



Rotary Club of Melbourne
www.rotaryclubofmelbourne.org.au

THIS WEEK'S SPEAKER

GREG ROSS, DIRECTOR, ROTARY HEALTH AUSTRALIA

Greg Ross has been a Director of Australian Rotary Health since November 2013.

Greg joined Rotary in 1976 in Berwick, then moved Districts, joining the Rotary Club of North Balwyn in 1986 – he is a current member. He is Past District Governor of District 9800, has worked as a literacy volunteer in Thailand, as a RAWCS volunteer in Vanuatu and led a GSE Team to California. Greg was also MC at the International Conventions in Taipei and Melbourne, and Song Leader/MC at the International Assembly in Anaheim.

Greg is a professional actor (TV, stage and music theatre) and, in recent years, has worked mainly as a funeral and marriage celebrant, including over 800 funerals.

UPCOMING SPEAKERS

18 Apr: Don Farrands, Author, "The Glass Soldier"

25 Apr: NO MEETING

02 May: Mike Hirst, Managing Director, Bendigo and Adelaide Bank

LAST WEEK'S SPEAKER

ADAM MOONEY, CEO, GOOD SHEPHERD MICROFINANCE ASIA PACIFIC

Adam introduced his talk with two stories of men who had to re-boot their lives after personal catastrophes - one a footballer whose injury left him a quadriplegic and went on to become a famous mouth and foot artist, the other a 49-year old tradesman who also had to discover alternative talents after being incapacitated. It transpired that the first man was Adam's father; the second his brother.

It is well-documented how effective microfinance can be in helping lift some of the world's 2.5 billion poverty-stricken people out of their powerlessness and give them *hope* - the essential ingredient in everyone's wellbeing.

In Australia, GSM's No Interest Loans Scheme (NILS) was started by the Good Shepherd nuns in Collingwood who found that some of their neighbours lacked the capital to purchase necessary durable goods such as refrigerators, washing machines, furniture, or education. Today NILS is delivered nationwide through a multitude of not-for-profit social service agencies in over 700 locations - a quasi franchise arrangement whereby GS Microfinance provides the intellectual property, systems, processes, training and capital. It helps keep people out of the clutches of pay-day lenders and, crucially, gives them hope. Ninety-six percent of these loans are repaid in full.

Today, GSM offers a wide range of financial inclusion products, such as StepUp 3-year no fee loans at 5.99%, mainly for purchase or repair of cars, in partnership with NAB (who have also been a major provider of capital for the NILS program over many years); insurance products in partnership with Suncorp and IAG; Good Money community finance stores in partnership with NAB and various State Governments; a new LaunchME scheme in conjunction with the Government of South Australia to help SA people turn their skills into micro enterprises; and several others. The Federal

Government has provided \$33 million towards the capital required in these programs.

The purpose of all these programs is to bring hope to the 3.3 million Australians who otherwise cannot gain access to mainstream financial organisations' loan and insurance services.

CLUB EVENTS & REMINDERS

97th BIRTHDAY SONG!

Ross Scholes Robertson writes: "I'm just trying to think back to when I first wrote the words. Think it must have been in the 1990's when I was Treasurer. I remember we sang it at the Naval and Military Club when Federal Senator Jocelyn Newman was in attendance and I think I read she is about to retire at age 80. I did find a copy of the words for our 88th Birthday. Barry Rawlings was then our regular pianist and I remember John Mitchell, Trevor Hill and Roger Hall were soloists."

DISTRICT 9800 CHANGEOVER: SUNDAY 3 JUNE!

Mark wrote: "This year the District Changeover is celebrating our District and all we have achieved together – Rotarians and Clubs, with assistance and support from the District Leadership Team. There will be fun, special projects and Rotarians honoured.

Entertainment by our own sensational "Barking Dogs" with Sue Foley. Dress to impress but don't feel you need to be uncomfortable, AND bring your dancing shoes.

In true Rotary style, there will be funding opportunities for two projects of \$1,000 each. Submit a short, informal project plan, register a table of 10 before May 18th. Be ready to claim the prize and announce the project to all our District Rotary friends. Maybe you will gain support from other Clubs and possibly receive a Foundation District Grant."

Bookings can be made at: www.trybooking.com/367423

EVENING MEETING 11 APRIL

An Evening Meeting has been planned for Wednesday, 11 April. Please refer to the Flyer: <https://www.trybooking.com/VABE>

ROTARY CLUB of OAKLEIGH INVITATION

Event: Rotary Club of Oakleigh's Dinner Celebrating the 60th Anniversary of the Granting of their Charter

Date: Thursday, 26 April 2018 at 6.30pm for 7.00pm

Venue: "Merrimu", Dandenong Road, Murrumbeena

Cost: \$80.00 per person

RSVP: By 10th April 2018 to John Peberdy via email [click here](mailto:johnson@bigpond.com) - or Mobile 0417 943 524

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1. Website, <http://rotaryclubofmelbourne.org.au/home>
2. Sign-In or Request a password if you have forgotten it.
3. Go to Members Area, then UPDATE PROFILE where you can update your details.
4. Any difficulties contact Sharann on johnson@bigpond.com or Dorothy on gilmour.dorothy@gmail.com

MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

FRED HOLLOWS WALK

Her fundraising link is

– <http://melbourne.coastrek.com.au/fundraisers/marionmacleod> Last year, Marion's blisters were worth more than \$2,000 thanks to her Rotary Colleagues and her team who raised almost \$10,000. For more details, contact Marion directly: marion.m@coremanagement.com.au (Maybe someone could also donate some blister bandages this year!)

LAST WEEK'S GUESTS & GREETINGS

Happy Birthday this week to: Mandi Wendt (TODAY!!), Alex Buchanan, Margaret Matters.

GUESTS AT LAST MEETING

Guests of the Club: Adam Mooney (Speaker), Katherine Brown, Milly, Hamish, Will Mooney.

Visiting Australian Rotarians: Loryn Clark (Albert Park).

Guests of RCM Members: Sue Smith (Reg Smith).

On Duty this week: JM, SMc, RS, MMc, Robin Reid (Wine), Ian Ross (Photos).

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