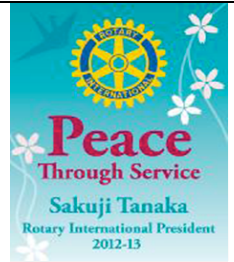




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The Rotary
Club of Mosman
Bulletin

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Vale - Past President Jim Reid



With sadness I report on the passing our Past President Jim Reid, member of our club since 1994 and President 2008-09. Jim was a man of many interests and passions. He was a Mosman Councillor for over 20 years, twice Mayor with an ever alert interest in the traffic problems of the municipality. Jim was a person of commitment and this included a keen interest in the history of the Royal Australian Navy. In fact, during his last days he was working on his presentation to our Rotary Club on the centenary of the RAN, which was to be presented at the club luncheon during the coming ANZAC Day week.

It was during his time as Mayor of Mosman that Jim went to the northern Chinese city of

Mudanjiang in 1998 to cement the Friendship Agreement between Mosman and Mudanjiang following initial contacts between the two communities which occurred during the time of his predecessor as Mayor, former Rotaract member Virginia Howard. The area surrounding Mudanjiang City, having been earlier the primary point of the Japanese invasion of China remained fairly impoverished at the time, and the distressed state of the little girls he saw there prompted Jim to raise his concerns with PP (now PDG) Danny Low who took up the challenge and the idea for the joint Mosman Council and Mosman Rotary Club Girl Literacy Project for Mudanjiang was born.

Jim made great efforts, both as a Councillor and as a Rotarian to keep the Mudanjiang Girl Education Project alive. He and his wife Marlene made

many visits to

Mudanjiang, and during his last visit in 2010, he gave an impassioned speech to the Deputy Mayor of Mudanjiang and a number of Councillors present, urging further progress in the education of girls and particularly he urged the community to teach their children the English language, which he referred to as the key to the knowledge of the world. In return, the Deputy Mayor of



Mudanjiang acknowledged the significance of the efforts made by the Mosman Community in raising their awareness to these particular needs.

Our thoughts are with Marlene and their family, especially the grandchildren. They will surely miss Jim. We will miss Jim as a Rotarian and as a friend.

On behalf of all the Members, Dieter Beck - President

Photographic details:

Dom. Rabu: Jim Reid as President of the Rotary Club of Mosman 2008

Dieter Beck: Jim Reid leading a delegation from Mosman Council and Rotary Club of Mosman members to Mudajiang 2010 handing over a joint Council Rotary Donation to the Deputy Mayor of Mudanjiang. Photo taken by one of the Mudanjiang Council employees.

Coming Events:

21st February (Thursday) Pride of Workmanship Evening Dinner (no OOOO)

26th February Kathy Forrest - Dutiful Daughters

5th March Business Lunch: "Innovation – It's not WHAT you do; it's HOW you do it!" Phil Preston. Members \$25. Visitors \$35.

12th March Mark Alderson – Job talk

19th March Nick Kingsmill – Job talk

26th March Normal Mosman Meeting BUT same week:

28th March Invitation from North Sydney Rotary- refer page 2.

#President Dieter, with Rotarians Joan Groth, Robyn Mikus and Barry Starr attended the Youth Exchange Students welcome home dinner last Friday night.

Our rebound students, Lauren McKee and Dan Hudson were there with their parents and our in-bonders Lorena and Bjorn also came.

Dan was chosen to represent the returning students and he gave an amusing talk about his addiction to clothes and cheese while in France and both students had a wonderful year overseas.

#An email from Manuel Gonzelez: " I have started driving lessons for 1 month - just theory like school, but after that I will drive a car with a teacher. I am going to work with my Dad in the mornings. I do mostly gardening and he pays me very bad XD. I will move to Santiago in March and start Uni on March 11th - Political Science. I am really excited about that. My subjects are: English, Intro to Classic Politics, Epistemology - theory and concepts of international relations. I hope I do it well and have success in the Uni. The year in Australia was a wonderful experience and I can't imagine something better. I will always be grateful for that opportunity. "

#Congratulations to Bjorn (Norway) on his 11 first place wins in his school (The Forest High School) swimming carnival. He also did a 50 metre underwater swim - his nearest competitor swam about 25 metres.

Visit by Sister Gemma Sisia - Founder and Director of the School of St Jude.

North Sydney Rotary Club is honoured to have Gemma Sisia visiting the Club on 28th March and they are inviting members of the Mosman and other Rotary Clubs to this very special meeting. It promises to be a wonderful day to show our support for this magnificent woman who has achieved so much in such a short time.

North Sydney Leagues Club 28th March 12 noon to 2.30 pm Rotarians \$30, Visitors \$40

Bookings essential: Phone Jenny on 0417 694 450 or e-mail jenny@jmexec.com.au

Speaker on 12th February was Fran Killoway from The Frasil Foundation

The Frasil Foundation supports the use of Fran's unconventional technology which provides simple common sense solutions to problems and to offer people choices so they can make a difference in their lives and the lives of people around them. An aim is to help people with disability or disadvantage to use computers through facial recognition.



Photo: Fran Killoway at the Rotary Club of Mosman

The foundation is also working on a project to cut language barrier. The person can speak in her own language and the translation is done directly (by voice). Other projects are also studied.

The Foundation is willing to work with Rotary to help both people with disability or disadvantage and open the world to them through the software created by the Frasil Foundation.

For more information <http://www.frasilfoundation.org/>

ROTARY COLLABORATION PROVIDES WATER IN LAO

Information provided by PP Charlie Barnett, recently returned from Lao.

The Rotary Clubs of Mosman, Lindfield, Berowra and Crows Nest in collaboration with Mine Victims and Clearance Trust (MiVAC) have provided running water to water points in villages in Lao Peoples Democratic Republic. This Rotary Australian World Community Service (RAWCS) Project 59/2011/2012 operates under a Lao PDR Permit provided annually to MiVAC Trust.

The Trust Patron retired Army Colonel Sandy Macgregor MC says the object of the project is “to secure a safe and healthy living and working environment to enable Lao people to progress their socio-economic development through education ,farming, income generation and gender equality”. Running Water is the first step. There is a long way to go in some of these villages comprised mainly of Hmong ethnic minority.

The first project is in the village of Ban Xai, in Xieghkouang Province near the capital Phonsavan. The government is keen to develop this area containing the “Plain of

Jars” http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Plain_of_Jars , a megalithic archaeological landscape as a tourist destination. Ban Xai is being developed as a model village which others will wish to emulate.

Rotarians and MiVAC volunteers are training, planning, administering and supervising villagers in this first step. Water is piped from a clear source 4500m away to two 8000 litre cement tanks at the MiVAC Farm shown below. From there it is reticulated around the farm to a 2000 litre header with shower below, two-hole toilet, one squat and one pedestal, the kitchen in the house and the bio-digester. Irrigation to the farm is planned.

A further pipe runs to Ban Xai West and to the school nearby. When finished this will be a model village. Other villages in the province are already envious of the improvements made. MiVAC is seeking to extend the permit to 2014 and beyond and plans to install tanks and water points, septic toilets and training in agriculture and other skills. A problem to overcome is getting the villagers to change their culture, a challenge larger than most westerners would imagine. Trust needs to be developed to achieve anything here.

As the name implies MiVAC is about clearing unexploded ordnance. Rotary is about humanitarian aid.

There is plenty to be done to help these people who were so poorly treated in the 1970’s.



Two 8000 litre tanks with pump stand. Bio-digester and cowshed.