



Rotary Opens
Opportunities

October is economic
and community
development month.



THIS ISSUE

Roadtripping with the DG

World Polio Day

District Grants

District Showcase

CALENDAR

- October 19 - DG visit to Kempsey
- October 20 - DG visit to Coffs Harbour
- October 24 - World Polio Day
- October 26 - DG visit to Gunnedah
- October 27 - DG visit to Inverell East
- October 28 - DG visit to Taree on Manning
- November 2 - DG visit to Wee Waa
- November 3 - Melbourne Cup
- November 9 - DG visit to Quirindi
- November 12 - DG visit to Moree
- November 16 - DG visit to New England Rotaract
- November 23 - DG visit to Manilla
- November 25 - DG visit to Nambucca Valley
- November 30 - DG visit to Sawtell

E-NEWS CONTACT

If you have something for the E-news please email editor Laura Telford at laura.telford@rotaract.org.au before 5pm on Friday to make sure it will appear in the next edition!

MUSINGS FROM THE DG

Hello again, well this week I have spent visiting all the Armidale and clubs with a quick trip down the mountain to Dorrigo on Wednesday evening.

Monday I was at Armidale North club hosted by PDG Bob Ryan. The club had three candidates for NYSF this year which is a great effort for a small club. President Bob has vocational visits planned to the Ascent Group, Backtrack, Salvation Army and the CWA. You may remember that during the drought the Irish group travelled to our district with 500,000 bottles of water and 500,000 litres of bulk water for the bushfire relief effort. Armidale North arranged delivery of the bottled water to the Rotary Clubs of Walcha, Uralla, Guyra, Dorrigo and Tenterfield for those in need. One of the most amazing things about this project was that the bottles were recycled at the return and earn and made \$7000, how good is that. Those bottles just kept on giving. The club is working with local Armidale High Schools, also Uralla, Walcha, Guyra, Bundarra in conjunction with New England Regional Art Museum (NERAM) to create an annual art competition for years 10, 11 and 12 students. They have received wonderful support and are currently working with the Armidale Regional Council for the use of the town hall. Their vision is to combine the competition into the Annual Autumn Festival. If that wasn't enough the members are involved in supporting Meals on Wheels. My thanks to PDG Bob and Margaret for hosting me this week and providing me with my favourite, breakfast, lunch and dinner (Lambs fry and bacon) :-O!

Tuesday I was a guest at the Armidale club hosted by President Hugh Beattie. On the afternoon of my visit they picked me up and I toured a couple of their big projects. We went to the cemetery where they have in consultation with the council have secured a piece of land just for the Ezidi people. There are over 600 Ezidi people in Armidale. The burial plots have a rock wall and plantings completed by the club and the Ezidi people and is sensitively placed with a sign to be erected by Armidale Regional Council. We travelled on to another project called the Ezidi Agricultural Project. Rotarians have donated 2 lots of 10 acres on their properties for the Ezidi people to have a community garden. The project was begun in conjunction with Northern Settlement Services (NSS) and the Regional Employment Agricultural Program (REAP), with a view to promoting self-worth, family benefit and employment pathway. The project has been split into three phases. Community cropping, cropping plus pilot training (vegetables) and REAP. This was a most impressive project that is enabling the Ezidi people in the community by partnering with NSS, REAP, Jobs Australia, Best Employment, Joblink Plus and a training provider Ruralbiz. In a typical year the club disperses \$50K to various charities such as the Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service, North West Special Olympics, Prostate Cancer Foundation, New England Conservatorium of Music, Armidale Legacy, Salvation Army and NERAM. The club is a major supporter of Backtrack. Whilst I was there I was privileged to present on behalf of PDG Phil Hafey a Paul Harris Fellow to Grant Harris. Anyone who knows Grant will be aware of his mammoth effort during the recent bushfire disaster. I cannot think of a more worth person, congratulations Grant.

Wednesday morning, I was at the Armidale AM club, hosted by President Krystina Micke. This would have to be the most culturally diverse club that I have been to. Only surpassed by San Diego last January where I walked into an auditorium of my counterparts from all over the world, all 531 of them.



MUSINGS FROM DG DEBBIE CONT.

It was a sea of smiling coloured face that represented to global face of Rotary. That morning I presented an acknowledgement of support for the Rotary Foundation to Rosemary Johnson. Her late husband has left a substantial amount of money to 'doing good in the world'. It was an honour to meet Rosemary and thank her on behalf of Rotary and the Rotary Foundation. I was also very pleased to induct Mydia Bari, who is 23 years young and a recent Rylarian. Mydia is an Ezidi refugee and a great addition to the club. Krystina's vision is for all Rotarians to use their superpowers and come together. The Sunday markets are a vehicle for connection to the community. The club is famous for the Prime My Project program where the community submits ideas to the club for projects that the community needs. The club reviews the projects and one lucky group will have their dreams come true. How wonderful is that. I would commend any club to think about this as a way of connecting and partnering with people in the community and meeting a community need. The club also supports reading for the disabled, Men's shed and Women's Refuge, the Palliative Care Unit, Armidale Sanctuary, Ezidi People.

Wednesday afternoon I travelled to Dorrigo for their Hat Day Celebration hosted by President Sara Hankin. Thank you to Sara and Mark for hosting me for the night. Talk about location, location, location. I was taken around the clubs many projects in the town, and to some amusing signage and a Lava tree! The club is supporting the End Polio day by walking and members are supporting this big time! I was very happy to induct a new member to the club, Graeme Shephard. Welcome Graeme! Many members of the club assisted in welcoming Graeme which was fun and heartfelt. The club supports the Foundation, ROMAC, ARH, Polio Plus, Bobs Bag, Lifeline and End Trachoma. They have a large project at Coronation Park, which they received a grant for \$326K and providing some play equipment at that park, with another grant for \$25K. They have been involved in the Dangar Falls redevelopment. This year they sponsored a student to RYLA, RYDA, Rymarine and are big supporters of the local schools at their award ceremonies. During the Covid crisis they were galvanised into action because there was no service station in town, many people were unable to get to town shopping and others had to stay at home because they were immune compromised. The club delivered fliers to all residents offering help with transportation, shopping, deliveries of food. This is the Rotary Community Service at its best.

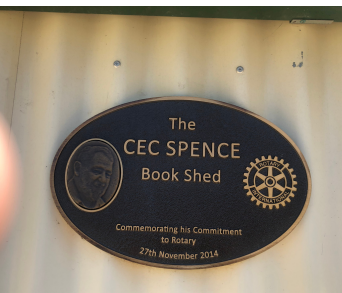
Thursday morning, I travelled back to Armidale for lunch. I met with members of Armidale Central at their book shed, hosted by John Jones. We had a boxed lunch in the shed grounds under the shade of the trees, enjoying the wonderful, warm spring weather. This was a fun and relaxing end to my week. John tells me the club has a simple mantra, raise money and give it away to worthy causes and have some pleasant fellowship on the way. Their main fundraiser is the book fair, which is a major Armidale event. The club generally raises \$50K and 70% of that is donated back locally and the rest to Rotary causes such as Foundation and some International projects of theirs in South Africa. The book shed is named after a former member and philanthropist Cec Pepper and his picture and a plaque sit proudly in and outside of the shed. The club mans the gates at the Armidale Blues grounds, provides breakfast at Newling Primary School two days a week. The club members are also involved in supporting Meals on Wheels once a month and maintain a 60 tree Birch Grove near the northern roundabout into Armidale. The trees were planted in 2007 to celebrate 100 years of Rotary.

This was a very busy week complemented by experiencing firsthand community projects, inductions and presentations. I am blown away by our clubs' resilience and ability to get back up after drought, bushfire and pandemic. Opportunities have presented themselves and Rotarians haven't turned a blind eye. Thank you to AG Zahoor Ahmed for his support the whole week at every club function. Thank you to my hosts who made my visits fun and comfortable.

District Project LIFELINE - the banking details are as follows: -Rotary International District 9650 Inc. BSB: 932 000 Account: 100453820

Remember,

Opportunities are like sunrises - If you wait too long you miss them!



DISTRICT SHOWCASE

Are you coming to Tamworth for the 2020 Rotary D9650 Showcase weekend?

Saturday 28 and Sunday 29 November 2020 at West Tamworth League Club. This will be our first face to face District gathering since Presidents-elect Training in March this year and we have a great program arranged for you with excellent Guest Speakers. Your Club President and Secretary received the Agenda and Registration Forms on Wednesday 14 October 2020. The critical information is as follows:

Venue: West Tamworth League Club, Phillip Street, West Tamworth
Cost: \$ 50 for afternoon tea & lunch on Saturday and morning tea and lunch on Sunday Plus \$45 for 2 course Dinner Saturday Night. Total Cost for Showcase & Dinner \$95 per person if paid on-line or an additional \$5 if paid by cheque.
Note: Registrations close 8pm Wednesday 11 November 2020 and because of the Clubs requirements & COVID-19 requirements there can be no later Registrations.

I look forward to seeing you in person at Tamworth.
PDG Neville Parsons
District Trainer

ROTARY'S REGIONAL FUTURE

The Rotary International Board meets in November 2020 and will consider a proposal by the Shaping Rotary's Future committee to move toward Regionalisation. Governance would move from the current 527 Districts to 20-40 Regions. This would allow more Regional autonomy and provide more support for Clubs, Rotarians and Rotaractors. In Jan 2019, the RI Board approved a petition from the District Governors of Zone 8 (Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific Islands) to propose a Regional structure and approach to halt membership decline, provide a stronger Rotary voice and better partnerships with government, business and communities. Our work since receiving that approval means we are well placed to modernise Rotary in our Region, if the RI Board votes to proceed toward Regionalisation. There have been articles covering this in Rotary Down Under (Nov 2019, April and Sept 2020).

Formal approval to establish Regional Pilots will be required at the next Council on Legislation in April 2022. The earliest implementation in our Region would be for the 2023-24 Rotary year. If you would like to receive a copy of the submission by our Region or have any questions, please email the project team at rotaryregionalpilot@gmail.com

Ingrid Waugh D9920 and Peter Frueh D9800 Co-Chairs Planning Group for Zone 8 Regional Pilot Structure

OPENING CONCERT OF THE MANNING RIVER

STAGE

DG Debbie last week enclosed a photo of the Manning River Stage built by our club in conjunction with Taree Lions Club. Covid 19 has meant that the stage has lain idle since it was built.

There will be a star studded Opening Concert at 7:30 PM on Friday 6 November. The MC will be well-known Australian actor Rob Mills and Don Spencer of Playschool fame will be headlining a star-studded list of musicians. We can now have 500 people on the riverbank and the good news is that every Rotarian in the district can attend because it will be live streamed through Pluto Entertainment. The Link is <https://www.facebook.com/events/428840374752988> Please copy this link into your diary (and circulate to your friends) and join us on the night.

The concert is free online but it will be a Streamathon and you will have the opportunity - if you wish - to support the Manning Music Program of the Australian Children's Music Foundation. This Program employs local musicians to go into six of our local schools and engage with students, particularly those in danger of dropping out, as well as discovering hidden talents. Please join us, enjoy a great night and support this wonderful program. Why not hold a dinner party of friends to watch this fabulous show?

Maurie Stack
Rotary Club of Taree on Manning

DISTRICT GRANTS

With only two weeks to go, only two applications have been received for District Grants from the Rotary Foundation. Clubs interested should go to the district website Documents Library to complete an application for funding of up to AUD4,000 for a project.

Applications must be made by 31 October 2019 to Grants Chair Elizabeth Tollis, through the online form provided on the District website, and submitted by email to elizabeth.tollis@gmail.com. We have about AUD \$40,000 available Projects can be local or international. Clubs applying should have one member who has in 2020 completed the Grants Management Seminar on the Rotary International Website. Because of the shortness of time we will accept applications if someone from the club has commenced the seminar and undertakes to complete it. Simply google:

<https://learn.rotary.org/members/learn/lp/101/grant-management-seminar>

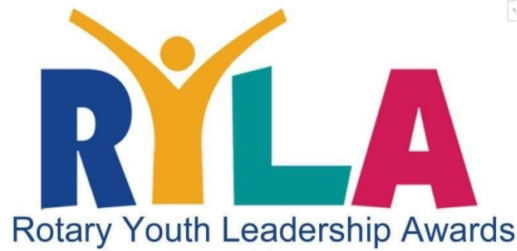
Clubs seeking a grant are also expected to have set a goal for fundraising for the Foundation: log into Rotary International/my Rotary/manage/club and district administration/Rotary Club Central/Goal Centre/Rotary Foundation Giving.

District Grants Chair Elizabeth Tollis
(Rotary Club of Taree on Manning)

Email: elizabeth.tollis@gmail.com
Mobile: 0438982301



The poster for the Manning Music Program River Stage Opening features a collage of photos of musicians performing. The text on the poster includes: 'Manning Music Program', '7.30pm', 'RIVER STAGE OPENING', 'Friday 6th November', 'Brilliant performances by Don Spencer, Rob Mills, Darren Jack, James Johnston, Keanu Jai Live, Jake Davey, Cassidy Donovan, Three Good Fellas and more. On the NEW Manning RIVERSTAGE this very special event will live stream online across PLUTO ENTERTAINMENT where you can donate to this amazing project.' The poster also includes the Rotary logo and the Australian Children's Music Foundation logo.



BACKTRACK RYLARIANS

Making a difference in the Community Al and Kath Morris have lived in Nowendoc for more than 50 years but they've never seen anything like the fire that raced towards their home late last year. "There was nothing but ash and burnt trees and fire. Nothing. Absolutely nothing," Kath says.

Al and Kath lost 5 kilometres of fencing. Like many farmers, they were eligible for grants and assistance that gave them access to fencing materials. Al started the job on his own but at 77 years old, it was slow going. Then, out of the blue, came an offer of help from a group of young men that society had turned its back on. Education and training are at the core of BackTrack's work and the organisation has a number of programs designed to get young people job ready.

But two years ago, Bernie Shakeshaft realised his efforts weren't necessarily resulting in jobs for his charges. It was then the idea of BackTrack Works was born – a for-profit business employing those who Bernie says were the "unemployable kids". Twenty-three-year-old Trey "Ducky" Fernando was on the wrong path before he joined BackTrack 12 years ago. Now he is a mentor to the younger kids coming through & a D9650 2018 RYLarian. "I'm not in jail, I've actually got a job," he says.

I never thought I'd ever have a job in my life, so it's actually helped me out heaps. "The help goes both ways. In four days, the BackTrack boys constructed 2.3km of fence line in Nowendoc – something which would have taken the farmer a month to do on his own.

"They're a really top bunch of fellas and they're go-go-go and they know what they're doing," he says. "It's a sentiment echoed by Resilience NSW Commissioner Shane Fitzsimmons, who keeps across BackTrack's work as he manages the bushfire recovery in NSW. "They're doing remarkable work," he says. "They're doing work that makes a genuine and sincere difference in the lives and livelihoods of people right across NSW.

As seen on ABC 7.30 Report 13th October.

BOOK CLUB COLLABORATIONS

Port Macquarie Rotary Club has been operating a second hand Book Store on Saturday mornings for some 3 years and since May this year, sales have been steadily growing. Perhaps due to the Pandemic, donations of books have also been growing and the Club had accumulated a large stock of books ready for next year's Giant Book Sale.

When Bay Park Plaza offered the Club use of a large vacant shop for a pop-up Spring Book Sale President Elizabeth Fielding grasped the opportunity with both hands. The sale ran for 9 days and with lots of visitors on holiday in Port Macquarie there was a constant stream of customers in the shop.

Fresh stock was added daily and as the sale came to a close, some 10,000 books had been sold but there were still many thousands of books on the tables.

So when President Di Reynolds from Wauchope Rotary Club called in to pass on the sad news that all their stock of books, ready for their Annual Book Sale at the end of October, had been stolen, there was no hesitation on Port Macquarie Rotary Club's part to offer them help to rebuild their stock.

Last Sunday, Wauchope Rotarians turned up in force and were able to select and pack over 2,000 quality books and so revitalise their hopes of holding a successful Book Sale this year.

WORLD POLIO DAY

The Rotary Walk With Us program offers such an easy way for Rotarians and others to fundraise for polio during these difficult times – it's as easy as going for a walk! Of course, it's not the only way to FUNdraise for polio.

One that's extremely successful is the World's Greatest Meal to Help End Polio – which is as easy as having a meal together. This program has raised an astonishing \$11.1 million for polio – let's get behind it! Another fun option is a trip to the movies and this year's Polio Movie Event is an exclusive cinema opportunity to see the Helen Reddy story, I Am Woman.

There is a polio video clip available. Cinemas can download the clip in digital cinema format (DCP) from Dropbox at: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/8f4is1r3no51p13/AAAbNAgYeE-DbmhBTfBrO3Vta?dl=0> It runs for 50 seconds and the DCP file size is about 430MB.

Please support World Polio Day on 24 October.

Whether it's going for a walk, having a meal, catching a movie or riding the train – or any of the other great projects that you and your clubs have identified – your efforts in helping to address Rotary's number one cause are hugely appreciated. Thank you for the crucial role that you play in this effort!

Maurie Stack
Rotary Foundation Director



Rotary

Australian Districts



ROTARY AUSTRALIA
WORLD COMMUNITY
SERVICE

RAWCS is seeking a National Treasurer

RAWCS Ltd is a Rotary Company that facilitates Rotary humanitarian projects in Australia and overseas and last year reported an annual turnover of AUD\$ 24.6M. RAWCS is seeking to appoint a National Treasurer to fill a casual vacancy immediately and then serve a 3-year term from 1st July 2021. The appointee will be an experienced Rotarian who is a member of a recognised accounting body, ICA or CPA.

As a volunteer member of the Board and of the Executive Committee, the National Treasurer will work closely with the CEO in overseeing periodic analysis of all aspects of RAWCS financial and governance systems. They will provide high-level strategic advice to the Board contributing to reviews and implementation of RAWCS Strategic Plan.

To express an interest in this role please contact David Pearson (RAWCS Deputy Chair) on Ph 6779 2616 or email deputy.chairman@rawcs.org.au.



The Rotary Club of ARMIDALE CENTRAL

Secondhand book markets

SAT 14 - SUN 15
NOVEMBER 2020
9.30AM - 5.00PM

OUTDOOR MARKET
BOOK SHED, DUMARESQ ST

INDOOR MARKET
RACECOURSE, BARNEY ST
'Collectables and Premium Items'

PLEASE NOTE:

Covid-19 regulations must be observed with social distancing being essential.

The markets may be postponed or cancelled at short notice due to enhanced Covid-19 restrictions. The Outdoor Market may be postponed or cancelled at short notice due to the weather although the Indoor Market will take place regardless of the weather. Numbers will be limited to 300 at the Book Shed and 100 at the Racecourse at any

Rotary Certificate of Appreciation

This Certificate is awarded to

DEBBIE LOVEDAY

In recognition of their valuable assistance
to The Rotary Club of Armidale AM.

As a mark of appreciation, the Club will give a donation to supply 50 Polio Vaccinations to the Polio Plus Program, which was instigated by Rotary International. This donation is matched by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation two to one, resulting in a donation of 150 vaccinations in total.

Supporting the Endgame Initiative to rid the world
of Polio.



Krystina Micke
President 2020-2021
The Rotary Club of Armidale AM





District 9650 Conference

Rotary an

International Affair

March 12-14th 2021



Panthers Bay St, Port Macquarie

[ROTARY 9650.ORG.AU/DISTRICT-CONFERENCE](https://www.rotary9650.org.au/district-conference)

[HTTPS://WWW.ROTARY9650.ORG.AU/DISTRICT-CONFERENCE](https://www.rotary9650.org.au/district-conference)

