



## Around the club...

### Meeting 3<sup>rd</sup> July

Our meeting this week (3<sup>rd</sup> July) will be a night meeting, and a (brief-ish!) Powerpoint presentation about the trip to Bagong Barrio will be made.

As Cheryle needs to leave our meeting shortly after the presentation, it would be appreciated if you could **arrive at the venue at 6.00pm sharp.**

Visitors and friends welcome.

### President's change over

**Date:** Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> July  
**Time:** 12:45 for 1:00pm, to 3:30pm  
**Venue:** Tracey Centre  
126 The Avenue (corner Walker Street), Parkville,  
behind Wool House  
**Cost:** \$60  
**RSVP:** by 26 June 2008  
To Karin Penttila Ph 9606 0339  
or email [penttila@bigpond.com](mailto:penttila@bigpond.com)



### Visit from Manila Rotary Club

Cheryle has received an email from the Rotary Club of Marakina regarding them visiting our club... after researching our website (they now know about Greg's Roast!, they'd like to visit us in October, to coincide with our club anniversary!

It's proposed that we take them to Healesville Sanctuary, to see Aussie wildlife, and do golf/evening at the RACV club in the Yarra Valley. We'll also have a fundraising night, with a raffle.

### Homeless World Cup

Dougie, through his fantastic contacts and influence (!), has helped organise 2 students from Manila get to Australia as volunteers for the Homeless World Cup.

## Guest speaker

David Redfern, President of the Friends of Merri Creek, spoke to us about Merri Creek. In the mid-1970's, the threat of the freeway made more people aware of the area, and despite it not being the most attractive site, groups worked with the local government to lobby to stop the freeway coming through,

Later, community pressure to stop the MMBW building a concrete wall along the edge of the creek that their property bounded, to make the property flood proof, ended up leading to the creation of park land. In the late 1980's, a broader vision was adopted, resourced by the council, to revegetate the area.



The Merri Creek Management Committee now runs employment and conservation programs. They have planting days, litter clean ups, community activities, weeding days, etc. We saw photos showing the changes from the 1980's to now, and even in a shorter period of time, the transformation with plants was amazing!

There is currently a proposal in the system for a Merri Creek State Park, to be north of Mahoneys Road, which plans to protect grasslands, with community involvement.

*Something of note for members* – Moreland City Council put out a booklet called Gardening With Indigenous Plants. No doubt a printed version can be obtained through council, but for those who are interested, we have a downloaded copy. Just email me, Mel Kennedy, [mel@dmk.com.au](mailto:mel@dmk.com.au), and I'll email you a copy.

## Joke for the week...

"I HEARD IT THROUGH THE GRAPEVINE"  
New Wine for Seniors

California vintners in the Napa Valley area, which primarily produce Pinot Blanc, Pinot Noir and Pinot Grigio wines, have developed a new hybrid grape that acts as an anti-diuretic.

It is expected to reduce the number of trips older people have to make to the bathroom during the night.

The new wine will be marketed as...

PINO MORE

## Ambassadorial Scholar

*From an email received from Mike Jaruszewicz...*

Dear Rotarians,

Greetings! Former Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar Mike Jaruszewicz here. I am getting ready to head out on the next aspect of my life and wanted to touch bases with all of you to say hello and to thank you once again for the opportunity to be involved with Rotary and with all of your clubs. My experience over in Melbourne was one of the most memorable in my life, due in great part to the kindness of the Rotarians from both District 7770 and from District 9800.

I am in Atlanta, Georgia right now getting vaccinated and briefed for my training as a community development volunteer with the United States Peace Corps. By the 21st of June, 75 of us will be flying out over the Atlantic ocean en route to the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, where we will be working in the fields of education, small business development, environmental education, agro-forestry, healthcare and communications.

My job for the next 27 months will be to manage the day to day operations of a community center for high school aged girls. Girls' education and gender equality are two of the top priorities for the Mauritanian government, and the Peace Corps has been increasing its role in these areas over the past several years. While I will not know exactly where I will be located until mid-July, I do know I should be placed in one of the regional capitals or larger towns. The Peace Corps has set up 17 of these centers throughout the country with the hopes they will help the women of Mauritania gain the education and skills they need and want to better their lives and the lives of their families. The center will be equipped with a small library and a few computers and will be staffed by community members who will help tutor and mentor the students. My job is to keep everything going, coordinate my volunteers with the teachers in the schools, write grant proposals, deal with NGOs and aid agencies, and help develop projects and workshops for the kids.

I will not know exactly what to expect until I get there, but please know I am ready for anything and everything. I have wanted to join the Peace Corps since I graduated high school all those years ago and am so excited that I am finally getting ready to ship out.

Thank you all again for everything and know that I will be visiting each of Mauritania's three Rotary Clubs!

I will try to keep in touch as best I can. I am going to try to set up a travel blog, but I first have to get clearance from our country director. When/if I do, I will send you all the link and feel free to check it out (and please tell the other Rotarians in your club). I will try to update it as much as possible with pictures and stories. This email account will also be active while I am over there. Ok. Off to North Africa!

Best regards,

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Michael J. Jaruszewicz  
[michael.jaruszewicz@gmail.com](mailto:michael.jaruszewicz@gmail.com)

*And a follow up email...*

Hello everyone!

I made it to Mauritania safe and sound and set up a travel blog. Check it out!

Mike  
<http://www.travelpod.com/members/mikelbt>

## Upcoming Club Program

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Thursday 3 July	<b>Dinner 6:00pm</b>	Treacy Centre Report on trip to Bagong Barrio
Sunday 6 July	<b>Lunchtime 12:45 for 1:00pm</b>	President's Change Over Treacy Conference Centre

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