

Rotarian Action Group against Child Slavery - Activities in Victoria, Australia

2016 - 2017

1. Presentations to Rotary Clubs:

By Tony & Robyn Stokes:

- 13 Victorian Rotary Clubs addressed.
- 3 projects supported; 6 new RAGAS members; D9810 Conference and Multi District PETS supported (see below).

By Malcolm Baird:

- Malcolm reports as follows:

We had general interest at the D 9800 Rotary Showcase RAGAS stall at the Conference and obtained 25 names and email addresses for the newsletter. There were several ladies, plus a couple of exchange students that had real insight into Modern Slavery and made comments that it was certainly appropriate for Rotary to be creating awareness and conducting projects to tackle it. Others were surprised at the numbers and the issue. Awareness promotion certainly needs to be ongoing.

I made 5 Club and 1 Cluster RAGAS presentations with a couple more proposed in this Rotary year. Two Articles were in the District 9800 and RAGAS newsletter.

A public promotion and showcase of Rotary Projects and Causes was held in Feb and another is proposed in May 2017.

By Ian McKay

- Ian reports as follows:

During the year the Rotary Club of Warrnambool Daybreak has had as one of its 3 goals to increase an awareness of child slavery in the world today. President Ian has spoken at 3 different Rotary Clubs and has also spoken to school groups. State Co-ordinator Tony was also invited to visit Warrnambool and he spoke at the same 3 Rotary Clubs. The Rotary Club of Warrnambool Daybreak now has 3 members of the Club who are members of RAGAS and have recently donated to an International Needs project to support Child Rights in Myanmar. With President Nominee Steve now a member of RAGAS the Club's focus on ending slavery will continue.

2. District Events:

D9800 Conference:

- House of Friendship stand.
- 25 contacts

D9800 Rotary Showcase:

- Federation Square in Melbourne CBD
- 7 contacts from general public.

D9810 Conference:

- House of Friendship stand.
- 15 contacts.

Multi District Presidents Elect Training Seminar (PETS):

- Rotary Showcase stand.
- 4 of the 5 Victorian Districts' incoming Governors and Presidents present.
- 19 contacts.

3. Training:

- At least two RAGAS members, Robyn Stokes and Malcolm Baird, participated in the on-line course conducted by Kevin Bales.

4. End Slavery Newsletter:

- 4 further issues - May 2016, August 2016, January 2017, April 2017.
- Now published using MailChimp.
- Distributed to 170 Supporters in Victoria, including 16 RACSRAG members, as well as all D9810 Rotarians via the District Information Bulletin and on Facebook.
- Item by Malcolm Baird published in the D9800 and RAGAS Newsletters.

5. End Slavery Projects:

- 3 End -Slavery projects supported by Victorian Rotary clubs partnering with NGOs.
- Total funds donated AUS\$18,045.00, including District Grant of \$4,220.00, and \$1,000.00 raised by New Year's Eve "Party with a Purpose"; matched 1:1 by RC of Box Hill Central.
- Aust. Government matching funding AUS\$27,500.00.
- Overall total raised for Anti-Slavery projects **AUS\$45,545.00**

6. RACSRAG Membership:

- 6 new members; now 18 RAGAS members in Victoria
- Robyn Stokes appointed District 9810 Ambassador

7. Plans for 2017/2018 Rotary Year:

- Assume role as Director of RAGAS.
- Identify a "support base" for resources, growth, longevity of RAGAS in Victoria.
- Harness the passion and enthusiasm of the growing number of RAGAS members in Victoria to spread the message. Provide resources to enable them.
- Continue to identify and promote End Slavery projects in conjunction with International NGOs for clubs to adopt. Assist them with accessing Rotary Grants where applicable.
- Assist to engage Interact (Secondary School student "Rotary") Clubs in 2017 Ping Pong-A-Thon.

Tony Stokes
 Coordinator, Victoria
 4 April 2017