

Trev's Tidings

"There have been three great inventions since the beginning of time: fire, the wheel and central banking."

Will Rogers

This week, the meeting topic is *Community Banking*, presented by Robert Chittick, one of the Regional Managers of the Bendigo Bank. The Bendigo community banking approach aims to improve the sustainability and viability of local communities and Robert will explain how and why it works.

Last Friday night and Saturday saw the penultimate District 9690 Annual Conference in Penrith. Although attendance was a little down on previous years, I think everyone who attended thoroughly enjoyed themselves, especially on Saturday night when *Panthers* was overrun by the Roman hordes. Topics varied, from electric cars and the wonders of the human mind to the complexities of Sydney's water supply. We were brought up to date on the polio eradication initiative with the welcome news that India has been declared endemic polio free for the first time in history. We still need to try and communicate more effectively with generations X and Y. One of the more inspiring presentations was that of a Gen Y person, Ilyasi Siraji, who described his life journey as a refugee from DR Congo to Adelaide. PDG Barry Thomson also told us about the preparations for the International Convention in 2014, which was originally to be held at the Entertainment Centre and Darling Harbour. However, these venues will not now be available and it is more than likely that the Convention will be held at Sydney Olympic Park. I suspect that those Rotary Clubs close to the site will be much more involved in preparing for the event than they would have been otherwise. Next year the final District 9690 Conference will be held 15-17 March at *The Cube*, Macarthur. Put it into your diary now. It will be a time of reminiscences as we reflect on the remarkable achievements of our District.

Last week there was no dinner meeting but a few of us manned the barbecue for Strathfield Council's *Harmony Day* celebrations in Airey Park. I would like to thank PP Peter Smith, Niall King, Andrew Kowalski and Nanette for cooking the food and serving the many visitors. One very disappointing aspect was the feeding frenzy that took place once people found out that the food and drinks were free. Originally intended to cater for 150 people and to start at 3.00pm and finish at 5.30pm, we were finished and out of the park well before 5.00pm! It was convenient for us but disappointing to many of the locals who held back and then missed out on the food.

Some of our members, especially the newer ones, may not know that if you can't attend a regular dinner meeting it is possible to record your attendance through a "Make-up", by visiting another Rotary Club or by being part of a recognised Rotary event, such as a committee meeting, a Board meeting, or a barbecue. Please keep this in mind when volunteers are called for in the coming months. However, Make-ups can only count one week either side of the missed regular dinner meeting.

Next week the after-dinner speaker will be Darion Atkins from the United States Consulate General. It should be an interesting meeting and I look forward to seeing everyone there.

*Remember
Reach Within to Embrace Humanity*