



News from around the Club

Change Over Night

Change over night is coming, on **Friday July 6th**, at Toscana Social Club in Victoria Street, Brunswick, **from 7pm**. Invitations are now available!

Guest Speaker

Our guest speaker today was Sister Roseanne Murphy from St Mary's House of Welcome in Fitzroy.

The centre had its beginnings in St. Vincent's Hall in Nicholson Street, Fitzroy. In 1958 a public appeal raised £9000, allowing them to buy the house in Brunswick Street Fitzroy. The centre sees around 250 to 300 people per day. They're open for 6 days but are funded for 5 days, so Sister Murphy commences the year \$60,000 in debt.

The Brunswick Street building contains a lot of wasted space, and they are trying to organise moving out so the building can be refurbished. The façade and bluestone of the building will be kept, due to their heritage listing, along with a very small portion of the roof! Funds are being raised for the refurbishment, and Sister Murphy is seeking our help with possibly funding a small part of the House.

When she spoke to us, Sister Murphy had seen more incidents of violence in the week than she had for the last 3 months. 80% of visitors have mental health issues, and 60% of visitors have dual diagnosis (ie mental health issues and substance abuse issues). 16-20% of visitors sleep out per day, and 40% are homeless. Being homeless means they don't have their own address for 8 months or more, and sleeping out is where they sleep outdoors. The Sister said the House is the most violent area she's worked in.

Sister Murphy talked about the cost of a bed, linen and wardrobe in 2001 being \$49, while it's now \$100, however pensions have not risen, leaving those on a pension with very little after they pay rent, etc. Many of the people the House sees don't have literacy skills, meaning they are unable to get trade certificates, despite being good at a trade, and therefore can't be insured for work sites.

Given how hard the area is to work in, social workers tend to suffer burnout after 6 months. Staff at St Mary's are very good at supporting one another.

Recently the Choir of Hard Knocks concert was held at Melbourne Town Hall, with some of the performers coming from St Mary's. The people involved in the program really appreciated it -- it made them feel good, and part of something special.



Joke of the Week

Courtesy of Mick Leahy

A man was leaving a café with his morning coffee when he noticed a most unusual funeral procession approaching the nearby cemetery.

A long black hearse was followed by a second long black hearse about 50 feet behind the first. Behind the second hearse was a solitary man walking a pit-bull on a leash. And behind him was a line of 200 men walking in single file.

The man couldn't stand the curiosity. He respectfully approached the man walking the dog.

"I am so sorry for your loss, and I know now is a bad time to disturb you, but I've never seen a funeral like this with so many of you walking in single file. Whose funeral is it?"

The man replied, "Well, the first hearse is for my wife."

"What happened to her?"

The man replied, "My dog attacked and killed her."

He inquired further, "Well, who is in the second hearse?"

The man answered, "My mother-in-law. She was trying to help my wife when the dog turned on her."

A poignant and thoughtful moment of silence passes between the two men.

"Can I borrow the dog?"

"Join the queue."

And another one, for the golfers in the club!



Upcoming Club Program

Wednesday July 11	5.30 pm	Board meeting Grand View Hotel, Pearson St, West Brunswick
Thursday July 12	Lunchtime	TBA
Thursday July 19	Lunchtime	TBA
Thursday July 26	Lunchtime	TBA

News from Elsewhere

Rotary Club of Carlton

Has pleasure in inviting you to attend the Annual Change-over Dinner at

Graduate House, 220 Leicester Street Carlton

Friday 3 August 2007 from 7pm

This is our opportunity to acknowledge the 'Year of Sailor Philip' and welcome 'Artist Phil' who is destined to paint us into 2007-2008.

Entertainment during the evening will feature Jazz and vocal by Louisa Rankin & 'Treacle'

RSVP
27 July 2007
to Victor Sullivan
(v.sullivan@unicol.unimelb.edu.au)

\$65 per person
All inclusive



DG Bernie's Weekly Message

OUR GREATEST TREASURES

As we come to the end of another Rotary year, we usually reflect on the past twelve months and remember the good things that have happened and we also cast our mind back to those that we either didn't do well or did not have time to complete.

It is important to look at the bigger picture and set our priorities for the future as there is little we can do to change the past. The world keeps revolving and there is much to be done to ensure we keep improving the quality of life for all in need.

If these words seem familiar it is because this has been a constant theme during this year of 2006-2007 as we have strived to *Lead The Way* to better understanding and peace throughout the world. As Rotarians, we need to keep our priorities right if we are to become effective in our quest to further the ideals of Rotary service.

Let us all pledge to become Rotarians, not just members of a Rotary Club, and to do that we need to prioritise our efforts. We must remember that Family comes first, our vocation comes next and Rotary slips into third place. Too often, we find members scaling back their involvement or even giving up membership in Rotary because it interfered with family or work matters. We cannot allow this to happen as Rotary was not designed to interfere with your life, but complement and enhance it.

I have again borrowed from something I heard on the occasion of Father's Day in the US that seems very appropriate at this time and I have paraphrased it as follows:

Much of life is made up of things we think we will do one day, of things we postpone, of things we set aside, of things we leave too late. Too many of us wait too long for the cherished times together, for the intimate outings, for the quiet hours in the evenings, for the fuller talking out of problems with the close confidence of an understanding heart. It is not so much the sending, it is not so much the preaching, it is not altogether the providing, but the going with, the doing with, the being with that provides a closer kind of kinship.

Time marches on for each of us, especially, it seems, for parents. The children whom we love with all our hearts are too soon grown and gone. But it is not too late. We can begin today to build a closer relationship with those who are our greatest treasures.

And, if we can build that relationship in our families, Rotary service will be enjoyed and our quest "to do good in the world" will be enhanced and shared through our family network for the betterment of mankind.

Lead The Way by recognising your priorities in life.

Bernie Walshe

District Governor

23 June 2007