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Celebrate your members

E NEWS D9650

JUNE 2021



Rotary Opens Opportunities



THIS ISSUE

Musings from DG Debbie

MUSINGS FROM THE DG

Sadly, this is my last ENews as District Governor. At the stroke of midnight on Wednesday 30th June I join the ranks of the PDG's (past, dead and gone!) I cannot thank Laura Telford enough for her outstanding support and the production of the ENews every week except Christmas, thanks a million Laura!

It has been a very busy week to say the least. Monday night I attended the Rotary Club of Laurieton changeover. It always feels like home there, I guess because I have had a fair bit to do with them and two of the PDG's from that club have been an amazing support to me. I would like to acknowledge President Noel Hifferman for his great work this year and in the community. He has been an absolute standout in the work he does and has been doing for decades as an advocate for disability services. We welcomed in the new president Nicholas Hafey, a fourth generation Rotarians and I know Nick will achieve great things. This club has not only performed a huge amount of service work but managed to amass a small fortune of \$37k of donations for the community. Well done, Laurieton.

Tuesday night I was invited to attend a zoom meeting at 10.30pm to Indian. You may remember a few years ago PDG Ken Hall and PDG Jo Wilkin successfully completed a large global grant for the supply of toilets for girls and potable water in over 100 schools in the Punjab region of India. Ken and Maurie Stack are in the process of receiving a Community Needs Assessment from this area to start another global grant to either help with the Covid crisis or another scourge of the region that of Dengue fever. A mosquito-borne viral disease occurring in tropical and subtropical areas.

Those who become infected with the virus a second time are at a significantly greater risk of developing severe disease.

Symptoms are high fever, rash and muscle and joint pain. In severe cases there is serious bleeding and shock, which can be life threatening.

Treatment includes fluids and pain relievers. Severe cases require hospital care.

The best treatment is prevention of mosquito breeding by fogging and the Indian committee are looking at whether this has a greater need.

Wednesday night I attended my own club changeover. President Elizabeth Fielding handed over the incoming president Frank Moxon. It was a brilliant night made better because we acknowledged Mr Rotary himself Laurie Barber OAM for achieving 50 years of membership in Rotary. Laurie was pleased with his cake and made short shrift of it. I was so happy to be a part of the proceedings. Kerry Medway put together an incredible video to music highlighting Laurie's achievements in Rotary and the community. Its on my Facebook, and the clubs page if you want to view it.

Thursday, I had the honour of attending the EClub changeover which was not online via zoom but face to face in Port Macquarie, so I hopped in there for lunch and enjoyed the festivities. Congratulations to PDG Ken Hall for an inspiring year demonstrating that an EClub can achieve as much as any club anywhere. If you were at conference, you will remember that they were joint winners of the District Youth trophy. They had a really good guest speaker in John Beaumont from the Nautilus school in Port Macquarie who just epitomises everything that is skilled, humble, gracious, and funny in a humanitarian way with the work he does with our younger members of the community who have fallen between the cracks of the education system. PDG Barry Hacker presented John with a Paul Harris Fellow. He was delighted because he said a great honour and his dad had also been presented one many years ago.

Friday night I travelled to Taree to celebrate the year of President David Denning and watch Susie Ploder be inducted in as president for the next year. What a little dynamo Susie is! I was treated to some musical perfection by way of Mitchell Harrison Brown a most distinguished upcoming composer and musician. The night was very well supported and even though I got a bit lost and could not find the venue I did manage to arrive on time thanks to Laurie Easter who directed me. It was a fun evening with special presentations of PHF's and an auction where I was most fortunate to be the winning bidder of a lovely water colour.



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.

There is a saying "What a difference a day makes" well the difference was 2 hours on Saturday with the preparations for the District Changeover. I met with a band of helpers at lunchtime to set up the room and ensure everything went smoothly. Thanks to PDG Neville Parsons and Patti, Phil Perry, and Diana Gammon for their assistance. Two hours later all hell let loose with our area coming under NSW health restrictions. The room we had set up was no longer legal, we had to move to the auditorium at Panthers. All the setting up had to be got taken down and moved downstairs. Masks were mandatory, hand sanitiser and a restriction on anyone from a hotspot area or had been to a hotspot red zone. After much consultation with DGE David Mayne the emotional decision was made that David who had attended a medical appointment in Sydney (not a red zone at the time last week but now included) could not attend the evening and would need to stay at home and zoom in for his induction as our next DG for 9650.

My heartfelt thanks to everyone for coming along, abiding by the new rules, and being so tolerant and understanding on the night. Special thanks to Jack Wilson and Neville Parsons for ensuring we could zoom in David and others for the night. To Phil Perry and the staff at Panthers for making it happen even though half their staff were excluded. The night I believe was a success because everyone made it so. We rendered musician Matt Zaarb speechless when we awarded him a Paul Harris Fellow, and read a letter from Don Spence OAM that highlighted why Matty is such a wonderful person with the work he does for the Australian Children's Music Foundation, he is truly an inspiring person and fellow Rotarian from the Rotary Club of Taree on Manning. Maurie Stack present Matt an End Polio Now shirt for himself and his autistic son Marli to wear as ambassadors for the Train Ride to End Polio this year in October. Marli is obsessed with trains and will make a great project much better by raising much needed funds this year. If you cannot remember the train project, this was last year's ad,

"One day prior to World Polio Day (24 October) on Friday 23 October, 2020, father and son dynamic-duo, Mark and Dave Anderson from the Rotary Club of Beecroft will ride the entire Sydney train network in a single day - visiting 189 stations - in an effort to raise awareness and \$1 million to END POLIO NOW.

Mark and Dave will begin in Sydney's South, at Cronulla train station at 4.30am and will end their journey at Tallawong in Sydney's North at 10.00pm.

Adhering to social distancing measures, Rotary Clubs in Brisbane, Perth, Auckland, and Wellington will emulate the activity and participate in train rides to fundraise and generate awareness for World Polio Day in their own cities.

Linus Jamal Faustin from Tanzania Graduation. Breaking news, the Rotary Club of Taree on Manning's Rotary Australia Benevolent Society scholar has just graduated from Bond University as a Master of Building Construction. What an achievement. A boy from the streets benefits from Rotarians making his world a better place and seeing that sponsorship given back in spades by such a high academic achievement. Truly heart-warming.

It is great to end on such a high note. Thank you to all the district team for their support this year. Thank again to Laura for sticking with it all year from afar. Technology is a wonderful thing in the right hands.

Good luck and best wishes to incoming DG David Mayne and Heather, you will have a wonderful adventure this next year. Enjoy every moment of it, the time goes so quickly.

Thanks to all the Rotarians who have come on the journey with me and actually read my musings, my muck ups, stuff ups, inability to find a location even with a GPS, and sympathised when finding the fuel gauge empty. On a bright note, I am hoping to exchange my broomstick for a more environmentally friendly electric variety in the near future.

See you out there in the wide of Rotary!

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

ARH UPDATE

The latest Australian Rotary Health e-newsletter is now available.

Here is the link to share with your networks after then:

<https://mailchi.mp/australianrotaryhealth/your-latest-news-from-australian-rotary-health-2097106>



UPDATE FROM DGN NEVILLE PARSONS RE PLANNING AND PREPARATION FOR D9660

I congratulate DG Debbie and all 2020-2021 Club Presidents and Club members on what an outstanding year of connection by Rotary Clubs and Rotarians, Rotaractors and Rotaract Clubs and Interactors and Interact Clubs with their communities has been and indeed the District as we have all responded to the challenges of the last few years in a way that truly demonstrated through your actions the 2020.2021 Rotary International Theme "Rotary Opens Opportunities".

The foundation of connection and fellowship that has been built as we all responded to the new norm of COVID-19 and many economic and environmental challenges I believe has placed all Clubs and most importantly the individual Rotarians of D9650 in a great position to now focus on the challenges provided to DGE David and each of us for the 2021-2022 Rotary year to "Serve to Change Lives".

As we approach the formal starting line for the new Rotary Year, I know that you will continue to deliver in your Clubs to make a real difference in the lives of many in your community, in this Rotary District in Australia and around the world. In all of this I observe that the life that Rotary changes most is often our own.

As I am privileged to be the first District Governor of the new District 9660 from 1 July 2022, I will be early in this new Rotary year seeking expressions of interest for the District Management Team including the new role of Area Governors.

I will be seeking expressions of interest for each of the District Management Committee roles from the current membership of both District 9650 and District 9670. The D9660 District Management Team will be selected from Rotarians and Rotaractors with the required skills, enthusiasm and commitment.

It is my intent to ensure that we have the best skills to lead and support the individual Clubs within the new District and at the same time ensure that there is a mix of experience and younger talent to ensure that we build from day one appropriate succession planning into all District Leadership roles.

If you have not checked out the information on our D9650 website re the Transition Committee updates, then I encourage you to do so at this link: <http://www.rotary9650.org.au/rotary-district-9660>

I appreciate the challenge in bringing our two Districts together as one, but I see many opportunities to ensure that the work we collectively do continues to enhance the quality of life for all in the communities within the geographic footprint that will be District 9660.

I know that the need for Rotary today is far greater than it has ever been as the work and support that we as Rotarians, Rotaractors and Interactors do and deliver in each of our communities, in our District, in our Region and within and outside Australia is work that enhances the quality of life for many and continues to make a real difference in our world.

Our task over the next year and indeed in the first year of the new District is to ensure that we continue to transform where required and enhance our ability to continue to do good in our communities and the world through passionate people who are engaged via their Clubs and or their passions for doing good.

I look forward to being your District Governor in 2022-2023 and to delivering a harmonious and successful unification of the 2 Districts being District 9670 and 9650 into a very strong and exemplary Rotary District being District 9660 that will function from day one as "one team" totally committed to making a difference in each of our communities through the Rotary values, culture and programs.

The strength of District 9660 will be very much built from the actions and focus of each member in each of our Clubs and in this regard, we need to continue to focus on having a very clear Club Vision and Strategic Focus that will strengthen the Club, tell our Rotary success stories and engage with our communities each and every day.

In doing these things well I am confident that we will at each Club encourage new members that want to join to deliver real and meaningful change in their community and the communities of the world. People are more likely to engage in supporting a cause or causes that resonate with their own beliefs, shared experiences and values.

I invite you to ask any questions that you and your club have in relation to the new D9660. I am more than happy to attend either in person or via Zoom a discussion session with your Club at any mutually convenient time.

Finally, I share with you a link to a YouTube clip that was prepared by me for presentation at the recent D9670 Virtual Conference - <https://youtu.be/yDmgN2AEaTk>

RYLA

Rotary Youth Leadership Awards

29th April – 7th May 2022
 Lake Keepit Sport & Recreation Centre

Thoughts from 2021 RYLarian - Tori Lee

"When I was told I was going to RYLA I was like what on earth is this... Like any other leadership development course I'd done I was expecting, you know, some ice breakers & learning to work with different personality types & build me into I don't know what. Well, what I got instead was:

1. The biggest extended family from all walks of life
2. An emotional overhaul I didn't know I needed
3. I found MY story, the real one, the one without the mask the rest of the world sees
4. I cried... a lot
5. Reassurance that everything can be tackled & it's OK to stumble
6. The best way to go anywhere is one foot in front of the other & start small
7. No goal is too big if you don't rush to achieve it
8. Embrace the people along the way, everyone is battling their own demons
9. If it's meant to be, it will be. Don't force it
10. You are who you are, dance like no one is watching, sing like no one is listening & LOVE like you've never had your heart broken

I could go on forever but RYLA has given me the wings to soar. Thanks to my beautiful RYLA family."



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