Many Hands Make Light Work

Our booth at the 104th RI Convention in Lisbon, Portugal was a rousing success, attracting crowds of Rotarians who wanted information on our Fellowship and to become new members. Over the five days the House of Friendship was open to convention goers, we saw and talked with hundreds of Rotarians and Rotaractors about the benefits and advantages of membership in ITHF. This past year Rotary International decided that the fellowships could allow Rotaractors as members. Our board of directors voted to accept them as full members at the Board Meeting in Lisbon. This year at the booth, 112 Rotarians and 3 Rotaractors joined as brand new members of ITHF.

Many thanks have to be given to all our members who volunteered their time and knowledge to help prospective members make the decision to become ITHF’ers. At risk of leaving anyone out by not mentioning them here, we will try to recognize those we can who gave their time, talent and knowledge: President Peter & Rosemary Ibbotson, Past President Barry & Jennifer Philips, President-Elect Medicare & Linda Hsu Ed & Ruth Broeders, Parimal Gandhi, Sita Rupakheti, Kimberly Carroll, Rick & Mary Ellen Harned, Sonia Baron, Frank & Bunny Willett, Peter & Rose Gray, Marge Cole, Melvina Lube, Jean & John Henderson, Ellen Haggerty, John & Audrey Steven, Chris & Graeme Dodsworth, David & Christine Judge, and Phil & Susie Komornik.
The Power of Partnerships

The Rotary District 5060 Conference was held in Kamloops, BC, Canada, May 2-5. District 5060 is an international Rotary District that includes central British Columbia, Canada, and central Washington State, USA. Running through the Okanagan fruit and wine-producing areas of the two countries, it covers a total distance of almost 900 kilometres or 600 miles.

There are 22 ITHF members in District 5060. Thanks to the enthusiasm and efforts of GIVONNA DEBRUIN, of Vernon, BC, Canada, about ten of those members who were attending the conference gathered on Saturday afternoon for a short visit and discussion. Conference Chair SHERRY CHAMBERLAIN, a Kamloops ITHF member, arranged a meeting place and included the information on the conference agenda. As a result, a few non-ITHF members also arrived to find out more about the fellowship.

In fact, as a result of that get-together, Steve and Noko were invited to lunch on Sunday after the conference to the home of RON and BARB NEWSON.

Organizing this gathering took a small amount of work on the part of a few people, notably Givonna, DeBruin who sent out the invitation; Pat Graf, who made the contacts with the conference organizers and Steve Yoshida; and Sherry Chamberlain, who organized the venue. It was a very short time together, but it opened doors to further connections within the district.
New Friends and New Rotary Projects
VIVIAN FINDLAY & CLYDE BOYER
Homer, Alaska

We have been ITHF members for a long time. Now we are in Guatemala, and we contacted CARLOS & LAURA GALVEZ in Guatemala City to see if they would be willing to host us for 2 nights. We also wanted support from Carlos' Rotary Club of Guatemala City East for a coffee project we are doing with Alaskan Rotary clubs for the indigenous Mayan Ixil people from the mountains of the Quiche area. These people are extremely poor, and produce the most wonderful single source, organic, rain forest grown coffee. We hope to receive a TRF grant to provide some coffee processing equipment which will enable the farm cooperative to retain more of its profits to benefit the farmers and their families.

Carlos and Laura have been magnificent hosts, and Carlos' Rotary club members have been very helpful. In addition to the coffee project, Carlos has started another project to provide a local village "rocket stoves" so that less fuel is needed for cooking, and there is much less smoke pollution within the cooking area and in the environment in general.

ITHF has connected us with new friends, and new Rotary projects, and we are grateful.

Two Connections
MADU BISHNU
Calcutta, India

In early May, when I attended the Rotary South Asia Summit at Hyderabad I was hosted by RAJESH & TANVI PAMNANI. Although Rajesh was away from Hyderabad on a business tour, I was very well taken care of by his wife Tanvi. After the Lisbon RI Convention, I was hosted by new ITHF member TERESA GARCIA SANCHEZ at her home in Madrid. I enjoyed attending a Latino Continental Jazz program with her. I thank both Tanvi and Teresa for their excellent hospitality.
In August of 2010, ITHF members KEN & CINDY HODGE of Newport News, Virginia, USA stayed with us in our home in White Salmon, Washington, USA. After their visit, they asked when we were going to come visit them. Three years later, we decided to take a month-long bicycle trip in eastern United States, which would include a visit with Carol's 90-year-old aunt in Richmond, Virginia, and a re-connection with the Hodges, followed by cycling down North Carolina's Outer Banks and up the Blue Ridge Parkway through North Carolina and Virginia.

Ken and Cindy were fabulous hosts. In addition to very knowledgeable tours of Colonial Williamsburg, Jamestown & Yorktown (Ken is quite the history buff, so touring these sites with him is a great experience), we had a great time getting reacquainted. Cindy fed us wonderful seafood dinners each evening including the highlight of a massive quantity of Chesapeake Bay crabs one evening, with two of their adult children joining us for the feast. Because shelling and eating the crab is a time consuming activity, this was an extended dinner with lots of laughter, storytelling - and a little wine consumption!

New Faces on the Board

President Peter Ibbotson is pleased to announce the following new appointments to the ITHF Board of Directors:

Treasurer: RICK HARNED, Louisville, Kentucky, USA
Communications & Newsletter: KIMBERLY CARROLL, Alexandria, Virginia, USA
Corporate Secretary: MELINDA LUBE, Lake Forest, Illinois, USA
I joined ITHF in Bangkok in 2011, and this year I really enjoyed the fruits of my membership. In May, GRACE MAANO of Sydney, Australia, wrote to say she would be visiting Uganda and wanted to connect with members of the ITHF. With eagerness, I immediately offered to host her at my residence, but due to her heavy schedule, we agreed the hotel would be more comfortable.

Grace arrived on Thursday, our Rotary Club Fellowship Day. She attended our fellowship, and members were very happy and excited to receive her. She talked about her mission to Uganda, which included touring as part of the ITHF program and a follow-up of the Fistula and Medical equipment projects funded by the DAK Foundation in Australia. Our club agreed to be part of the team to implement the projects.

On Saturday one of our club members had a traditional ceremony to give away his daughter, and Grace accompanied us, smartly dressed in our traditional wear. It was really exciting.

The following Tuesday we had dinner with my family at one of the restaurants which commands an entire view of Kampala City. The next day we drove to Masaka, a district town 140 km from Kampala to the west to visit one of the fistula projects at Kitovu Hospital. On the way, we had some time at the equator, one of the national tourist attraction sites. Grace stood in the southern hemisphere, and I was in the north, yet we were together.

From Masaka we drove directly to my residence where the family was preparing dinner. My two daughters and my wife JULIET were overjoyed with her presence. Grace freely interacted and participated in the preparation of matooke, our traditional meal. Thanks to ITHF that brought us together.
Great Rotarian Guests
BRUCE & LINDA SPEAR
Denver, Colorado, USA

Our first time hosting fellow ITHF members was a great experience. It helped I am sure that we hosted very experienced ITHF world travellers ED & WANDA JARED of Cookeville Tennessee. We discovered that the best way to be good hosts is to have great Rotarian guests.

Not knowing the ins and outs of hosting or any knowledge of Ed and Wanda, we decided that it would be best to arrange for some unique experiences in the Denver area. They arrived on the afternoon of 15 June, and we quickly set out to dinner and a concert at the Red Rocks Amphitheater, a unique outdoor venue carved into the red rocks of the Rocky Mountains. The concert turned out to be a very loud rock concert that was more than our hearing could endure, but Ed and Wanda did endure and were very gracious; I am sure they found it to be a new and different experience.

On Sunday we decided an easy day would be best so we visited the mountain town of Golden Colorado, and took in the local sights.

On Monday Ed and Wanda ventured on their own into downtown Denver to visit the State Capital and the Denver Mint. The capital was undergoing renovations so the gold dome was encased in plastic and the Mint was only giving out shredded money, but I believe the Jareds enjoyed their day.

We had plenty of time to get to know each other and learn about our different lives. Ed and Wanda also provided us with much information on the ITHF and setting up future hosting, and traveling to ITHF members homes in all parts of the world. I learned that a successful visit is based on the ability to accommodate and adapt.

Ed and Wanda left Colorado on Tuesday 18 June, but their adventure was not quite over. While they were waiting to take off from the Denver International Airport, a tornado in the vicinity required that the plane return to the gate and disembark passengers to tornado shelters. The flight eventually departed, and Ed and Wanda arrived home after a very exciting and unusual trip.
Connecting Points

JIM & LINDA BAUER from Kennewick, Washington, USA, had a great short visit with DAVID & CLAUDETTE SMETTE Jamestown, North Dakota, USA in early May. “We were their first ITHF guests. As we talked about our ITHF adventures, David got very excited; the Smettes were heading to Norway to trace some of their ancestry. We popped onto his laptop, and found him an ITHF host. He reported back that the visit was a huge success—they helped him find the family farm, and they found some distant relatives to connect with. One of the best aspects of ITHF is turning someone else on to the adventures awaiting them.”

Regular contributor AMBALAKAT RAM MOHAN writes about his experience attending the RI Convention in Lisbon: “A team of 20 members arrived in Lisbon on the eve of 22nd June for a five day stay. The fellowship and friendship enjoyed during this trip was some thing new to NIRMALA and me as we do not usually travel with a group. As there were no ITHF connections planned this time, we preferred to travel with known Rotarians from our District, and it really gave us life long remembering experience of getting new genuine friends. We lived in the hotel like a family and enjoyed every outing together to RI Convention place, to Sintra, Nazare and Fathima, etc. The evening fellowship get togethers at the specially allotted place in our hotel were unique as members shared their talents through jokes, songs, and travel stories. We met many old friends and met a few new ones. The ROTI meeting and South Asia reception we attended gave us good opportunity to meet world leaders of Rotary. We are looking forward for a similar trip to Sydney next year.”

FRANK TRIPICCHIO of Bakersfield, California, tells about his visit to Singapore and connection there with TC TAN. “I wish to acknowledge Rotarian and ITHF member TC Tan, Rotary Club of Pandan Valley, Singapore. I contacted Rotarian TC Tan approximately 30 days prior to my arrival in Singapore, a city which I had never visited before. I described the purpose of my visit: attending an International Real Estate Conference, and the duration of my stay. Within 24 hrs Rotarian Tan had put me in contact with the operations manager, also a Rotarian, of a rather comfortable lodging facility.

The reservations desk took care of all of the details, including travel information from the airport and to the conference center. Rotarian Tan invited me to attend the regularly scheduled Rotary Club meeting, where I was warmly greeted by the members. The California wine I had brought as a token of appreciation for my ITHF colleague TC Tan was used as a raffle item for one of their many ongoing projects. A substantial amount of money was collected.

I have been an ITHF member for 5 years. This was the first time I participated in the program and it was such a meaningful experience that I shared it with Rotarians in my Rotary District at the District Assembly. Rotarian Brother TC Tan, I thank you for making me feel at home, and I hope to have the opportunity to reciprocate.”
Magnificent Hosts, Outstanding Generosity
PETER & ROSEMARY IBBOTSON
Sedgeberrow, England

With so many new members from India and Nepal joining the ITHF at the Bangkok Convention, Rosemary and I thought it would be a good idea to visit the sub-continent and visit as many members as we could in one month. Our trip included two connections in India and one in Nepal, and a Rotary Friendship Exchange in India.

We started in Mumbai at 2:00am when HEMANT JATHAR’s driver picked us up at the airport and drove us for about one hour through the still heavy traffic of Mumbai to the Jathars’ lovely home in Ambarnath. HEMANT & REVATI were there to greet us, even though it was the middle of the night, and after a few hours rest, we departed for a weekend break at their hill station home in Lonavala, where we were joined by Anand, Hemant’s colleague and friend, another Rotarian, from North Wales.

On our return to Ambarnath, we visited a number of Rotary projects that had been undertaken by Hemant’s club, including a 2000 student school built by the club in the 1960’s and a Bohonoli check dam to provide water to a local village after the rains cease. This project was completed with a Rotary Matching Grant in conjunction with a Swedish club that Hemant had visited in 2009.

On Tuesday, after a visit to Hemant’s farm for lunch, we attended an evening meeting of the Rotary Club of Ambarnath, where I was invited to give a PowerPoint presentation about ITHF.

The following Thursday, we were dropped at the beautiful home of SRIKRISHNA & ALKA KARKARE in Pune. We were, apparently, their first ITHF visitors, and they could not have made us more welcome. They showed us the sights of Pune including a visit to their own new factory. In the evening we were guests at a splendid wedding.

At a Friday night visit to the Rotary Club, we learned how, last year, Srikishna organised a huge half marathon in Pune called the Runathon of Hope, which raised around $500,000. You can visit the website at www.runathon.org. On Saturday we were taken for a wonderful day out in Panchgani and the surrounding mountains. What an amazing place! Strawberries everywhere!
That evening we enjoyed a beautiful Chinese meal before returning to pack our bags for our departure to Indore the following day to join our Rotary Fellowship Exchange group from home. The next two weeks were spent with Rotarians from Indore and Bhopal, visiting many interesting places. In Indore we visited Daly College and Emerald Heights School, both fine examples of Indian Public Schools. At Jodhpur, we attended a spectacular wedding: the bridegroom arrived on an elephant, there were thousands of guests and it seemed to go on all night! Two days later, back at Indore, we attended the Rotary District Conference.

The next stage of our journey took us via New Delhi to Kathmandu, to stay with SITA RUPAKETI and her lovely family. Sita is our VP for Nepal and what an amazing person she is! Sita is constantly recruiting new members for ITHF despite all the difficulties of communication and currency that exist in Nepal and the enthusiasm for ITHF in Nepal is staggering. At each club that Sita took us to, we were presenting ITHF pins to new members recently recruited by Sita. I do not believe that we could have been made more welcome anywhere in the world.

As Sita has already told of our visit to her country in the April 2013 issue of Connections, we are left to say only that we cannot thank her and her family enough for the way they hosted us and made our visit to Nepal so memorable.

In conclusion, I have to say that this trip was one of the most memorable that I have ever made. Our hosts were magnificent, and their generosity outstanding. If you have not used ITHF to visit the sub-continent already, then do so soon. I cannot wait to have our hosts visit us in UK so that we can try to reciprocate the hospitality.

New ITHF Treasurer Rick Harned

A member of the 470-member Rotary Club of Louisville since 1999, Rick Harned is a graduate of Vanderbilt University and holds an MBA degree from Bellarmine. During a 20-plus year career in international banking and business strategy with US regional banks, he also taught political science at the University of Louisville and assisted an Indiana University team leading banking seminars in Ryazan, Russia. He managed the Louisville office of the Kentucky World Trade Center in 1996-1999, before earning certification as a Microsoft Systems Engineer, and ending his working career as an email administrator with Marsh & McLennan Corporation. On two occasions, Rick led groups of Boy Scouts on visits to Russia, just as Scouting was being reestablished there. He and Mary Ellen have traveled extensively in Europe and South America, and hope to visit Japan in the near future. In retirement, both became certified in teaching English as a second language and spent six months in Montevideo, Uruguay, during which they had their first experience in being hosted by ITHF members. Rick currently serves as a Director of his Rotary Club, and as Grants Subcommittee Chair for District 6710 (Western Kentucky, USA).
AGM Report: President Peter Ibbotson

With 87 members in attendance, President Peter Ibbotson welcomed everybody and opened the meeting at 7.45am. He apologized for the presentation having had his computer, tablet and all his prepared notes stolen while attending the convention.

He and Rosemary had a busy year preparing for the tour of Portugal but had found time to organize another “Get Together” weekend in November for members in Great Britain and Ireland at the Mill Hotel, Averly, in Shropshire. Some 30 ITHF members attended.

In January and February, a visit to India and Nepal incorporated a Rotary Friendship Exchange, but also enabled them to stay with some new ITHF members and some old friends. During the trip they visited sixteen Rotary Clubs and were able to give ITHF presentations at many. They met many new members, especially in Nepal where VP Sita Rupakheti has been extremely busy.

87 members took part in the pre-convention Tour of Portugal. The participants seemed to enjoy the tour which visited places and hotels that were not on regular tour routes. Peter thanked all those who had taken part for their support. Kimberly Carroll then gave a glowing report of the tour saying that she had taken more than 1000 photos and enjoyed it enormously.

Peter then reported that all existing officers who had expressed a wish to continue in office would be re-appointed for the coming year. Unfortunately, owing to the untimely death of our treasurer, Michael Anorue, in December, we have been without a treasurer. Phil Komornik saved the situation by rushing up to New York, rescuing the books and the bank account and acting as treasurer for the past six months. Peter was pleased to announce that Rick Harned has agreed to take the office of treasurer for the coming year and was delighted to confirm that appointment.

Rick will work with Peter to try to reorganize ITHF banking so that other currencies can be accepted for membership dues, etc., and try to reduce the costs of transferring monies in different currencies. Peter pointed out that for many countries such as India and Nepal, it was very difficult for our members to transfer money in US dollars. Currency problems have also had an adverse effect on membership recruitment in Europe and other parts of the world.

Connections Editor Pat Graf has asked to step down at the end of this year. Pat has been a wonderful editor for many years and now seeks a well deserved rest. Peter was pleased to appoint Kimberly Carroll as Pat’s successor. Pauline Lindo, our secretary, has also requested to step down, and Peter was pleased to appoint Melvina Lube as our new secretary.

With regard to membership the president reported that whilst recruitment remains strong, retention of members remains a major problem. When Peter joined ITHF some 17 years ago, the then president had ambitions to increase membership to 2000 during his year. This he did not achieve, nor have any of his successors achieved this target. For every 200 new members we attract each year, we lose 200 existing members so that our numbers have remained fairly steady at around 1200.

Reasons for this drop-out are many and complex, but the main reason seems to be lack of communication. New members join us every year at the conventions – if they do not make a connection or nobody tries to make a connection with them, they do not renew at the end of their three year membership.

Some members, we simply lose contact with. This may be because they move house or change their e-mail address and do not inform us. Many of us are just getting older and do not travel so well. Others find that the cost and increasing difficulty of International travel are deterrents.
Whatever the reasons, improved communication may help to solve the problem. To this end the President would like all VP’s to appoint a representative in every Rotary District that has members. The duties of the representative would be to contact the other members in his or her district by phone at least once a year to check if anyone has changed their e-mail address, made or received any connections or has anything to contribute to making the ITHF more user-friendly. The District Representatives will report to their VP who will pass the information on to the president. Peter will design a report form and will contact all VP’s in the near future to implement this. In making contact, why not arrange a get together for a drink or a BBQ? We are, after all, a “Fellowship”. Let us all make friends with the other members in our Districts.

While some VP’s are very active, some are less so, and some are finding it difficult to continue in that role. If you are finding it difficult to take an active role, please contact the president and let him know so that a replacement can be appointed.

If there are any members who would like to take a more active role in ITHF, either as a District Representative, a VP, or in any other capacity please contact the president. We have new members in new areas – we need more officers involved.

With better communication in mind, Peter and Phil are working with Roger Siddle to try to improve and update our web site. More news on this soon!

Past President John Steven then presented an informative and humorous talk about the Pre Convention tour in Australia 2014. This looks to be a fabulous tour so be sure to book early. Certain changes to the Tour Policy have been passed at the Board Meeting and will be published shortly.

The Tour Committee for the coming year will be Past President John Stevens, President Peter Ibbotson, VP JJ and Edna Santos and President-Elect Medicare Hsu. There being no other business the meeting was closed at 8:45am.

Host Hospitality Night in Lisbon

SURAIYA KASSAMALLY
London, England

It was a wonderful evening of warmth and sunshine in Lisbon as myself and over 300 Rotarians arrived at the Parque das Nacoes Docks for their Host Hospitality Night.

The place had several enormous halls with music playing and the local wines, beers and soft drinks poured out in large numbers. The cuisine buffet was an ample variety of the local food of salads, meats and snacks. The venue was a very roomy place with plenty of chairs and tables for our comfort on the terraces overlooking the sea. There was a magical buzz in the place with great warmth and fellowship as Rotarians relaxed and made new friends.

As we chatted and mingled, a small boat appeared with special black sails carrying the message of END POLIO NOW. Everyone clapped and took many photos. A few minutes later another smaller sailing boat sailed across carrying the message END POLIO NOW in red and white. Again there was loud applause. These two boats sailed in front of us several times, and I among others felt great pride in our role to eradicate Polio.
Proud to be Part of the Rotary Family

SITA RUPAKETI
Kathmandu, Nepal

From the bottom my heart, it was an honour and a privilege to be able to attend the 104th International Rotary Convention in Lisbon Portugal.

I was impressed and moved by the opening ceremony on the first day. The flag ceremony recognized every one of the 225 countries represented at the convention. It made me realize that all of the people of these countries were together in the same hall with the same mind set, which is to come together to help all people around the world and to make a difference for good by putting "service above self ". The speakers were very impressive in sharing how their hard work and sacrifice made a difference in this world.

The "House of Friendship" was a wonderful place where different issues were represented in various booth. These booths opened my eyes about the opportunities which we can choose to join hands to do different projects together. These booths also showed me how Rotarians play and have a good time by enjoying everything from music and singing to riding motorcycles across the countries.

All the booths were very interesting and about different issues. Since one cannot participate in all the booths, I chose to work with Greg in the Prosthetic Hands Project. His group provided prosthetic hands free of charge to people who had lost them. This has made a huge difference in their lives. Greg trained us how to disassemble and assemble the hands and how to fit them onto people who didn't have hands. Greg also gave a source to obtain free prosthetic hands to supply to the people of my country: Nepal.

The ITHF booth did a great job in spreading the word about our organization. Rotarians who visited the booth were very interested to know about the ITHF's mission and its vision because they love fellowship and to travel with friends. We signed up 115 new members. It was just great hanging out at the ITHF booth. It was my personal headquarters at the convention. I thank all the people who manned the booth for their help, dedication , and long hours of sacrifice for the ITHF cause.

Some of my thoughts after the convention include:

Volunteering to work as a "Sargent at Arms" was rewarding and very satisfying.

Making new friends and enjoying fellowship with old friends was great.

Ed Futa, the convention chairman did a wonderful job. (I even had a picture taken with him)

President Sakuji Tanaka's inspiring speeches.

I was the lone representative from my club "Rotary Club of Newroad City"
Kathmandu, Nepal. But I did not feel alone . I was made to feel at home accompanied by all the wonderful Rotarians from all over the globe.

I became a Rotarian on my own, and I always feel proud to be a part of the Rotary family.
Greetings from the happiest of wanderers who traveled through Portugal prior to the start of the 104th International Rotary Convention in Lisbon!

We began in Lisbon on the 10th of June by taking a private tram ride through the old town after our first night at the luxurious Pestana Palace and our welcome in the Oriental pool house.

Lunch with the entire group (almost 100!) at the Castelo de São Jorge and a walk over the cobblestones through the colorful passages admiring the intricate tiles of the city was a wonderful introduction to the beauty Lisbon and all of Portugal have to offer. Purple flowering jacarandas, decorations in preparation for the celebration of a favored saint, a visit to the waterfront—all the colorful sites filled our first day! After our time together, the group members went their separate ways to see the sights and taste the wonders of Portugal.

At the Vila de Óbidos, we learned the legend of the lucky young man, wrongfully convicted and sentenced to death during the Inquisition, who was saved when he told the judge that the roasted rooster the judge was eating would rise up and sing to prove his innocence—and when it did, the judge pardoned the young man. Now the rooster is a sign of good luck in all of Portugal.

Castles, palaces, vineyards, and posadas...tombs of the Kings and Queens of Portugal...the site of the miracle at Fátima...port in Porto...a delicious lunch at the winery in Pacheca...the university in Coimbra...Pena Palace in Sintra...the Boca do Inferno in Cascais...the Cabo da Roca at the edge of continental Europe and the amazing seafood stew at the Mar do Guincho overlooking the Atlantic Ocean...and the wonderful company of fellow Rotarians and new friends from around the world!
Then back to Lisbon for the Convention! 25,000+ Rotarians converging on the Feira Internacional de Lisboa... entertained by the Fado, Il Divo, Hayley Westenra—a classical singer and UNICEF Ambassador from New Zealand, Tuna Acadamia, Orquestra Metropolitana de Lisboa, Fernando Varela, 2Cellos, and St Dominic’s Gospel Choir.... Uplifted by speakers including Cause Focussed Storytelling: Engaging for Action by Céline Cousteau, Founder and Executive Director of CauseCentric Productions; Reasons for Hope with Jane Goodall, PhD, DBE, Founder of The Jane Goodall Institute and UN Messenger of Peace; and Connecting With and Engaging New Generations, Craig Kielburger, Co-founder of Free the Children, Co-founder of Me to We... and stirred to service by RI President Sakuji Tanaka and RI President-Elect Ron D. Burton.

Many, many, many thanks to the organizers of this amazing trip...your hard work ensured that the ITHF tour of Portugal was thoroughly enjoyed by all! Now, on to Sydney!

May 2014 Cairns & Longreach Tour
John Steven, Tour Organizer

The very successful 2013 Tour of Portugal has now concluded, and President Peter is to be congratulated for a wonderful Portuguese experience. It was great to get together with friends from past tours, and to initiate new friendships. That’s what ITHF is all about.

Now is the time to consider the 2014 Tour, which will be totally different, but hopefully just as enjoyable. No cathedrals or monasteries, but jungle and outback bush country in Australia. Note that the tour dates are changed to 21 May to 29 May.

Tour costs are $3442 per person sharing. Single supplement is $580, and a deposit of $600 is required. This 9 day - 8 night tour includes 4 nights accommodation in Cairns, transfers between hotel and Rotary meetings, economy airfares Cairns to Longreach & Longreach to Sydney, all meals as per itinerary, 4 nights accommodation in Longreach, all sightseeing & entrance fees as per itinerary, coach transfers to accommodation in Sydney, bottle of water daily on-board coach.

Places of interest include Cairns, Green Island Reef, Mossman Gorge, Daintree River Boat Cruise, Kuranda Scenic Rail, Skyrail Gondola over Rainforest, Longreach Outback, School of the Air, Sheep & Cattle Station, Drovers Sunset Cruise, Stockman’s Hall of Fame, Outback Town of Winton with Waltzing Matilda Centre.

Full information is available from PP John Steven at johnsteven@bigpond.com. Please read the conditions carefully before responding. The tour requires 20 participants to go ahead and is limited to 50. Because of airline restrictions, it might be necessary to limit to 40 participants. If you are intending to book, please advise John before submitting to the Tour Operator. This tour is different from the norm and should not be missed.