

NEWSLETTER

OCT - NOV 2008

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DIARY DATES

Tuesday 4 November	Rehearsal at St John's Village	7.00 pm – 9.00 pm
Sunday 30 November	Concert Rehearsal at TAFE	1.00 pm – 4.00 pm (note change)
Tuesday 2 December	Rehearsal at St John's Village	7.00 pm – 9.00 pm
Friday 5 December	Rangeview	10.30 am – 11.00 am
	St Catherine's	11.30 am – 12.00 m
Sunday 7 December	CONCERT at TAFE	1.45 pm for 2.30 pm
Tuesday 9 December	Rehearsal at St John's Village	7.00 pm – 9.00 pm
Friday 12 December	Probus Lunch Performance	
	at The Gateway	1.45 pm for 2.00 – 2.30 pm
	Illoura	3.00 pm – 3.30 pm
Tuesday 16 December	St John's Village	7.30 pm –
	Music Return/Social Evening	Partners welcome.



WANTED: A PUBLICITY CO-ORDINATOR

We are looking for someone
who would be willing to co-ordinate
the publicity for our Christmas Concert.

Responsibilities:-

- (1) Co-ordinate the distribution and placement of posters & handbills in & around Wangaratta eg. local business, cafes, churches.
- (2) Arrange advertising on local radio and in the newspaper.



Dame Joan Sutherland – a quote from “Scientific American” January 2008:-

“Dame Joan Sutherland knew instinctively that some vowels cannot be used when singing certain pitches. The Australian soprano changed some of the vowels in her opera lyrics (even to the point of mispronouncing the words) to best match them with the desired pitches.”

Vale Peter Frederick Barnett 1924 – 2008

Peter had a big heart and a generous spirit. He worked hard with major contributions to the community through Rotary International and his local council. Peter was born in East Malvern in 1924 and came to live in Myrtleford in 1953, aged 29. He moved with his wife Audrey to St John's Village in Wangaratta 2002.

Within his family, Peter was affectionately known as PUM, a shortening of *Peter, Peter Pumpkin Eater*. He completed his secondary schooling at Carey Baptist Grammar and Melbourne Boys' High. His early upbringing was particularly strict and religious. Peter's love of music, particularly hymn and gospel singing, was influenced by his grandfather and his home organ.

Peter qualified at a Pharmacy College where he met his future wife Audrey also a pharmacy student. They married in January 1948 – a marriage that lasted more than 60 years and produced 4 children. After the marriage, the Barnetts back-packed and bicycled around post-war Europe. Peter's experiences at this time affected him and translated into his efforts to further world understanding and good will through the power of person to person exchange. He began the Rotary Student International Exchange Program – now known as *Rotary Youth Exchange*. It was in 1958 that Peter met with two other friends Joe Bradbury and Clive Schliebs of Wangaratta – the three pioneers whom Peter labelled "*the Holy Trinity*" – Joe was the Father because he never seemed to do much but was always there; Peter was the Son, the worker and dictator; and Clive was the Holy Ghost who was required to mop up.

In 1958 there was stiff opposition to their project. Much of the early opposition came from within Rotary itself. The three "pioneers" formed a fictitious Rotary District 280 with Peter as Chairman of the Student Exchange Committee. They produced their own stationary and used it to correspond with Districts and Government Departments around the world. Peter wrote "*I became guilty of Rotary treason, and I stood on the corns of blue bloods and knights of the Rotary Garter*". At a conference in Lorne the Exchange Program was born after an initial hiccup. Some of the early exchange students became part of the Barnett family and life long contacts have held strong. The first student came from Nebraska Jan 1959. In the 1950's Australian male chauvinism reigned supreme and Peter felt particularly proud that it was he who was responsible for bringing forward the program to females. At this time, Peter was in contact with government regarding visas; the Minister for Immigration was Minister Alexander Downer.

One day last year when Peter was very sick in hospital, the medical staff approached his son to comment that he was hallucinating again. They said Peter was telling them that he was instrumental in starting student exchange and that he had been corresponding with Alexander Downer. The staff were quickly enlightened that all was correct and that the Alexander Downer was our present member's grandfather of the same name.

In 1971, Peter was named *Father of Student Exchange*. He later received the highest award made to individuals in Rotary when he was made a Paul Harris Fellow.

Peter and Audrey ran a Pharmacy business in Myrtleford for 40 years.

He also served in local government joining the Shire of Myrtleford and serving as a Shire President for two terms. He became the evangelist for garbage. And was a tireless campaigner for the establishment of the timber and pulp mill in Myrtleford.

Peter also loved gambling – he dabbled in the horses; he loved a bit of the drink – felt it good for business to spread his clientele around all the pubs; and he loved Bowls.

In 1971 at age of 47yrs he had an almost fatal heart attack. He was able to nearly double his life span after that. Peter had an amazing resilience. His son stated that "*he was a brilliant man blessed with a creative talent; he walked that fine line between genius and whatever lies on the other side of that; and the family was proud of his achievements no matter how unorthodox a road he took*".