



16 Dec  
2008

## FROM THE PRESIDENT



It is now almost six months since I assumed the Presidency of the Club, and it does seem that we have achieved much during that time. We have had a wide range of speakers at our meetings, talking on many subjects, all very thought-provoking.

These have ranged from the political – the then leader of the Opposition, the Ugandan High Commissioner and the US Consul; to business - Russell Balding from Sydney Airport; to the charitable – Dr Allan Meares from Interplast and Professor Ian Hickie from the Brain and Mind Institute. We have also had in-house presentations such as the incoming GSE team from Brazil, Caltex Teachers Award, Mt Eliza Scholarship and the Community Service Award. The calibre of these speakers has resulted in a slight increase in attendance, and we hope to be able to bring you a diverse and interesting programme in the second half to ensure your interest.

We have maintained all of our usual programmes. Apart from those mentioned above, we have had the “Fiducian Your City” programme, one inbound and one outbound exchange student, participation in the Ambassadorial Scholars project.

In the next six months we will be sending students to RYLA, presenting the Vocational Service Award, performing our Citizenship ceremony, and announcing the winners of the Soukup Scholarships.

Membership numbers have remained stable. We have recently farewelled three of our more enthusiastic members. Rod Rate and Gerry Rihs have moved on to greener pastures and, of course, we are mourning the sad loss of Doug Markell. However we have welcomed four new members into the club and there are several more to come, so please make them welcome.

On a social note, we have enjoyed an evening at Surjit's Indian Restaurant, formed a table for the Servcorp Ball, attended “Cup in the Park” and joined with the Rotary Club of Kings Cross for a cocktail party at the Wentworth Art Gallery. With the proceeds of these functions, together with kind donations from some of our members, we have raised up to \$100,000 for YoungCare. As well as raising funds, we are also assisting YoungCare in sourcing suitable accommodation in Sydney, obtaining government funding and also ensuring that all regulatory approvals are underway.

The District Conference provided us with a great opportunity to learn about the projects of various clubs and to meet with a wide range of Rotarians, and our new venture into “Rotary Means Business” has also given us a forum to present the benefits of membership to a wide range of people.

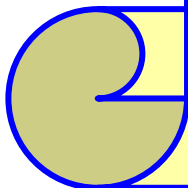
In the new year we will advise details of further social functions including our regular Yum-Cha Charity Quiz Night and the Ethics Debate at Parliament house.

In conclusion, I would like to thank my fellow Directors for all the many hours they have put into ensuring the Club's smooth running, and to each and every member who has supported us.

Finally, I would like to wish all of you a very happy Christmas and a peaceful new year. May 2009 be an improvement on 2008!



Christmas



Best wishes  
Patricia

# OUR 2008/2009 BOARD

<b>Patricia Harrison</b> President	<a href="mailto:pharrison@intersuisse.com.au">pharrison@intersuisse.com.au</a>
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<b>Indy Singh</b> Youth Director	<a href="mailto:indysingh@fiducian.com.au">indysingh@fiducian.com.au</a>

## BRINGING VISITORS

If you plan to bring visitors to lunch, please email Ann Burleigh with their names on the Monday morning before the Rotary luncheon. [annburleigh@ozemail.com.au](mailto:annburleigh@ozemail.com.au)

## RYLA DINNER

Here is a date for your diary - the RYLA dinner will be held on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2009 at Stanwell Tops. The cost of \$30 pp. We need to get as many people as possible along to support our RYLarians.

Anyone interested can contact Jean Elborn – before 28 December or after 3 January – by email [jeanelborn@bigpond.com](mailto:jeanelborn@bigpond.com) or telephone – 0412 448 837.



Gerry Rihs last luncheon

Is there someone, attending the Christmas Dinner next week, who could drive Johanna, our exchange student, home after the dinner? She lives just off Mona Vale Road in Pymble.

Please contact [lynn@cameronralph.com.au](mailto:lynn@cameronralph.com.au) if you can. Thanks!

# LAST CHANCE!



There is no luncheon this week. Instead, members and their families and friends are invited to our annual Christmas function.

This year, the celebration will be a fundraising dinner, with proceeds from the evening being donated to YoungCare.

The funds raised will be directed to the building of a dedicated residential facility for young adults with physical disabilities.



The traditional Christmas Dinner will be held in Cello's Dining Room on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> December at 6:30pm for 7:00pm. Cost is \$50pp.

Diana 'Bubbles' Fisher will be Guest of Honour and Adrian Pilton's Cantorion Male Voice Choir will entertain us with their repertoire of classical, sacred and seasonal music.



As there are still a few places available, please email Ann Burleigh by close of business on Monday or phone 0416 115 844 to reserve your place.

[annburleigh@ozemail.com.au](mailto:annburleigh@ozemail.com.au)

## Rotary's 4-Way Test

It asks the following four questions:

"Of the things we think, say or do:

1. Is it the TRUTH?
2. Is it FAIR to all concerned?
3. Will it build GOODWILL & BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
4. Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?"

## Rotary Club of Sydney's Community Service Award 2008-09 to Elaine Henry

The Rotary Club of Sydney is pleased to present the Community Service Award to **Elaine Henry**, Chief Executive Officer of The Smith Family for her inspirational leadership as a change agent, transforming a welfare organisation to one of unlocking opportunities for financially disadvantaged children and their families, creating a better future through continuing education.

The Smith Family has a proud record of supporting the disadvantaged from the time of its birth at Christmas 1922, initially as a welfare organisation to one of providing financial support for the education needs of disadvantaged children, as well as support for indigenous Australians and community based initiatives.

Elaine Henry joined The Smith Family ten years ago from her previous role as Executive Director of the NSW Cancer Council. With the enthusiastic support of the Board, staff and volunteers, she began changing the priorities of The Smith Family from running aged care accommodation to an evidence based social enterprise developing a comprehensive network of relationships across the life course for disadvantaged children and their families.

Smith Family programs are based on a commitment to lifelong learning that is aligned with Nelson Mandela's belief that "education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."

Relationships are the key to helping these children and their families learn and through education make a better life for themselves. As Charles Leadbeater expresses in his *21 ideas for 21st Century Learning*. "Children learn when they have the right relationships. These relationships make them feel cared for; give them the recognition for who they are; where they have come from and what they have achieved; motivate them to learn; engage them to be participants in learning."

Through the early literacy programme 'Let's Read' and their facilitation of seven 'Communities for Children' sites nationwide, The Smith Family are currently supporting 95,000 children and their families in the early years, contributing to a total of over 130,000 across the life course.

Today, The Smith Family is a national organisation and leads the nonprofit sector in helping realise the dream that every child deserves an equal chance for a better future. Through their networks of Learning for Life workers in 95 communities nationwide

The Smith Family has been able to support children's learning both inside the classroom and in the family, community and workplace settings.

The Smith Family is now ready to embark on the next phase of its support for children and their parents in the early years through integrating the early childhood education and care of children with parenting support and adult learning opportunities.

## Rotary Club of Sydney's Community Service Innovation Award 2008-09

The Rotary Club of Sydney is pleased to present the Community Service Innovation Award to **Jack Heath**, founder and executive director of Inspire, a foundation dedicated to reduce youth suicide, and to improve young people's mental health and well being.

Jack Heath, a former Australian Diplomat in Thailand and subsequent senior public servant in the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, as a speechwriter to ministers and a senior adviser to Prime Minister Paul Keating. Due to chronic fatigue, Jack took six months off work, at which time he began to realise the need to change his life around. The catalyst for change was after being included in a Microsoft presentation to 30 people around the world, which demonstrated the use of technology for social good. Leaving government service in 1996, Jack Heath decided that his talents could best be used for social good by setting up a community service specialising in a web based service to address the problem of youth suicide. Inspire, funded with government and private donations was formed in 1998.

Government statistics shows that from 1990 until 1997, 20 to 24 year old males were consistently the most likely of all age groups to die by suicide. To combat this problem, Inspire set up its website [www.reachout.com.au](http://www.reachout.com.au), which along with other organisations have achieved a major break through, with a fall of 56 per cent in the suicide rate between 1997 and 2006 for 15 to 24 year olds.

As one Reach Out youth ambassador put it: "Reach Out ! has helped me and many of my friends. By providing practical advice in a non-threatening way. I've been able to get through tough times knowing I'm not alone." Another of Inspire's evidence based programs [www.actnow.com.au](http://www.actnow.com.au) has inspired young people to take action on issues they care about and allowed them to meet other young people, who also believe change is possible.

250,000 Australians visited Reach Out in 2007-08, while other research shows that 55 per cent of 16-25 year olds are aware of the online mental service. Apart from youth suicide, another of Inspire's objectives is to improve young people's mental health and well being. This means growing from an organization that puts young people and their wellbeing at its centre to facilitating a community that does.

Inspire has now gone international, with an office in San Francisco, and a base in Ireland, where Reach Out and Act Now are being rolled out. The 2020 vision is to make a global contribution to the mental health and wellbeing of young people. It is well supported by Government, leading companies and communication entities.



# ROTARY – People like you and me

# Coming Up!

- 13 Jan Jessica Brown - "Sister to Sister" Programme
- 20 Jan Kaise Stephen - Swimming the English Channel for Child Cancer Research
- 27 Jan Bruce McArthur - Australian Wildlife Conservation
- 3 Feb Louise Walsh - Funding for the Arts
- 3 Feb Rotary Means Business - 6pm, Castlereagh Hotel, CBD.**
- 10 Feb Anne Henderson, author of "Enid Lyons - Leading Lady to a Nation."
- 17 Feb RYLA Presentation
- 24 Feb Consular Day
- 3 March John Brogden - Lifeline and its work on Depression.
- 10 March David Richmond - Coordinator General, Dept of NSW Premier

Please transfer these dates to your PDA or Diary.

## FELLOWSHIP TOUR PACKAGE 2009 RI CONVENTION IRISH CHARMS AND BEAUTY!

The Centenary 2009 Rotary Convention will be held in Birmingham, England in June 2009. Leisure Solutions® in association with Wye and James Travel Associates and the RI tour provider, Johnsons Quality Coach Travel, have arranged an *exclusive* tour group package for Australian and New Zealand Rotarians and their accompanying partners intending to visit the Birmingham RI Convention next year.

The competitively priced package (13th to 25th June) includes economy class airfares (with taxes and fuel surcharges) flying with Singapore Airlines, an exciting and truly *unique and customised*, seven day, pre-conference tour to visit the best of what Ireland offers in the way of dramatic scenery, traditional Irish hospitality and culture, combined with superb accommodation at the Hotel Victoria in Stratford-Upon-Avon for the duration of the RI Convention, PLUS two 'highlight' dinner functions at the Edgbaston Golf Club and the famous Ragley Hall Manor House.

As *ancillaries to the package*, participants can select and book for the RI principal evening events and choose from a range of exciting half or full day tours catering for the needs of accompanying Rotarian partners.

Wye and James Travel Associates and Leisure Solutions® will be supporting ShelterBox through the marketing of this tour package.



Dr Rob Simmons receiving the Community Service Award on behalf of Elaine Henry, Chief Executive Officer of The Smith Family.

**Merry  
Christmas  
to all our  
readers.  
We look  
forward to  
your company in the New  
Year!**



## MAKE-UPS

If you visit another Rotary Club or related meeting, please make sure you email Membership Director Harry Fox with the details - [harryfox@wilsonlearning.com.au](mailto:harryfox@wilsonlearning.com.au)

**The Rotary Club of Sydney meets every Tuesday at 12:30pm, Cello Room, 4th Floor, Castlereagh Hotel, 169 Castlereagh Street, Sydney.**

Rotary District 9750, Club # 18206, chartered 1st May 1921

**The Rotary Club of Sydney, GPO Box 1523, Sydney, NSW 2001, Tel. +612 8014 8073**



**Make Dreams Real**

Please send your news to the Bulletin Editor,  
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