



Rotary Opens
Opportunities



THIS ISSUE

Roadtripping with the DG

Photos from Showcase

RYLA update

CALENDAR

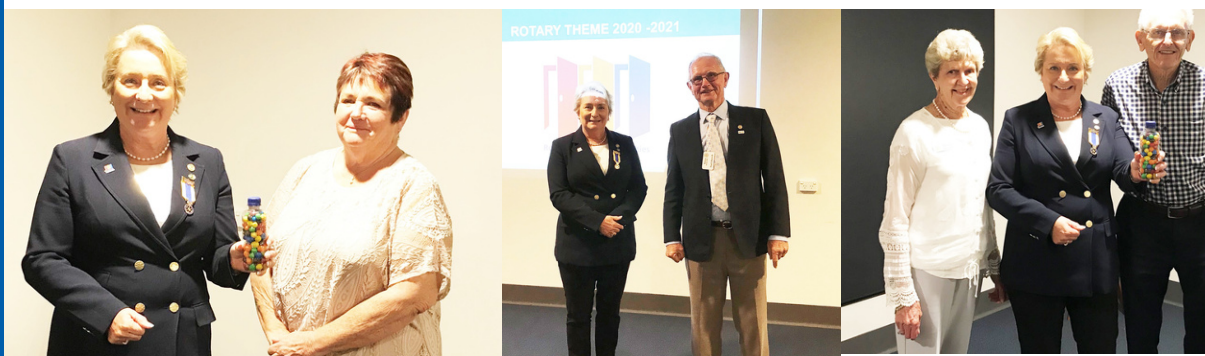
- December 14 - DG visit to Sawtell
- February 13 - District Finance Meeting
- February 20 - District Management Meeting
- March 6 - PETS
- March 12-14 - District Conference
- March 27 - District Assembly Port Macquarie
- April 14 - District Assembly Tamworth
- May 2 - District Assembly Narrabri
- June 26 - District Changeover

MUSINGS FROM THE DG

I have just returned from a fabulous weekend in Tamworth! It was wonderful to see everyone and I hope you found it to be a great weekend as well! Monday, I headed out to Manilla to catch up with members of the club and check up on my friend President Peter Dutton, (he's been a bit crook lately, but much better now. Manilla is a smaller club and when I asked what they had been up to this year they thought I might not have much to write about. It's incredible how we seem to forget just how much we and our fellow Rotarians achieve in the year, despite, drought, bushfire and pandemic. The club like most out west has been working to alleviate the suffering of their farming community. Whether its food for farmers, cards, food for animals they have been there supporting. If that wasn't enough the pandemic has seen hospital patients isolated without the normal visiting family and friends. The club managed to get iPads into the hospital so family could talk to family and friends, so they weren't so isolated and kept in touch with each other. What a wonderful idea. The club is passionate about supporting the Westpac Rescue Helicopter and proud supporters of the MHERV van. It seems that a lot of clubs like to support the MHERV van and I can say that I have been approached to have the van at my conference and them give an update on how 2021 will pan out. The club are big supporters of Youth and like to sponsor and mentor students from the local area. Students have had the opportunity to attend RYLA, RYAG sheep, public speaking, NYSF to name a few. The club like to provide books as prizes at the schools in their town. They are interested in Indigenous education and awareness about domestic violence. The club supports the Santa Run for disadvantaged kids. They are also keen to continue their support of Roselea House, that supports people with mental ill health as well as Youth Insearch. Another of their fundraisers is the winter wood drive and raffle. Not bad for a blank canvas.

The evening was a lady's night and it was good to see so many of the local ladies in attendance. One thing that amazed me was that there were three separate CWA's in town. We even had a four-month-old future Rotarian join the meeting, and he loved all the attention. Peters vision is to increase the membership base at the club and attract so associate members. Thank you to AG Simon Guest for travelling out to support me and add to the fun of the night.

Tuesday morning breakfast was in Tamworth and some more shopping, with a note to self not to forget to fill up with fuel! Now you have probably guessed that as I have made that comment, my all Aussie adventure has one more chapter because of course excited by the shopping I did forget to call in the servo. Of course, a couple of hours later 7 kms past Gingers that is closed at present, the red light came on. To make matters worse my car is diesel and I know that to run out of diesel can be tricky. After my initial panic I pulled up at the next roadworks much to the surprise of the RMS traffic controller and others roadside. After explaining the situation and begging for some diesel a nice young man turned up with a jerry can, just about the same time as my neighbour, who so me on the side of the road as he was passing. He seemed really amused by my predicament. At that point no one had a funnel for the fuel, so I asked my neighbour to make himself useful and find a funnel for us. He presented an empty bottle of water and said to us just cut the top off. Well the RMS guys didn't have a knife. Not to be seen to be totally useless I remembered that I had been given a swiss army knife and proudly presented it from my handbag, much to everyone's surprise. Thanks very much to the RMS road guys, they also said I wasn't the first to need fuel. So please note last fuel for 160 kms is Walcha.



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.

Wednesday was a visit to see President Rod Edwards at Nambucca Valley. For those not familiar with the club, Nambucca Heads and Macksville merged at the beginning of this year very successfully, and there is a lovely fun atmosphere in the club. The members have worked together over the years and this was a great move to carry on the work of the two clubs. This club has recently got back to face to face meetings but been very busy with the bushfire relief effort. The bushfires have just ravaged this district and a year on Rotarians are finding people who have been selflessly helping everyone but themselves. The club found one lady who has tirelessly helped everyone and in the last year not once mentioned that she needed some help herself. Her gutters had completely buckled in the ferocious heat that surrounded her place during the peak of the fires. It was great to hear a couple of members PDG Gary Johnson and David Aisnworth were quick to come to the rescue. They have sourced replacement materials and are organising to replace the damaged gutters amongst other repairs. This is such a heart-warming story. The club has partnered with the Rotary Club of Northbridge who have donated money to assist in the bushfire relief. The club has donated over \$50,000 locally. They also have a tool library for locals to borrow tools to help with the clean up and maintenance effort. I met a lady on the evening who has not only fundraised to support people with the Woodstock in the Valley concert and the bushfire concert but assists with the tool library. I believe President Rod is hoping that she will stay helping the club and become a member. Another great project the club has been involved with is the making of a large cage for injured wildlife to be used by WIRES. The project was completed at the end of October by members of the club. Well done Rotarians. One thing that was very interesting is that their Executive Secretary lives in Portugal! This is the age of technology and it just goes to show members can be anywhere in the world and contribute to the great work Rotary does.

This weekend was our first face to face get together at Tamworth where we celebrated our membership gains, received some very positive reinforcement from our Membership Director Jenny Sinclair who took us through the year with some inciteful and sometimes amusing recollections of COVID times. There was also recognition of the Australian culture of looking after each other during lockdown with pictures of the President and Members of the Rotary Club of Port Macquarie Sunrise who distributed cookies to members of the club with R U OK attached to them. A small gesture but with a huge impact. Our District Rotaract Representative was unable to fly out of Adelaide to be with us but zoomed in and conducted a very interesting panel discussion with some prominent Rotaractors and their experiences in Rotaract. We heard of the need for connection and professional development. They spoke of the challenges faced and some of the benefits being a Rotaractor had given them in their chosen careers.

We heard from Rotary International President Elect Jesse Harman who gave her thoughts on Rotary today and what to expect in the future. Jesse spoke about the fabulous opportunities that we have for creating a new Rotary world with the formation of new and exciting clubs that met the need of the people. Jesse said we must create new clubs that fitted a different need and not try to fit new Rotarians to existing club models. National RAWCS Vice Chair Dave Pearson gave us possibly the best talk and PowerPoint on RAWCS that I have seen. It really encapsulated everything RAWCS was about, its programs, activities and how it can support and facilitate Rotary Clubs to perform their service projects here and internationally. We heard an update on the new district 9660 from PDG Neville Parsons (DGN District 9660) and Andrew Best from Parramatta. During the discussion it was noted that many members had not received all the information sent out on the 13 September. This information will be put on the District web site for everyone to access. <https://www.rotary9650.org.au/Look> to the right-hand side of the home page and click on District 9660. Trudy Grice from Parramatta also talked about club and district resources and support that they can give. This included an online demonstration of the My Rotary site and tips for quick access to Rotary Club Central and the Learning Centre through the Online Tools section of the home page. Very useful, practical tips were shared.

Saturday night we were entertained and informed by our guest speaker my good friend DG Andy Rajapakse from District 9640. I don't think we could quite believe the extraordinary stories of Rotary Clubs formed in 100 days. People seemingly with no idea about Rotary falling over themselves to start or be apart of Rotary. Andy presented a different type of menu than the traditional Rotary club and how to create a club to meet a need. I think we all agreed we wanted some of what he was on and could it be bottled! Thanks Andy.

Sunday morning, we were enthralled by a selection of presenters who really gave wings to the term Service Projects. We heard about, Heritage Walks, Dog Parks, The Clontarf Foundation, the Ezidi Agricultural Project and the Welch Alwin project. Just an amazing smorgasbord of Rotary Club Projects. Diana Reynolds (aka The Fun Fairy) gave us an important update from the Office of the Children's Guardian and to my relief confirmed that we were compliant in our Child Protection Program. We must remain vigilant here and ensure that if your Youth Protection Officer changes then a complete handover is made, including usernames and passwords so verification of the WWCC are done and the club register maintained. Foundation Director Maurie Stack gave us the latest recipients of Foundation District Grants which totalled \$48,000. Thanks to all our clubs who have completed applications for their many projects. Maurie updated us on ways we can support the Foundation and the rewards for doing so. The session wrapped up with DGE David Mayne highlighting his Learning and Development plans for next year. He emphasised how important it was for President Elects and Secretaries to attend as things in Rotary are changing very rapidly and there will be new information delivered at those events.

With one more club to visit I feel both happy and sad. I have had such a good time with everyone, so thank you for that, and happy that I was able to visit most of you face to face in the last few months. Please remember to let your AG's know of your changeover dates as we want to come along and celebrate with you. Can you make the changeovers in June not July as this impacts the new DG and his visit schedule? If you can't make June 2021 because of holidays etc please consider May 2021.

And remember...

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

REGISTRATIONS NOW OPEN FOR DISTRICT CONFERENCE

It is the time you have have all been waiting for! Registrations are now open to attend the 2021 District Conference. To be held in gorgeous Port Macquarie, head to the official website to book your ticket now!

Over the coming weeks we will be giving you more information about the conference and some of the keynote speakers have already been announced! it is shaping up to be a conference not to be missed!

You can also see the conference video where DG Debbie outlines the theme!

[Click here to purchase your tickets now!](#)

CHECK OUT SOME GREAT IMAGES FROM SHOWCASE!



NEED A SPARE LEG?

Do any Rotarians need or know of an avenue for three sets of adult prosthetic legs to be distributed? Please get in touch today!

We have been contacted to see if they could be of any use to a project and would love to give them a new home!

Please contact Sara Hankin President of Dorrigo 17924 Rotary Club if you can help!.

82capella@gmail.com or 0408289365

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>



1st – 8th May 2021
Lake Keepit Sport & Recreation
2021 Application forms now on D9650 Webpage

Leader 2021
LUKE MASSEY

2020 Sponsor RC Tamworth First Light

"I came to RYLA an unmotivated, lost, and directionless 26-year-old and left with a new lust for life and a new motivation to succeed. The course gave me the tools to bridge the gap between finishing postgraduate university and successfully building a life for myself outside of the safety net of tertiary education." Luke is looking forward to sharing some life experience with the younger attendees & rates peer guidance as one of the most important aspects of the week along with supportive open communication.



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

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@kerrymedway.org ASAP,
so we can start collating a power point for the service. THANKYOU."

