



## Tractors in Timor

Adam emailed South Gippsland clubs, as Rebecca Andersen is from that neck of the woods. The Echuca/Moama club is interested in helping, particularly with parts and contacts for parts. They have previously run programs in the region.

Thanks for Peter Johnstone for looking for a second hand tractor. And thanks to Mick Leahy for offering his Tonka truck!

## Plaque

Pat Sharpe has advised she will return a plaque for District Youth Services from 1995.

Thanks to Mick Leahy for picking up Pat Sharpe and to Barry Cross for picking up Will Moulding, and taking them to and from Lauri's funeral.

## Dance Into Spring

- We currently have 102 attendees, plus members.
- Stavros to organise alcohol.
- Mel has organised a hamper and a night at The Sebel Melbourne with breakfast for two as raffle prizes.
- As per the last dance, members will eat in the outside area.
- Some meals may need to be taken to certain guests.
- Setup will commence at 4.30.
- Mel and Adam to help packing up
- Sponsors for tables are still required

## Guest speaker

Today Ryan Diehl, Ambassadorial Scholar spoke to us about his home town and experiences with Rotary and the Ambassadorial Scholar program.

Ryan is from Kansas, currently studying for a Graduate Diploma in Cultural Studies. Terry felt the need to heckle Ryan about Eisenhower, who was from Kansas ... thanks Terry!

Ryan said he has heard reference to the Wizard of Oz every day he's been in Australia! Kansas experiences a lot of tornadoes – despite this, Ryan has never seen one. However, there was a tornado 3 hours after he was born! Ryan was born in a place just like Smallville, in a town which boasts the largest ball of twine (although this would be disputed by another town, whose name I didn't make a note of!)



Ryan mentioned an interesting little piece of trivia – in 1881 legislation was passed regarding the pronunciation of Arkansas ... I can't remember why this came up, but it's interesting! And back to Kansas ... it experiences extremes in weather, including snow and ice, to summer days in the 40 degrees. In 1912 Kansas apparently lead the way in granting women's suffrage (although this was 24 years after Kansas gave women the right to vote and run in council elections, with the first female mayor being elected in 1887. Also, our fair state granted it in 1908, and Australia in 1902!), while other states granted it in 1920. Kansas was the first state to end segregation and introduce worker's compensation (I think ... I should have typed this bulletin up sooner!). Kansas is the leading state in wheat, and number 2 in beef cattle.

The nearest school to where Ryan was born was nearly 6000 kilometres away, and university 25km away. The population of Melbourne is larger than that of Kansas.

The Ambassadorial Scholarship aims to build cultural bridges. It is a large privately funded scholarship, with 800 to 1000 scholars. A long application and interview process is undertaken to become an Ambassadorial Scholar. Ryan commenced working with Rotary when he was selected in high school for RYLA. The RYLA program in the US is for 15-16 year olds, who go on a 2 day camp, while the program in Australia is for 18 to 24 year olds, who go on camp for 1 week! Ambassadorial Scholars assist Rotary clubs with various projects, and Ryan has offered to help with our Dance. Ryan's host counsellor is from the Rotary Club of South Melbourne.

Ryan met his first kangaroo when he was jogging on a trail in a state forest ... he came to the top of a hill at the same time the kangaroo reached it from the other direction. They both jumped back, and then the kangaroo hopped away! Ryan has also found that kangaroo steaks are good!

Ryan has found it easier to learn which side of the road to drive on by riding his bike. He's found Aussies have different expressions and abbreviations like "uni." He's been told to barrack for Essendon, and says the expressions:

"No worries"  
"Can't be bothered"  
"Fair enough"

many of which come from his Aussie flat mate, are most interesting! Although, he finds his flat mate uses "fair enough" for situations where it doesn't really make sense!

While in London, Ryan went on the Jack the Ripper Walk. This prompted Ryan to organise a "ghost walk" at his uni, which became much more popular than he expected.

## Weekly Program

September 14 <sup>th</sup>	Thursday lunchtime	TBA
September 21 <sup>st</sup>	Thursday lunchtime	Rev Dr Peter Hollingworth – will discuss the PACE project
September 28 <sup>th</sup>	Thursday lunchtime	Grand final lunch
October 5 <sup>th</sup>	Thursday lunchtime	District Governor Bernie Walshe's visit