



Community Link

Providing a link between your community and your local Rotary Clubs. Issue 7, February 2014.

One man's extraordinary legacy: Educating Nepal's Untouchable Orphans



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- an Ambassadorial Scholar's Year Abroad
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An Extraordinary Legacy.

Nelson Mandela once said, "What counts in life is not the mere fact that we have lived. It is what difference we have made to the life of others."

Community Link has previously reported on the Rotary Club of Brownhill Creek's amazing Nepal School project. Sadly, the project's inspirational founder David Rusk died in November 2013 after a short battle with cancer at the age of 65. He had accomplished so much but had so much more to do, especially for the Dalit (untouchable) orphans in Kathmandu, Nepal.

Since his retirement as a Primary School Principal David had inspired members of the Brownhill Creek club and also his former club, the Rotary Club of Blackwood, to assist the educational opportunities for poor and orphaned children in the poorer areas of Kathmandu. David also received support from students and staff of Unley High School.

As a result of his efforts he was able to facilitate sister club relations with the Rotary Club of Dillibazar in Kathmandu, which oversees many of the projects David instigated, including the visit of Nepalese teachers to Adelaide to improve their teaching skills and experience new ideas in education, the sponsorship of over 100 impoverished students to allow them to complete their elementary education.

Each year groups of students from Pulteney Grammar School visit Kathmandu as part of their Social Justice program. In Nepal the students have worked with children in local schools and the Golfutar orphanage. Part of their fundraising activities has resulted in new bunk beds for the orphanage, sponsoring underprivileged students and supporting scholarships for 12 students to attend senior schooling in Kathmandu. Unley High School has also supplied books and science equipment, and sponsored students.

But David's greatest dream was to build a school for the 100 students of the Dalit Mahila Utthan Kendra Orphanage that had been established by an equally inspiring lady known as Mother Rajan. Because the students are orphans and Dalit they are often excluded and not accepted in local schools. As a staunch advocate for social justice, David set about providing a school to be attached to the orphanage. He was able to rally friends, family, Rotarians and members of the public to contribute funds to allow a school to be built. At the time of his death David had raised over \$200,000. This amount was sufficient to allow the purchase of land and finance the construction of a modest 3 storey school adjacent to the orphanage.

Rotarians from the Brownhill Creek club have committed to oversee the completion of the building along with members of the Rotary Club of Dillibazar. As well as completing the building the Rotary Club of Brownhill Creek is hoping to set up a Trust fund to enable the ongoing maintenance of the school, which is due for completion in October 2014.

If you would like more information, or wish to make a tax deductible donation, please call Malcolm Lindquist on 0439877511.

Images - Above: David Rusk with Mother Rajan and a group of orphans at the orphanage.
Cover: Pulteney Grammar students participating in the Foundation Stone Ceremony at the site of the new school.

Coming Events



For the first time in several years **Gemma Sisia**, founder of the **School of St Jude in Tanzania** will visit Adelaide for one day only. Guests will hear about the school's amazing triumphs over the past 12 years and gain insights into Gemma's personal experiences.

As a charity-funded school, St Jude's provides a free, high-quality education to more than 1,600 of the poorest children of the Arusha Region, Tanzania, while also providing boarding for more than 1,000 students. Additionally, the school now provides employment to more than 400 Tanzanians and purchases the essential goods required to run the school everyday from the local community. The ripple effect of these benefits on the community and beyond has been incredible.

All proceeds from this event will go directly to the School of St Jude. It is only with thanks to generous sponsors, donors, supporters and international volunteers that St Jude's can open its doors everyday and continue to fight poverty through education. Big thinking, plenty of passion, direct impact and loads of energy is what has made The School of St Jude sustainable, and built it to be what it is today.

Many Rotary Clubs have proudly supported this school since first hearing Gemma speak at a Rotary International Convention in Brisbane in 2004.

Date Thursday, 13th March 2014
Venue Wyatt Hall, Pulteney Grammar School, 190 South Terrace, Adelaide
Time 7pm start, includes 'mix and mingle time'
Cost \$20 includes a drink and light nibbles
Bookings www.trybooking.com/73359
Enquiries Chris Dodsworth Ph 0417 795211

The Rotary Club of Hyde Park is holding another Rock and Roll Dance and Quiz Night!

These have always been a great success in the past with lots of fun and enjoyment. There will be great prizes, a silent auction, a welcome drink with supper provided. As in the past the band will be Chocolate Rush.

This is a very popular event, so please let us know early how many people wish to attend because we don't want disappoint. Organise your own table of 8, or we can find a table for you.

Date Saturday, 12th April 2014
Venue Goodwood Community Centre, 32-34 Rosa St, Goodwood
Time 7pm arrival, quiz starts at 7.30pm
Cost \$30 includes a welcome drink and supper
Enquiries Jim 0417825815 or Andrew 0418 816624.



City of Unley Business Breakfast - TUESDAY, APRIL 1, 7.00am, Unley Town Hall
 In conjunction with the Rotary Club of Hyde Park & the Eastside Business Enterprise Centre

Guest Speaker Mike Sinkunas, SA Small Business Commissioner

Appointed as the State's first Small Business Commissioner on 29 March 2012, the Commissioner provides small business operators assistance and support when dealing with disputes as well as providing independent advice and recommendations to the Government of the day on matters relating to small business.

COST: \$20 – includes breakfast (Concludes at 8.30am)
RSVP: Essential COB Thursday 27 March to Ian Stewart: - 0412 094 477
 Car parking is available in the Unley Shopping Centre directly opposite the venue

South Australia Police Officer of the Year Award - 2013

The South Australia Police Officer of the Year Award has been a major vocational project of the Rotary Club of Unley each year since 1978.

Nominations for the Police Officer of the Year for 2013 opened in February 2014 and close on Friday 28th March 2014. Details of the award and nomination forms may be found on the Unley Rotary website at www.unley.rotaryclub.org.au

Everyone is invited to attend the presentation of the award at 12.30pm on Tuesday 20th May at the rotunda in the Soldiers Memorial Gardens, Unley Road, Unley. There will also be a dinner held that night at the Glenelg Golf Club.

Come and hear the fabulous South Australia Police Band present a public concert at 11.45am prior to the award presentation. Enquiries to Stephen Westgarth 0419 279 928.



Sgt. John Illingworth,
 2012 SA Police Officer of the Year

Support, fellowship and a sense of being part of something that makes a difference...

Karl & Pauline Phillips moved to Adelaide from Perth in 2010, where Karl had already been a Rotarian for 18 months. *"We didn't know many people when we arrived so it was terrific my fellow Rotarians from Perth put us in touch with the Hyde Park club here in Adelaide."*, says Karl. *"We were warmly welcomed and quickly got to know our new club members."* At the same time they opened a new business. Karl is a Mobile Lender with ANZ Bank.

Not long after that, they found out they were to become parents for the first time. This was such an exciting time, but Karl wondered how on earth he would balance family, a new business and Rotary. As was the case in Perth, the Rotary Club of Hyde Park were terrific. They insisted that family came first, business second and Rotary came somewhere after those two. Having the flexibility to attend meetings as time permitted meant Karl could continue to enjoy all the benefits of being a member of Rotary. Benefits like support, fellowship and a sense of being part of something that makes a difference.

So while he wasn't always able to attend Rotary every week, he still kept in touch through newsletters, the club website and other events the club supported. *"Our daughter Emily is now nine months old and I'm gradually increasing my involvement with Rotary. Pauline, Emily and I would like to say thank you to Rotary and in particular to the members of our Hyde Park club for your encouragement, support and understanding. It has made all the difference."*



Can you find time for Rotary?

There are 1.2 million Rotarians in the world, with 32,000 in Australia... and they are all busy people. Many have demanding jobs, a hectic family life, bills to pay, lawns to mow, dishes to wash, gutters to clean and dogs to walk. But they all find time once a week to give something back, and they get a whole lot back in return. Call your local Rotary Club and find out what you've been missing out on.

Club contact details are on the back page.

Mitcham Rotary Bookshop

All your reading needs for a long cold winter await you at our Secondhand bookshop at very LOW prices.

You will find something for all ages and from:

- General Fiction
- Classics
- Australian Authors
- Mystery
- Travel
- Hobbies
- Crime
- Animals
- Gardening
- Science Fiction
- Cookery
- History

Recent donations include LP records (\$1 each), Musical Scores and Sheet Music. **Come, browse, chat and buy!**

Supporting local Rotary projects for Local Schools, Bedford Industries and Daws Rd Hospital and overseas projects in New Guinea, Timor Leste and Tanzania and Polio Eradication.

Shop 2, 448 Goodwood Road, Cumberland Park
Ph 0458 918 507 rotarymitchambooks@gmail.com
Mon to Fri 10.00am – 4.30pm & Sat 10.00am – 4.00pm



Need a hand with your catering?

The Rotary Club of Hyde Park can provide a BBQ Trailer complete with 2 cooks. Standard hire (including cooks) is \$75 per hour (minimum 3 hour charge of \$225).

THIS DOES NOT INCLUDE FOOD OR BEVERAGES. Other arrangements can be negotiated, but trailer is not available without Rotarians in attendance.

For more info phone Mike McAuliffe on 8346 2412 .



A Year Abroad: Through the eyes of a Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar

My name is Hannah Clare Watson and I am the District 9520 Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar for 2012 – 2013, sponsored by the Rotary Club of Brownhill Creek.

Last October, I returned to Australia having completed an Advanced Master in Public International Law at Leiden University. The year was one of the most inspirational, exciting and formative experiences of my life.

The Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarship Program provides a study grant to individuals to undertake tertiary studies in another country. I came to the program having worked for three years as a commercial lawyer. On a professional level, the scholarship has enabled me to pursue my longstanding interest in international law and to transition my career into the field of international environmental policy.

The overarching objective of the program is to promote 'international understanding and goodwill through study in another country'. The multi-cultural learning environment at Leiden University certainly lent itself to this goal. Taught in English, there were 50 students undertaking the Master, each from different countries, as well as cultural and linguistic backgrounds. It was fascinating to study international law, a subject laden with historical, political and economic overtones, in such a diverse setting. A highlight of the year was studying International Relations under the Dutch Former Secretary General of NATO, Jaap de Hoop Scheffer. Located near The Hague, we took numerous field trips to the International Courts, Tribunals, NGOs and Inter-governmental organisations located in that city. In addition to that, we spent a

week in Geneva visiting the United Nations Headquarters, The World Trade Organisation and the International Committee of the Red Cross. I feel like I have received a world-class education that has laid the foundations for a meaningful and successful career in this field.

An Ambassadorial Scholar's duties are two-fold. First, the scholar serves as an ambassador for their home country. This involves giving presentations to Rotary and non-Rotary audiences in their country of study about their home country and their experiences as an Ambassadorial Scholar. My ambassadorial presentations were a highlight of my year. The cultural insight gained through presenting to different Rotary clubs across The Netherlands was fascinating. I met some wonderful people and gained an appreciation of the diverse projects carried out by Dutch Rotary clubs.

Second, scholars must undertake local or international community service projects. For this element of my scholarship, I travelled to Nepal to live at an Orphanage established by the Dalit Women's Upliftment Centre in Kathmandu, for two weeks. My stay at the orphanage was life changing. I was immersed in the daily routine of the orphanage. I assisted with preparing meals, caring for the children and teaching English. The children were an absolute joy to get to know. Their enthusiasm, energy and love of life was awe-inspiring. Together, the children form a close-knit family and it was such a privilege to be allowed into their world.

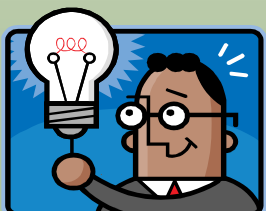
On a personal level, this year has impacted me in countless ways. In The Netherlands, I gained a unique insight into the Dutch culture, while experiencing life in an international setting. I made life-long friendships with people from all over the world. Living abroad was both exciting and challenging, and has taught me flexibility, independence and resilience. My experience in Nepal confronted me on many levels and has given me a renewed sense of perspective and purpose. I was surprised and inspired to witness firsthand the scale of the resounding changes brought about by charitable projects in Kathmandu.

The opportunities that I have gained through my Scholarship have altered my life forever. For me, the best way that I can express my gratitude to Rotary is to use my education and the skills that I have gained this year to their absolute full potential. At the outset of this new phase of my life, I look forward to pursuing a career in international law that honours the objectives of Rotary International and to maintaining a lifelong association with this remarkable organisation.

Unley Rotary Thrift Shop

Let us put your unwanted goods to use to help others less fortunate. Items needed include: Books & Magazines, Toys, Clothing, Jewellery, Sporting Equipment, Cookware (no electrical goods thankyou), Crockery, Cutlery, Household Goods, Soft Furnishings, Handyman & Garden Tools, Records, CDs, DVDs, Ornaments & Bric a Brac and Haberdashery.

130 Unley Road, Unley Ph (08) 8172 0900 Open Mon - Fri: 10am - 3.30pm, Sat: 10.00am - 3.00pm



Got a bright idea? Let's hear it!

The best projects usually originate from ONE SIMPLE IDEA. How can Rotary help YOUR community? What needs do YOU think should be addressed?

Have a think about putting YOUR Rotary clubs to work.

India is now Polio Free.

January 13, 2014, marked three years since India's last case of wild polio, a landmark achievement for global public health and the worldwide effort to eradicate polio.

Experts once considered India the most technically difficult place to end polio. As recently as 2009, India was home to nearly half the world's polio cases. High population density, migrant populations and poor sanitation presented exceptional challenges to eliminating this crippling disease.

With commitment from Rotary, the Indian government, the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, other donor governments, and the global community, India launched a comprehensive polio eradication effort and built a robust health infrastructure to eliminate the disease. An army of 2.3 million vaccinators worked to reach 175 million children with the polio vaccine during national immunization days.

India's success against polio is a significant achievement in public health and proves that the disease can be eliminated in even the most challenging of circumstances.

Community Link is produced by your local Rotary Clubs

Brownhill Creek

Meets Tuesdays 6.15pm at the Edinburgh Hotel, High Street, Mitcham
Contact President Judy McAdam 0417 821 011 or Secretary John Rundle 0401 120 011
Email brownhillcreek@rotaryclub.org.au Website www.brownhillcreek.rotaryclub.org.au

Eastwood

Meets Wednesdays 7.00am at the Royal Coach Motor Inn, 24 Dequetteville Terrace, Kent Town
Contact President Nhiem Lu 0415 863 220 or Mark Redmond 0400 560 251
Email eastwood@rotaryclub.org.au Website www.eastwood.rotaryclub.org.au

Hyde Park

Meets Wednesdays 6.00pm at the Hyde Park Tavern, Cnr Park Street & King William Road, Hyde Park
Contact President Sandra Matz 0414 747 657 or Secretary Gordon Wilkinson 0413 614 644
Email hydepark@rotaryclub.org.au Website www.hydepark.rotaryclub.org.au

Mitcham

Meets Wednesday 6.00pm at the Edinburgh Hotel, High Street, Mitcham
Contact President Sam Camporeale 0401 990 936 or Secretary Andrew Atterton 0418 788 401
Email mitcham@rotaryclub.org.au Website www.mitcham.rotaryclub.org.au

Unley

Meets Tuesdays 6.00pm at the Public Schools Club, 207 East Terrace, Adelaide
Contact President Greg McLeod 0417 811 838 or Secretary Mavis Martin 0408 399 834
Email unley@rotaryclub.org.au Website www.unley.rotaryclub.org.au

Enquires about this publication to Mark Huddleston Ph 0402 346 994 Email mark@sugarfreezone.com.au

