

ROTARY NOTES



Golfers and Sponsors

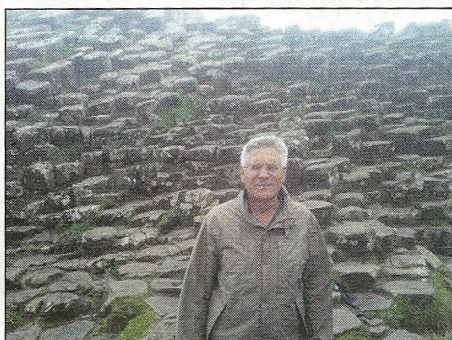
Thanks to the great work of Lee Kenny the charity golf day at Keperra on Friday, 2nd September 2011 is progressing well. Should additional sponsors or players require information please contact Lee Kenny on 3289 3691 or email buywood@bigpond.net.au

Lucky We Live Here

I recently read about a charity organisation called Ready 4 Life that operates in the numerous black townships around Port Elizabeth (South Africa) with the support of the Rotary Club of Port Elizabeth. One of the goals of this charity is to endeavour to identify children between the ages of 6-13 who have dropped out of primary schools for a week or so and try to get them to rejoin the system. Some of the reasons given for "dropping out" of school were family illness, family poverty, family dysfunction, demoralisation through hunger or a decision that the child would be better off becoming a beggar than going to school. The writer of this article also asked why some roadsides are churned up for considerable distances. The answer newly dug graves for AIDS victims.

Australia and Polio

Rotarians around the world have donated \$1.3 billion toward the fight to eradicate



President of Samford Rotary Ian Ruffles seeking the answers to life in Northern Ireland.

polio from the world but polio remains endemic in four countries. There are 1159 Rotary clubs in Australia and I suspect that every one of these clubs has donated and many continue to donate to the fight against polio. The Rotary Club of Samford is a relatively small club and yet we have contributed in excess of \$23,000 to rid the world of polio.

The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation have channelled \$US335 million to Rotary International's End Polio Now Campaign. Bill Gates was the keynote speaker at the 2011 Rotary Convention in New Orleans and he thanked countries such as Canada for their recent \$60 million donation, USA (\$130 million), UK (£60 million) and United Arab Emirates (\$17 million). However, he went on

to say that there were countries that had once donated but have now fallen away. He identified Germany, France and Australia as countries that "need to re-engage". A letter has been prepared for all Australian Rotary clubs to send to Canberra seeking re-engagement in the polio fight.

Seeking Answers to Life

A number of Samford Rotarians are wandering the world either trying to remember who they are or seeking the meaning of life. Tony Freeman, normally an abundantly sensible person, has just left for the USA hoping to make contact with Elvis Presley. Peter Gloor is in the Swiss Alps looking for the key to his secret Swiss bank account that he lost 27 years ago. The Samford Rotary President, Ian Ruffles, is wandering aimlessly around Northern Ireland just hoping he can find a road that goes somewhere. Ian Spiller has returned from several weeks on a coastal steamer in the Pacific endeavouring to make contact with Robert Louis Stevenson; no wonder his family are insisting he goes into hospital. Eric Leese, our membership director, did not get a single local in Istanbul to join our club. Thank heaven for sensible Rotarians like Barry Walker who is soon to leave for Thailand hoping to sign up players for the Brisbane Lions.