

10th December 2013

THE GEN



ROTARY CLUB OF GLEN EIRA

Mothers wait with children in Calcutta for their heart surgery



WHAT IS YOUR ROTARY MOMENT?

Do you have your own personal story that transformed you from being a member of Rotary to becoming a Rotarian?

This is Rotary International Director Shekhar Mehta's Rotary Moment....

More often than not, each of my days starts with meeting one or more children who need to get heart surgeries done. Their mothers and fathers wait for nine months for their bundle of joy to arrive but soon after the child is born they realize that the child has got a hole in the heart. And this creates holes in their hearts and their pockets. Their yearly income is not more than US\$600 and the expense for a heart surgery is \$3,000. It would take them five years to spend all that they earned to try and save the child, but who knows if the child will survive or not.

Fortunately I got initiated into the project of "Saving Little Hearts." Over the last five years we were able to save more than 1,500 children's lives by performing heart surgery, many coming from across the border from Pakistan. But one such instance made me realize it was far more than only saving their lives.

Rashi and I had travelled about 300 kilometers from our home to visit one of the patients who had come from Pakistan. Nazar Ali was just nine

years old. He and his mother had travelled 14 hours by bus to reach the border of Pakistan and India, then another 12 hours by bus to reach Delhi. From there they travelled another 20 hours by train to reach the hospital where the child was operated on.

We met the mother and the child at the Hospital bed. The boy was smiling but the mother had tears in her eyes. Soon we realized that these were tears of joy - joy because her child got a new life. She said "it was a painful journey no doubt, coming so far but with my child now better and happy it means the world to me." And then she made a profound statement. She said "my son was born in Pakistan but he got a new life in India. He has not only just Pakistani but Indian blood in him too. Long Live India." I suddenly realized the enormity of the statement. For two countries who have fought three wars in 60 years, what could be a better way of bringing peace amongst their people? These hundreds of children who come from Pakistan for their surgeries in India under a program called "Aman ki Aasha" meaning "hope for peace" are all ambassadors Peace through Service. Each day when we save three lives and do our bit to bring peace, I live my Rotary moment.

UPCOMING EVENTS

DECEMBER IS FAMILY OF ROTARY MONTH

Tuesday 10th December

Guest speaker DG Ross Butterworth

Sunday 15th December

Melbourne Basket Brigade

Packing Day

Tuesday 17th

December

End of Year

Christmas

Spectacular



JANUARY IS ROTARY AWARENESS MONTH

Tuesday 7th January

Casual Dinner

Tuesday 14th January

Guest speaker Michael Taft of ABC

Tuesday 21st January

Guest speaker Mark Windsor

Board Meeting

Tuesday 28th January

Guest speaker Kim Ross

FEBRUARY IS WORLD UNDERSTANDING MONTH

Tuesday 4th February

School Program Project



BURGERS FOR ROTARY



Head to Grill'd Elsternwick to eat burgers and raise money for our club!

DATE	GUEST SPEAKER	CASHIER	TOAST TO AUSTRALIA	TOAST TO OUR CLUB	CHAIRMAN
10th December	DG Ross Butterworth: The State of the District	Basil Ornellas	John Strong	Joan Luscak	Alan Samuel
17th December	End of Year Party and Hat Spectacular!	Garry Fabian	Geoff Asher	Adrian Nelson	Jan Hill

Have a great break over Christmas and the New Year. We return with a casual dinner on Tuesday 7th January and then have our first guest speaker on Tuesday 14th January, Michael Taft talking about his career at the ABC.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND OUR CLUB?

DECEMBER IS FAMILY OF ROTARY MONTH

Xmas Hats for Health!

Next week is our End of Year Party on 17th December and we have a Christmas Hat competition with fundraising for Australian Rotary Health. Prizes for the best hats and fines for those who don't have any!



Festive Lunch

Thank you to everyone who helped the Rotary Club of Caulfield on Sunday for its annual Festive Lunch!

Melbourne Basket Brigade

This Sunday 15th December at 11am, a group of members are joining in the Packing Day with the Melbourne Basket Brigade. The Brigade pack and deliver baskets of food & toys and deliver them anonymously to families in need before Christmas time. Anyone can join in, including children and friends. Dress festive for a fun day of doing good! Contact Basil Ornellas or follow the links on our Club Facebook Page.

ROTARY PROJECT OF THE WEEK

Rotary Christmas Parade

Each year the Jamestown Rotary Club sponsors the Christmas Parade in Jamestown. The parade includes Beauty pageant queens from throughout the year, antique cars, floats, antique tractors, many clubs, churches and schools.

Each year the club comes up with the theme and several organisations participate in the float decorating contest. The club also selects a Grand Marshal. The Interact kids and Rotarians are Santa's Helpers and follow behind Santa at the end of the parade handing out lollies to children along the parade route.



Rotary Glen Eira Online

- Website:** rotarygleneira.org.au
- Facebook:** facebook.com/rotarygleneira
- Twitter:** twitter.com/rotarygleneira
- YouTube:** youtube.com/rotarygleneira

This week's guest speaker District Governor Ross Butterworth

Ross and his wife Annette have four children and three grandchildren. Past President Ross has been a member of the Rotary Club of Melton Valley since 1994, holding a number of Club and District positions including Executive Assistant Governor, Rotary Leadership Training Facilitator along with serving as the District Director, Community Service for 2 years and as District Director, International Service in 2011-2012. Ross led the District's Group Study Exchange Team to D5840 in Texas in 2011.

Ross's awards include Paul Harris Fellow with Triple Sapphire Recognition, The Rotary Foundation District Service Award and the Above & Beyond Award - Deputy Prime Minister's Community Award 2009.

Regrettably, Ross is an Essendon supporter.



Club Mobile App
Scan the QR code to download our club mobile app to your mobile device

