

# Y Service Clubs International

AUSTRALIAN REGION INC. A0023483B

Service Club in partnership with the YMCA

**“To acknowledge the duty that accompanies every right”**



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## Convention 2019 Report.

To: Y Service Clubs and Y Service Club Women in Australia.

Dear Members,

Thanks to the Y Service Club of Kangaroo Flat for hosting our Region Convention over the weekend of October 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>.

Our attendance of over 40 members, partners and families was a great result when compared to our total membership.

In addition to our International President Jennifer Jones and Area President Hiroyuki Tanaka we were delighted to welcome members of the Canberra club for the first time. It was a pleasure to meet President Sebastian Mathew and Treasurer Rohith Radhakrishnan and their families.

The weekend's program got under way with the usual 'meet & greet' on Friday evening which is always a good time to renew friendships and catch up with members from other clubs.

The annual general meeting is the focus of the convention.

Unfortunately not all of the region's clubs were represented. However this did not affect the discussion on the activities of the region. The details of the discussions will be reported more fully in the minutes of the meeting. We were able to reach a consensus on the necessity for the clubs and the region to accept that the format we have been using for so many years may no longer be pertinent and that we must look at alternatives in an endeavor to attract and retain members. I am confident that the region's executive will actively partner with clubs to raise awareness and the importance of 'modernizing' our profile within the community.

More about that in the future!

Following the meeting many of our members travelled to the Great Stupa of Universal Compassion for a quick inspection. One of their guides explained the details of the construction of the Stupa and the magnificent jade Buddha and other artifacts which are housed in the building. The Stupa is nearing completion and will be a significant landmark upon completion.

Colin Lambie, president of the Y Service club of Bendigo was our guest speaker at the convention dinner. Colin spoke on his role as convener of the Asia Pacific Area YMCA green team. Colin has a passion for environmental issues and as a result the green team has made a significant contribution to reducing the effect of greenhouse gases in several countries.

These activities are indicative of the steps which can make a difference to the daily life of many. I will circulate more details of Colin's talk under a separate email.

Thanks to Doug Turnbull we enjoyed a thought provoking devotion on Sunday morning together with a spirited vocalization of the Y's Men's Hymn.

More than 20 then attended the guided tour of the old Sandhurst Goal and Ulumbarra theatre complex which was followed by a BBQ lunch and pleasant Sunday afternoon at the home of RDE Wayne and Jennifer Cameron.

The success of the weekend was enhanced by the efforts of many and it would be remiss not to acknowledge the following;

President Janet Berry and members of the Y Service Club of Kangaroo Flat,

International President Jennifer Jones,

Area President Hiroyuki Tanaka,

Keynote speaker Colin Lambie,

Doug. Turnbull,

And the many members who travelled from afar.

I hope that those who attended enjoyed the time in Bendigo and that you have all returned safely home.

Bill. Schmidt.