



December 2014

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Letters to the Editor (Feel free to contribute)

New "Interim" Servas Letter Editor Paul Nielsen

Before I rave on. I just want to thank Kate Thomas for being the Editor. You have done a great job and I am only now beginning to appreciate it.

It is amazing how we get roped into things. I didn't put my hand up but somehow here I am doing this news letter. Please except my humble apologies for the November newsletter coming out late December. Everyone tells me how capable I am but everyone agrees that punctuality is not my strong point. If you can handle a slightly late letter occasionally all is good. If not you know what to do...Sack me or Inspire me with a higher salary.

Just a bit about me since I have never met most of you. We joined Servas in 1992 as travellers when we did our 6 month whirlwind world tour . We do enjoy travel. Pathetically we haven't stayed with a Servas host since 1992 despite some travel. Perhaps doing this letter will inspire us. After getting home we become hosts but that has been pretty much the limit of our Servas engagement to date. We have been to 2 Servas get togethers in the past 22 years. I'd like to do more but life is busy...Oops! Did I say I'd like to do more. Darn it Pam must have heard me. So That's how I got this job.

I am a Training Officer for ITS at the University of Queensland. My wife Vicki is a Podiatrist. In my spare time I am a secretary of the Brisbane Agility Dog (BAD) club and enjoy training and trialling our 2 Labradors who are our substitute children. Okay enough about the Editor. On with news.

This newsletter is intended to provide a communication forum for SERVAS Australia members. The content, collation and distribution is undertaken by SERVAS members for SERVAS members.

NEXT ISSUE

Submissions Close: January **21st** for the February 2015 News Letter

SUBMISSIONS

Submissions are welcome from members. Emails (word documents and high resolution photos via attachment) are preferred. Contributions are subject to approval and size restrictions. Sorry, late contributions may have to wait until the following edition. Newsletters are compiled in February, May, August and November or when it gets done.

DISTRIBUTION (Please contact me if you can help)

The Newsletter is distributed to all members by post and email.

NEWSLETTER CONTACT DETAILS

SERVAS Australia News

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Your feedback and suggestions are welcome.

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DISCLAIMER

Every effort is made to ensure information is correct at the time of printing, however no responsibility will be accepted for misinformation. The views and opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of SERVAS Australia or the Newsletter Editor.

Membership Categories and Fees

Hosts:

- Pay a joining fee of \$25 which is placed in the Development Fund and used to assist with the development of Servas in less developed countries.
- Pay an annual membership renewal fee of \$20.
- Receive newsletters in February, May, August and November
- Receive a Host List containing details of hosts.

Travellers:

- All travellers, including hosts, must contact their State Travel Officer to obtain a Letter of Introduction.
- Australian hosts do not need a LOI when travelling within Australia.
- Hosts pay \$50 per person for a Letter of Introduction.
- Travellers who are not hosts pay \$100 per person for a Letter of Introduction.
- A Letter of Introduction is valid for 12 months.

Servas.org.au



If you haven't visited the website for a while I suggest you have a good look around. There are lots of newsletters from other Servas groups and SI. And there is a location map of all our hosts under the "People" tab

Also under this tab are some interesting travellers tales—great for those times when armchair travel is the only option!

There is a very easy way to keep up to date with new additions to the Servas website. On the right hand side under "Email Notification" is the following: "Notify me of new posts by email".

Just fill in your email address and you will receive a notification by email whenever there is new content on the site.

Pam

Servas has a Facebook page to help 'spread the word'.

www.facebook.com/servasaustralia

You can post photos, photo galleries, information about events and join in with any current conversations running on the Page or start new ones.



So if you would like to contribute to the Servas effort, especially in encouraging younger people to feel that Servas is an option for them, please consider becoming active on our Facebook page.

Contact me, Gil Webster, by email membership@servas.org.au for any additional information.

Gil

HELP WANTED DESPERATLY

I have a list of volunteers to help with the News Letter Mail out who I am yet to contact. I really need more so we can spread the load. If you can spare half a day going to the local Office Works or your own preferred printer to collect the News Letters and then stuff them into envelopes and stick pre-printed labels to them before posting them I would love to hear from you by phone: 07 33997513 or email: newsletter@servas.org.au

Board Meeting Tuesday 2 December 2014—By teleconference

Below is a summary of outcomes from the most recent meeting of the Servas Australia Board. Documents referred to and marked ** are incorporated in this edition of the newsletter.

Servas International Distant Vote

- Agreed that Servas Australia vote in favour of accepting the tabled accounts of Servas International
- Agreed that Servas Australia vote against providing membership data for the Servas On Line project team until clear information is provided about how the data will be used and what security arrangements will be applied.

Privacy Policy

- Adopted a policy statement prepared by the Secretary. Statement to be circulated to all existing members and provided to all new applicants for membership. (*** copy with this Newsletter*)

Alternative forms of Incorporation

- In response to requests from members following “no” vote at last AGM to proposal to change form of incorporation, President tabled a summary of differences and points in common between existing form of incorporation under Victorian law and form of incorporation which had been proposed under Commonwealth Law . Agreed that comparative information should be published in Newsletter but that no action be taken to pursue the rejected changes unless there is clear expression of support from the general membership. (***copy with this newsletter*)

Survey of Members re Future Directions

- Draft form for survey discussed and amendments agreed. Survey to proceed on-line through Survey Monkey no-cost system.

Rule Change to Redefine “Member” to Conform to Servas International Policy

- Draft motion(s) and explanatory memorandum discussed and minor changes agreed. Revised document to be considered further pending issue of formal motion for voting at next AGM.

Rule Change and/or By-Law Change re Independent Review of Accounts

- In response to Consumer Affairs Victoria ruling amending our Constitution to remove requirement for formal audit of annual accounts, President instructed to draft motion and explanatory memorandum to amend Constitution and/or By-Laws to require review of annual accounts by a suitably qualified personal independent of the Board. Draft motion and memorandum to be considered further before issue of formal motion for voting at next AGM.

Call for Nominations for Key Worker and Board Positions

- Secretary instructed to issue call for nominations to fill currently vacant and soon to be vacated positions of Peace Secretary, Membership Officer, Travel Officer WA, Regional Coordinator(s) Northern Territory, Host Coordinator NSW, Travel Officer NSW and Host Coordinator SA, with notice to advise that current occupants of some listed positions are eligible to nominate for a second term. (*** call for nominations published in this newsletter*)

New Servas International Logo

- Meeting endorsed alternative forms of artwork for new Servas International Logo and agreed that Servas Australia logo should be amended to mirror new international version.

Next Board Meeting

Proposed dates for
Servas Australia Board meetings
for the next 12 months

- Teleconference Tuesday 2 December 2014
- Face to Face Board meetings and AGM to be held in Hobart 21-22 March 2015
- Teleconference Tuesday 2 June 2015



Servas Australia - Privacy Policy

Privacy Policy

Servas Australia recognises the importance of protecting the privacy and the rights of individuals in relation to their personal information. This document is our privacy policy and it tells you how we collect and manage your personal information.

We respect your rights to privacy under the *Privacy Act 1988 (Cth) (Act)* and we comply with all of the Act's requirements in respect of the collection, management and disclosure of your personal information.

What is your personal information?

When used in this privacy policy, the term "personal information" has the meaning given to it in the Act. In general terms, it is any information that can be used to personally identify you. This may include your name, address, telephone number, email address and profession or occupation. If the information we collect personally identifies you, or you are reasonably identifiable from it, the information will be considered personal information.

What personal information do we collect and hold?

We may collect the following types of personal information:

- name;
- gender;
- mailing and street address;
- email address;
- telephone number;
- year of birth or age;
- profession, occupation or job title;
- nationality;
- language spoken;
- interests;
- organisations you belong to;
- countries you have lived in or travelled to;
- passport number;
- any additional information relating to you that you provide to us directly through our websites or indirectly through use of our websites or online presence, through our representatives or otherwise.

How do we collect your personal information?

We collect your personal information directly from you unless it is unreasonable or impracticable to do so. When collecting personal information from you, we may collect in ways including:

- through your access and use of our website;
- during conversations between you and our representatives; or
- when you complete an application form to become a Servas host or a traveller.

What happens if we can't collect your personal information?

If you do not provide us with the personal information described above, some or all of the following may happen:

- we may not be able to provide the requested services to you;
- we may be unable to process your application to become a Servas host or traveller.

For what purposes do we collect, hold, use and disclose your personal information?

We collect, hold, use and disclose your personal information for the following purposes:

- to provide services to you and to send communications requested by you;
- to answer enquiries and provide information or advice about Servas;
- to provide your updated personal information in the Servas Australia host list which is then provided
 - o Australian hosts and overseas Servas travellers;
- to update our records and keep your contact details up to date;

Your personal information will not be shared, sold, rented or disclosed other than as described in this Privacy Policy.

To whom may we disclose your information?

We may disclose your personal information to:

- members of Servas Australia;
- Authorised members of Servas International and authorised personnel in Servas countries worldwide;
- Authorised Servas travellers.

How can you access and correct your personal information?

You may request access to any personal information we hold about you at any time by contacting us (see the details below).

Servas members are sent the current information we hold every year at renewal time and asked to make any changes.

You can send the membership officer changes to your details at any time.

What is the process for complaining about a breach of privacy?

If you believe that your privacy has been breached, please contact us using the contact information below and provide details of the incident so that we can investigate it.

Do we disclose your personal information to anyone outside Australia?

The Servas Australia host list is stored securely in the Dolphin system which is administered by Servas International. Only a small number of authorised members from each Servas country can access the Dolphin system.

The authorised person from each Servas country can download the host list and provide an authorised Servas traveller from his/her country with either a printed copy of the host list or a pdf copy. Servas travellers are to keep the host list in a safe manner and are not to pass the information on to any other person. At the cessation of their travel they are requested to delete any electronic version or safely destroy their paper copy.

We take reasonable steps to ensure that the overseas recipients of your personal information do not breach the privacy obligations relating to your personal information.

Security

We take reasonable steps to ensure your personal information is protected from misuse and loss and from unauthorised access, modification or disclosure. We may hold your information in either electronic or hard copy form.

As email is used to transmit information and email is linked to the internet, and the internet is inherently insecure, we cannot provide any assurance regarding the security of transmission of information communicated to us or by us online. We also cannot guarantee that the information you supply will not be intercepted while being transmitted over the internet. Accordingly, any personal information or other information which you transmit to us online is transmitted at your own risk.

Contacting us

If you have any questions about this privacy policy, any concerns or a complaint regarding the treatment of your privacy or a possible breach of your privacy, please use the contact link on our website or contact our Secretary using the details set out below.

We will treat your requests or complaints confidentially. Our representative will contact you within a reasonable time after receipt of your complaint to discuss your concerns and outline options regarding how they may be resolved. We will aim to ensure that your complaint is resolved in a timely and appropriate manner.

Please contact our secretary at:

Email: secretary@servas.org.au

Post: 2 Warili Road Frenchs Forest NSW

Telephone: 02 9451 9669

Changes to our privacy policy

We may change this privacy policy from time to time. Any updated versions of this privacy policy will be posted on our website.

This privacy policy was last updated on 2 December 2014

Constitutional Alternatives

Since the vote was taken at the recent Annual General Meeting, rejecting the proposal to convert our current incorporation under Victorian Consumer Affairs law to an alternative structure under Commonwealth law, several members have asked for further explanation of the effective differences between the alternatives. In response, I offer the table below.

There is at present no proposal on the Board table to go any further with the idea of changing our form of incorporation. Although more than 60% of votes cast were in favour of the proposed change, the majority fell short of the 75% required for a change to our existing Constitution.

The table below is presented for information only.

Geoff Sheldon
President

	Incorporated association – Victorian legislation	Company Limited by Guarantee – Commonwealth legislation
Form of incorporation	State regulated form of incorporation specifically designed for not-for-profit, membership-based institutions. Not available for commercial entities.	Commonwealth regulated form of incorporation specifically designed for not-for-profit, membership-based institutions. Not available for commercial entities
Not for profit	Membership-based organisation. No shares issued. Revenue sources related to stated purposes of organisation. All funds usable only for benefit of members and/or statement of purpose in constitution.	No change from current constitution
Statement of purpose	As per current constitution	No change from current constitution
Powers of entity	As per current constitution	No change from current constitution
Registrar and regulator	Dept Consumer Affairs Vic (CAV) AND, because we operate other states and territories as well as in Victoria, parallel registration as an Australian Registered Body (ARB) is required, regulation by ASIC.	ASIC ONLY
Registration fee	CAV fee paid years ago. Once only ASIC fee \$ 377 for ARB registration not yet paid	Once only ASIC fee \$377
Annual report fee	CAV fee \$51.40 ASIC fee \$44.00	ASIC fee \$44.00
Change of rules fee	\$165.50 each time rules change	No fee for rule change
Fines for late submission	No fines from CAV Fine from ASIC if more than 28 days late lodging	Fine if more than 28 days late
Liability of individual members and organisation as a whole.	No personal liability for individual members. All assets of organisation can be claimed.	Liability of organisation and individual members limited by a “guarantee”, being the total value of individual membership fees paid in advance for current year. Other accumulated assets of organisation not claimable.

Board powers	As per current constitution	No change from current constitution
Board structure	As per current constitution	No change from current constitution
Membership structure	As per current constitution	No change from current constitution
Voting and elections	As per current constitution	No change from current constitution
Procedures to change rules	As per current constitution	No change from current constitution
Accounting protocols	Low turnover means accounts are “special purpose” with no regulated formats or protocols.	Free of regulation, as for current requirements under CAV incorporation.
Audit or independent review of accounts	Low turnover means no audit required. Rules may include requirement for independent review of accounts if members vote or it.	No difference.
Financial reporting to regulator	Accounts must be submitted to CAV annually NO requirement to submit accounts to ASIC	NO requirement to submit accounts to regulator
Winding up procedure	As per current constitution	No change from current constitution
Disciplinary procedures	As per current constitution	No change from current constitution
Dispute resolution	As per current constitution	No change from current constitution
Responsibilities of board members	As per current constitution	No change from current constitution
AGM and Special GMs	As per current constitution	No change from current constitution
Proxies	As per current constitution	No change from current constitution
Quorum	As per current constitution	No change from current constitution
Legal costs on incorporation	None paid. None due	None

Queensland News

South East Queensland Hosts have a Sunday lunch gathering at one of our member's homes 3 times a year as well as 4 Pub Nights per year at the Irish Club in Brisbane.

(Ed) Sorry the Nov 16th Lunch and Nov 20th pub night are clearly past. I hope these went well. Dates for 2015 in next Lette I expect.

The Sunshine Coast hosts are having a Picnic on Sunday 8th February, meet at the "Big Pelican" Noosa River Foreshore park at Noosaville 12 noon. Bring a picnic or there are a number of takeaways handy.

Everyone is welcome at all these events for any further information please contact me at qldhosts@servas.org.au

As this is the last newsletter before the end of the year I would like to wish you all a joyful Festive Season and happy times with family and friends.

Bev Wilkins

Qld Host Co-ordinator.



Travellers Reports

SERVAS Report GUS Faith in Japan and South Korea

Traveler: Gus **FAITH** (also known as Ago **FEITOSA**)

Country of residence: Australia

City: Sydney, New South Wales

Country of birth: Brazil

Countries visited: Japan and South Korea

Travel period: April 2014



I would like first of all to thank all SERVAS members in Australia, Japan and Korea and host families who made the SERVAS experience described in this report possible.

Background

My plan was to visit Japan and catch up with SERVAS while establishing contacts with old friends and making new friends. I had been a SERVAS host in Ashiya City, Hyogo Prefecture [Kansai Region] in the 1980's for many years. During that time I was a foreign graduate student at Kobe University. Amazingly, Japan SERVAS still has written records from the 20th century and my request for a LOI here in Sydney was approved without delay after my previous SERVAS activities were disclosed to SERVAS Australia.

Preparation

April is Sakura Season in Japan, with many travelers flocking to all regions in search of the floating petals. I wrote emails to a number of hosts in Kyushu as I was planning to join an Esperanto event there and to stay a few more days to explore. As it turned out all hosts in that area were busy. I also contact SERVAS hosts in the Seoul area by email using contact details from the Korea country list.

Trip and stays

My Japan visit started with a short visit to my father-in-law in Osaka Prefecture, followed by an International Esperanto Weekend Camp in Fukuoka City, situated in the southern island of Kyushu where I had a great time and could meet many Esperantists.

Here in Sydney during preparations for the trip, I had been able to locate an old SERVAS friend (traveler and host) Mrs Tomoko Hirai [Now acting as a Regional Kansai Coordinator] who previously lived in Takarazuka City and now resides in Kyoto City. I emailed Tomoko san early but she had already quite a few commitments for the month of April. However, late she and her husband could offer me accommodation at their place in probably the best location in the old imperial capital Kyoto.

In Kyoto Mr. Hirai took me out to an early brisk walk around a cluster of Shinto shrines the morning after. I was later able to visit Kameoka City [Kyoto Prefecture] by train from Kyoto and to meet, after more than a decade, an old Brazilian friend of mine, also an Esperantist, retired Professor Jose Takehara.

Back in Kyoto I was able to visit, for the first time, the Esperanto House and join a weekly Esperanto get together. I was also able to enjoy Esperanto hospitality using the meeting room after everybody went home.

After Kyoto City and Kyoto Prefecture, I was able to meet many old friends in Osaka and surrounding areas. Some of them are retired now but much busier with their various activities than they used to be while working and raising children. Osaka still is a very energetic town and time went by in a flash.

I flew from Osaka to Seoul expecting to see what I kept watching on TV about Korea: Korean Wave, pop music videos and jazzy smart phones. Reality was much more lively, exciting and far more delicious. I had first visited Korea in September 1979. After decades Korea changed enormously: I did not see even one elderly gentleman walking around Seoul in white traditional robes and long beard. However, in the subway I saw grandmas with their mobiles glued to the ear talking to their stockbrokers while working on their share portfolios using small tablets. Design has reached a high level of quality and mesmerising control of all different media: interior of buildings and shops, clothing, electronics, furniture, shoes; anything around has a certain design message, mostly hybrids based of traditional and modern themes.

Seoul also became a very international, cosmopolitan city full of foreigners, both tourists and long-term residents. I heard many different languages spoken at different venues. I also saw quite a few food shops specialised in middle-eastern sweets, south-american smorgasbords, etc.

While in Korea I was also able to join an Esperanto Camp which took place in a refurbished old building in the mountains south of Seoul. A large number of Esperantists, Korean and also from overseas, shared their hobbies and experiences using our international language.

During my stay in Seoul, I was offered a small and very comfortable room to stay by my SERVAS hosts, the Shin/Na family, right in the middle of the city, with an unforgettable view of the Han River from their living room. During my stay with them Mrs. Shin invited me to talk to her English language students at her Senior High School and Mr. Na conscripted me first to a brisk morning walk around Namsan Mountain (his backyard) and then to a 30km plus pushbike ride along the Han River with his group of riding mates (SERVAS Peace Riders). That was a great experience to see Seoul from a different, lower angle and also to have a very filling Korean breakfast with their group of very fit bikers.

I was surprised that I could follow snippets of conversation around me. I had long talks about all kinds of topics with the Shin/Na family around their dinner table. I was also able to meet their children, many of their SERVAS friends and also Mrs Shin's mother and siblings. It was difficult at the end to say goodbye, as I already felt part of their family. On a daily basis I did my best to help wash the dishes and keep my room tidy. I was also I

mpressed by the seriousness of recycling procedures for all city residents.

In Seoul I was also able to meet Mr. Park, an old friend of mine who had migrated to Argentina in his teen years and whom I met during my very first stay in Korea. I also visited the Korean Esperanto Association office and joined a few events and activities around Seoul.

I had taken a month away from the Sydney maelstrom, soon I found myself waiting for my Sydney flight to take off from Incheon International Airport.

In conclusion

I was able to restart my previous activities related to SERVAS, Korean language and Esperanto with clear objectives: to continue SERVAS activities, follow up on my Korean language and culture studies and to prepare for the World Esperanto Congress which will be held in Seoul in 2017.

I became more aware that physical fitness is even more important at my age (over 60) by being with so many friends who are older and fitter than me.

I am again convinced that both SERVAS and Esperanto can deliver amazing personal and cultural experiences.

Long live SERVAS! Long live Esperanto!

Travel News - Cambodia



John and I have just returned from a wonderful trip to Cambodia, which started out as an invite to a wedding in Bali. A quick 4 days in Ubud for a gorgeous wedding then off to Siem Reap via Kuala Lumpur. We had booked a private guide for 2 days to take us around the Temples of Angkor and some further afield temples and what a wonderful 2 days we had. Having a guide we learnt of the history of the Temples, building methods and what is believed to have been the demise of this period of Cambodian History.

We then had another few days in and around Siem Reap and more time at the temples on our own to explore. We then caught a bus for the 7 hour trip to Phnom Penh. On our first night there we met the one and only Servas Host in Cambodia. Maurits is not Cambodian he is Dutch but has been associated with Cambodia since 1979 having gone there then with Medicins San Frontiere. He has worked there since then but with a 12 year break during which time he went to China & Turkmenistan. He worked with MSF for many years but is now director of an NGO which he established 11 years ago. He was extremely interesting to talk to as he has seen dramatic changes in the Cambodia as it struggled to come to terms with the aftermath of the Pol Pot Regime and the ongoing ramifications of this horrific time as they struggled to establish themselves and the countries infrastructure. After a few days in the city we went by bus to Battambang to ride the legendary Bamboo Train, then a full day on a local passenger boat through Ton le Sap lake and River to Siem Reap for one last night before flying to Kuala Lumpur for 4 nights.

Cambodia is a very poor country, we found it easy to get around, everyone is delightful, everyone wants to talk to you in an effort to improve their English in the hope of getting a job. It has an amazing history and hopefully an amazing future.

Bev Wilkins

Servas contacts on trip to Germany – Michael Williams, 2014



I travelled in Germany from the 3rd to 17th September, mainly in Berlin but also including Leipzig and Dresden. As I had arranged all accommodation my Servas contacts focused only on those who had listed themselves as Day Hosts.

I contacted all Servas hosts through email, attaching a copy of my LOI and providing them with my travel dates in their cities. I initially contacted two Berlin day hosts but received no reply. After waiting two weeks I then chose two more Berlin day hosts as well as one each in Leipzig and Dresden.

All four of those contacted replied and suggested dates and times I could meet them and the details of location were easily finalised.

Berlin – as I was in Berlin for almost a week I contacted two hosts and met them on separate days.

Reinhild (Bln99) met me near the Jewish Museum in Berlin with a second bike and took me on a tour of many interesting parts of the city. Reinhild has lived many years in Berlin, and was able to tell me many interesting things about the numerous changes that have occurred in the city over the years. Berlin's flat landscape made bike riding the perfect way to see the city.

Sabina (Bln71) was my second Berlin day host and she too provided a bike and together we explored many different parts of the city. Sabina also invited me to a talk at the Irish Embassy on Oscar Wilde, which was very interesting.

Leipzig – due to time I spent only a day between trains here.

Jorg (Sax36) met me at the arranged time and we spent several hours walking around this lovely city. As a long-time resident of this former East German city Jorg provided me with a great insight into the many transformations that have taken place recently.

Dresden – although I spent two nights here, I had only one day for touring.

Ralf (Sax19) met me in downtown Dresden and we explored much of the central area on foot as well as further afield using the city's excellent public transport. Ralf as a journalist and also long-time resident was a very interesting person to talk to and I very much enjoyed my day with him.

Overall the Servas day hosts were excellent. As an historian interested in change over time, I found that all were very well informed people capable of providing interesting insights and information. All were easy going and pleasant to be with for many hours. My time in Germany was certainly enhanced by this experience.

I brought some small souvenir bookmarks with Aboriginal designs as thank you gifts for all the hosts.



NZ Cyclists in Australia



Kia ora and hello everyone!

How nice to be home again!

We are in Napier until we go south to Reefton in 2 weeks time.

Our trip was a big success – meeting so many helpful, friendly Aussies and enjoying blue skies since landing in Brisbane on June 11th until leaving Melbourne for home. We cycled or drove huge distances to amazing scenic places; having had no close encounters with dangerous animals, only hearing the (not so distant) calling of dingoes on clear starry nights; waking up at 4am to be on the road cycling by 6am to cover some distance before the midday heat hit; often cycling past signs to homesteads 30, 100, 200 km off the highway on a side track!

(No chance of topping up water bottles.)

Trip stats - Km cycled	4600 km
Water carried (at times)	30 ltrs
Highest temp.	41.8 C at Pine Creek
Lowest temp.	minus 2 C at Springsure
Punctures	1
Breakages	1 gear cable, 1 spoke

In Adelaide we stayed with Jan, yet another lovely SERVAS host! Then we drove to Melbourne via the Princess Highway and the Great Ocean Road, amazing scenery once again. We spent a whole week in Melbourne with our friends Judy and Tony, whom we had met in the Daintree National Park. Judy not only hosted and spoiled us, but Judy and Tony showed us around Melbourne, took us on a drive to Wilsons Promontory, the southern most point of mainland Australia and the Dandenongs.

We arrived in Hawkes Bay just in time to see our daughter Larissa and her friend Kendall off on their planned ride around Aotearoa\NZ on horseback.

They are fundraising for our friend Ros of “The Leg Up Trust” through “www.givealittle.co.nz/cause/HAA”.

As we have often been asked if we are cycling for charity, we would love anybody who feels so inclined to “give a little” .

Just go to either of the links for more information about their planned fundraising ride.

Email: horsingaroundaotearoa@gmail.com

Website: www.horsingaroundaotearoa.co.nz

Facebook: www.facebook.com/horsingaroundaotearoa

Donations: www.givealittle.co.nz/cause/HAA

Until our next cycling adventure,

Greetings and love,

Susan and Franz.



Servas International News

For the international news I found in the mail:

Servas International News_04-02_Nov-Dec-2014.pdf
 Malawi July +October 2014, Activity - Newsflash.pdf
 News from Malawi Africa.docx
 NJA Servas Malawi World Peace Day 2014.pdf

The Servas International News Letter can be download from the Servas International Website www.servas.org or more specifically <http://www.servas.org/who-we-are-newsletter.php>

I have captured the News from Malawi Africa.docx below. Microsoft Word is relatively easy to cut and paste. Not so for the pdf documents. I copied some of the "NJA Servas Malawi World Peace Day 2014.pdf" into the mash up on page 17...Enjoy.

News from Malawi

Dear Everyone,

We've been keeping ourselves busy in Malawi.

WHAT HAS BEEN HAPPENING IN MALAWI, IN AFRICA?

1- We had a celebration on World Peace Day in September.

A member approached a local primary school and asked if they could give an assembly presentation upon the subject of peace.

The school took up the theme and made a peace tree and celebrated World Peace Day, each year group contributing peace leaves - see the photo montage of the event attached.

This led the school to go on and celebrate Mahatma Gandhi's birthday as well!! Great!

2 - We are still working on supporting the Peace Garden in Bangwe at AYISE youth center. Servas Malawi initiated the peace garden - making a big peace mosaic with two SYLE volunteers and landscaping it.

We are waiting for its director who received funding (who is also a Servas Malawi member, Marcel Chisi) - to account for the monies use and send us photos of the new roof over the peace garden! Marcel?? You; can see Marcel in the photo montage of our July -The Butler meeting

3- We have had two film nights. One in July- The Butler and one in October 2014 - the film - The Impossible.

Both films were sent to us from Michael Johnson in Canada on DVD disks - BIG thanks to him and Servas Canada.

We had a good time and a lot of fun and we have some more films to watch like - The Fisherman - set and filmed in Malawi and The First Ladies Private Detective Agency - (wonderful - set in Botswana) and a film set in South Africa about Mandela and the springboks win - also great!

Smiles and peace,

Demelza BENBOW
 Servas Malawi Secretary
 (soon-too-step-down)

World Peace Day

Sunday 21st September, 2014, Malawi, Africa.



Nyasa Junior Academy, based in Limbe, Blantyre, Malawi, Africa was the setting for a whole school.



Celebration for World Peace Day". This special international event was Remembered around the world with a minute of silence on 21st of September. In 2014 that day fell on a Sunday. The school, which follows the UK Cambridge Primary system taught in English; orchestrated a large peace tree onto which each class placed "peace leaf" messages. These leaves carried definitions of peace, poems, prayers and quotes from books and famous peace activists. NJA invited each year group to come up on stage and explain

their classes leaf ideas. Servas Malawi secretary & host Demelza Benbow is a Year 1 Primary Teacher at NJA said, "It was great to hear such young people speaking about peace, especially when we have conflicts like, Syria, Libya, Iraq and



Northern Nigeria impacting on people's lives so dreadfully. Luckily Malawi is a very peaceful country, but getting the future movers and shakers of this country to reflect upon these issues may help them guide us more wisely in future."

How To Prepare Your Submission For Publication In Servas Australia News

• **ACCEPTABLE MATERIAL**

- Details on upcoming State Events & Meetings.
- Articles on Servas activities in your state, opinion pieces on peace, travel & housing, travel stories with a Servas theme.
- Letter to the Editor - complaints, comments, questions, praise or things which might interest members.

MATERIAL NOT ACCEPTABLE:

- Events or announcements which are not of interest to the general Servas membership e.g. My dog Agility news.

IMPORTANT THINGS TO DO:

- DO assume the reader knows nothing about your story. Provide an opening paragraph that explains what your story is going to be about. Include the Who, Why, What, Where and When in the first paragraph. Remember, you're writing a STORY or presenting INFORMATION not sending an email or letter to a friend.
- DO give your story an APPROPRIATE HEADLINE and if possible a SUBHEADING so your reader has an idea of what is being presented.
- DO include your (the author's) name, Servas title (if any), your country and if you want it public your email AT THE BEGINNING OF THE STORY immediately following the headline or subheading (the exception would be for a Letter to the Editor where it should be at the end).
- DO make your article engaging and interesting, and pertinent to a Servas Australia audience.
- DO avoid abbreviations so your message is clear.
- DO spell check and proof your story, twice. If possible have a friend review it for you. We will not edit your copy unless there are space limitations.
- DO prepare your story in a text application such as Microsoft Word. Save your file as .doc, .rtf or .txt format and attach to e-mail. Please give your file a name that RELATES TO YOUR STORY.
- DO include photos in .jpg format at 150 dpi or better
- DO review this and previous issues of In Servas Australia News for examples of story format and structure.
- **DO thoroughly proof your article/event listing/letter before submitting it. We do not correct for spelling or grammar. Some editing may be done for space limitations.**
- All material for publication in Servas Australia News should be submitted as E-mail attachments addressed to: newsletter@servas.org.au

THINGS YOU SHOULD NOT DO:

- DO NOT format your text with tables and fancy fonts.
- DO NOT double-space after a sentence.
- DO NOT add a space before a period or comma.
- Remember, a computer is not a typewriter.
- DO NOT enter double paragraph returns.
- DO NOT write your story in an Email message.

Servas Australia Inc.

Call for nominations for key workers

Elected Positions

At the AGM to be held in Hobart on 21 March 2015, a number of elected key worker positions will become vacant.

Helen Foumakis, the South Australian Regional Host Coordinator, has completed her two terms of three years and is not eligible to be re-appointed.

People in the following positions have completed their first term of three years and are eligible to stand again for a second term:

- National Secretary
- Western Australia Regional Travel Officer
- Northern Territory Regional Travel Officer and Host Coordinator (combined)
- NSW Host Coordinator
- NSW Travel Officer

A copy of the position description for all positions is available from me (secretary@servas.org.au). If you wish to nominate for any position, please complete the attached nomination form and return it by Friday 16 January 2015 to secretary@servas.org.au or send by mail to:

Pam Webster
National Secretary
Servas Australia Inc.
2 Warili Road
Frenchs Forest NSW 2086

To be eligible to nominate you must be a host member with a minimum of two (2) years full membership. The nominator and seconder must be full members of Servas Australia.

If only one (1) nomination is received for any vacant elected position, the person nominated shall be deemed to be elected. If there are two (2) or more nominations for any particular position to be filled, a ballot will be held. Any ballot for the election of any position will be conducted by postal ballot prior to the annual general meeting. The ballot shall be declared at the annual general meeting.

Appointed Positions

Some key worker positions are appointed by the Board. The Board is seeking expressions of interest to fill the following appointed key worker positions:

- Peace Secretary
- Membership Officer

Position descriptions are available for each of these important positions. Please apply setting out your interest and experience that are relevant to the position.

Pam Webster
National Secretary
2 December 2014

**Servas Australia Inc.
Nomination Form
2015**

Position:
Name of Nominee:
Address:

Email:
Telephone:

Signature:
Date:

Name of Nominator:

Signature:
Date:

Name of Seconder:

Signature:
Date: