



Rotary Opens
Opportunities



THIS ISSUE

Roadtripping with the DG
District Conference Trophies
Remembering Rotarians
RYLA update

CALENDAR

February 13 - District
Finance Meeting
February 20 - District
Management Meeting
February 21 - District
Management Training
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

This week has been a week of contrasts. I have visited two clubs and enjoyed myself immensely. Monday night I went to Kempsey club, together with DGE David Mayne and Diana Gammon, Youth Director of the Port Macquarie club, and AG Muni Osbourne and her husband Rodney. The evening was hosted by President Belinda Fowler. The first guest speaker of the evening was Kim Hodges, celebrated author of "Girl on the Edge" and "Girl Over the Edge".

Kim Hodges currently resides on the NSW north coast and immerses herself in the pristine beauty of beaches, mountains, and estuaries. She grew up in Coolah, a small remote town in Central NSW, Australia with a population of 900, and has lived in Sydney and the UK. In her mid-forties she commenced writing her memoir to store in the cupboard for her lads to read in the years to come, but she realised this story was unique and may resonate with a broad readership. Kim has been employed in many professional roles: tutor and lecturer in the School of Arts and Social Sciences (Southern Cross University), and a consultant in curriculum development (TAFENSW) and policy (NSW Government). Girl on the Edge is the incredible memoir of Kim Hodges, detailing her adolescent experiences growing up in a small rural town of NSW. Her mistreatment and tumultuous upbringing have niggled away in the back of her mind since she was seven years of age. Now a family woman with three children of her own, Kim has found the courage and discipline to work her story into words.

Girl Over the Edge is a Raw, honest, and confronting, Girl Over the Edge strips bare the range of human emotions, struggles and treatment options associated with mental illness, and delivers an overall message of hope and positivity. For more info on Kim and contact details <https://www.facebook.com/Kim-Hodges-Author-627871380649070/>

Following Kim's personal journey, we heard from Club secretary Melissa, who works in suicide prevention, amongst other things. She told us about her job, why it was needed and how funding from the Rotary Club of Kempsey had helped secure books and much needed information for people to use. One book that was very interested was Red Elephant Chocolates for the bereaved by suicide especially children who have lost a parent. Written by Diana Sands PhD a recent review by John R. Jordan, PhD, International Author, Professional Advisor Survivor Council of American Foundation Suicide Prevention, Clinical Consultant Samaritans Boston Grief Support, commented:

"The Red Chocolate Elephants is a remarkable resource for children bereaved by suicide. In a world where children are forgotten mourners, this unique combination of text, pictures, and voices - all in the words of bereaved children themselves - is a treasured safe haven for young people to hear their fears, questions, and difficulties put into words by other children just like them. This book and USB data stick will be an excellent resource for parent and child to use together in trying to face the suicide of a loved one. In writing and production, Red Chocolate Elephants, Dr. Diana Sands has given children everywhere who are bereaved by suicide a wonderful gift for beginning their journey of healing."

After this I was invited to speak about why District 9650 is supporting Lifeline again this year. I guess many of us are aware of the incidence of mental ill health in our homes, families, and our communities. We recognise an even greater need today, tomorrow and into the future. Please consider donating again this year to our project.

Details as follows:

Rotary International District 9650 Incorp.
BSB 932 000
Account No. 100453820

Tuesday evening, I was invited to attend the first meeting of the new year with Kempsey West club, hosted by President Nathan Warwick at the Gladstone Hotel in Gladstone. Lots of the members were present and their families, and once again AG Muni Osbourne was in attendance with a member of the South West Rocks Club, Sue. This was an evening of reconnection. People were genuinely excited to be out and about, renewing their friendship and generally having a good time. I think it is important to achieve a balance in respect of Rotary Service and Fundraising and just having a good old' relaxing time. We need to do this to recharge our batteries, exchange ideas and make new friendships with newer members.

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.

Distribution of the Centenary of Rotary in Australia – 1921-2021 Commemorative Book

The Rotary International Zone 8 History and Archives Committee is nearing completion of a 350 plus page, quality, printed in colour, hard covered book to mark the Centenary of Rotary in Australia on April 21, 2021. Current indications are that the book will be printed in March 2021 to be available for distribution in early April. Each Rotary Club will receive a free copy of the book, while a supply will be available for Libraries and a limited number will be available for sale. Rotary Down Under will be asked to run a story on the project and advertise the opportunity for pre-orders of the book. Pre-orders for the Centenary book – at \$25 (plus postage) each? Pre-orders can now be placed via email address – hdurey@bigpond.com The print run is limited, and books will be sold on a 'first in' basis?

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2021 Club Changeovers –

Thank you to those clubs who have notified their changeover dates. For those that haven't, can you let your AG know when your club changeovers are please.

District Governor 2023 -2024 District 9660

Applications are now open for the position of District Governor 2023 – 2024 for the new District 9660. The following is an extract from RI bylaws setting out the requirements for a DG: Please give this opportunity some consideration and I await your call.

Please see attached information. Applications close 31st March 2021. If you would like to apply for this position, please complete the nomination form and return to me at dloveday@hdl.com.au. Please note: Past District Governors of this district are eligible to apply.

And remember...

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



DISTRICT CONFERENCE TO GO AHEAD

DISTRICT CONFERENCE – Thanks to everyone who must have read the conference article last week. A few more of you have registered. Please do not leave it till the last minute. I would point out that if numbers are restricted then seats will be offered on a first come first served basis. I would urge you to book asap if you are coming and not be disappointed if you leave it too late.

“Rotary an International Affair” 12-14th March 2021, Port Macquarie Panthers Registrations are Open – please register at <https://www.rotary9650.org.au/>

DISTRICT CONFERENCE TROPHIES

You will have received a letter from PP Glenda Barber recently. If you have a trophy can you, please get it to your AG who will be attending the District Management Training on 21st February 2021. If your club has achieved something spectacular and many of you have during this COVID year, there are several trophies that are open to competition. Submissions for District trophies should be forwarded to PP Glenda Barber gbarber@midcoast.com.au by 19nd February 2021.

An illustration at the top of the page features several money bags with dollar signs (\$) hanging from a blue string. To the right, a blue funnel is shown with small blue dots falling into it. The background is a bright yellow color.

We need your money skills

WANTED: DISTRICT TREASURER FOR 2021-22

Do you like money? Counting money? How about spending money? Well if you do, you are in luck because your district needs you!

DGE David Mayne is looking for someone to take up the role of District Treasurer for the 2021-22 Rotary year.

Yes, you need some skills and aptitude and probably a love of Rotary but in return you will be supported by an excellent District team and have a fantastic year helping to celebrate D9650 for the last time. Get in touch with DGE David Mayne on 0434 860 680 today to discuss further.

ROTARY AFTER THE VIRUS

Rotary Isolation is giving me a headache! No-one told me that to be a member of Rotary meant that I had to be a technology buff. Bit like no-one told me that to be a Member of Rotary meant I had to sit down every week in a structured meeting.

Then ... why wasn't I told that Rotary was a bit exclusive? Oh ... and while I am at it ... No-one told me that joining Rotary was going to cost me the price of a meal and driving time every week at a set time. This isolation time has placed me in a very dangerous situation ... I'm forced to think about my future. Will I survive ... will I be left with a job ... will I lose my money ... will the world as I knew it return to "normal"? I hate isolation ... it makes me think. Thinking hurts. ... it takes energy ... then I eat more ... then I have to exercise more ... Darn I hate isolation. Thinking about "Normal" is easy but since there is no "normal" we won't return to it. After all, how can you return to something that does not exist!

Thinking about money and work gives me a headache so I might put that in the "Too hard basket" for the minute. That then leaves me with Rotary. Why would I want to come back to Rotary when there are all the other more pressing things of life to concentrate on? Well, I guess it's because I chose to join Rotary. And I guess if you're reading this ... you did too! That means if we chose to join, we wanted to. That means we must have enjoyed it ... stands to reason that we would not have joined to not enjoy it! I hate isolation ... it gives me a headache! Look back on my first 4 paragraphs. This Isolation business has just kicked out 2 of them and made them redundant to Rotary as I see it. But 2 remain.

Rotary was originally exclusive. Yep, our mate and founder Paul invited people to join. So, if being exclusive means you have to be invited then Rotary remains exclusive. (I might add this is a bit like life in general ... we invite people to be part of our lives ... even part of our businesses by the way we advertise.)BUT We have entered the danger zone now. Our isolation is forcing some of our Rotary mates out of the loop making it difficult for them to remain in contact. It comes back to the first point I make. No-one told me that to be a member of Rotary meant that I had to be a technology buff. Some Rotarians are enjoying "meeting" electronically whilst others are not being included into the meeting. It's a bit like closing the door at a regular meeting and drafting some in and some out. If you are one of the people who enjoy a bit of technology ... just for technology sake GREAT ... you are in your element. (It is a bit like someone who enjoys a car because of the pleasure of owning it ... rather than a simple means of getting from A to B.)If you use technology for what it can do for you; you too are in your "happy place". But what of our mates who don't want to use technology or who are not set up for it; or simply have not been shown how to use it. (A bit like having a Widget in the draw and not knowing how to use it.)I would like you to look about your Members and consider giving them a call to see if they would like help in using technology to keep them in touch with the Rotary that they enjoyed. It might be as simple as calling those Members and saying hello ... this after all is why most of us joined Rotary ... to enjoy the friendship of others.

Yes, our meeting technique may have changed but our friendship can remain. I hate Isolation ... I miss my mates! I hate Isolation ... it makes me think! I love Isolation ... I'm excited to think of the possibilities of the future! Brian Beesley (Gloucester Rotary and District PI Director)



AUSTRALIAN ROTARY HEALTH

Australian Rotary Health is looking for a Media and Communications guru! Check out the job description today!

https://www.seek.com.au/job/51319635?utm_source=Australian+Rotary+Health+Newsletter&utm_campaign=8887f52afb-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_3_5_2019_16_2_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_6072cfc998-8887f52afb-264828017

POLIO UPDATE

Our campaign to end polio has faced many challenges in the last two years, not least the impact of the Covid pandemic. Cases of wild polio jumped in Pakistan and cases of 'circulating vaccine derived' polio became a serious problem in equatorial Africa. These setbacks were related to issues such as political distractions, Taliban resistance and virus mutations following the use of the 'mOPV2' vaccine. Great progress has been made with these issues: - governments have refocussed and there were zero cases in Pakistan in December and discussions have commenced with the Taliban on a new vaccine, 'Novel OPV2' was introduced in October, and it is dramatically less likely to mutate. Eradicating a disease is no easy task but we are now back on track. See more details [click here](#).

SW ROCKS RC ROADTRIP 2020

Our club ended on a positive note in 2020! The induction of a new member, John Roydhouse, formally from the Rotary Club of Sydney Cove, lifted our spirits and we warmly welcomed him to South West Rocks. John and his wife Wendy moved to the Mid North Coast last March - just in time to lockdown for COVID-19. They have settled well, and we are delighted to have them in our club. Member Sue Bright suggested that a fundraiser could be organized as an end of year social event with an invitation extended to the community. A day trip to Bonny Hills Nursery, followed by lunch at The Little Fishes Restaurant in Port Macquarie was planned.

On 13 December, a group of members and guests left South West Rocks with Gavin Terry from Terry's Coaches. We stopped in Kempsey on our way to pick up more friends and headed off to enjoy the delights of plant shopping and coffee drinking! Everyone had a good time amongst the foliage, flowers and statues and the luggage compartment of the coach soon filled up with purchases. Once we had gathered, it was time for lunch at the delightful restaurant and winery in Port Macquarie.

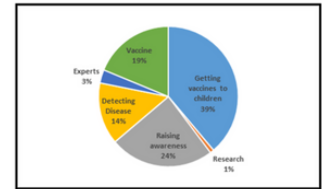
We were seated in their marquee amongst the vines, and everyone had a very relaxed and happy time socializing, eating, and drinking. The service, food (with French influence) and wine was excellent, with a very relaxing atmosphere. There was no rush and plenty of time to make new friends and reconnect with others. President Muni also visited each table and raised money for the club with donated raffle prizes.

Two happy winners went home with bottles of wine to sip over Christmas! Our very skilled and safe Coach driver, Gavin, took time to drive us around the Bonny Hills and Port Macquarie area, showing us the beaches and developments that have been steadily growing in the area. He was most informative and for those who were new to the area it gave them an insight to the beauty of both places.

Our thanks go to Member Sue for organizing the day and I am sure that we all went home with happy plants and memories!



HOW DONATIONS WERE USED IN 2019-2020



PolioPlus Grants from Rotary Trustee Approved 20 October 2020

- *African Region Surveillance WHO 6,132,234
- *Nigeria Soc Mob UNICEF 2,424,212
- *Eastern Mediterranean Region Surveillance WHO 1,684,314
- *Afghanistan Social Mobilization UNICEF 3,109,688
- *Afghanistan Operational Support WHO 4,370,950
- *Pakistan Social Mobilization UNICEF 3,210,000
- *Pakistan Operational Support UNICEF 6,697,408
- *Pakistan Operational Support WHO 6,352,774
- *Social Mobilization: Outbreak Response UNICEF 1,535,648
- *mOPV2 Stockpile WHO 12,260,000
- *Polio Research Grants WHO 151,784
- *Polio Research Committee Operations WHO 1,469,431
- *Total \$ 98,000,000



Rotary Youth Leadership Awards

APPLICATIONS OPEN NOW
Lake Keepit Sport & Rec
1st - 8th May 2021

Applications close Friday 9th April 2021

www.rotary9650.org.au/Ryla

19 – 27 year old leaders of the future

- Please encourage your members to:
- identify** potential participants
 - tell** them about the RYLA program
 - share** the positive impact it will have on their lives
 - encourage** them to apply
 - encourage** employers in your Club to sponsor an employee
 - invest** in the future of your Club

RYLA is the future of Rotary...



President Greg Fisher & Edmund
RYLA 2015
2020-2021 President RC Moree

Join our Rotary Network in Celebration!

FREE ONLINE EVENT!

For 100 years Rotary in Australia has been bringing communities together through service, goodwill and friendship. Come and join us on Australia Day as we **Reflect, Respect, Celebrate**

Gather your family, friends and community partners for a live ZOOM event being streamed across Australia from 12.30 pm to 2.00 pm AEDT, Tuesday, 26th January 2021



Messages from:
 Rotary International President Holger Knaack
 His Excellency General The Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Ret'd)
 Professor Patrick McGorry AO
 Past Rotary International President Ian Riseley
 Rotary International Director-elect Dr Jessie Harman
 Rotary Foundation Australia Chairman Maurie Stack



Performances from:
 Marina Prior ♦ Mike Brady AM ♦ Josh Piterman
 ♦ John Foreman OAM

MCs:
 PDG Greg Ross &
 David Mann AM

R100 Project Presentations:



Join in this jam-packed afternoon of free online festivities for the whole family by booking now at: https://events.humanitix.com/rotarydownunder_100_national_australia_day_event

In collaboration with the National Australia Day Council



We're all part of the story.

Australia Day
 Reflect. Respect. Celebrate.

Rotary
 Districts of Australia



Rotary Opens Opportunities

NEED A SPARE LEG?

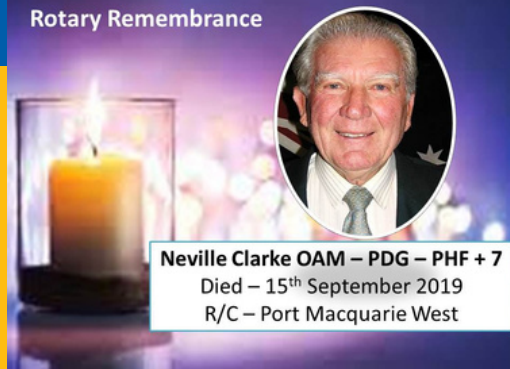
Do any Rotarians need or know of an avenue for three sets of adult prosthetic legs to be distributed? Please get in touch today!

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

Rotary Remembrance



Neville Clarke OAM – PDG – PHF + 7
 Died – 15th September 2019
 R/C – Port Macquarie West

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@kerry-medway.org ASAP,

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

Environment – our new area of focus!

As most of you know by now, The Rotary Foundation Trustees and Rotary International Board of Directors have approved adding a new area of focus: *supporting the environment*.

Supporting the environment joins peacebuilding and conflict prevention; disease prevention and treatment; water, sanitation, and hygiene; maternal and child health; basic education and literacy; and community economic development.

Over the past several years, more than \$18 million in Foundation global grant funding has gone towards environment-based projects. Now with this approved and added area of focus, grant applications for projects will be accepted from 1 July 2021.

From a communications perspective this is a great time to work on proactive story mining.

As Rotary's Sr. Coordinator in Communications and Public Relations I am on the lookout for stories we can promote to an external audience via social media, newspapers, magazines, radio and television.

When the time is right, I'd like to try and assist Rotary members in placing stories in media and hopefully spread the word.

If you've heard about any environment initiative projects in progress (started or starting as a result of the new area of focus) or become aware to please keep me informed of any such projects as they become available.

For further information and to let me know of any stories contact me at angela.stavro@rotary.org

Angela Stavrogiannopoulos

Sr. Coordinator Communications and Public Relations

RISPP0

