



**Last Week's Guest speaker:** Doug Howley from the Rotary Club of Canterbury was kind enough to come along and give us some pearls of wisdom from his experience in doing projects in the Philippines.

The project that Doug spoke about involved the screening for preventable blindness and deafness. It was interesting to hear that a subsidised cataract operation only costs about \$5.00 Australian dollars to cure blindness. One of the same tests that Doug showed us was as simple as holding a letter 'M' on a card and rotating it 90 degrees each time and observing the patients reaction (simple, but effective).

Doug's advice to the club was to go across to the Philippines in October for the best conditions (this advise came a little too late for our team, who are booked in to go in the coming weeks). He also gave a list of valuable information including:

- Mozzies are a problem.
- Deji fever and Malaria are common.
- DON'T DRINK THE WATER.
- Only use ice cubes in your drink if you are in a 5 star hotel and only use them with bottled water.
- Only eat fruit that you can peel (e.g. bananas).
- The shopping is great.

We hope that the team from the Brunswick Rotary Club have a great time.

*(Lucky David E is not going after complaining about food poisoning after our dance into autumn function)*

Coming Events:

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup>: **Meeting** (Guest speaker to be advised)

**Venue:** Either the Sporting Club Hotel or the Bert Numa Room at the Carlton Football Club (*expect an email or phone call early in the week to confirm venue*)



Barry Cross, Peter Johnstone,  
Greg Sewell + Bob Jamieson  
visit former Brunswick Rotarian  
John Lazzaro.



## Media Release from Rotary District 9800

9 May 2008.

For immediate release.

### Rotary To Rush Emergency Shelter To Burmese Cyclone Victims (Alternate:) Rotary ShelterBoxes have begun to arrive in Burma

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With the United Nations estimating over 1 million Burmese people left homeless in the wake of Cyclone Nargis, local Rotarians are appealing to the public to help them provide shelter and basic survival essentials in the devastated region.

Rotary District 9800 is calling upon the community to support the ShelterBox For Burma Appeal, all donations going directly toward meeting the most immediate needs of Burmese people left without shelter and basic necessities. With time a critical factor in preventing further loss of life, the first airlifts of ShelterBoxes are already on their way along with Rotary's ShelterBox Response Team – one of the few world aid organisations to receive Burmese Government permission to enter the country.

"The death toll already appears to be mounting into the hundreds of thousands, so it's crucial we get shelter and clean water to the survivors as soon as possible to prevent it rising further." said Rotary District 9800 District Governor John Davis.

Each ShelterBox contains a 10 person family tent, bedding, cooking facilities, a water filtration system and other basic necessities required following natural disasters. While Government aid and charity contributions often provide important relief and assistance when it comes to rebuilding in the long term, for the people at the heart of the disaster, short-term survival is much more of a priority.

"It's a huge task to try to provide meaningful assistance to that many people, but we know the situation won't solve itself. There are people without a place to sleep tonight, without anything, who desperately need tangible relief." said Davis.

The focus of Rotary Club efforts on providing practical assistance has made a difference in a great number of lives around the world in recent times. In the last 18 months Australian Rotarian donations have provided ShelterBoxes to over 5,000 people following disasters in Bangladesh, Kenya, Mexico, Nepal, Nicaragua, Papua New Guinea, Pakistan, Somalia, Swaziland and Uganda.

But the Burmese tragedy has had a particularly strong impact on the hearts of local Rotarians. The Rotary Club of Essendon has had a close association with Burma, having sent donations of medical equipment and delegations to the Yangon Children's Hospital each year since 2000. In addition to their support of the local children's hospital in the city formerly known as Rangoon, the Rotary Club of Essendon has also supported a local Yangon school by paying for the full complement of teachers' wages as well as feeding the local students every day.

"It takes on a personal significance when you see pictures coming back of children being rushed to the hospitals we've been working with," said Richard Lawrence, President of the Rotary Club of Essendon.

"We know that the work we have done in the past will contribute to aiding current efforts, but more than anything right now we are determined to get the public behind the effort to provide more ShelterBoxes to Burma. We need the public's help."

With each box airlifted from a central deployment centre with the help of Rotary volunteers, Rotarians are able to ship out hundreds of ShelterBoxes a day. Local Rotarians are appealing to the public to help them replenish the supply of ShelterBoxes by making a tax-deductible donation to the ShelterBox For Burma Appeal. Each ShelterBox costs AUD \$1200 including materials, packing, storage and transport worldwide.

"We encourage members of the public, corporates, businesses, everyone who is concerned about the plight of the Burmese to contact Rotary via the ShelterBox Australia website or the Rotary Club of Essendon website and make a donation," said Mr Lawrence.

"Every donation counts."

Rotary District 9800 District Governor Davis echoed the sentiment that every cent counted and would be put to the best possible use by the volunteers heading up the efforts.

"We understand some members of the public are cautious or cynical in providing donations given perceptions of the present regime in Burma, but with ShelterBoxes you know your donation is going directly to practical, real and tangible relief for the people themselves."

Rotary District 9800 is working with other Australian Districts and Clubs in this crucial endeavour to support the people of Burma in their hour of need. Donations can be made either via the ShelterBox Australia website [www.shelterboxaustralia.com.au](http://www.shelterboxaustralia.com.au), the Rotary Club of Essendon website <http://rcessendon.com.au> or by sending a cheque payable to "ShelterBox Australia" to the Rotary Club of Kew (Attentioned to Roger Fasken), PO Box 101, Kew, 3101.

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### **About Rotary**

Rotary International is one of the world's largest service organisations, with more than 1.2 million members in 32,000 clubs across more than 200 countries. Its motto is "Service Above Self".

Rotary District 9800 encompasses the City of Melbourne, the Melbourne CBD, surrounding and Bayside Suburbs and country clubs that stretch as far as Echuca Moama on the Murray River in northern Victoria.

*"The magic of Rotary is that it allows ordinary people to achieve extraordinary things. For over one hundred years, ordinary people around the world have been enjoying Rotary so that the power of one unites with the power of many to bring about exceptional change in the world."*  
- Rotary District 9800 website, <http://www.rotarydistrict9800.org.au/>

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### **About ShelterBox**

ShelterBox is a global humanitarian Rotary Club project administered by ShelterBox Australia within this country.

ShelterBox Australia is a project of the Rotary Club of Endeavour Hills in Victoria (District 9820) an accredited international affiliate of the ShelterBox Trust UK (a registered UK charity). The ShelterBox program in District 9800 is administered by Roger Fasken ([fasken@bigpond.net.au](mailto:fasken@bigpond.net.au)).

ShelterBox was begun by the Rotary Club of Helston-Lizard in Cornwall in the U.K. and since 2001 has provided emergency humanitarian aid to an estimated 500,000 people worldwide. ShelterBoxes have been deployed to more than 40 countries in response to earthquakes, floods, hurricanes, tsunamis, wars, volcanoes and other natural and man-made disasters.

ShelterBox Australia Contact: Ray Stewart  
Administrator, ShelterBox Australia  
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**Suggested Images:**

A full range of high resolution images of ShelterBoxes in action are available for use at:  
[http://www.shelterbox.org/dL\\_images.htm](http://www.shelterbox.org/dL_images.htm)

Example (low resolution):



Note the following photograph is copyrighted to AP Photo/Xinhua, Zhang Yunfei



The AP photo above is published at:

<http://origin.mercurynews.com/portlet/article/html/imageDisplay.jsp?contentItemRelationshipId=1932668>

Captioned: *In this photo released by China's Xinhua News Agency, **man and woman take their child to a hospital in Yangon, Sunday, May 4, 2008.** Residents of Myanmar's biggest city lit candles Monday, May 5, lined up to buy water and hacked their way through trees felled in a cyclone that killed more than 350 people, destroyed thousands of homes and caused widespread power cuts. ((AP Photo/Xinhua, Zhang Yunfei))*