



Rotary Opens
Opportunities



THIS ISSUE

District Conference wrap up

Congrats to Dee and Maurie

RYLA update

Insurance Update

CALENDAR

- March 28 - District Assembly Port Macquarie
- April 18 - District Assembly Tamworth
- May 16 - District Assembly Narrabri
- June 26 - District Changeover



MUSINGS FROM THE DG

The weekend that was!

Well, what can I say about the District 9650 Conference? I could start with; it was everything I hoped it would be and so much more. I truly believe that if you want people to give up their weekend and travel at their expense and share some time with you then it needs to be something very special. It not only needs to be well executed, have amazing speakers, but it needs people to come who are committed to the cause of Service Above Self and want or need to be in that environment to re charge their batteries to go back and renew their efforts.

I was inspired, informed and like others I laughed, and I cried – several times!

I must admit that on Friday morning it was the last thing I wanted to do. I was up most of Thursday night with my sick dog, who unfortunately died at 5am. My first few hours were spent bawling my eyes out whilst ringing a friend to come with a tractor and dig a hole big enough to bury Banjo. He weighed as much as me and was my best mate for nearly ten years. Whatever happens the show had to go on.

It was great to see so many Past District Governors at the luncheon at Sails resort on Friday. I think I remarked at the time that there was obviously life after your year as Governor, when you could sit back on the has been shelf collecting dust. There was an exciting moment at the lunch when the fire alarm went off just as the plates of food were being put in front of us. We were obliged to evacuate the building and wait in the car park outside whilst the fire engines arrived to check the building. I would like to extend my thanks to PDG Jane Bradford and PDG Ken Hall for their expertise in getting it all together. It is always good to have people around who know what to do! Oh, and when to do it.

The Friday night welcome dinner was a relaxing affair where we had time to reconnect with each other and enjoy some great food whilst we learnt who had won the District trophies. I will put a list in the ENews.

Saturday morning saw a grand procession to mark the opening ceremony that included all our visiting Past District Governors, MP's, The Mayor and Uncle Bill O'Brien our local aboriginal leader and our local YEP students resplendent in their wonderful blazers. Our first keynote speaker was Commission Shane Fitzsimmons. Shane spoke about Leadership and Volunteering. He came across as a very caring humanitarian and could remember all the dates times and places of all the tragic events during the devastating bushfires just over a year ago. He spoke about the respect he had for the volunteers whose skill sets and adaptability often surpassed the paid members. He understood community, and friend and neighbour standing side by side supporting each other whether you knew them or liked them. He reflected on the bushfire toll of lost lives, livelihoods, and possessions. He related to the ongoing issue of people emotionally traumatised by their ordeals and the need for mental health support. Shane spoke of the need for men to find their voice, share their thoughts and feelings and seek help if they need it.

He talked about the need for good communication, authenticity and to call it as it is. If it is a dog poo sandwich, then don't tell people it is fairy bread. That made me smile. Another thing that resonated with me was his comment that "doing nothing isn't an option, when decisions need to be made, and action needs to be taken. There were so many relevant things said by the Commissioner that resonate with Rotary, Rotarians and our values and mottos. What a great man and great leader. I was hanging on to his every word. The second keynote speaker was Peter Baines OAM. I realise many of you wouldn't know Peter, or heard of his charity Hands Across the Water, but I believe that all of you who heard him speak now understand why he came to talk to us. His work around the world in the most sad, disastrous circumstances left me in awe of his achievements and his caring approach to people who found themselves in the most terrible situations and the children and babies orphaned following the Boxing Day Tsunami. Again, another person who said, "doing nothing wasn't an option" There were many things that Peter said that made complete sense when you are dealing with tragedy. He spoke about being there and how presence is vital. He talked about results not excuses and how in life we cannot change what has happened, but we can change what happens next. Peter explained that courage is in making the hard decisions and living with them.

Our third keynote speaker was Dr Ray Hodgson. Ray took us on a journey of why he goes to Nepal and performs surgery on women who have no hope of a future without the dignity restoring surgery that he can provide. More than that he spoke about why we need to be sustainable in our approach to aid in third world countries and how through leadership we can support the people to stand on their own and look after their own.

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.

Through training and financial assistance the Nepal project of building a Mothers and Babies Hospital is near to fruition. More than that Ray showed us a graph of how slow raising the finance to support the surgical workshops and building the hospital had been until Australians for Women's Health partnered with Rotary and Dr Ray became a Rotarian.

I asked Ray to summarise this in his own words. What he said is as follows:

Fundraising for the Nepal Mothers & Babies Hospital began in 2014. During the first few years, the acquisition of funds for the hospital construction was quite slow.

Rotary became involved with the project in 2017, and after this time funds began to accumulate far more quickly.

Rotary gave the project more prestige, and led to greater awareness among the general public. Soon, many more donors began to come on board.

There were a number of Rotary grants that greatly assisted with fundraising and building capacity. These included RAWCS, District Grant, and most noticeably a Foundation Grant of approximately \$417,000.

Connection with numerous Rotary groups in the United States led to a large number of donations from that country.

Rotarians in the US created a platform: Disaster Network of Assistance Rotary Action Group (DNA RAG) to allow tax-deductibility for US citizens who donate to the project. As a result, many more Americans are supporting the project.

The target of the hospital fundraising is \$AUD 1,520,000. This includes funds raised for land acquisition and the fitting out the hospital.

The raised funds to date are \$AUD 1,351,000. We can see the end in site

I have attached Dr Rays slide from his presentation about what happens when Rotary comes on board.

This is the power of Rotary when we connect and collaborate. To Ray as with Peter Baines and Shane Fitzsimmons, 'doing nothing wasn't an option'.

They all remind me of Past RIP Gary Huang who said "It is better to light a single candle than curse the darkness'. Let us all be a light for others to follow!

I would like to thank all our presenters over the weekend. You were outstanding.

Saturday night, we had the black-tie dinner. The meal was excellent and the after-dinner entertainment truly first class. Rob McDougall and Daniel Belle sang for us a collection of songs from musical theatre.

Rob is a member of the EClub and on the night we surprised Daniel with a Paul Harris Fellow, much to his surprise and delight. Sunday we had great presenters, Rotary projects and then a live performance by Matt Zaab.

It really brought the conference home and ended on a high. Matt will be coming back to sing again at the District Changeover on June 26th at Panther Port Macquarie. So save this date for another wonderful evening where we reflect on my year and welcome DGE David Mayne and Heather to the start of theirs.

Conferences don't just happen. It takes a team to make it happen and I would like to thank all my team led by Chairman Neil Black from Port Macquarie Sunrise. Thank you to my amazing Master of Ceremonies who without me having to ask stayed up half the night to adjudicate who was the last club standing on Saturday night. Well done Coffs Harbour Club. I would also like to thank all the volunteers from our local clubs who came along over the weekend to inform, ensure we were Covid safe and contributed to the well-oiled machine that was our Rotary District 9650 Conference 2021.

There are lots of pictures on Facebook, especially on my page and soon I will have lots more taken by Past President Malcom McNeil from Port Macquarie Sunrise, details to follow.

PUBLIC SPEAKING

My congratulations to all the competitors in the Public Speaking finals. I loved the diversity of subjects surrounding the 4 Way Test and how our students related their speeches to it. The winner was from sponsored by the E Club and her name is Tahlia Barwick.

Remember,

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



CLUB INSURANCE FORMS

should have been returned last Friday 5th March 2021. Have you returned your club insurance documentation to the District Insurance Officer? NB. Have you included the travel document? Remember if you have people attending PETS or Assemblies next year then this should be put on the travel form. Do not mark nil or their will NOT be any insurance for them. Please ask for help if you are having difficulties sooner rather than later. Help may be available in your club, a past District Governor or an Assistant Governor. Don't delay please complete and return to Brett White.

DG 2023-24 APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN

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. 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.

DEBBIE'S MUSINGS PART 3

Over 7 km (4.3 miles) of pipe were trenched as part of the project, tanks were installed to store the water, and 52 communal taps now provide free-flowing water to clusters of houses, schools, churches, and health clinics

The spring can supply 2.25 liters (.6 gallons) per second – that's up to 65 liters (17 gallons) per person per day. Water from the Asaro and Gota Rivers, although not fit to drink, supplements the water supply to irrigate crops, helping drive the community's economic development.

Before the project began, a memorandum of understanding was developed between the five tribal groups and the owner of the water supply source to share the water among the villages. This agreement was used as the basis for a policy document, which is registered with the local court and is enforceable by law.

A water, sanitation, and hygiene education program was rolled out prior to construction, with sessions for schoolchildren and other villagers. A briefing was held for the Supurunda Water Supply Committee, and this helped ensure that the program was implemented effectively for the entire population. The program will be repeated each year for schoolchildren.

Osivo and his skilled team of plumbers, carpenters, concreters, pipe layers, and other water supply installers trained the local workforce in installing and maintaining the water supply system.

Everyone – men, women, and children – was involved in the construction phase, which gave them all ownership of the project to ensure that the system will be protected and preserved.

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

ROTARACT PODCAST

As many of you know DRR Laura Telford in her capacity as Rotaract Australia Communications Director hosts the Chats by Rotaract Australia Podcast. D9650 is a strong supporter of the Podcast. The podcast is self is a combination of thoughtful interviews and resource based episodes designed to engage and help Rotaractors and Rotarians learn more about Rotaract. Check it out today!

LOST PROPERTY

LOST AN EARING AT
CONFERENCE
WE HAVE FOUND IT!
EMAIL VALDA
(REGISTRATIONS)
valkim2@bigpond.com
AND SHE WILL RETURN IT
TO YOU.



ROTARY CONFERENCE
STRATIONS AND INFORMATION

CONGRATS TO MAURIE AND DEE!

Sunday morning saw 60 of us attend the Foundation Breakfast hosted by PDG Maurie Stack, Chair of the Rotary Foundation of Australia. We heard about the Public Benevolent Institution and how we can support our projects and others by getting tax deductibility for our donations. The tables were turned on Maurie and Dee when PDG Greg Moran, incoming District Foundation Director, presented Maurie and Dee their pins for being our District 9650 Arch Klumph Society members.

What is the Arch Klumph Society?

Named after the sixth president of Rotary, the Arch Klumph Society was established to acknowledge and recognize The Rotary Foundation's highest tier of donors – those who have contributed \$250,000 or more during their lifetime. Members have the opportunity to be formally inducted into the society and to have their name, portrait, and biographical information displayed at Rotary International World Headquarters.

Membership in the Arch Klumph Society is lifelong. Along with specific AKS recognition pins and pendants, members receive several other benefits commensurate with their generosity. History of the Arch Klumph Society: Arch C. Klumph joined the Rotary Club of Cleveland, Ohio, USA, in 1911. He was the 1916-17 Rotary president, the organization's sixth. Addressing the 1917 convention in Atlanta, Georgia, he eloquently promoted the idea of "endowments for the purpose of doing good in the world." That year, the Rotary Club of Kansas City, Missouri, USA, made the first gift, of \$26.50, to the fledgling fund. When the endowment had grown significant enough to require administrators to manage it, The Rotary Foundation was born, and Klumph was selected as one of its first trustees. The Arch Klumph Society was created in 2004, during Rotary International's 2004-05 centennial celebration, as a meaningful way to recognize the Foundation's highest-level donors. The society's first dinner was held the following year. Today, members' portraits, engraved in glass plaques, hang in the Arch Klumph Society Gallery at Rotary International World Headquarters. "We should not live for ourselves alone, but for the joy in doing good for others." – Arch C. Klumph



CONFERENCE TESTIMONIALS

Firstly, a huge congratulations and job well done for the weekend, we have all just enjoyed in Port Macquarie for the District Conference. The calibre of speakers was incredible.

Warm regards,
Taylor Fletcher President-Elect
Rotary Club of Tamworth
Sunrise.

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All three speakers were inspirational. Other speakers highlighted various aspects of Rotary and these included RAWCS, Tiny Houses

(a great presentation delivered by Greg Moran) and Shelterbox. There was time for networking. Jon Gaukroger had a chance to catch up with Rotaractors and get some ideas.

Everybody took advantage of this to meet and get to know new people.

A big congratulations to the District Governor, Debbie Loveday and her team.

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Congratulations again on a great conference, I thought everything went very well - from good speakers to wonderful entertainment. The final touch on Sunday of the switch from video to the actual performer on stage singing was wonderful. And what a wonderful song which he composed himself - more Rotary talent.

PDG Lorraine Coffey

CONFERENCE TESTIMONIALS

All who attended the District Conference have enjoyed the experience. Many great keynote speakers and presentations. Congratulations DG Debbie and her organising committee on a great conference.

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The 2021 District Conference was held at Port Macquarie on 13 and 14 March. The conference took place in the Auditorium at Panthers and was a real success story. It highlighted the work that Rotary does both internationally and domestically. There were three keynote speakers Shane Fitzsimmons, Peter Baines OAM and Dr Ray Hodgson. All three were inspirational. Other speakers highlighted various aspects of Rotary and these included RAWCS, Tiny Houses and Shelterbox. There was time for networking and everybody took advantage of this to meet and get to know new people. A big congratulations to the District Governor, Debbie Loveday and her team. **Rotary Club Inverell**

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Rotary District 9650 held a fantastic Conference over this weekend. There were amazing, inspirational speakers including Commissioner Shane Fitzsimmons, Peter Baines OEM and A/Prof Ray Hodgson. Our District Governor, Debbie Loveday was a brilliant host. Thank you for the information, the inspiration and the insight to continue to do more. Service before Self is a motivation for life. **Rotary Club Taree on Manning**

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What an inspirational weekend members of Coonabarabran Rotary Club have had at the District 9650 Conference in Port Macquarie. Key note speakers were Commissioner of Resilience Shane Fitzsimmons, Peter Baines OAM and Assoc. Prof. Dr Ray Hodgson. All three speakers spoke about individual experiences from the 2019-20 bushfires, the aftermath of the Bali bombing and Boxing Day tsunami to the isolated mountains of Nepal to set up medical treatment for woman and children. Congratulations to our District Governor Debbie Loveday and her team for the planning and execution of a great event. And the icing on the cake was the Rotary Club of Coonabarabran winning second place for the number of socks donated per club member in the world record challenge to be held later this year. **Rotary Club Coonabarabran**



District 9650 celebrates

50 PLUS YEARS OF RYLA

One of Rotary's most successful youth programs

WEDNESDAY 5TH MAY 2021
6PM for a 6.30 start

BLAZES AUDITORIUM, WEST TAMWORTH LEAGUE CLUB
58 PHILLIP ST, TAMWORTH

HOST CLUB: RC TAMWORTH FIRST LIGHT

\$50 per person
Dress: Cocktail/Jacket & Tie

Guest Speaker

Australian Local Hero of the Year 2020
BERNIE SHAKESHAF
Founder of Backtrack

DIRECT DEPOSIT

Account: Rotary Club of Tamworth First Light
Bank: NICU | BSB: 802 298 | Account: 100065200 | Reference: Your Name

RSVP: FRIDAY 23RD APRIL

Dimity Betts | 0422 268 863 | dimity.betts@outlook.com
PO Box 271 Moonbi NSW 2353

Please advise dietary requirements



What can you do for peace?



The future of PEACE LEADERSHIP

21 - 22 April 2021

Online Symposium

peaceleadership.org.au



Plenary Lecturers



PROF TILMAN RUFF AO
Founding Chair of ICAN,
2017 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate



NATASCHA HRYCKOW
Coordinator UN Panel of
Experts on Somalia



DR EMMA LESLIE AM
Executive Director, Centre for
Peace & Conflict Studies



JOSÉ RAMOS-HORTA AC
Nobel Laureate, Former
President of East Timor

Listen to world class speakers
Join a peace project
How to develop a peace project
Engage in facilitated discussions

SESSIONS ON

- INDIGENOUS RECONCILIATION
- FAMILY VIOLENCE
- ECONOMICS AND PEACE
- HUMANITY & HUMANITARIAN AID
- BUSINESS & HUMAN RIGHTS
- WHAT YOU CAN DO FOR PEACE

Panel Discussion: How do we reverse the Doomsday Clock?



IAN H.S. RISELEY OAM
Past President of Rotary
International



THE HON GARETH EVANS AC
Former Politician & Academic



STEVE KILLELEA AM
Founder, Institute for
Economics and Peace

2 DAY PROGRAM | \$66 REGISTRATION | PEACELEADERSHIP.ORG.AU/TIX



Rotary Youth Leadership Awards

APPLICATIONS CLOSE 9th April

Please forward your applications ASAP
to allow for processing & planning.
(Application forms on D9650 Webpage)

RYLA Camp at Keepit Sport & Recreation
1st – 8th May 2021

Don't forget the celebration for
50 PLUS YEARS OF RYLA in D9650
Wednesday 5th May

Dinner 6pm for 6.30pm \$50pp
RSVP 23rd April to dimity.betts@outlook.com
Blazes Auditorium West Tamworth Leagues Club

Entertainment & presentations from
past & present RYLA participants

Guest Speaker 2020 Australian of the Year
Local Hero – Founder of BackTrack
BERNIE SHAKESHAF



“
We've got 3 jobs
- to keep the kid
alive, out of jail
and chasing their
hopes and
dreams.”

Bernie Shakeshaft,
CEO BackTrack Youth Works
Australian of the Year -
Local Hero 2020