



Rotary Opens
Opportunities



THIS ISSUE

Roadtripping with the DG

Golfing update

RYLA 2021i

International Assembly update

CALENDAR

February 13 - District Finance Meeting
February 20 - District Management Meeting
February 21 - District Management Training
March 7 - PETS Armidale
March 12-14 - District Conference
March 21 - PETS Port Macquarie
March 28 - District Assembly Port Macquarie
April 18 - District Assembly Tamworth
May 16 - District Assembly Narrabri
June 26 - District Changeover

MUSINGS FROM THE DG

New theme for 2021-2022 announced:

RIPE Shekhar Mehta announced his theme for next year 'Serve to Change Lives'

Incoming Rotary International President Elect Shekhar Mehta urged members to become more involved in-service projects, saying that caring for and serving others is the best way to live because it changes not only other people's lives, but also our own. Watch the theme address at <https://www.rotary.org/en/shekhar-mehta-says-serving-others-changes-lives-including-our-own>

Mehta, a member of the Rotary Club of Calcutta-Mahanagar, West Bengal, India, revealed the 2021-22 presidential theme, Serve to Change Lives, to incoming district governors on 1 February during the Rotary International Assembly. The assembly, a yearly training event for district governors-elect, was originally set to take place in Orlando, Florida, USA, but was held virtually because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Mehta spoke about how participating in-service projects through Rotary changed him as a person and made him empathize more with the needs of others. Soon after joining his club, he helped carry out projects that benefited rural communities in India. Some of the poor conditions he saw in those communities strengthened his commitment to service. "I truly understood the plight of my brethren," he said.

Mehta participated in initiatives that brought artificial limbs to children, clean water and sanitation to homes, and better health care facilities to communities. "Rotary kindled the spark within me to look beyond myself and embrace humanity," he said. "Service became a way of life for me and I, like many others, adopted the guiding philosophy that 'Service is the rent I pay for the space I occupy on this earth, and I want to be a good tenant of this earth.'" Mehta encouraged district governors-elect to lead by example during their term and inspire Rotary and Rotaract members to participate in projects that have measurable and sustainable impacts. He's asking each club to conduct a Rotary Day of Service. Focusing on diversity, membership.

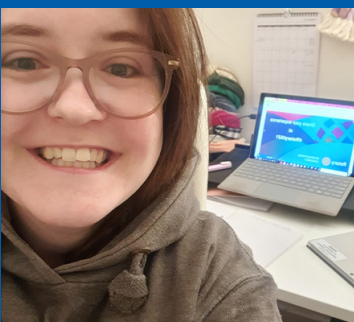
For the 2021-22 Rotary year:

Mehta wants members to focus their efforts on empowering girls and ensuring their access to education, resources, services, and opportunities so that future generations of women leaders will have the tools they need to succeed. Mehta asked members to use Rotary's belief that diversity, equity, and inclusion is critical in all we do as a compass to guide this work. "There are many issues that girls face in different parts of the world, and you as leaders will ensure that we try and mitigate the disadvantage of the girl that they may have," he said. To be able to do more through service, Rotary needs to increase membership, Mehta said. Membership has hovered around 1.2 million for the past two decades. He challenged the incoming governors to be catalysts in their districts to help increase membership to 1.3 million by 1 July 2022. Mehta's Each One, Bring One initiative asks every member to bring one person to join Rotary within the next 17 months. Increasing membership while also continuing our commitment to eradicating polio, fighting COVID-19, and serving our communities is an ambitious goal. "And that should excite you," Mehta said. "Rotarians love challenges."

Let me end with what I have penned for our theme:

The biggest gift we are given Is the power to touch a life
To change, To make a difference In the circle of life.
If we can reach out With our hands, heart, and soul
The magic will begin to happen As the wheel begins to roll ...
Let's turn the wheel together
So all humanity thrives
We have the power and the magic
To serve ... to change lives ...

Congratulations to DGE David Mayne and Heather, also to DRR Laura Telford for burning the midnight oil and attending all the training in the middle of the night, every night for nearly two weeks.



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.

RI Funding for the DG and G Train Withdrawn

I received an email from General Secretary John Hewko on Tuesday 2 Feb 2021 informing me that I would not be funded for any further travel or other expenses from 1st February 2021. This email was sent to all leaders in the world. This is the relevant paragraph to funding. Out of an abundance of caution – and in keeping with our commitment to protect the health of our members, our employees, and our families – the RI Board of Directors decided not to fund any expenses (travel or otherwise) for in-person meetings for Rotary leaders for the rest of this Rotary year, other than for the president, president-elect, and trustee chair. This decision applies to directors, trustees, regional leaders, district governors, assistant governors, and other leaders. The Board also agreed to conduct all of its meetings and RI committee meetings virtually for the rest of the year; and we will also be holding the 2021 RI Convention virtually. I know this news will be disappointing to many of you. However, the board felt that we needed to adopt a uniform and clear policy. The District Governors of Australia and New Zealand held a zoom meeting with Andrew Best and RIPE Jesse Harman to assess our options.

I say assess our options because for most of us down under it is business as usual and this one sized fit all approach did not seem to make any sense. We compiled a letter to the RI board which was delivered via Andrew Best. The response was they would not discuss this until the board met again in March 2021. This decision affects DGE David Mayne and myself in this district. If I have committed to attending your club then that is what I will do regardless of RI funding. We will be discussing this at our Finance and Management meetings coming up to ensure that the leadership team supports the clubs in our district as usual. The same applies to any training events in the future.

RAWCS WA Bushfire Appeal

WA have some Bush fires threatening life, properties, and animal life. So far, they have already lost 71 properties at this stage and the fires are still raging, winds are expected to increase and create more challenges to some populated suburbs. People are in need of help and Rotarians will be there again to help rebuild however we will need funds and we ask that you circulate this email to your clubs and help promote this appeal. The project number is 62 2019-20, it is in the Rotary Australia Relief Fund and we ask for donations to this link:

<https://donations.rawcs.com.au/Default.aspx?ProjectID=1339&ReturnTo=4>

YOUR SUPPORT IS GREATLY APRECIATED

Research Behind Lift the Lid -

Dr Angela Nicholas (Podcast) On episode 29 of 'The Research Behind Lift the Lid' podcast, we discuss the research behind the #YouCanTalk social media suicide prevention campaign with Dr Angela Nicholas from the University of Melbourne. You can also listen to this episode on Spotify, Apple Podcasts and Google Podcasts. To donate to important suicide prevention research like Angela's, please visit the Australian Rotary Health website:

<https://australianrotaryhealth.org.au...> Lifeline: 13 11 14. #LifthelidonmentalillnessClub

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

CHANGES TO THE ROTARY FOUNDATION FUNDING MODEL

Letter from K.R. Ravindran 2020-21 Trustee Chair, The Rotary Foundation

Dear Rotarians, This has perhaps been the most turbulent year of this generation – we faced a global health crisis, natural disasters, and economic turmoil all at the same time and the whole world was affected. Through it all, Rotary has stood tall. We have heard stories of some amazing acts of generosity and personal acts of service by clubs, Rotarians, and Rotaractors.

The Rotary Foundation has been proud to support our members' efforts in serving their communities. Since March 2020, we awarded \$32 million in global and disaster response grants for projects related to COVID-19. In fact, we awarded 1,359 global grants worth \$95.6 million in 2019-20. Compare that to 2013-14, when global grants were first introduced, when we awarded 868 global grants worth \$47.3 million. That's a lot of growth! All over the world, Foundation grants are supporting projects that demonstrate Rotary's impact and reach.

Because the high demand for global grants is far exceeding and outpacing the growth in Annual Fund contributions, the World Fund is depleted well before each Rotary year ends and we find ourselves in a position where we cannot fund all the global grant requests we receive. This Rotary year, we've taken several cost-saving measures in an effort to fund more global grants. For example, the Trustees and the Board recently transferred \$15 million from the Foundation's operating reserves and Rotary International's budget surplus to the World Fund. In total, nearly an additional \$20 million is being made available this year, but unfortunately, even that is not enough to fulfill the applications that are expected to be submitted. A financial shortfall is expected this year and likely in the coming years because of the growing success of our global grant program.

DISTRICT

CONFERENCE

Have you registered yet?

For members of the public to attend, they will walk up on the day of their choice and pay \$10 for a session.

We have had expressions of interest from the Emergency Services and others so far.

If the general public wish to attend and purchase meals or come to the black-tie dinner and show, then they will register online and pay in the normal way.

Remember register now to ensure your seat and avoid the late fee of \$40! Registrations close 26th February 2021

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



CONFERENCE

TROPHIES

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.

Submissions for District trophies should be forwarded to PP Glenda Barber (gbarber@midcoast.com.au by 19 February 2021

MUSINGS FROM DG DEBBIE CONT.

Therefore, the Trustees have approved policy changes, effective 1 July 2021, that will strengthen the Foundation's ability to fund more global grants.

1. District Designated Fund (DDF) contributions transferred to PolioPlus will be matched at 50%. DDF contributions transferred to PolioPlus will be matched at 50% instead of 100% by the World Fund before being matched by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. The Gates Foundation will continue matching 2-to-1 every dollar that Rotary commits to polio eradication, up to \$50 million per year. It's vital that we continue to raise \$50 million a year for polio eradication and raise awareness by keeping it a top priority for our clubs, our communities, and our government officials.

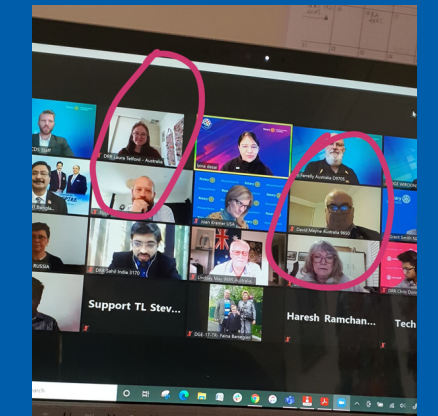
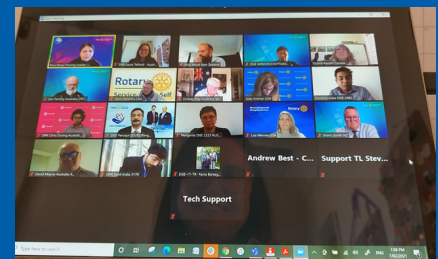
2. The World Fund match of DDF will be reduced from 100% to 80% when being used for global grants. Instead of DDF applied to global grants receiving a 100% match from the World Fund, the global grants match will decrease to 80%. For the 2020-21 Rotary year, as long as funds remain available, DDF will continue to be matched at 100% for applications submitted by 31 May and approved by 30 June. Applications that are not approved this Rotary year will need to be resubmitted with adjusted financing.

3. Five percent of the current year's Annual Fund-SHARE contributions will be taken equally from the World Fund and DDF to help fund operating expenses. Currently, Annual Fund-SHARE contributions are split equally between the World Fund and DDF, with 5% of the total SHARE contributions being deducted only from the World Fund to help pay for operating expenses. Beginning 1 July, all Annual Fund-SHARE contributions will first have 5% directed to operating expenses and the remaining will then be split equally between the World Fund and DDF. For example, a \$100 contribution will generate \$5 for operating expenses and the remaining \$95 will be divided equally, with \$47.50 for DDF and \$47.50 for the World Fund.


4. The ability to roll over unused DDF will be limited to five years. At the end of each Rotary year, DDF that has been held for more than five years will be applied at the district's discretion to PolioPlus, area of focus Endowment funds, the general Endowment Fund (including the Rotary Peace Centers), the Disaster Response Fund, or the World Fund. The first DDF rollover redirection will take place 1 July 2026. Annual Fund donors give with the expectation that their contributions will be used promptly to help communities, but the amount of rollover DDF each year remains high. On 1 July 2020, \$48.8 million was carried into the current Rotary year. Let's put these funds to use to increase the impact we make through our programs. Starting on 1 July 2026, districts can choose how to apply any rollover funds remaining from 2020-21 as outlined above. If a district doesn't advise the Foundation about how to direct those funds, the rollover DDF will automatically be directed to the World Fund. Your Trustees have spent a considerable period of time deliberating these issues, and these policy changes are the result of careful thought and planning. Balancing financial resources with program demands is challenging for any nonprofit, and adjustments and difficult decisions are sometimes necessary to cope with the changing situation. We'll be hosting webinars in the coming weeks to talk about these changes in more detail. You'll receive a separate email inviting you to those sessions. In the meantime, you can direct immediate questions to rotarysupportcenter@rotary.org. Keeping our programs strong and growing relies heavily on the continued generosity of our members to the Annual Fund-SHARE. We are committed to careful stewardship and prudent investments that will provide more funding for grants and Foundation programs. We appreciate your cooperation and understanding.

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

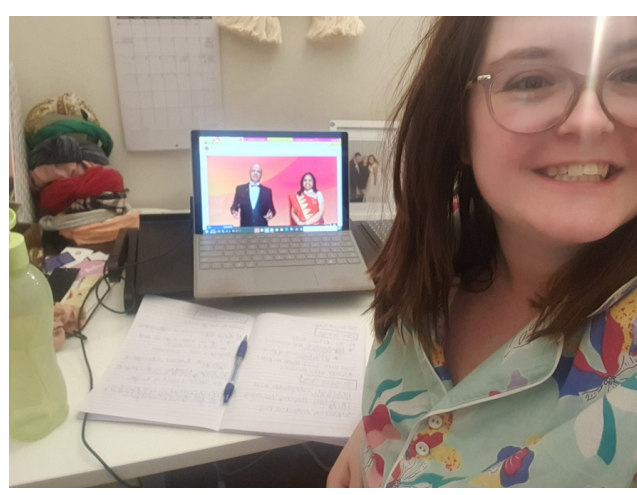
IMAGES FROM INTERNATIONAL ASSEMBLY WITH DGE AND DRR



Autumn Rotary Golf Day
Longyard Golf Course

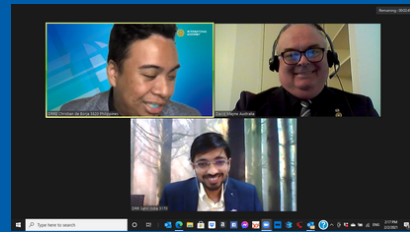


The Rotary Club of Tamworth, First Light
 Friday 16th April 2021, 11:00 Shotgun start.
 Mixed Event. Individual Stableford. \$45
 Book at Longyard on Portal or call 67652988



GOLF TO STILL GO AHEAD

The 43rd annual tournament of the Australian Fellowship of Golfing Rotarians will be held at the Maroochy River Golf Club, Maroochydhore, Queensland from May 16th to 22nd 2021. The event is held on a seven-year rotation between the Australian states and territories, raising significant funds for projects and fostering fellowship between Rotarians and guests from across the country. The fellowship also extends to those who do not play golf with a series of tours and visits to local places of interest. We all get together at various functions during the week. Some have continued to attend the AGFR annual events for over 20 years due to the great fellowship. The Rotary club organising the tournament is awarded the privilege of donating a large amount of the proceeds to the charity(s) of their choice. The Rotary Club of Maroochydhore has chosen WISHLIST as its major beneficiary. This charity is an enormous support to Sunshine Coast hospitals, their patients, families, and medicos providing funds for research, medical equipment and specialised support services improving the Medical capability of the coast for the whole community. The extensive golf programme includes competitions for a variety of daily prizes and perpetual trophies, uniquely named after past Rotary Presidents. There will also be some other contests and games included for fun such as: longest drive, closest to the pin and hole in one. To find out more about AGFR and to participate in the Sunshine Coast event, being proudly sponsored by Coastline BMW, visit www.agfr.org and click on 'Tournament 2021'. Please note - registrations close 31 March 2021.



RI CON UPDATE

RI President Holger Knaack has now advised that the RI Conference in Taipei Taiwan from 12-16 June 2021 will be a virtual conference. Anyone who has booked will receive an automatic refund incl for accommodation arranged within Rotary's official housing block. RI Pres Holger says: "While we are disappointed that we could not have a traditional convention, we are excited about the virtual event being planned for all Rotarians worldwide. Last year's convention attracted significant viewership during its weeklong program. This year, we will channel all we have learned about staging the very best in virtual events into a program that promises to open new opportunities for you to be entertained, enlightened and energized. We will share more details about the 2021 Virtual Convention soon."

Maurie Stack
RI Taiwan Conference Co-ordinator for eastern Australia



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

Meg Hanlon – Inverell
RYLA 2016, Leader 2017, Leader's Leader 2018

"It's that time of year again...
If you're interested in making friends,
improving your confidence, & having the
BEST week of your life...go to RYLA!!
I owe the best memories of my life to RYLA,
& have made so many friends through the
program. I've had opportunities to travel
overseas, volunteer in my community & make
a positive difference.
Most of all I've done things I never thought I'd
be brave enough to do, & have found so
much love for myself too.
So get in contact with Rotary!! You won't
regret it."

Applications on D9650 webpage
www.rotary9650.org.au/RYLEA



SAVE THE DATE

Wednesday 5th May 2021



50 PLUS YEARS

This special celebratory dinner will be held in Tamworth during the RYLA Camp to celebrate 50 Plus Years of RYLA in this Rotary District. There will be a keynote speaker, past RYLarians, current RYLarians & entertainment to truly celebrate this leading Rotary youth program.

HOWEVER...

Due to COVID 19 we will be guided by NSW Health, Clubs NSW & Rotary D9650 restrictions at the time of the event. More information to follow as we move closer to the date.



A/Prof. Tilman Ruff AO
Nobel Peace Prize Laureate



Emma Leslie AM
Nobel Peace Prize Nominee



Dr José Ramos-Horta AC
Nobel Peace Prize Laureate



Natascha Hryckow
Coordinator UN Panel of
Experts on Somalia



A Peace Symposium to celebrate
Rotary's Centenary Down Under and to
acknowledge Rotary's peacebuilding efforts



The future of
PEACE LEADERSHIP

21-22 APRIL 2021

ONLINE SYMPOSIUM

Featuring

- Outstanding world class speakers
- RI President Holger Knaack
- Past RI Presidents
- Rotary Peace Fellows
- Optional sessions:
 - Family Violence
 - Indigenous reconciliation
 - Economics & Peace
 - Humanitarian Action
 - Business & Human Rights Law
 - Peacebuilding projects

More details and registration
information available soon

Conference website:
<https://peaceleadership.org.au/>

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,

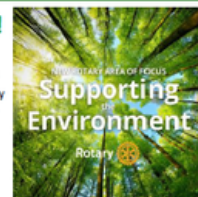
PLUS a photo (head-shot) in a jpeg file as an attachment.

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

via email- kerry@kerrymedway.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 Stavrogiannopoulou
Sr. Coordinator Communications and Public Relations
RISPPO

D9650 Training for 2021-2022 Rotary Year

All Venues are currently being secured and details will be provided once all finalised.

Date	Training	Location & timing
Sunday 21 February 2021	District Management Team 2021-2022 Training	Port Macquarie 8:15am to 4:30pm
Sunday 7 March 2021	Inland Presidents-elect Training For Presidents 2021-2022	Armidale 8:15am to 4:30pm
Sunday 21 March 2021	Coastal Presidents-elect Training For Presidents 2021-2022	Port Macquarie 8:15am to 4:30pm
Sunday 28 March 2021	Coastal Training Assembly For 2021-2022 Club Office bearers	Port Macquarie 8:15am to 4:30pm
Sunday 18 April 2021	Central Training Assembly For 2021-2022 Club Office bearers	Tamworth 8:15am to 4:30pm
Sunday 16 May 2021	Western Training Assembly For 2021-2022 Club Office bearers	Narrabri 8:15am to 4:30pm