



## "OUR FOUNDATION IN FOCUS"

D9600 Rotary Foundation Newsletter - JANUARY 2007



*Warmest greetings and sincere best wishes to all Rotarians and Friends of Rotary for a happy, healthy, successful and rewarding 2007.*

JANUARY is ROTARY AWARENESS MONTH.

Paul Harris, in his message to the 1921 RI Convention in Edinburgh, Scotland said -

*"Since the beginning of civilisation, there has been a surplus of sayers of things. If there is any one particular way in which I would have Rotary distinguished from other organisations, it is in the quality of character which results in the doing of things".*

Wherever we go in the world, the power and influence of Rotary is close at hand. The world is full of Rotarians engaged in useful and necessary service projects. We are aware of the good work we do, but in our own communities, how many people really know what Rotary is and what Rotary does, and what the Rotary Foundation is and what it does? Rotary Awareness Month highlights the importance of spreading our message to our community at every opportunity.

*What activities are undertaken in your Club to achieve this goal and do you play an active part in this?*

*Cheers, Russ.*

### KOFI ANNAN PRAISES ROTARY'S LEADERSHIP IN GLOBAL POLIO EFFORT

In a farewell address on 11 December 2006, outgoing United Nations Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, cited Rotary International as an example of a private organisation, or non-state actor, whose partnership with public agencies helps achieve major goals.

Annan said - "The wonderful partnership between the UN family, the US Centres for Disease Control (and Prevention) and, crucially Rotary International, is close to eradicating polio worldwide."

Cordial relations among Rotary and UN leaders help strengthen the ties between the organisations. Annan, in particular, has openly expressed his admiration for Rotary's educational and humanitarian initiatives.

For example, at a special event at UN headquarters in New York on 4 November 2006 celebrating Rotary - UN Day, Kofi Annan acknowledged Rotary's invaluable partnership and said - "Rotary is living proof that people with diverse backgrounds can learn to get along with each other and concentrate more on the things we have in common, rather than on the things that drive us apart."

### A ROTARY LEGACY

The December 2006 issue of this Newsletter featured a promotion of Giving to The Permanent Fund of Our Foundation. The following is what **Royce Abbey**, President of Rotary International 1988/89 (from Melbourne), had to say on the subject -

***"We are all proud of our roles in making Rotary the world's foremost service organisation. Our gifts of time, talent and financial resources have improved the lives of millions.***

***Still none of us will be able to serve forever... Through The Rotary Foundation endowment, we can continue to build one of the greatest international, educational and humanitarian organisations in the world.***

***It is our final way to leave this world a better place than we found it"***

**THE ROTARY FOUNDATION'S  
PERMANENT FUND ENABLES  
ROTARIANS TO CREATE THEIR  
OWN LEGACY TO DO GOOD IN  
THE WORLD FOREVER**

## UPDATE FROM KATE DEL MAR -

### Our Ambassadorial Scholar in Geneva

Just a few items from the most recent of Kate's interesting and informative emails:

- Global warming is having an effect in Geneva as well with the area experiencing its warmest winter in 200 years
- Her Masters Course in Human Rights Law & International Humanitarian Law kept her very busy well into December
- Having completed a 'mountain of assignments', she celebrated by playing host and tour guide for husband Max and an Aussie friend visiting Geneva
- Winter in Geneva is a lovely time to go to the theatre, step in from the cold, peel off 4 layers of coats and to have hot chocolate just before the start of the First Act
- Has also been attending the lunchtime meetings of her host Rotary Club and assisting the members in a Club fundraising activity selling bottles of wine to raise money for a organisation that trains dogs to help handicapped persons. The Club had a stand at a major exhibition and one of the puppies in training (photo) was a popular drawcard.



### FROM THE TRF ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2005/06 (just received)

- Contributions to The Foundation totalled US \$111.9 million, 83% of which came into the Annual Programs Fund.
- Total Program Spending was US \$108 mill. including \$27 million on PolioPlus.
- The Foundation's investments contributed US \$50.2 mill. to total revenue of \$162.1 mill.
- Australia was ranked 9<sup>th</sup> on the list of 20 Top Giving Countries with US \$3.36 million
- The Foundation celebrated the historic milestone of recognising the one millionth Paul Harris Fellow.

## GSE SNIPPETS FROM OUR TEAM IN 3300

Our GSE Team will arrive back home from D3300 in Malaysia on 27 January after a very successful exchange experience. The following are just a few snippets of news from Team Leader, Lorelle Holcroft 'on the trail':

- The hospitality is just wonderful - anything at all is possible - anything we want appears.
- KL Rotarians are very powerful people and do quite amazing things in the name of Rotary
- Lorelle is the first female team leader in or out of D3300 since their first GSE in 1966
- The Rotarians know how to party and have fun - lots of fellowship is the key
- They have met the team incoming to D9600 and have established good rapport
- Rotary Clubs are very similar in size to ours and work across all avenues of service. Programs such as ROMAC and DIK work well there too
- Have lost track of just how many Rotary Clubs have been visited but have run out of banners and gifts. Toasts to the Sultan are always done - with a glass of water. Fines at Club meetings range up to \$100 a time
- Time has passed in a blur of activity
- Have had a number of vocational visits both formally and informally
- Our team is getting on very well together - team spirit is superb - everyone looking out for everyone else
- The food is divine - one meal will be Indian (eaten with the fingers), the next Chinese (with chopsticks) and then Malay (with spoon & fork), sometimes a mixture of all three - no knives anywhere - really delicious
- District Conference was an amazing spectacle - held in a major hotel in KL - over 1,000 registrations - lots of Rotary business transacted - 1,000+ at the DG's banquet which was attended by the Sultan - full royal protocols - amazing food and dancing - House of Friendship was a standout - opens at start of the Rotary day and runs through to 3.00am.
- The most amazing experience of my life to date (outside the birth of my kids). Lots more when the team returns.

"Our Foundation in Focus" is compiled by PDG Russ O'Malley, District 9600 TRF Chair.

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