



**Rotary Opens
Opportunities**



THIS ISSUE

Roadtripping with the DG

A C27 Spartan landed in Taree

Community collaborations

RYLA update

CALENDAR

November 23 - DG visit to
Manilla
November 25 - DG visit to
Nambucca Valley
November 28-29 -
District Showcase
December 14 - DG visit to
Sawtell
February 13 - District
Finance Meeting
February 20 - District
Management Meeting
March 6 - PETS
March 12-14 - District
Conference
March 27 - District
Assembly Port Macquarie
April 14 - District
Assembly Tamworth
May 2 - District Assembly
Narrabri
June 26 - District
Changeover

MUSINGS FROM THE DG

Here we are at the end of another week. I cannot believe just how fast the time goes. It seems like only yesterday that PDG Phil Hafey pinned that badge on me and said "Your it". Every PDG I have spoken to has commented on how much I would enjoy my year and that the official visits are the best times of all. With only three more clubs to visit I can now appreciate just how great it has been. Thank you for supporting my visits, feeding me and making me feel so welcome.

This week I visited New England Rotaract members at the home of AG Zahoor Ahmed. I would like to take this opportunity of thanking Zahoor for opening his home to us and to his wife Najjia for their hospitality. To Najjia you are a great cook and we thoroughly enjoyed everything you prepared for us. Rotaract in New England is a different dynamic, and they have been quite innovative in how they recruit members; fund raise and generally support each other through these difficult times. We had a very relaxed evening exploring how they can make a difference in their community. We talked about University based Rotaract and how membership might only be for three years, and then the qualified student transitions to full time employment in another district, State or Country. When we talk about membership, we have looked at the reasons behind loss of members in a club and found that many of the reasons we have no control over. Young people are transient, will move around and therefore there will be ebbs and flows of members in Rotaract Clubs perhaps more than in our traditional clubs where we lose members to that great Rotary Universe in the sky or because for health or age reasons a decision is made to move closer to family. Opportunities exist through the University to engage with newly enrolled students with a view to friendship, support and the unique set of circumstances to offer membership of New England Rotaract. Fund raising has been extremely difficult for them the same as other clubs in our district. New England Rotaract have offered their services to other clubs in their cluster. What a great opportunity for the other clubs, especially when your labour force can be dwindling. Clubs have enjoyed the company and help of these younger people and listened to their ideas, thoughts and suggestions around Rotary and Rotaract in exchange for financial reward for helping. I would like to thank them for the gift of home baked fudge, courtesy of Georgia Bray (aka the Armidale Fudge Lady) whose delicious offerings can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/armidalefudgelady>. There are over 38 different flavours, and she can custom make should you have a specific requirement. My own favourite at this moment in time is the Caramilk. Tastes just like Devon Fudge from England, smooth, silky and above all yummy. Not for the diet conscious but Gluten Free can be accommodated – check her out.

Wednesday evening, I listened to a presentation from Jacqui Greenfield from the Australian Cervical Cancer Foundation. Jacqui is their Education and Engagement Officer, and this week has been Cervical Cancer Awareness Week. 311,000 women die from Cervical Cancer each year. This can be prevented and so can the cancers that affect men caused by the same virus. As we move into December which is Disease Prevention and Treatment Month, see if Jacqui can speak to you, please contact them at <https://accf.org.au/>

Have you all completed your registrations for Tamworth Showcase? From the numbers we have now, many of you are looking forward to reconnecting and enjoying some of the fabled Rotary fellowship.



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 DG DEBBIE CONT.

We have some great speakers lined up including our after-dinner speaker on the Saturday night, my good friend and fellow DG Andy Rajapakse, who has done an amazing job with membership of all ages, all types of clubs on the Gold Coast. We have presentations from our clubs on some very special projects that really are inspiring and innovative.

Dave Pearson will be joining us to talk about Rotary Australia World Community Service and its programs, and scope of the organisation. Dave is the National Vice Chair and I can assure you his knowledge extends far beyond Rotarians Against Malaria for which we have known him in the past. Many clubs have enjoyed distributing cash cards to people in crisis, many of whom still require major assistance until they can support themselves as in earlier times when things were better. I met a new Rotarian only a couple of weeks ago who told me the reason he wanted to join Rotary and give back was because he was a recipient of these cards. This really does reinforce those three key areas of focus, Public Image, membership and Foundation. Getting the message out there, taking Rotary to the community is the best way of increasing public awareness. The public are where you derive members from. Great clubs require great membership, and without them we cannot support our service projects and Foundation or anything else that is your passion. It is not OK to provide service in the community and have Rotary signage absent. The general public are generally aware of laws in respect of fundraising. In Rotary clubs have a charitable fundraising licence and because of our great branding and credibility we have enjoyed consumer confidence for decades.

Please check your signage and ensure that it is current. As you are probably aware, the Governors of 2019-20 set up a disaster relief fund through RAWCS in response to the catastrophic bushfires in December and January 11 months ago. Nine districts have been affected by the bushfires and through the RABS we have been able to distribute approximately \$1.5 million of donations received to these affected Rotary districts via district projects or club projects.

The committee set up by the immediate past governors to manage the funds received through RARF met on the weekend. They have approximately \$140,000 which will be made available with matching grants to projects proposed by the affected districts or clubs in the affected districts on a one-for-one basis. The criteria for application are that the project must assist in the rehabilitation of areas affected by the bushfires or help fund projects to assist in futureproofing against wildfires in the future. We will be receiving applications up to 15 December and hope to be up to distribute these funds by Christmas. Funds for projects approved by the committee can be paid to your district bushfire RAWCS project or if clubs wish they can set up their own project with a RAWCS project number.

Please contact PDG Tim Klar at Dgtim9520@gmail.com or M 0418840301 H 0882787865.

And Remember....

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

JOINT ROTARY PROJECT TO TIWI ISLAND

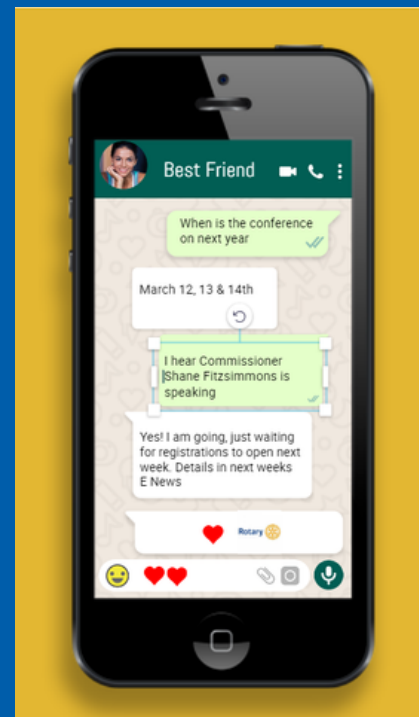
On Monday 2 November a RAAF C27 Spartan aircraft from 35SQN Amberley arrived at Taree airport to collect 20 boxes of bed linen as part of a joint project between the Rotary Clubs of Taree, Taree North and Lower MidCoast which has been supported by Valley Industries to help the Tiwi Island people on both Bathurst and Melville Islands.

The supplies were flown to Darwin where they will be forwarded onto Bathurst Island on Monday the 30 November by the RAAF.

The President of the Rotary Club of Taree, David Denning and myself will travel to Darwin and then onto Bathurst Island to present these goods to the Tiwi people.

Rotary's partnership with the RAAF in this project is an important step to assisting another Remote aboriginal community in Australia.

Whilst many local Rotary clubs have been involved in overseas aid projects in the past, some of our clubs are now focusing on More on shore based projects to assist remote communities, particularly in the area of Health.



BOOK FAIR BONANZA!

With 2020 being the year of uncertainty for many due to Covid, the Armidale Central Rotary Club's annual Book Fair normally held in May, was postponed. Fast forward 6 months and the Club was able to replace the Book Fair with an Outdoor General Book Market and an Indoor Book Collectibles Book Market.

The split was to ensure Covid Safe environments given space constraints and the need to ensure social distancing etc. The exercise required much planning and its success, as a result of which just under \$40,000 was raised, was due not only to much hard work by the team who work in our Book Shed, led by Ian Garske and Simon McMillan, but also the valuable contributions made, in other ways, by many other club members. Several members of the local Rotaract Club also pitched in, which was much appreciated. We were also helped by good weather after a wet Friday morning! The Club was very grateful for the great support from the Armidale and surrounding communities and it was wonderful to see that reading for all ages is going strong. The Club volunteers had a good time as did our customers. It was great to see so many smiling faces!

The Club will now be in a position to support many local causes where donations were delayed by the postponement of the Book Fair. The funds raised are mainly distributed in the New England Region so, in effect, the community is helping the community while Club members and their customers have a great time along the way! Rotary and Rotaract are truly forces for good!

CONGRATULATIONS KATIE NEWCOMBE

The Rotary Inspirational Women's Awards are sponsored by Rotary District 9675. The RIWA has been established to recognise women and young women who best exemplify Rotary's Motto of Service Above Self. District 9650 had a finalist in young Katie Newcombe from Old Bar who works in Aged Care but works tirelessly as a volunteer with the Harrington SES. Her work during the bushfires and then floods in the Manning Valley during 2019-20 saw her nominated by her peers at the SES. Given the current Covid environment the awards were held at 5 different locations including Norfolk Island. Katie was successful winning the award in her category of Health Care Worker. Katie was presented her award by Deputy Chair, Dot Hennessy from Rotary Club of Wollongong, assisted by Mayor, MidCoast Council, David West. This award was held at the Taree SES with Katie supported by her family, members of the SES along with members from the Rotary Clubs of Taree and Lower Midcoast.

Congratulations to Katie Newcombe on her Rotary Award.

COLLABORATION WITH COMMUNITY

I started volunteering with OzHarvest 3 months ago with Gil Padarin-Innes from our club the Rotary Club of Port Macquarie. Initially I had no idea of what was involved and was definitely thrown in the deep end.

We visit supermarkets, butchers and other food distributors in Port Macquarie to collect unwanted food and then redistribute to charities and the Neighbourhood Centre who then redirect it to needy families. With Gil moving to Brisbane another Rotarian, Sandra Adams has stepped in to fill the gap. OzHarvest operates 6 days a week with 2 shifts per day in Port Macquarie.

I am hoping my association with OzHarvest can work side by side with my Rotary club to expand the services they provide to lots more families in Port Macquarie.

-Elizabeth Fielding

President of Rotary Club of Port Macquarie



PROCESSING PHF APPLICATIONS

RI has limited days for dispatches so the cut-off dates for processing all PHF applications are as follows:

- 9 December for Australia (need allowance for Mail Post deliveries) Any applications processed after these dates will be shipped for January 2021 next year.
- 8 December for NZ (need allowance for Mail Post deliveries) Any applications processed after these dates will be shipped for January 2021 next year.
- 7 December for Philippines (need allowance for FedEx deliveries) Any applications processed after these dates will be shipped for January 2021 next year.

Please note, we can't accommodate any last minute PHF requests because of the restrictions and postage delivery delays.

DISTRICT TROPHIES

*If you have a District Trophy and are attending Showcase in Tamworth,
/please bring it with you.*

*The District Trophy chair Glenda Barber will be calling for nominations
for this year's trophies and awards commencing 1st December 2020.*

Closing date for submissions is 19th February 2021.

UPDATE ON THE 2021 INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION IN TAIPEI

The RI Board is fully aware of the global pandemic and its effects on various Rotary meetings to date. The situation remains dynamic, and we recognise that this creates concerns about the expected timeline for a decision regarding the International Convention. The Board receives guidance from the World Health Organization, local medical experts in the host city, our travel agency, various contract service providers for airfare, and experts in the meetings and events industry. A decision will be made in early 2021 based on all available resources and the recognised science and safety standards available. We understand this may seem late, but we are doing all we can to take decisions that are safe for all concerned. Keep up to date here <https://convention.rotary.org/en/taipei/frequently-asked-questions>

DONATIONS TO THE ROTARY FOUNDATION IN AUSTRALIA

You can transfer your donations (e.g. Centurion, PHF, EREY, Global Grants, Annual Fund, Polio Plus) to the bank accounts below.

IMPORTANT: Please always email risppo@rotary.org on or before the transfer so that your donations can be identified.

For Club and District donations:

St. George Bank
Acct Name: The Rotary Foundation
Acct No: 100345225
BSB No: 332 084

For individual and business donations (or Clubs that need a tax deductible receipt):

St. George Bank
Acct Name: The Australian Rotary Foundation Trust
Acct No: 551038195
BSB No: 332 084



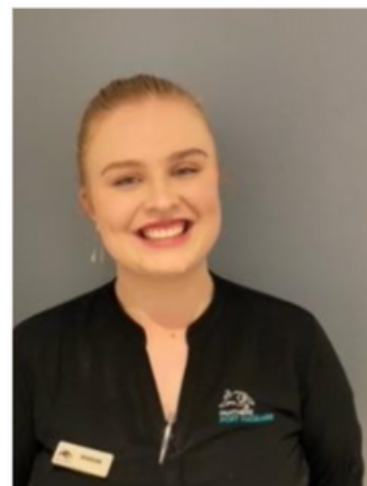
1st – 8th May 2021
Lake Keepit Sport & Recreation

Leader 2021
HANNAH BOSWELL

2020 Sponsor Club RC Port Macquarie

No doubt many Rotarians in Cluster#3 would know this young lady in her many & varied roles at Port Panthers. From reception to functions, bar & café Hannah is a very capable & vibrant member of staff & an outstanding RYLA participant.

RYLA 2020 changed Hannah's view of herself both personally & professionally. She has gained more confidence, trust & understanding of herself & others. Hannah's supportive nature will benefit those she will have in her team by encouraging them to take the initiative while she guides them & leads from behind.



DISTRICT CONFERENCE – PORT MACQUARIE 12-14th March 2021

SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE

Following the Ecumenical Church Service on Sunday 14th March 2021, we will be having a Service of Remembrance, acknowledging all Rotarians in District 9650 who have died from 31/3/2018 up till the conference in 2021.

(Note - this is for two years, as we were unable to hold this service earlier this year due to Covid.)

Please send the following –

the name of your deceased Rotarian,

the name of your club.

His/her date of death,

PLUS a photo (head-shot) in a jpeg file as an attachment.

Please send to Kerry Medway (R/C of Port Macquarie)

via email- kerry@kerryedway.org ASAP,

so we can start collating a power point for the service. THANKYOU."