



# ROTARY CLUB OF HAWTHORN



## Tuesday 25 May 2010

**President Neil Roberts** (president@hawthornrotary.org)

### Notes from the meeting

#### District Governor

**Colin Muir** (RCWerribee)

#### Websites

[www.rotarydistrict9800.org.au](http://www.rotarydistrict9800.org.au)  
[www.hawthornrotary.org](http://www.hawthornrotary.org)  
[www.rotarydistrict9800.org.au/Members/Networker](http://www.rotarydistrict9800.org.au/Members/Networker)

#### Secretary

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#### Editor

**Lawrence Reddaway**

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#### Apologies (Essential)

- Enter in the book,
- Or tell Norman Hall

**Ph: 0401 100 177**

[Norman\\_p\\_Hall@hotmail.com](mailto:Norman_p_Hall@hotmail.com)

#### Meetings

**Hawthorn Receptions**

555 Glenferrie Road

Hawthorn 3122

**Tuesdays 12:30pm for**

**1:00pm (Finish 2.00pm)**

#### Rotary Club of Hawthorn

**PO Box 33, Hawthorn 3122**

**Bulletins etc available from:**

<http://groups.google.com/group/hawthorn-rotary/files>

**Discussions, correspondence etc available from:**

<http://groups.google.com/group/hawthorn-rotary/topics>

#### People

Welcome back to those returning from holiday, including:

- **Joan Janka** who has climbed many, many steps in countries overseas.
- **Lawrence Reddaway** who has been to Qld & NSW using car and train.

Best wishes to all of these members, and anyone else who may be on the sick list, unbeknownst to us:

- **Bruce Smith** is improving following surgery and hopes to be back with us in 2 weeks time.
- **Ian Stoney** left rehab hospital last week and thinks he has an outside chance of being with us next week.
- **Russell House**, previously thought to be working in Malaysia, is— alas—fighting pleurisy in Australia; but wants no fuss

#### Grade 6 Art Show Tues 08 June

Hawthorn Town Hall.

Features art from a primary school near Durban in South Africa

Volunteer to set up from 2pm; Judging 4pm; open until 6pm;

Contact Ian Warren

#### Support this Cluster project:

#### Sumba Eye Program 2010

**Wednesday 16 June 6.30 to 9.00pm**

Hawthorn Town Hall

Includes Charity Auction

By RC Glenferrie & RC Kew

\$45 ph—Drinks at Bar prices

Bookings: Neil Roberts.

#### RC Hawthorn Changeover Night

**Thursday 24 June**



**Green Acres Golf Club**  
51 Elm Street, East Kew

#### District Governor's Changeover Lunch

**Sunday 27th June 2010**

**Palladium at Crown**

**11.30am for Pre-Lunch Drinks**

**Contact Dennis Shore to join the Hawthorn tables.**

**\$75 per head**



## Genetic Testing: The Science, Applications and Ethics

By Jason Major (Manager, TechNyou)

Thank goodness Jason didn't try to teach us the full science behind the staggeringly powerful cutting edge of genetic testing and manipulation. (He nearly lost some of us in his briefest of introductions to genes and DNA!)

No, Jason comes from a background as a science communicator; and he communicated with us very well. He roved amongst our tables - clad in his wonderfully un-scientific faded jeans, runners and with his shirt fashionably outside his faded jeans - and *he* asked *us* the difficult questions.

Like: if we had the choice of ensuring that our unborn child would be less at risk of leading an unhealthy life, would we countenance the testing of the relevant embryo and the 'correction' of any genes that would predispose the child to unhealthiness? Most of us seemed to murmur our assent to that.

But then, would we countenance genetically engineering our offspring to be (say) predisposed to be

- relatively high in intelligence? Or
- good at endurance sports? Or
- have blue eyes?

Bill Troedel may have brought us back to earth with his comment that "even then Collingwood wouldn't win a flag"; but the questions that Jason posed were sobering.

Would our society countenance a person arranging for his yet-to-be-conceived baby to be a clone of (say) the baby's grandmother?

This gene testing technology has the potential to do—apparently—enormous good. Currently, I remember, Rotary is working hard to eliminate Polio from the face of the world; and we believe that this is a good thing to do. Have we taken upon ourselves (together with our partners like the World Health Or-

ganisation and the Gates Foundation) the role of god? Compare the polio example to that of Huntington's Disease:

After Polio, should we next try to eliminate Huntington's Disease from the face of the earth by means of working with the children of sufferers to eliminate embryos that are conceived with the relevant malevolent gene?

Should our government take unto itself a role in this type of activity? (Currently, in Australia, laws prohibit experiments on human genetic engineering.) Even if Australia does not permit its scientists to go down this fascinating and challenging scientific path, who says that—say—North Korea might not embrace the concept of breeding some form of elite group of Koreans?

How can the community, which no doubt harbours a very wide range of opinions, ever come to a genuinely democratic conclusion? I ask myself whether we can trust our government, through the democratically elected parliament, to make the 'right' decisions. (How can the government justify, for example, its continued ignoring of the reported majority view that euthanasia should be legalized?)

Thank you Jason for stirring our consciences. When you have some proposals for answers, please come and talk to us again!

(TechNyou is a free service that provides balanced and factual information on emerging technologies to help the public make informed choices. [www.gntis.edu.au](http://www.gntis.edu.au))

(By Lawrence Reddaway)



## Bowelscan Test

May is Rotary Bowelscan Month.

Those of us turning 55, or 60, or 65 will receive a free Bowelscan Kit in the post. Please use it!

The rest of us (over 40) and our families should obtain a kit (\$6) from participating pharmacies. (See [www.rotarymanningham.org](http://www.rotarymanningham.org).)

Early detection gives a 90% cure rate. The cost of 2 cups of coffee could save your life!



## Around

## The

## Club

*“Simon, I think you’re on grace, or is it this week?”*

Was President Neil having some sort of dig at Simon O’Donoghue, or just getting his syntax confused?

**Crisis:**  
*Pig Still Has No Official Name*

The Shadow calls upon the Board of our club to act urgently—as befits any governing body—and finally give the pig a name. We have waited in anticipation for far too long on this vital matter!

**Sergeant Sear vies with Treasurer Swan**

Our sergeant was in fine form:

- Referring to Ken Henry as belonging to *The Treasury Party* - (dangerous constitutional ground here)
- Correcting references to the RSPT to read *Rotary Special Persons Tax* (how many \$bn could that raise?) rather than *Resources Super Profits Tax*
- Somehow dragging in *Queen Victoria’s birthday*, and *the restoration of King Charles II to the monarchy*.
- And then wearing his tea cosy crown-hat.

Jonathan: we love you!



*The Shadow*

**Anne Scott** has sent the Club a card from UK, mentioning:

- A crab sandwich in “Doc Martin’s” Port Issac in Cornwall
- Rotary Club of Helston Lizard visit
- The “Coalition of the Losers” election
- Visit to Quilting Museum
- Bath (i.e. a visit to the City of Bath!)
- A 4 day Guiding Conference
- Then to Paris – as one does!

## Jim Braden

The President and Members of the Rotary Club of Hawthorn acknowledge with sadness the passing of our Honorary Member, Jim Braden PHF aged 99 years. Jim was a long serving and distinguished Rotarian, joining the Moe Club in 1955, Northcote Club ( President 1964-65), Kew Club (Charter Member) and a member of the Rotary Club of Hawthorn 1972 - 2010.

He was a dignified and committed Rotarian and the world is a better place as a result of his Service Above Self.

## This Week’s Meeting:

**Attendance:** 38 Members + 2 Guest = 40 Total  
**Guest Speaker:** Jason Major (TechNyou)  
**Guests of Members:** Robert Ball (David Rush)  
**Visiting Rotarians:** Nil  
**Other Guests:** Nil  
**Thanks to:** Brian Reid (Chair), Jonathan Sear (Sergeant), Jim O’Beirne (Raffle Donor).  
**Congratulations to** Simon O’Donoghue (raffle winner)

<b>Apologies</b>	DRURY Henry	MACFARLANE Ian
BURNS Vic	DUMAYNE Geoff	SCOTT OAM Anne
DAVEY Geoffrey	HALFORD Noel	
	LOGAN Richard	

<b>Housekeeping</b>						
(If you cannot perform your duty, please find a replacement. Or call Norman Hall 0401 100 177)						
Date	Setting Up	Badges	Front Desk	Grace	Raffle	Clearing Up
I Jun	Philip Slobom	Colin Crawford	David Pisterman	Ian Pohl	Geoff Dumayne	Ian Pohl
			Ian Macfarlane			David Rosback
08 June	Geoff Wright	Sean Curlis	David Pisterman	Andrew Donald	Norman Hall	Richard Groom
			Sandy Bennet			Phil Stewart

<b>Forthcoming Speakers</b>					
Date	Topic	Speaker	Organisation	Chair	
June 01	<b>Rideability Victoria</b> (formerly Riding for The Disabled)	<b>Colin Simpson</b>	<b>Vice Chairman &amp;</b>	<b>Geoff Wright</b>	
Programs operate in 44 centres across Victoria, catering for 1350 riders and carriage drivers, and aims to enrich the quality of life of people with special needs through committed volunteers and innovative programs with horses.					
June 08	<b>Member Behind the Badge</b>	<b>Sean Curlis</b>	<b>Club Member</b>	<b>Kevin Rose</b>	
An always-popular part of our program!					
June 15	<b>Sing Australia</b>	<b>Shaun Islip</b>	<b>Sing Australia</b>	<b>David Rush</b>	
The Sing Australia vision is for Australia to be a country where everyone sings. Amongst its aims: to create opportunities for singing and eliminate barriers and to make singing and groups accessible to all people who like to sing.					
June 22	<b>NO MEETING</b>				
<b>CHANGEOVER DINNER on Thursday 24th June</b>					
June 29	<b>Identifying Gang Presence &amp; Overview of Policing in Boroondara</b>	<b>Patrick Boyle APM</b>	<b>A/g Superintendent Victoria Police</b>	<b>Ian Macfarlane</b>	
Keeping up to date with the local community.					
July 06	<b>Prostrate Health and Continence Health</b>	<b>David Schmidt</b>	<b>Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia</b>	<b>tba</b>	
Ah—this sounds self explanatory!					

<b>Leave of Absence</b>		<b>Second Bite Roster</b>			
Noel Halford 16 May—04 July		May	29	Bill Troedel	Dennis Shore
		June	5	<b>No Collection</b>	
		June	12	Kevin Rose	David Owen
		June	19	tba	tba