

The Beacon

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Marilyn's Message

Last Week

Last Thursday we inducted our second member for the year, congratulations Phil on your induction I hope you have many great years in Rotary.

John Messner fined us for our sins, Phil our newest member was rewarded with a win in the raffle and Ted was honoured to win the port.

Kris updated us on things Commonwealth and Kim Bush, our guest speaker, gave us some insights into youth activities across the Shire. Kim is a great advocate of youth as well as being a wonderful promoter of Rotary youth activities among our young. We are fortunate to have such a committed person in our community.

The Foundation Snippet

This is about Avoidable Blindness projects. Realizing the urgency of the problem, Rotary clubs and districts around the world have endeavoured to develop Matching Grant projects designed to combat avoidable blindness and assist those suffering from vision loss. Thousands of cataract surgeries have been performed as a result of Matching Grants involving numerous countries. Rotary clubs in Uruguay and Argentina partnered to provide equipment for a library for the blind in Montevideo. And, as a result of a matching grant obtained by Rotary clubs in Nepal and the USA, funds were provided to offer vision screenings, glasses and corrective surgeries for children in Kathmandu. It's good to know that Rotarians are restoring eyesight to so many.

From the International Director

ROMAC, Reaching Overseas with Medical Aid for Children, is now designated "Rotary Oceania Medical Aid for Children". ROMAC brings children from developing countries to Australia to treat life-threatening illnesses and to provide dignity restoring surgeries not available in their home country. Last year (2005-06) ROMAC budgeted to treat 30 patients but exceeded that, raising over \$700,000 to help 38 children with 12 of those being treated in Eastern Region (six Rotary districts including ours). It is impossible to put a dollar figure on the voluntary effort that goes with the funding for finding these children in need, assessing their individual cases, sourcing and providing the surgical and hospital expertise, arranging their visas and transport and providing accommodation and care in our midst. ROMAC's target this year is 40. Look up www.romac.org.au to find out more.

MARCH IS POLIO ERADICATION MONTH

Program

Tonight: A Barbeque at Jeremy and Heather Ferguson's Place. 6.00pm for 7.00pm.

TASK	8 March 2007	15 March 2007	22 March 2007
Greet /welcome/wheel	Meeting at Jeremy	Chris O'Brien	Laurelle Pacey
Cashier	Ferguson's place	Laurelle Pacey	Bob Aston
Toast / thanks		Bob Aston	Kris Elphick
4-way test		Kris Elphick	John Messner
3-minute talk		John Messner	Kevin Young
FINES		Kevin Young	Ian Thomlinson
Introduction		Ian Thomlinson	Bill Hardie

If you can't make it to the next Rotary meeting, please ring our attendance officer Ted Bladwell the day before 4476 4676 or you will be charged for your meal. (R) signifies a Rotary talk, if you can.

Next Week: Club Assembly and Board Meeting

COMING EVENTS:

22 March

25 March **Rotary Markets at NATA Oval**

Firsthand accounts of the fight against polio

By Maureen Vaught Rotary International News

Last year, two women, with a nearly 50-year age gap between them, left their comfortable homes in the United States and traveled halfway around the world to take part in their first-ever mass polio immunization effort. Molly Williams, a teenager from the Pacific Northwest, traveled to Ethiopia, where wild poliovirus has made an unwelcome return. Charlene Hall, a grandmother from the South, flew to India, one of four remaining polio-endemic countries.

During their trips, Williams and Hall kept a daily journal of their experiences. Through their online journals, learn what it's like to be part of Rotary's campaign to immunize millions of children against polio. When you've finished reading about their adventures, watch the travelers' stories and hear them describe this once-in-a-lifetime experience in their own words.

In October, Molly Williams, a 17-year-old high school junior from Seattle, flew to Ethiopia's capital, Addis Ababa. Her mother, Penny LeGate, an anchor for Seattle's CBS affiliate television station, joined her, along with about 68 Rotarians and volunteers.

Williams was born more than a decade after the last case of indigenously acquired polio occurred in the United States, but she was eager to help. She'd heard about the mass polio immunization efforts from her mother. LeGate, who was made an honorary member of the Rotary Club of University District of Seattle in 2004, has participated in five National Immunization Days (NIDs). She also produced a 30-minute documentary about a group of Seattle Rotarians who travel to Ethiopia for service projects, including polio eradication.

"It's a dream come true to be able to help people in a way I never could here in the United States," says Williams as she reflects on her first trip to help fight polio.

Charlene Hall, a 62-year-old grandmother from Dunwoody, Georgia, USA, embarked on a journey to eradicate polio in November. With her husband, Robert, a member of the Rotary Club of Dunwoody, and 16 Rotarians and volunteers, Hall travelled to Moradabad in Uttar Pradesh, India. Her group was just one of several participating in the immunization effort there.

Hall grew up in a world where polio's crippling effects were an everyday occurrence. She had classmates who needed leg braces and crutches to walk after contracting the disease. Now, Hall is committed to making sure no more children suffer because of polio.

She says she and her husband "believe it is important to finish the job Rotary started. No child should have to suffer the consequences of this dreaded disease."

This article comes from Rotary International Interactive see more at the website <http://www.rotary.org/interactive/archive/200701/story1.html>

The Funny Side

These are supposedly actual signs that have appeared at various locations.

Sign on a Norfolk farm: "Trespassers beware! I shoot every tenth trespasser. The ninth one just left."

Sign seen in London department store: "Bargain Basement Upstairs"

Sign seen in the vicinity of Victoria Station: "Closed for official opening."

Sign in a Paris hotel elevator: "Please leave your values at the front desk."

Sign in a hotel in Athens: "Visitors are expected to complain at the office between the hours of 9 and 11 A.M. daily."

Sign in a Yugoslavian hotel: "The flattening of underwear with pleasure is the job of the chambermaid."

Sign in a Japanese hotel: "You are invited to take advantage of the chambermaid."

Sign in a Moscow hotel across from a Russian Orthodox monastery: "You are welcome to visit the cemetery where famous Russian composers, artists, and writers are buried daily except Thursday."

Attendance Matters

Attendance Officer, Ted report that the average attendance for February was 74.5%.