



NEWSBRIEF - *From the Rotary Club of Hunters Hill* *Spring 2011*

ROTARY SAVES LIVES

A WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT OF HUNTERS HILL ROTARY CLUB

It has been an extremely busy period with our club during the past six months and I now share some of the highlights.

Late February saw our "Touch of Red" Trivia night which was held at the Sporties Club and which delivered in excess of \$12,000 to our two chosen charities, namely On Fire (coming under the auspices of the Schizophrenia Fellowship of NSW Inc.), and HandUp Congo's initiative (scholarships for female students at Universite Protestante au Congo: www.upcongo.org). In May we held a most successful "Clash of the Codes" Sportsman's night: Union Vs League, which raised in excess of \$7,000 for On Fire.

Mid July, ten cars participated in the Car Safari, a six day Outback adventure which visited Mudgee, Dubbo, Lightning Ridge, Bourke and Parkes, again raising money for On Fire.

Our most important event happening this November is the Antiques & Collectables Fair which will take place at the Villa Maria Hall in Gladesville, the weekend of 19/20 November 2011 – full details in this NewsBrief. There is also an opportunity to preview the items on Friday evening (18 November) with a cocktail party.

Then we must remember our ongoing commitments:

- Promoting the wellbeing of people in the community by providing assistance and support to those in need.
- Assisting funding opportunities such as parks and recreational centres, community centres, conservation, preservation and maintenance of our environment.
- Our continual hosting of the Rotary BBQ at all district events, including Australia Day, Moocooboola, Carols by Candlelight, and the Wine and Fine Food event.

Our Past-President, Barbara Burnheim, chose On Fire as her charity of choice during the 2010/2011 year.

A full overview of this worthy charity is detailed in this NewsBrief.



Nickolas Yu and Diane Ward of On Fire, with Rotarian Barbara Burnheim of Hunters Hill Rotary Club

For the 2011/2012 year, I have chosen what we have termed The Aurora Scholarships, in aid of selected students at three of our local schools, namely Riverside Girls High School, Hunters Hill High School and Ryde Secondary College.

As a great advocate of equality of education, the Rotary Club of Hunters Hill is establishing this scholarship programme for inspirational and needy children at these schools, who may otherwise miss opportunities. Although Hunters Hill is seen as an affluent suburb, we are aware of many students whose education is diminished as they are not able to actively participate in many activities which enhance the value of their education, and improve their educational and learning outcomes generally.

Over the coming 12 months the Rotary Club of Hunters Hill has a variety of interesting, informative and entertaining guest speakers. We are looking forward to hearing speakers across a variety of topics such as health, finances, the law, presentation skills and energy conservation.

We are proud to have sourced speakers with outstanding communication skills that will both educate and entertain.

The Rotary Club of Hunters Hill meets every Wednesday at 6-30 PM at the Gladesville Sports Club (Corner of Ryde Road & Halycon Street). Give me a call on 0437 212121 and be our guest one Wednesday evening.

Regards,
John Verhelst



2011/2012 Rotary Club Board

From left (rear): Michael Parsons, Rose Renouf, Mike Owen, Charles Amos
 Front: Ron Czinner, Barbara Burnheim, John Verhelst, Garth Benneyworth, Ray Wilson
 (Absent: Neville Hodgson, Rodney Binet, Helen Lange)

ANTIQUES & COLLECTABLES FAIR: WITH HUNTERS HILL ROTARY CLUB

(by President John Verhelst)

*Saturday 19 November & Sunday 20 November 2011
 (10 AM - 4 PM) at Villa Maria Hall,
 Cnr Gladesville Road & Mary Street, Hunters Hill.*

To coincide with the 150th Anniversary of Hunters Hill, and presenting an ideal time of the year to purchase quality Christmas gifts for family and friends, the Rotary Club of Hunters Hill invites you to an Antiques & Collectables Fair sponsored by The Weekly Times and radio 2RRR, 88.5 fm.

Available for sale will be a wide range of fine estate, period and costume jewellery, English and Australian furniture, sterling silver, precious gold, fine porcelain, glass and crystal, linen, clocks, prints, and many other interesting collectables. In addition the Parents Committee of the Villa Maria School will be selling lunch, morning and afternoon tea/coffee each of the two days.

The entry fee is \$7 per adult each day and concessions apply for seniors and children under 12. The event will support one of Hunters Hill Rotary Club's chosen charities for the 2011/2012 year: assisting the financial requirements of specific students at Hunters Hill High School, Ryde Secondary College and Riverside Girls High School.

A VIP pre-viewing cocktail party will be held on Friday 18 November 2011 from 6-30 PM until 8-30 PM. Pre-bookings are essential for this evening event and the cost is \$25 per person. Items can be also bought on the evening.

Further details and bookings for the cocktail party can be obtained from John Verhelst at the Rotary Club of Hunters Hill – phone 0437 212121 or email: john@jhconsult.com.au

CONGO CANOE CHALLENGE

(by Rotarian Lucy Hobgood-Brown)

Rotary Hunters Hill member Lucy Hobgood-Brown is organising logistics for a January 2012 community development assessment in the Democratic Republic of Congo. A team of volunteers from Taipei and Sydney will join Lucy in Equatorial Province, before embarking on a 400 km motorised canoe journey down three of Congo's mightiest rivers.

The group is headed for a remote riverside village called Lotumbe, birthplace of Lucy's father and where she lived as a child. Six thousand people live in this hub, home to the area's only hospital and K-12 schools. The community is one of 23 Disciples of Christ posts in the DRC (<http://globalministries.org/news/africa/blog-congo.html>).

The volunteers are part of the HandUp Congo non-government organisation co-founded by Lucy in 2005, and will work with a grassroots women's NGO founded five years ago in collaboration with HandUp Congo (www.handupcongo.org). The volunteers will conduct a participatory evaluation of a wide range of community development projects with the aim to foster capacity building methodology that can be adapted nation-wide.

The grassroots NGO, called Lucie Otaenga Foundation (FLO), has mobilised both women and men in the area to explore micro credit, health care, education, agricultural and elder care initiatives. FLO has partnered with international donors in Taiwan, the USA and Australia to rehabilitate local schools, campaign for prenatal care, educate about malaria prevention and empower women's micro enterprises. HandUp Congo also facilitated the launch of the first Rotary Club in Equatorial Province.

For details about the capacity building programs underway in Lotumbe or how you might be involved in sharing your skills and resources in the DRC, email lucy@claypartners.com.

ON FIRE (by Past President Barbara Burnheim)

As one of the wonderful charities we at Hunters Hill Rotary have supported in 2010/2011, On Fire is amazed and ever grateful for the \$23,000 cheque that was presented to them in July.

On Fire is a strengths based program, under the auspices of the Schizophrenia Fellowship of NSW Inc (SFNSW). This program was designed to provide support to children between ages of 8 – 17 years of age who have a parent or sibling with mental health issues.

On Fire provides a range of peer support, life skills development, mental health and well-being groups and leisure activities, including regular Fun Days and up to 2 camps each year. The children play a key role in choosing activities, making sure these are fun, interesting and relevant.

The money Hunters Hill Rotary has raised will pay for a part time co ordinator for one year. The co ordinator will establish an On Fire group in the Hunters Hill/Gladesville area and has the support and co operation of local school principals and other professionals. This exciting event will happen within months.

In 2005, Maybery and Reupert estimated that there were between 21-23% of children living in Australian households where at least one parent has a mental illness – this equates to **just over one million children** at that time.*

Nickolas Yu was the founder of On Fire in South East Sydney – established in 2001 by a small group of people who were inspired to make a positive difference in the lives of children in families affected by mental health issues. Up until 2010 they managed to rely on generous donations from Rotary Clubs, Lions Clubs and others. In 2010 nib foundation awarded funding for an 18 month pilot project to continue the South East Sydney On Fire as well as establishing three new areas.

We at Hunters Hill Rotary are incredibly proud to have been able to assist such a worthwhile program and I personally would like to thank each and every one of you who contributed in any way to help us achieve in setting this program up within our community.

ROTARY – WHAT IT MEANS AND WHAT WE DO (by Rotarian Neville Hodgson)

One of the rewards of being a Rotarian is being a part of the big picture. You get satisfaction from the fact that you are part of an organisation that quietly and efficiently changes the lives of hundreds of thousands of people every year.

Through the work of Rotary the incidence of Polio has dropped from 365,000 cases a year to a few hundred. Tens of thousands in developing countries have had free surgery done by Rotary volunteers, tens of thousands of Shelterboxes have been delivered to disaster areas around the world and there is an almost endless list of projects and programs to assist those most in need.

For our International program we are focusing on education, endorsing the motto of the School of St Jude "Overcoming poverty through education" This year our club continues to fund a student Denis Ignas and two teachers at the school of St. Jude in Tanzania. We hope to fund Denis's education until he graduates from high school. From his school reports he is doing well and will achieve his aim of going to University and becoming an Engineer.

We are also funding another Medical student in the Democratic Republic of Congo, a young man who has completed 2 years of the Degree but will have to drop out without support. He attends the University Simon Kimbangu (USK) in the capital Kinshasha.

Our third project for the year is to fund a trainee teacher for three years at the Bacuau College in Timor Leste. Graduates will be awarded a Bachelor of Primary Teaching by the Australian Catholic University. Timor Leste, one of the poorest countries in the world, has a huge literacy problem. 60% of females and 44% of males are illiterate. 50% of the population is under 21. The country has a little more than 2000 teachers of which a little over 100 have received any formal training.

These programs are relatively inexpensive by Australian standards and offer incredible value for money.

If you are interested in obtaining further information, or perhaps support a student or assist us to do so please contact me by email nhodgso1@bigpond.net.au.

Remember when you donate to Rotary programs, 100% of the money reaches the project. There are no overhead or administrative expenses.

WHAT IS A ROTARIAN?

- A Rotarian is a person who digs wells from - which they will never drink.
- A person who vaccinates children they will never meet.
- Who restores eyesight for those they will never see.
- Who builds houses they will never live in.
- Who educates children they will never know.
- Who plants trees they will never sit under.
- Who feeds hungry people, regardless of colour, race, or politics.
- Who makes crawlers walkers half way around the world.
- Who knows real happiness, which as Albert Schweitzer said can only be found by serving others.

Written By: Past Rotary International Director Grant Wilkins.

I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR WEEKLY ROTARY MEETINGS OR THE MULTITUDE OF FUND-RAISING EVENTS!

Consider becoming a "Friend of Rotary". A program that invites businesses and individuals to team up with Rotary, allowing you to participate in our activities without the responsibility of full membership. Being a Friend of Rotary allows you to help in local fund raising and community service events as well as international projects

To join Rotary or become a Friend of Rotary, call our President, John Verhelst on 0437 212-121, or Head of our Membership Committee, Charles Amos, on 0414 918 976.

We meet each Wednesday evening at the Gladesville Sport and Recreation Club Ryde Road Gladesville on the corner of Halcyon Street at 6.30 PM for 7 PM.

Did you know that there are now over 1.2 million Rotarians in 210 countries globally. In Australia there are nearly 34,000 Rotarians in 1160 clubs!

Donations:

The work of Rotary depends on you! Should you be able to make a donation, please do complete the following and mail to: Rotary Club of Hunters Hill, PO Box 1003, Hunters Hill NSW 2110

Name: _____

Address: _____

(Donations are tax deductible in Australia for payments made to: **"The Australian Rotary Foundation Trust"**)

www.huntershillrotaryclub.org.au

HUNTERS HILL ALL STARS: WHERE ARE YOU!

28th Annual Charity Golf Day: OAKLANDS Golf Club

Tuesday 18 October 2011



The Rotary Club of Hunters Hill in conjunction with The Rotary Club of West Pennant Hills & Cherrybrook invites you to join us for a day of fun, a day of prizes, a day of renewing acquaintances. Please consider supporting this Stableford Event day.



Contact John Lloyd on 0409 745 540 or Jim Simpson on 0439 465 725 to reserve your place.