



Edition 4

District 9810 News

February 2017

District Governor's Report

It's a bit late to wish you all 'Happy New Year' although 'Happy Chinese New Year' is still appropriate. I do hope all of you and your families have managed to have a relaxing break and that you feel ready to resume all the wonderful work you do.

It has been very encouraging and rewarding to see members of our district recognised publicly for the exceptional work they do in a variety of areas – we all know such people who work away quietly in the background to make a difference and we do rejoice when we see them in such a spotlight. You can read the reports later in this newsletter. Many congratulations to you all!

The District recently completed a review of technologies used across all areas of its operations against a vision of where we would like to be. We seek expressions of interest from Rotarians across our District to help execute the strategies recently endorsed by DG Carol and the District Board.

One key aspect is conducting a trial evaluation of the selected web technology against the District's requirement specification. We therefore seek assistance from suitably experienced people to help with evaluation, and then potentially implementing the solution.

Feel free to contact DGN Russell [rjgurney9810@gmail.com] for more information and/or to lend your experience to a project that aims to help improve our collective efficiency, governance, and public image.

I have felt very privileged in recent weeks to have had the opportunity to advise clubs that their District Grant applications for Rotary Foundation

funding have been successful in this Rotary year. I have loved seeing the range of projects to which clubs are committed. The clubs in District 9810 are absolutely inspirational and I applaud all your work and your plans to continue supporting 'Rotary Serving Humanity' in so many areas!

District Governor Elect Malcolm Chiverton and Karen have recently returned from San Diego following Malcolm's last major training prior to taking on the role of Governor on 1st July 2017. I know how fortunate he feels to have that role in the year in which Ian Riseley will be the Rotary International President. The training for all those in leadership roles has already begun and with the theme of "Rotary: Making a Difference" we will all be working towards doing just that. Malcolm has a report later in this newsletter.

Earlier in the month a group of 9810 Rotarians and partners joined in another National Immunisation Day in Moradabad, India. I know it would have been both a rewarding and confronting experience. I'm looking forward to reading or hearing more about that soon.

We are now only weeks away from our 2017 District Conference which is being held in Geelong from Friday 31st March to Sunday 2nd April. The program is focused on 'Building Connections : Realising Dreams' and it looks as though it will have something for everyone. We're looking forward to welcoming as many of you as possible there and enjoying it all with you. The Saturday night theme 'Somewhere in the World' provides lots of scope for your legendary imagination with costumes.

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If you're planning to attend the International Convention in Atlanta in June, RI Director Noel Trevaskis is encouraging all those from our part of the world to be a visual presence in 'an ocean of blue shirts' when Ian Riseley makes his speech in Atlanta – see P. 57 in the February edition of RDU or <http://rdusupplies.com.au/apparel/clothing/> - look for Atlanta Convention Polo Shirt.

Best wishes to you all,

Carol



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LATE BREAKING NEWS

The vote for Council on Legislation Representative for the 2017-2020 Council Cycle was held on Friday 17th February at the Presidents Meeting.

The result is that PDG David Alexander is continuing in the role, with PDG Tony Monley as the Alternate Representative. I thank both of them, as well as PDG Brian Martin, for their willingness to take on all the work associated with the role.

My thanks also go to PDG John Barnes and PDG Bob Richards for managing the ballot process.

CAROL LAWTON

Editor

Welcome to the first newsletter of the new year.

I want to thank all the contributors to this edition.

There were a couple of late entries, but I think it was worth the wait; good articles joining a diverse group in the newsletter.

Read about awards to two very worthy Rotarians, the International Assembly, RAM, and more.

The next newsletter is due out on Friday, 14th April 2017, with a cut-off for articles on 1st April 2017 (no joke!).

I look forward to receiving your stories (up to 500 words plus photo(s) if possible).

GORDON PYKE

Editor

#MembershipMatters

In the latest edition of Rotary Down Under, RI Director Noel Trevaskis asks all of us to think where Rotary will be in about 10 years' time.

He wrote of his concern about the state of membership and the impact it could have on our ability to continue the incredible work that Rotary has delivered to date.

Membership is a challenge in our District too as, despite all the good work, our overall numbers have not grown since we started the Rotary year. We have added 65 new members and then lost the same number of colleagues.

Noel concludes his article with a call to action that we need everyone to be involved with membership. "The time to acts is now – before it is too late."

If your Club needs any assistance, please contact DGN Russell Gurney, PDG Jenny Coburn, or any of the Membership and Marketing team.

Also please remember the resources available to you on the "resources" tab in:

www.membershipmadeeasy.org.au

We welcome your success stories so others may be able to leverage your experience.

RUSSELL GURNEY

Membership Chair 2016-2017

District Governor Nominee

Distinguished Service Recognised

On behalf of the Rotary Club of Box Hill I am pleased to report that our esteemed Club Member, Paul Wheelton, was again honoured in the Australia Day Honours published on Australia Day.

Paul, who had previously received an OAM was elevated to a Member (AM) in the General Division in recognition of his significant service to a range of charitable organisations in Victoria.

Similarly, the 2016 District Conference Committee were very pleased to see that Professor Gordon Wallace from Wollongong was awarded an Officer (AO) in the General Division in recognition of his distinguished service to science and research in polymer materials and their use in biomedical applications.

Professor Wallace was a Keynote Speaker at our 2016 Shepparton Conference and enthralled the audience with details of his world leading and ground breaking research and applications particularly using 3D printing. Our Committee are very pleased to see his recognition in this instance.

ROBERT LEACH

Chairman

2016 District 9810 Conference Committee

More Distinguished Service Recognised

Our congratulations go to:

Bernie Millane, OAM

The citation reads: For service to local government and to the communities of Whitehorse and Timor-Leste.

You achieve so much Bernie and we are all so proud that you are a member of our Club. Most of us don't know the half of what you do. Here is what it says on the Whitehorse Council website under Volunteer Profiles:



Bernie Millane

Former City of Whitehorse Councillor Bernie Millane believes it 'essential for citizens (and therefore residents) to be actively involved in the democratic process that lead to decisions affecting their lives...I believe people understand my willingness to stand tall and have my say. This is why I volunteer.'

Bernie volunteers for the Whitehorse Reconciliation Policy Advisory Committee and Whitehorse Friends for Reconciliation group as well as a host of other community groups and organisations: from his local Neighbourhood Watch to the Whitehorse Community Friends of OECUSSI Enclave working for democracy in Timor-Leste. He started some of the groups he volunteers for and feels good about 'being able to utilise what skills I have acquired and my life experience'.

He says volunteering is a great example of local democracy at work, providing the opportunity to help and assist people or organisations that often 'fall between the gaps'. He says Whitehorse has a wealth of skills and knowledge because of the diversity of age groups and cultural backgrounds in the City which form a very "rich" community resource' so if you're thinking about volunteering, 'take the next step and do something about it!'

"The satisfaction of being able to do something of value for someone else – whether it be in Whitehorse or Timor-Leste".

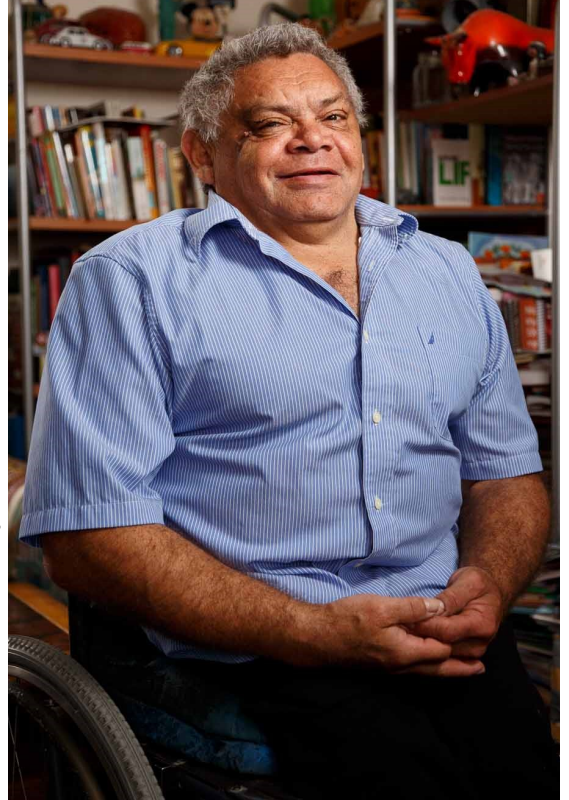
ROTARY CLUB OF BOX HILL CENTRAL

A Rare Honour Bestowed

John Baxter, a member of the Rotary Club of Box Hill Central, was recently elected as a member of The Victorian Aboriginal Honour Roll that acknowledges Aboriginal people past and present, who have made an outstanding contribution to our state. The Honour Roll includes many Aboriginal leaders including the great Wurundjeiri artist and “King of the Yarra”, William Barak (1824-1903), who lived at Coranderrk Station, Healesville. Barak was an important elder who was highly regarded for making strong connections with the non-aboriginal community.

John Baxter is a Latji Latji/Narungga man who believes change occurs when people take action. His philosophy has inspired him to advocate for reconciliation, for the rights of Aboriginal people living with disabilities and for a greater understanding of the past to improve outcomes for the future.

A passionate advocate for reconciliation and cross-cultural understanding, John believes programs or initiatives aiming to achieve reconciliation must be more than mere symbolic gestures. They must have practical outcomes which benefit Aboriginal people. His strong conviction means he frequently acts as the ‘fly in the ointment’ in his advocacy work.



A Councillor with Reconciliation Victoria for a number of years, John is also a member of the Whitehorse Friends for Reconciliation group and contributed to the City Of Whitehorse Reconciliation Action Plan. He has also served on the City of Manningham Reconciliation Action Plan Working Group.

A great believer in the importance of culture and identity, John has been a driving force in uniting a number of groups to help stage Cultural Days at Blackburn Lakes Sanctuary where Elders and teachers can pass on cultural knowledge to children and their families. This activity is run with the assistance of the Rotary Club of Box Hill Central.

John is also a member and adviser on the Owairtilla project committee which has seen the Rotary club work closely with the remote indigenous community of Canteen Creek, 7 hours north of Alice Springs. Assistance has included the provision of sports outfits for the local football team (see *photo below - Ed*), the supply of sound equipment for the school so that they can run a weekly disco as a reward for good attendance and the supply of clothing to the community for sale in their Op Shop (which is provided by Rotary Recycle, the Rotary club of Box Hill Central’s own Op Shop). The community leaders want to eventually expand the project to include opportunities for retail training.

John is a champion for the rights of Aboriginal people living with disabilities.

He was a founding member of Aboriginal Disability Network Victoria. He was one of the first Victorian representatives on the national peak body First Peoples Disability Network Australia (FPDNA) and later became its Director. As a disability support community consultant for FPDNA, John came face to face with the problems of those living with disabilities in remote or isolated communities.

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A Rare Honour Bestowed

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John works to build links between the disabled and the services available to them and promotes culturally -inclusive practices in mainstream agencies. In 2013 he represented FPDNA at the United Nations (UN) in Geneva. In 2014 he made a presentation at a UN conference in New York.

John served on the Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission's Disability Reference Group from 2014 to 2016. In 2016 he was appointed to the Victorian Disability Advisory Council, which provides advice to the Minister for Housing, Disability and Ageing.

John takes an active role in the life of Victoria's Aboriginal community. He is President of the Committee of Management of the Koorie Night Market Incorporated, which operates at several locations around Victoria. The market aims to preserve culture, support Aboriginal businesses and craftspeople and create economic and social capital for the Aboriginal community.

John's active life is based on the philosophy that it's no good sitting back and watching things happen. He believes that, while the past cannot be changed, there are solutions to every problem that life throws up if people are prepared to 'walk together' to find the way.

BRIAN MARTIN

Past District Governor 2012-2013

Learning & Development Coordinator

Rotary District 9810

(Rotary Club of Box Hill Central)



Canteen Creek Kids

International Assembly - San Diego 2017

Karen and I were very proud to represent District 9810 at this momentous International Assembly. It was extremely humbling to be one of the 540 District Governors Elect sitting amongst the Leaders of our great organisation Rotary International and our RI President Elect Ian H.S. Riseley.

On the first day we were reminded of the immensity of our global organisation (reiterating the "Parade of Flags" the night before) by watching a visual display of the globe zooming in and out of the zones highlighting the countries within. After this Ian made it known what his theme was for the Class of 2017-2018, "Rotary - Making a Difference" well the auditorium exploded with joy at the simplicity of the message and how apt it is for our day. Well done Ian!



Each day we would be asked to share the knowledge and experience from the general officers and training leaders to prepare us for our journey to be District Governor. For 5 days we would have a general session where DGE 's and partners would attend and then part our ways for separate DGE and Partner breakout sessions, followed by lunch and then more of the same in the afternoon.

At the general sessions we would often be inspired by the speakers imparting their pearls of wisdom. At lunch we would either sit with our Australian colleagues or those from other countries quite often learning something new.

The Partner sessions were about learning about Rotary and how the partners can support their partners. One session they attended was presided over by Juliet Riseley. They were asked to take along two books each aimed at very young to young children so they could be donated to the San Diego Children's Library. Karen thought this session was excellent.

A highlight for me was to be allocated onto Ian's and Juliet's table for the Parade of Flags Dinner Dance.

The breakout sessions were most informative and helpful for our understanding of the Rotary procedures and policies.

It was not all work as we had a Concert on the Thursday night with a group impersonating, singing and playing all the great Beatles music.

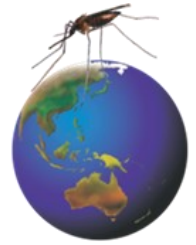
Some people would say that a lot of money is expended to send the DGE's to San Diego but for someone on their first International trip I thought it a worthwhile experience. We learned first hand it doesn't matter where people live and the country they come from, we are basically all the same with similar aspirations and we as Rotarians certainly do Make a Difference to so many lives of people that we will probably never know.

We are looking forward to working with and for all of you in 2017-2018.

MALCOLM (and KAREN) CHIVERTON
District Governor Elect (District 9810)

Rotarians Against Malaria

Around the world April 25th is declared as World Malaria Day. Here in Australia because of Anzac Day, this day has been moved to April 30th. It is a time to reflect on the impact of malaria upon the world and the progress we are making in fighting and controlling it in our countries of focus namely Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands and Timor Leste.



The battle against malaria continues to be waged on many fronts. We should be very proud that Australia is at the forefront of world research in developing new anti-malarial treatments and in seeking to find a suitable long lasting, cheap and easy to administer vaccine. Discovering such a vaccine is imperative because the malaria parasite transferred by an infected mosquito is developing increasing resistance to sprays and drugs.

Rotarians Against Malaria (RAM) works closely with a number of leading malaria research institutions. One example is the Walter & Eliza Hall Institute where researchers at the Institute have discovered a way to stop the malaria parasite invading healthy red blood cells thereby stopping malaria infection.

Malaria Awareness Day is a great opportunity to promote community understanding of the global campaign to eradicate malaria by 2040. It is also a chance to highlight the outstanding contribution RAM has made in the last 21 years, supporting in a number of ways the local health authorities in our areas of focus.

Over the years RAM has initiated numerous effective malaria elimination programs in these countries and has also given substantial financial assistance, both approaches having led to wonderful progress being made. So that the momentum is not lost, RAM needs to continue to provide funding for the programs already in place and also to expand our impact on this debilitating disease. It is still important for funds to be raised to support RAM initiatives.

To help raise funds the RAM District Committee (Jackie Gleeson, Clare Caulfield and I) is organising a Fundraising Dinner on Friday April 28th at the Mulgrave Country Club. We would love to see you there and your assistance with our fundraising (which will include a Silent Auction) for this very worthy cause would be greatly appreciated.

Our keynote speaker is Dr Julie Healer from the Walter & Eliza Hall Institute who will speak about where malaria control is currently at, her own experience in malaria research at the Institute and the progress being made in the search for a vaccine. Ben Hill as IT Director on the Rotaractors Against Malaria Committee will give an update on Rotaractors' involvement with RAM and the use of technology to advance awareness.

I have sent a copy of the Flyer and the Booking Sheet to all the clubs in our District but if you wish to have further copies, please contact me at egharg@netspace.net.au and I will send you the requested material.

GLORIA HARGREAVES
RAM Coordinator District 9810

Bands Night Out

On the 3rd of February, Yarra Ranges Rotaract club put on Bands Night Out to raise money for The School Project. The School Project help kids who have been displaced by domestic violence by giving them the school supplies they need to ensure they do not miss out on learning because of their situation. As a number of Yarra Ranges Rotaract members are studying teaching or are teachers, this was a really special charity to raise money for.

The event was at The Hysteria Lounge in Lilydale Main Street, a great little venue for what we wanted and they were very welcoming. We had organised 3 local Melbourne bands to come and play for us.

The first band up was a Duo called 'Brooke & Frank', they played an acoustic set that featured songs from the 80's all the way up until recent music. With Brooke's amazing voice and Frank's smooth guitar playing, they were a great addition to start the night off and get everyone ready to hear more great music.

The second band to play was '5 Degrees'. They played hits from the 80's, 90's and pop music from now. They got the audience up, dancing and having a great time. One of our members Sarah Jacobs who organised the event got up to play a song on Saxophone with 5 Degrees, which was a great addition to the night.

'Rigidy Rourke & The Love Dogs' was the last band to play and they were fantastic. The audience could tell they were having heaps of fun playing together. Rigidy Rourke & The Love Dogs are a Funk Based band that play music that got everyone grooving along.

At the end of the night through ticket prices and some generous donations, we managed to raise \$1000 for The School Project. This was an amazing end total for the club and we are very happy that all the hard work payed off. A big thanks to all who attended including sponsoring Rotary club members and Rotaractors from 9810, overall it was a fantastic night!

REBECCA MARCUZZO

President 2016-17

Rotaract Yarra Ranges



Left & Below:
Some of the crowd.



Bands Night Out

Right:
The check-in.



Left & Below:
The music

(Bottom:
Rotaractor Sarah joins the gig.)



Genesis of a Project

Have you heard of Hollandse nieuwe haring, drop, poffertjes, appeltaart, rookworst, or stroopwafels? If you have and enjoy these items, or if you haven't and want to find out about them, then you need to come to the Holland Festival.

After a three year hiatus RC Monash will be restarting the Holland Festival at the Berwick Showgrounds on Saturday, 8th April 2017.

The festival had run successfully for 40 years until 2104 when the ageing group of organisers regrettably decided they could not continue.

Following discussions with the original organisers and Monash Rotarians, spearheaded by Paul Rubens who had been associated with the festival, RC Monash accepted the challenge of running the festival. A dedicated committee began planning and organising straight away.

Word has spread about the festival running again and considerable momentum has built with individuals and groups offering assistance, sponsorship and volunteers.

The City of Casey that controls the Berwick Showgrounds is proving to be most cooperative. The council is thrilled to have a multicultural event that has been a proven success moving to their city.

More than 30 Dutch food offerings have been booked and include hot and cold foods, both savoury and sweet. The Dutch love their foods and these will be a powerful attractor for the Dutch community and those of Dutch Heritage.

A liquor license has been applied for and continuous entertainment has been planned from noon until 10pm.

There will be bands, choirs and singers performing Dutch and English songs on two stages. There will even be clog dancers.

Other attractions will include carnival rides for the littlies, cultural exhibits and many other Dutch experiences, including an all-day sjoelbak (Dutch shuffleboard) tournament for all aged groups with wonderful prizes for the winners (and another opportunity for fundraising).

Dutch businesses and businesses dealing with Holland or owned by people of Dutch Heritage and importers will also have a presence.

A major sponsor, Gazelle Bicycles, has been signed and at this stage there are five other sponsors including Tesselaars, of Tulip Festival fame.

All proceeds from the festival will go to charities.

If you have Dutch heritage or not, this will be a great outing for the whole family. Oh, the answers to the above items are: pickled herrings, Dutch licorice, small pancakes, self-explanatory, sausage consisting of ground meat and spices, and waffles with syrup.

(Check out the website: <https://www.hollandfestival.org.au>)

PAUL RUBENS
Rotary Club of Monash

Genesis of a Project



Paul Rubens (left) and Tom Flintoff, Fundraising Director after Paul spoke at a RC Monash meeting about the festival.



Herrings (and how to eat them!)



Poffertjes



Appeltaart



Stroopwafel



Gazelle
HOLLAND FESTIVAL

ROMAC

D9810 ROMAC Committee is having a busy 2016/17 with 16 presentations already given/scheduled to be given to District clubs and three patients with very different medical conditions being assisted by our amazing medical and volunteer teams.

Anton

In July we said farewell to Teretoriano Antonio (Anton) Da Silva, from Timor Leste, who had been with us since 21 December 2015. Anton was 22 months old and arrived with a life threatening condition and was immediately admitted to Monash Medical Centre experiencing breathing and heart difficulties caused by a large kidney tumor.

Anton was stabilized overnight and underwent surgery the next morning. After an 8 hour operation, involving 5 surgeons, a 3.5kg clear cell sarcoma (aggressive cancer) was removed with his right kidney. Further tests confirmed that Anton's heart had been damaged, that he was suffering from malnutrition and that he had abdominal TB. Anton was then admitted to ICU where he remained until the end of Dec and then moved to the care of the Children's Cancer Ward for oncology and treatment for his heart, TB and malnutrition.

Between Jan to Jun 2016, Anton underwent 7 chemotherapy cycles (with all the attendant side effects), ongoing medication for his heart and TB conditions and a 24 hour feeding regime. In early Jul his scans were clear of any cancer, his TB had gone, his heart was working well and he had gained 4-5kg and 8cm in height. As his final medical report succinctly put it, 'Anton has now completed treatment; well. Fully recovered and is back to normal'.

During his time in Melbourne, Anton, and his grandmother Claudina, were home hosted by Rotarians Dianne and Bill Sides of the RC of Clayton, who also agreed to be Anton's Sponsor Club. Anton's mother, Emaldina, could not travel to Melbourne with him as she had TB and was severely depressed due to Anton's condition. Anton's case was medically difficult and emotionally draining and it is fair to say that the successful outcome achieved was due in no small part to the love, care and attention shown to Anton, Claudina and their extended family in Timor Leste, by Dianne and Bill Sides.

The local Timorese Australian Community also helped during Anton's stay by assisting with interpreter/translation duties, providing Timorese food in hospital and arranging visits and outings for the family.

On 12 Jul 2016 Anton and Claudina flew home. He returned home a bright and robust 2 ½ year old boy with his life ahead of him and, given the prognosis when he arrived in Dec, 'it was meant to be'.



14 Dec 2015:
In Dili with Emaldina



12 July 2016:
Goodbye

Continued on Page 13

ROMAC

Continued from Page 12

Bradley

In May, Bradley Bola from PNG returned to Melbourne for surgery to his nose and eyes following his three previous visits since 1998 for Crouzon's Syndrome. During all his visits to Melbourne he has been home hosted by Teresa and Michael Cox, members of the local PNG community.

The RC of Nunawading was his Sponsor Club on this occasion. The operations on 5 Jun and 15 Jul went well and Bradley, after a period of extended recuperation, returned home on 16 Sep. During his time with us Bradley enjoyed a short holiday with Dianne and Gavan McIntyre of the RC of Wandin and was a participant at RYLA.



Bradley presenting at RYLA 2016.

Fidelcia

Fidelcia Soares Braga, a 10 month old girl from Timor Leste, arrived on 15 Feb 17 with her mother, Hernania. Fidelcia is with us to have a heart operation at RCH. She is being home hosted by Liz Olie of the RC of Doncaster and her club agreed to be the Sponsor Club.

Fidelcia underwent her pre admission examination at RCH of 16 Feb but, because of her condition, was immediately admitted to a ward for treatment of a severe chest infection, bordering on pneumonia, which must be resolved before heart surgery can be considered.

As this Newsletter goes to print, on the morning of 17 Feb, Fidelcia was admitted to ICU as a precaution. More news in the next Newsletter on Fidelcia's stay with us.



D9810 ROMAC Committee Goal

Over recent years the support for ROMAC from District clubs, by way of donations, has been trending down, yet the work done within the District by ROMAC Volunteers in hosting/managing our ROMAC patients is well above the average of what occurs in the other 26 districts of Australia and NZ.

Whilst the ROMAC story is told during club visits, this Newsletter and even the local media, it does not seem to resonate and result in consistent donations from district clubs. In pondering this situation, the D9810 ROMAC Committee thought that, by setting a goal, district clubs will have something more tangible to aim towards. Accordingly, the challenge to district clubs, is to donate sufficient funds to ROMAC each year to:

'SAVE THE LIVES OF TWO ROMAC PATIENTS'

The average cost for the medical treatment of each ROMAC patient is \$25,000. With 44 clubs in the District, if all donate on average a tad over \$1,000, the goal will easily be reached.

GRAEME CHESTER
Chair D9810 ROMAC Committee

District
Conference
Flyer



Rotary
District 9810
Conference
Geelong 31 March - 2 April 2017

Sing along with Mike Brady



Be inspired by Julian Burnside



The Cunningham Pier – a magical setting

REGISTER at

<http://www.9810rotaryconference.org.au>



Learn from Euan Ferguson

Cabaret style plenary seating

