

## MAY INTERNATIONAL NEWSLETTER

As I write, it is only two weeks until the District Assembly at Napier University (please note the change of venue). If you are continuing in office, I look forward to seeing you there, if not, please encourage your successor to come.

At the Assembly we shall be setting out next year's programme including items on the main project, Leonard Cheshire Disability entitled School 4 All in Africa. One of our main themes for the new Rotary year will be Children.

As I mentioned in my last Newsletter I shall be promoting another project in Malawi. This will be about building a toilet block and how you can buy a "brick" to help this on its way.

You should already know that the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation gave a challenge to Rotarians to match their \$ 100 million donation towards the Polio Eradication Campaign.

It is heartening to note that the Gates Foundation had declared their commitment to Global Malaria Eradication in their lifetime. The first World Malaria Day took place on the 25th April 2008. Malaria is a preventable and treatable disease affecting up to 500 million and causing up to 3 million deaths a year. Our first task is to create awareness of the needs and the possibility of augmenting efforts by Governments, NGOs and of course Rotary such as REMIT , the committed Rotarian Action Group.

On trawling through the District web site, I noticed that three clubs were doing substantial projects. Eyemouth and District is supporting a Secondary School in Tanzania in the Maasai village of Eluwai. Kelso is assisting with an educational project in Kalimpong, West Bengal – a town on the former wool trading route in that country. The Peebles club is progressing the "House of Rock " project in South Africa and is also supporting in partnership with a local Church congregation a tympanometer to assist work with deaf children and adults in Sierra Leone. Well done all these clubs.

Finally, I went to a sponsored walk with our Ambassadorial Scholars, Beth Staton, Yuriko Kamado, Mike Snyder and Irika Sumita on Saturday 3 May. I attach photos of them and those who accompanied them taken at the top of Ben An (461 m high). Thanks to the generosity of Clubs, they raised about £400 towards the building of a toilet block mentioned above.



Yours in Rotary

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