April 2014 Newsletter

Good news! The Annual General Meeting (AGM) and the reception for our PDGs Fellowship will be held in a very special place, which is the Rotary Down Under office. It is located in Parramatta, which is on the commuter rail line between downtown Sydney and the convention site at Olympic Park, and the RDU office is within walking distance of the Parramatta train station.

The AGM will begin on Friday afternoon, 30 May, at 3:30 (15:30), and it will be followed by a cash bar reception from 5:00 (17:00) to 6:30 (18:30). The reception will be held in conjunction with a reunion reception during the same time and place for the 2010-11 DGs, commonly referred to as the Burgundy Brigade.

The cost for the event will be US$20 per person, and you may register for both of the PDGs Fellowship meetings on the fellowship website at www.PDGsFellowship.org. Please take advantage of this unique offer!

I have been to the RDU office several times in previous visits, and it is one of my favorite places in Australia. It is the home of the regional magazine, and it is also a wonderful store for Rotary merchandise. It is vintage Australian, and it has been made available for our use by the generosity of the executive manager of RDU, PDG Bob Aitken, who is one of the directors for our fellowship. The hotels in Sydney are crowded and expensive during the RI convention, and the opportunity for us to hold our Burgundy Brigade reception at the RDU office is almost too good to be true!

There are several restaurants near the RDU office, and we will have some information available at the reception about the most favorable places for us to continue our reunion after we leave the RDU office. Also, I am pleased to note that the RDU office is close to the ferry terminal in Parramatta, where the river boat ferries stop between downtown Sydney and the Olympic Park. The river ferries have a spectacular view of the Harbor Bridge and the Opera House as they move down the river to the Sydney harbor!

A helpful message from PDG Bob Aitken is shown on the next page, and I hope many of our members will utilize the opportunity to attend our AGM and to visit one of the most important Rotary facilities in all of Australia, --- the Rotary Down office!

For questions about the fellowship, please contact the chair, Ray Klinginsmith, at raylaw@sbcglobal.net, the secretary, Ann Lee Hussey, at annlee001@yahoo.com, or the registrar and webmaster, Philippe Lamoise, at Philippe@Lamoise.net.
Rotary PDGs Fellowship Annual General Meeting and Reunion

Incorporating the ‘Burgundy Brigade Reunion …

Dear Friends,

We are delighted to extend an open invitation to Rotary Down Under House at 43 Hunter Street, Parramatta, NSW, to all those intending to take part in the annual RI PDGs Fellowship AGM and Reunion – along with those members of the now famous ‘Burgundy Brigade’ … ON FRIDAY, MAY 30, 2014.

- 1.30 to 3.00 pm: RI PDGs Fellowship Board of Directors meeting.
- 3.30 to 5.00 pm: RI PDGs Fellowship Annual General Meeting.
- 5.00 to 6.30 pm: Combined reception for PDGs Fellowship and ‘Burgundy Brigade’ members. Fee of $20 covers light refreshments.

Rotary Down Under House is the property of Rotary clubs and Rotarians around the South Pacific Region. Funded by way of a ‘Rotary House Appeal’ in 1985/86, the building was planned to provide a ‘home’ for Rotary projects and activities around the Region. The substantial building comprises four floors – two of which are owned by Rotary Down Under Inc. The remaining two floors were sold to commercial organisations, thus eliminating the building mortgage. Rotary Down Under magazine occupies a suite of offices on the third floor – along with substantial meeting room and kitchen facilities. Office space for Rotary Australia World Community Service and ShelterBox Australia is also contained to the third floor. Australian Rotary Health utilized office space on the second floor.

We look forward to seeing you in Sydney!

Bob Aitken
Executive Director
Rotary Down Under

DIRECTIONS: PDG Phil Lacey is convener of these meetings and has prepared a map showing the location of Rotary Down Under in relation to the Parramatta Train Station. A train schedule listing trains from Sydney’s Central Station will be sent to all registrants.

[Map of directions from Parramatta Station to Rotary Down Under 43 Hunter St Parramatta]