested some posters for his business and a local dance club. Cheryle, Mal, Mel and Doug are planning a meeting on Friday August 25th to discuss the dance, and make any arrangements.

Pizza Day

Adam has requested a pizza day at Curly Joe's, which will be the first Thursday of each month. Our first will be on Thursday September 7th.



Guest speaker

The beginning of Stav's introduction of today's guest speaker was rather amusing ... Stav told us that as he didn't know a lot about Chris Trueman, so he Googled him!

Chris Trueman is a Charter Member of the Rotary Club of Southbank. Chris took up the challenge of inaugurating the role of RAWCS Liaison Officer in East Timor from December 2002 to May 2003. Chris's wife Helen also went to East Timor to be the Manager of the Ryder Cheshire respite hospital at Tibar 16km west of Dili.

As RAWCS Officer, Chris had to introduce Rotary to the East Timorese. Because RAWCS was a company, the East Timorese first thought they would be ripped off, as they'd previously experienced with other companies.

Since then Chris has worked to develop a major program of assistance to East Timor's vocational education sector – the Xanana Vocational Education Trust – which was launched in July 2005. He is Executive Director of the Trust on a full time volunteer basis. The trust's patrons are His Excellency Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão, President of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste, and The Honourable Sir William Deane AC KBE, Former Governor General of Australia.

Both Chris and his wife Helen received Paul Harris Fellow recognition in 2003 for their work in East Timor and Chris was also honoured with a Sapphire Paul Harris Fellow recognition in 2005 for his ongoing work.

Chris has visited Timor seven times, the most recent visit being this month, and he returned to Melbourne within the last fortnight.

In it's first year, the Xanana Trust raised around \$200,000, and it has the support of high level Australian educators.

Whilst in East Timor he visited Bon Bosco Agricultural School at Fuiloro. Chris tells us that the Don Bosco people are very practical, and terrific people, who "get the job done." Chris was well received, which he believes is because he has money! He was well looked after in the hot climate full of good drinkers!

The Don Bosco school aims to develop skills of its students, to allow them to do agricultural work, rather than simply providing a certificate. The school is attended by senior students, whose ages are 17 to 20. The students work with local farmers, and families of the students to develop competencies in planning crops, planting and harvesting. The students also learn safe equipment use, bookkeeping and marketing.

The school uses its tractors to plough for thousands of families. As we heard from Rebecca Andersen a few weeks ago, only one of the six tractors is operational, with the others needing replacement parts. Hence funds need to be raised to help repair at least one of the tractors, in order for fields to be ploughed, and the region to have its own food supply.

While this type of project is not within the trust deed of the Xanana trust, due to it not being an educational project, the trust is looking at getting someone on the ground to assist with getting the tractors up and running. The trust is giving \$10,000 US for small tractors, to help effectively educate students.

The school needs \$8320 US to repair one tractor. After receiving funds, the school is able to supply a report on how the funds have assisted.

Weekly Program

August 31 st	Thursday	No meeting – funeral for Lauri Penttila
September 7 th	Thursday lunchtime	Ryan Diehl – Ambassadorial Scholar
September 14 th	Thursday lunchtime	TBA