

# ROTARY CLUB OF RICHMOND

## The Tiger Rag

Meeting 2134

2 May 2011

### SPEAKER

Terry Kelly - President Victorian Skeptics  
- "It's only fair, but is it evidence?"

### CHAIR

John Liddell

### Forthcoming:

Date	Meeting	Speaker & Topic	Chair
9 May	2135	PDG John Davis - Rotary Foundation - The Future Vision pilot Programme	John Nairn
16 May	3136	The ASPREE Study - Monash University	Rob Mactier
23 May	3137	Jude Sullivan - coordinator of The Stephanie Alexander Garden Project - Yarra Primary School	Jo Cowling
30 May	3138	<b>The Ainger Public Speaking Awards - FINALS</b>	Ben Hosking

### Birthdays

*Nil*

### Wedding Anniversaries

*Nil*

### Induction Anniversaries

*Nil*

### ROTARY DISTRICT 9800, R.I. & OTHER ROTARY LINKS

Richmond Rotary website:	<a href="http://www.rotaryrichmond.org.au">http://www.rotaryrichmond.org.au</a>
District 9800 Home Page:	<a href="http://www.rotarydistrict9800.org.au">http://www.rotarydistrict9800.org.au</a>
District E-Zine:	<a href="http://www.rotarydistrict9800.org.au/current_networker">http://www.rotarydistrict9800.org.au/current_networker</a>
Rotary International:	<a href="http://www.rotary.org">http://www.rotary.org</a>



# ON THE PRESIDENT'S CLIPBOARD

## Greetings Rotarians and Friends,

A brief message from President Jo this week! I hope you have all enjoyed an extended break over the Easter period, incorporating Anzac Day.

Our meeting prior to Easter was another bumper one with guests from the UK, RC Brighton Beach, RC Doncaster, Fiji and International House. It demonstrated the diversity and vibrancy of our Club and we should all be very proud of that.

On the night I was delighted to present a cheque to John Benger for \$1000. I would have liked it to have been much more but will try to achieve additional funds through a small fundraising event I'm planning. What a delight it was to have little Abigail, a ROMAC patient (pictured with Miri, her mother), also visit our Club with her mother Miri, aunt, Agnes and her uncle, John (see pictured) – a true demonstration of Rotary at work. Baby Abigail was born in Fiji with a brain cyst but four months ago local doctors raised the alarm when her eyesight worsened. They were helped by ROMAC



(Rotary Oceania Medical Aid for Children) a Rotary program

that assists children living in the Oceania region. ROMAC brought Abigail Morris's case to the attention of the Monash Medical Centre.



Paediatric neurosurgeon, Dr Andrew Danks, said that while the cysts were fairly rare he had never seen one as severe as Abigail's. "Without the surgery, Abigail would have suffered increasing disability, very poor functioning and possibly death," he stated. Monash surgeons said the three-hour operation to remove Abigail's cyst went smoothly and were hopeful of a full recovery. Abigail has experienced a few set backs and will remain in Australia for some months. Abigail's mother Miri presented a beautiful hand-carved Karva bowl to me which I will forward to ROMAC via John Benger.

(President Jo pictured with Miri)

Jordana has just returned from her Safari trip of Outback Australia and has been staying with Michael and me for a few days. Tonight is Jordana's last night as a Rotary Youth Exchange guest of our Club. She will now be hosted by the Rotary Club of Fitzroy where she will stay with their President, Beverley McFarlane. On behalf of the Club I wish Jordana a continued happy and successful Youth Exchange and we will look forward to updates and hopefully a return visit. I would like to thank the Widdop family for hosting Jordana and I am sure they will miss her.

Until next week –

**Jo Cowling**  
**President 2010-2011**



**KEEP UPDATED WITH THE RCR CALENDAR ON THE CLUB WEBSITE:**  
[www.rotaryrichmond.org.au](http://www.rotaryrichmond.org.au) Click on 'Events Calendar' below the header, then 'Calendar'

## MAY IS AUSTRALIAN ROTARY HEALTH MONTH

### ARH – Supporting healthier minds, bodies & communities through research, awareness and education –

There has been widespread acceptance of the great value to the community of Australian Rotary Health. This has resulted in an increase in significant contributions by individuals (Rotarians and non Rotarians), Trusts, Corporations, Rotary Districts and Rotary clubs. The tax deductible status of Australian Rotary Health can be a substantial benefit. The Board has approved as a form of recognition, the 'Companion of Australian Rotary Health' for individuals, Rotary clubs and districts, corporations and trusts, donating \$5,000 or more in any one year. Since the inception of this initiative in July 1989, Companions have been recognised in respect of contributions amounting to over \$1,000,000. More information at:

<http://www.australianrotaryhealth.org.au/getdoc/72ed3aa6-fee6-4bd7-bedc-307dff919d9e/Companion.aspx>



### Why Biggin & Scott?

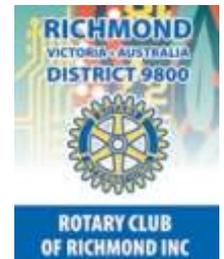
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### RE: CLUB MEETING, NO 2133, 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2011 Stats per Super Secretary Sue



#### **Apologies:**

Jean Marc Berthier, John Liddell, Dot Browne, Jenny Crofts, Judy Nettleton, John Nairn, Kristen Widdop

#### **Make-ups:**

ROMAC: John Benger, Janice Peeler

Abbotsford Convent Parking: Michael O'Sullivan, Aivars Lode, Chew Chan, President Jo Cowling, Sue Bolton

Abbotsford Convent: Jo Cowling, Rob Mactier

City of Yarra: President Jo Cowling, Rob Mactier

PETS: Rob Mactier

#### **Visiting Rotarians:**

John Niblett – The Rotary Club of Oadby Launde (U.K.)

Diana Niblett - The Innerwheel Club of Leicester

PP Pat Armstrong - RC of Doncaster

Anthony Langley- District Protection Officer, RC of Brighton Beach

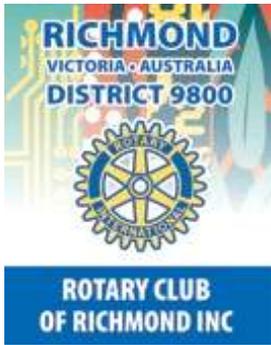
**Guests of Club:** Abigail Morris (ROMAC patient)

#### **Guests:**

FoRR: Sue Roberts & Jenny List,

Ben Hughes – International House (Café International - PR)

John & Agnes Smith, Miri Morris (ROMAC)



## **RICHMOND ROTARY ROUNDUP –**

**Annie Wysham, Tiger Rag Sub-Editor and Club Sergeant**

✓ **Congratulations to our International Chair, Barbara Woodberry**, who recently received a letter of encouragement from HE Kirsty Sword Gusmoa, on the letterhead paper of the Republica Democrática De Timor-Leste, wishing Barbara a speedy recovery from her ill health. The letter was sent care of President Jo at the RCR postal address. Included were the comments: ‘Your extraordinary endeavours and indefatigable commitment to enhancing the lives of children

through the Kindy Box Program has earned the respect of all. Your care and compassion for the children of Timor-Leste stands as a beacon of hope and light for the future of our tiny nation...’ Barbara has since commented in an email to Secretary Sue: *‘Thanks Sue for the kind words and for forwarding the letter - totally unexpected, not sure how she even knows. I have never met her even - I don’t go out of my way to meet the dignitaries when I am there as we are always too busy! But the work of Kindy Boxes is getting to be quite well known...Anne - the NZ teacher - was here for handover for 2 days at the w/e so I am exhausted today - but quite proud of how I stood up to the effort. I achieved the 2 new manuals and the associated resources - and Anne traveled [to East Timor] just 10kg in excess! Quite amazing - she took virtually nothing of a personal nature.’*

✓ **We had the pleasure of the company of several visiting Rotarians at our last meeting, 18<sup>th</sup> April**



**\*Rotarian John Niblett and his wife Diana** (pictured with President Jo) **from the Rotary Club of Oadby Launde, Leicester, UK.** Diana is with the Innerwheel Club of Leicester, They were here for a wedding in Melbourne and decided to do a Makeup with our Club! John and President Jo exchanged Club banners and greetings. John said that he’d be taking some new [RCR] ideas back to his Club!

**\*\*Rotarian Anthony Langley, RC of Brighton Beach and the District Protection Officer** (invited by PP Trevor Pang). Anthony updated us re the Protection Policy – aimed at protecting

children and vulnerable adults; the ‘Working with Children’ card which needs to be reviewed every 4 years; Club Protection Officer updates (Nia Holdenson); the Harassment Policy changes. PP Trevor is also on the District Protection Committee.

**\*\*\*PP (RC Doncaster Sunrise) Pat Armstrong**, now of the RC of Doncaster. A friend of Sergeant Annie, it was Pat who suggested TADVIC be invited to speak to our Club. Pat’s husband, Neville, is an enthusiastic volunteer with TADVIC.

✓ **Ben Hughes, student from Mebourne University-International House (Café International - PR)** was invited to Richmond Rotary last meeting by President Jo to talk to Members and Friends about the 2011 Café International’s night of fine dining and first class entertainment, all thanks to the vast variety of talent the students have to offer! It’s at International House, 241 Royal Parade, Parkville, Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> May, 6.30pm. Black tie, \$80 pp. Join Janice, Annie and others - for a great night out!



**DISTRICT WEB SITE: [www.rotarydistrict9800.org.au/](http://www.rotarydistrict9800.org.au/)**

**WEEKLY DISTRICT NETWORKER – E-ZINE, 2010-2011:**  
**[http://www.rotarydistrict9800.org.au/current\\_networker](http://www.rotarydistrict9800.org.au/current_networker)**



**THIS MONDAY'S SPEAKERS CORNER:**  
**Meeting 2134, Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2011**

**Guest Speaker:** Terry Kelly, President of Victorian Skeptics  
**His Topic:** 'It's only fair, but is it evidence?'  
**Meeting Chair:** Rotarian John Liddell

Terry Kelly has been President of the Victorian Branch of the Australian Skeptics since 2006. He lives in Carlton North and works for an Aged Care Assessment Service as a Social Worker. Previously he worked in a rural Hospital for 12 years. Terry's father was Sergeant At Arms for Euroa Rotary Club for many years.

Australian Skeptics is a voluntary organization that encourages thoughtful, rational exploration of the world around us. They do not believe in the paranormal, miracle cures, astrology and the like. They do believe in reproducible results, recognizing that sometimes not finding an expected result is an important part of the scientific process. To this end the Skeptics are keen to promote scientific education and a sense of wonder in the natural world. The Skeptics encourage people to 'think carefully and seek appropriate evidence before coming to a conclusion on an issue'. Things that sound 'too good to be true' usually aren't true! Science has revealed many amazing things but extraordinary claims (which, really, demand extraordinary proof), can at times be used to deceive and defraud innocent people. Apart from scientists, many prominent skeptics include magicians and illusionists - because they understand how easily people can be deceived; comedians - because of their sense of the absurd and their ability to see through 'bullshit'; and professional gamblers - who understand about probability, chance and superstition. Terry's interest in skepticism is partly informed by his experiences of 27 years in social work e.g. vulnerable, grieving people being preyed upon by alleged 'psychics' claiming to speak directly with dead loved ones; dying people desperately investing large amounts of money, time and false hope on unproven 'alternative medicine' remedies when conventional, evidence-based medicine is not able to offer a miracle cure.

Terry was formerly a co-convenor of The Rural Social Workers' Action Group and has presented a paper called 'Science And Superstition In Social Work' at their bi-annual conference. *Source: Terry Kelly & John Liddell*



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**ALMONER'S REPORT – FROM THE SICK BAY.**

*Report By Our Almoner, Club Doctor & Heart-Starter, Janice Kesterton*



Dot Brown is truly a 'knees up Mother Brown' following her knee operation the Thursday prior to Easter! She's feeling 'kneezier' now and is ambulant and doing her physiotherapy like a model patient! She'll soon be back doing the Zumba and the Lambada with zing! Go Dot!

Barbara Woodberry is still not up to 'entertaining' a large number of people but is slowly improving and is relieved to have finished her treatment.

Get well girls and back on-the-move and to RCR soon!

## LAST MEETING'S 'SPEAKER'S CORNER' Meeting 2133, Monday 18<sup>th</sup> April, 2011



**Our Guest Speaker:** Mark Dohrmann, TADVIC – Committee Chair  
**His Topic:** 'Making one-off gadgets to help the disabled'  
**Meeting Chair:** Rotarian Mark Dwyer  
**TR Reporter:** Annie Wysham – Tiger Rag Sub-Editor

Mark Dohrmann, an ergonomist and mechanical engineer founded TADVIC in 1975. TADVIC stands for Technical Aid to the Disabled Victoria - technology for independent living. It involves a range of people from engineers to occupational therapists and toolmakers, amongst others. The original board of directors was chaired by current chairman, Mark. TADVIC operates throughout Victoria. TADVIC volunteers design and make simple aids and inventions for people with disabilities. Simple things that add independence. 'TADVIC's projects not only improve the independence and participation of people with disabilities in everyday activities, but in their recreational pursuits, education, at work and in accessing their community.' Requests for assistance for clients come in mainly from independent living centres, hospitals, nursing homes and doctors on behalf of individuals in need, or by direct contact from the clients themselves. 'Each request for assistance is assessed and monitored by a project coordinator, generally an occupational therapist, who endeavours to match the volunteer and the client in relation to the skills required to complete the project and the locality of each. The project co-ordinator, with the technical volunteer, visits the client at the place where the equipment is to be used (e.g. - home, school, workplace) to ensure that the solution will be both practical and appropriate to the client's needs and medical condition. There is no charge for the TADVIC service. Clients pay only the cost of materials and, if appropriate, the volunteers' traveling expenses. Volunteers use their own workshops and give their time and skills freely. Administration staff support the work of metropolitan and regional volunteers and staff. TADVIC projects can vary from the very simple to the more complicated. No matter what the request, if there is no commercially available solution, TADVIC will have a go at solving the problem.' Clients are asked to make a search of commercially available products before contacting TADVIC. TADVIC are always on the lookout for volunteers with a trade, technical or home handyman skills and an interest in volunteering – they are just as keen to have volunteers as they are donors, according to Mark! TADVIC costs \$140,000 per annum to operate and is financed by Human Services, Grants, Trusts, donors and sponsors. **A TADVIC project is Freedom Wheels, a modified bike program that now requires volunteers for 3 stages, plus donations and/or sponsors.** Go to the TADVIC web page and read more about Freedom Wheels. Also read how to be a volunteer, a sponsor and/or donor; and to read about the many volunteers and the other wonderful projects that Mark listed for us that have been completed for TADVIC clients in need: <http://www.tadvic.asn.au/>



### 16 RICHMOND ROTARIANS ATTENDED THE 79TH DISTRICT 9800 CONFERENCE IN ADELAIDE



The fabulous Friday Night Club dinner was held at Rigoni's Restaurant –

*Boundless Fun and Fellowship at the 2-day Conference –*





# ✍ NEED TO NOTE – 2011

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✍ **Tuesday 3rd May – SOLD OUT! Visit to the Lyon House Museum in Kew** - Friends of Richmond Rotary function. All monies raised to go to the RCR's 'Vietcot - PCAST System' project (Contact: FoRR Chair, Jenny List) <http://lyonhousemuseum.com.au/>

✍ **Wednesday 4th May – Mock Job Interviews - briefing** for all interviewers at Melb. Girls College, Yarra Boulevard, Richmond. Time 4.00pm-5.00pm. Contact: Tim Baker

✍ **Saturday 7th May – RC Rochester's 'Pie N Port' night** at the Rochester Fire Station function room. Time: 6.30pm for 7.00pm. Cost: \$25 pp - pies and drinks supplied. Spend a weekend away with RCR in country Victoria supporting and visiting fellow Rotary District members and friends. Contact: Pres. Jo for accom. details, bookings etc.

✍ **Saturday 7th May – Like to join Janice & Annie at Café International 2011**, 241 Royal Parade, Parkville for a fun night out? All details & programme on page 4

✍ **Thurs 12th May – Mock Job Interviews**, Melb Girls College, Richmond. Time: 12.30pm – 5.00pm (lunch at midday for vols) Contact: Tim Baker: 0412 568 531

✍ **Sunday 15th May – Rotary District 9800 - District Assembly** – hosted by RC Kyneton at Sacred Heart College, Kyneton, Start: 9.00am – lunch provided. 'A must for all incoming office bearers & interested members to learn more about how your club can participate with the district and other club initiatives.' (RCR Contact: President Jo/PE Rob Mactier)

✍ **Mon 16th May – Thurs 19th May (inclusive) – Ainger Award HEATS** at NHP River St Richmond. All further details TBA (Volunteering your time? Contact: Ben Hosking)

✍ **Tuesday 17th May – Farewell to the GSE Team to Texas**, Tabcorp Park, Ferris Road, Melton, 6.30pm for 7.00pm start, Cost: \$35 pp. Bookings: Brendan Richards- email: [bmrichards@ozemail.com.au](mailto:bmrichards@ozemail.com.au) Telephone 03 9747 0870

✍ **Friday, 20th May – ARH's 'HAT DAY' fundraiser** for mental health research. Date/details re Richmond Rotary's Club meeting - designated 'Hat Day', TBA (Judy)

✍ **Saturday 21st May-Wednesday 25th May - 2011 RI Convention** in New Orleans, Louisiana, USA. Want to be a late booking? All details and registration forms at: <http://www.rotary.org/en/Members/Events/Convention/Pages/ridefault.aspx>

✍ **Mon 23rd May – 90th year anniversary of Rotary in Australia - 90th Anniversary Dinner** will be held at 6.30pm in the Members Dining Room of the Melbourne Cricket Club, Brunton Avenue, Jolimont. Dress: Black Tie. Cost: \$155.00 per person. Enquiries & bookings to Jo Mavros - Rotary Club of Melbourne Tel: 9654 7242 Fax: 9650 7373, Email: [office@rotaryclubofmelbourne.org.au](mailto:office@rotaryclubofmelbourne.org.au) . **RCR Contact – Pres. Jo is putting a table together**

✍ **Monday 30th May – Ainger Public Speaking Awards FINALS**, Amora Hotel (Ben H.) [http://www.rotarydistrict9800.org.au/networker\\_013\\_ri\\_convention\\_street\\_banner](http://www.rotarydistrict9800.org.au/networker_013_ri_convention_street_banner)

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✍ **Monday 13th June - NO MEETING – Queen's birthday long weekend** (Kate's MIL)

✍ **Sunday 26th June – District Governor Changeover – Details TBA**

✍ **Sunday 26th June – Echuca Rotary Steam Horse & Vintage Rally**. Venue: Rotary Park Echuca. Details: [http://www.onlymelbourne.com.au/melbourne\\_details.php?id=28965](http://www.onlymelbourne.com.au/melbourne_details.php?id=28965)

✍ **Sunday 3rd July – NOTE NEW DAY & DATE: RCR Changeover Lunch** – all further details TBA (Contact: PE Rob Mactier)

## **2 Remaining RCR Board Meetings for 2011:**

✍ **THURSDAYS: 19th May and 16th June** (IMPORTANT: Joint Board meetings - current + all incoming Directors for Rotary year 2010/11) **6.30pm, Amora Hotel, Richmond.**  
(Send any apologies to Secretary Sue Bolton)