

# THE GEN

Issue 36

rotarygleneira.org.au

8th May 2007

## Rotary in Holland



**Inside this week: Tales from Amsterdam**

May is Australian Rotary Health Research Month

**Rotary Club of Glen Eira**



GLEN EIRA

Date	8th May	15th May	22nd May	29th May
Speaker	Sorry, ot known at time of Production.	TBA	TBA	TBA
Topic	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
Chair	PP David Nettelbeck	Marian Dimand	Joe Aarons	Jan Hill
Toast to Australia	Yoshiko Stynes	David Bendel	Marilyn Faiman	Sue Aarons
Toast to Club	JoJo Mishima	Jack Dimand	Syd Travitz	Robert Alford
3 Minute Talk	Club Service	New Generations	Vocational	
Cashier \$\$\$	PP John Leske	Ros Michelson	PP Geoff Asher	PP John Strong
Other meetings		Board		

Mark your Diaries

### Changeover Night

Tuesday 26th June. President Elect David takes the chains of office. More information to follow closer to the date

### Dinner with Rotary International President Bill Boyd

Saturday 2nd June. 6.30 for 7pm at Moonlight Receptions, 622 Nicholson Street, North Fitzroy. \$60 per person. For further information contact Jan Douglas, RC Altona City (see District Directory)

**EDITOR'S CORNER**

Send articles, photos, information to the Editor at [adrian@nelsonbros.com.au](mailto:adrian@nelsonbros.com.au). Deadline is Sunday night for Tuesday publication.



We're on the web! Go to [rotarygleneira.org.au](http://rotarygleneira.org.au)

**Editorial.**

The Bulletin remains in black and white with less pictures as the editor travels around Holland with our District's Group Study Exchange Team. It has been an extremely busy itinerary to date, meeting the Chief of Police, Holland's number one TV newsreader, and being metres from the Queen and rubbed shoulders with the Prime Minister. Photos feature on our online travel blog. Go to <http://www.d9800gse.blogspot.com/> for more. We have visited three Rotary Clubs so far, with another dozen to go. Next week is the District Conference at the Amsterdam Arena

**Rotary etiquette: Your questions answered****Q: Auntie, many Rotary Clubs have as their members a lot of old men. Are there any clubs that are different anywhere? DH**

A: Dear DH, around our District and around the world, this isn't always the case (and of course not with our club either!). The Rotary Club of Amsterdam Westertoren is a club with about 40 members and an average age of 42.

This club has a young vibrant and professional membership, with most members working in the city. The club meets at 9pm each week at a city pub. The meeting is more a casual gathering than a structured Rotary meeting. It enables young professionals (both male and female) to network and to build fellowship and friendships. Every other week, their meeting is a planning session for their projects which seem as large or prominent (perhaps more so) as other more traditional Rotary Clubs. In District 1580 there are a couple of clubs that follow this model. Currently this club is a success and perhaps a consideration for our own District 9800 to test in the future to encourage younger people to join Rotary. Whether it is a lasting success remains to be seen but at least they are trying to introduce a new membership to Rotary.

E-mail your Rotary etiquette questions to the editor to pass onto Auntie Etiquette.

**Tales from Amsterdam**

*Last Tuesday, whilst our club had its regular meeting, the editor and his GSE team were with Amsterdam's police commissioner having their own personalized tour of Amsterdam.*

We were hosted by Ad Smit, Commissioner of Police for the south and east of Amsterdam. He is effectively second in charge of policing in Amsterdam and is a member of the Rotary Club of Amsterdam Zuid-Osst. Starting at his station, we all jumped in a police van and went into the middle of the city.

First stop was to see the inside of an Amsterdam Coffee Shop (as opposed to a normal "Café"). Commissioner Smit had a presence everywhere he went (he also features on a Dutch police reality TV show, so is very well known). He explained the legalisation and policing of so-called "soft drugs" in Amsterdam and believed that it worked very well. Coffee Shops do not sell alcohol but are renowned for their variety of drug-related products. The irony is that it is illegal to grow marijuana in the Netherlands and illegal to import it, but they have an industry of these Coffee Shops that are allowed to sell it.

Following that, he showed us the red light district where he seemed to know a number of the "window ladies" (strictly professionally I'm sure). His view was that prostitution was better to be open and transparent, and under very strict guidelines. The ladies were of all shapes, sizes, ages, colours, and (probably) sexes. Apparently once a year they only have men in the window instead.

Continuing in the police van, we had quite a unique experience as he turned on the police siren. Commissioner Smit zoomed in and out of traffic through the busy city streets, with siren blaring and lights flashing. This was greater adrenalin than any rollercoaster ride. His driving skills were incredible and we saw first-hand the respect that Dutch drivers, cyclists and tram-drivers give to police cars in a hurry!

The day ended at the Amsterdam Arena, Amsterdam's largest sporting stadium, similar in size and scope to our Telstra Dome. We were shown the Command Centre and how the logistics operate on event days. This included cameras with face-recognising technology. Drinks and dinner followed at the Arena Restaurant, with Commissioner Smit recalling tales from his 40 years in the police force. You'll have to ask the editor about these on his return.

**Dutch relations...**

"Without the moustache, my sister looks like my brother"

A 69 year old Rotarian showed us around the city centre. It turns out he is a identical twin, but he said about his brother: "My brother looks like me, but I don't look like my brother!"