

# E NEWS D9650

MARCH 2022



Past District Governors at the District Conference

## THOUGHTS AND REFLECTIONS WITH DGD

Wow! What a fantastic District conference we have just had. A great time was had by all. All I can say to those who attended is thank you so much and please never forget how you celebrated the last District 9650 conference. Sadly, some District conferences had their 'Face to Face' celebrations cancelled but thank goodness that we didn't. Fantastic and unique guest speakers highlighted a joyous celebration of all that Rotary District 9650 is and was.

Kel Walls set the tone for the weekend by sharing with us each of our club's signature projects / programs. What a wonderful and inspiring presentation Kel gave. It is disappointing that we were unable to share all our speakers with every 9650 member as we heard from Deputy Prime Ministers, Flooded Cave rescuers as well as Australians of the year and those that should or will be. Our own Rotary speakers also excelled themselves with their professional and poignant presentations. The highlight of our presentations was that there were tears of joy and

### THIS ISSUE

- Thoughts and Reflections with DGD
- And the Winner Is...
- School Citizenship Awards
- The Pigs Have Been Delivered
- Key Dates
- Youth InSearch
- A Good News Story
- Rous Rotakids in the Kitchen!
- Collage of District Conference
- Photo Album of District Conference

sorrow at what was being said so the funny bone was tickled as well as the heart strings pulled.

The weekend kicked off with the PDG Luncheon that was a great opportunity to mingle and enjoy wonderful fellowship with the leadership of the past in 9650. That afternoon was our River Cruise and although, due to mechanical difficulties there was a bit of a delay in 'casting off' a fun time was had by all. The oldies far out played the 'youngans' as seen by a 'Conga' line and renditions of the 'Macarena' and 'Nut Bush.' One young Rotaractor was heard to say, "Wow! These older Rotarians know how o party". I just smiled and said on all your behalf's and said, "Yep, we sure do".

Please ensure you don't miss the first Conference for our new District 9660 in Tamworth on March 25th, 2023. This will be well worth attending.

District Changeover will be fast upon us and this one will be vital for Rotarians to attend as we say goodbye to Districts 9650 and 9670 and usher in the new era of District 9660. This historic event will be held the Laurieton Ex Services Club 2 Seymour Street Laurieton on Saturday June 25th. Please enter this in your Diaries now.

There was a tremendous celebration last Thursday as the E Club sponsored the third only Rotakids club to be chartered in Australia. Rous Public School Rotakids is a wonderful example of what Rotary can accomplish at a Public School level.

DG David



President of the new Narrabri Rotaract Club, Sam Werleman

# AND THE WINNER IS...

President of Taree on Manning, Donna Ballard, won the **Australian Rotary Health raffle** at this year's District Conference. The watercolour painting was donated and painted by ARH Director, PDG *Lorraine Coffey*. "I was hoping to raise \$1,000 for ARH. We didn't make that, but we did raise **\$530**" she said. "I want to thank everyone who bought tickets – some were very generous."

Australian Rotary Health passed its 40 year milestone last year. It is the only Rotary entity of its kind in the world, and like Rotary, it began with one man in 1981. Ian Scott thought Rotary should do something about SIDS (Sudden Infant Death Syndrome). It has grown in leaps and bounds since then. It is governed by an honorary Board of Directors, and advised by an honorary Research Committee of eminent medical research professionals. The next three years will have a focus on the mental health of children '0 – 12 years, and a symposium will be held in Sydney in August called "**Healthy Children – Bright Futures**" The symposium will provide advice to the Board about how it can most effectively use the funding it will make available for this area of research over the next 3-5 years.

**ARH is funded by Australian Rotary Clubs, so please ensure it is on your club's list of donations for the end of this Rotary year.**  
**PDG Lorraine Coffey, Director ARH.**



# A VOCATIONAL PROJECT - SCHOOL CITIZENSHIP

## AWARDS

Later this year, the Rotary Club of Kempsey West will be holding its 30th School Citizenship Award night. The Citizenship Awards are coordinated by Club Member Garry Munday. A Citizenship Award is awarded to a student from every school in the Macleay Valley each year. Over 600 awards have been given in this time.

Every year, each Macleay Valley School nominates a student who shows the attributes that go towards making a good citizen including personal achievements, sportsmanship, excellent personal characteristics like kindness, politeness, and promotion of others.

Each student receives a framed certificate which includes a citation from their school, a shopping voucher and a Rotary banner.

The certificate is a powerful addition to any young person's resume that alerts future employers of the employment potential the young person has.

In non-Covid years, a special award night is held to present the awards to all nominated candidates. Nominated candidates' family members and/or their special support persons, school representatives and Rotarians gather for the Event. Each student's citation is read out by Garry for all to hear. It is amazing what students are achieving in our valley each year. There are many very proud grandparents and photos taken! A finger-food meal is also provided to allow further discussion and prestige to the event.

Rotary's ideal of service is based on the Five Avenues of Service – Club, Vocational, Community, International and New Generations – that comprise Rotary International's philosophical cornerstone. Rotary emphasizes integrity and high ethical standards. As part of Rotary's guiding principles and the Avenues of Service, Vocational Service calls on Rotarians to empower others by using their unique skills and expertise to address community needs and help others discover new professional opportunities and interests.

The members of the Rotary Club of Kempsey West are very grateful for Garry's amazing work on this project for young people in the Macleay Valley. On Australia Day this year, Garry was awarded the Citizen of the Year Award for his many different voluntary works he has done in the Macleay Valley.



## THE PIGS HAVE BEEN DELIVERED

Rous RotaKids conducted a very successful "Picnic for Pigs Day" Fundraising exercise in December 2021. Selected foods that commenced with the letter "P" were prepared and sold to students, during lunch for 50c or \$1.00. Rous RotaKids Treasurer, and Mrs Kelsall, were very pleased to have raised \$428.75 (Gross) towards the cost of the pigs.

Mrs Duncan contacted the village Mayor, Chandi dasa, Bali, Indonesia and asked if he, and the Council, could nominate two families that would really benefit from receiving two female piglets to boost their sty in the months and years to come. The Mayor, and the families, were delighted with the generous support of Rous Public School students and staff, purchasing and donating the piglets to the two families.

Well done everyone.



### SIGNATURE PROJECTS

How to find the new section on the DacDB website.

1. Sign in,
2. Click on the DISTRICT Tab along the top Left bar
3. RHS to click on DISTRICT FILES.

In this folder there is a document called Final District 9650 Signature Projects. Here is a complete set of each club's word document outlining the key projects their clubs have been known for over many years.

<https://www.dacdb.com/index.html>



# KEY DATES

## President elects Learning and Development

| Date  | Venue                                      |
|---|--|
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> April 2022  | "Marbella Park" Morpeth near East Maitland |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> April 2022  | West Tamworth League Club, Tamworth        |
| 9 <sup>th</sup> & 10 <sup>th</sup> April 2022 | Charles Sturt University, Port Macquarie   |
| 9 <sup>th</sup> & 10 <sup>th</sup> April 2022 | Charles Sturt University, Dubbo            |

## Club Officers Learning and Development

| Date        | Venue                                      |
|-------------|--|
| 15 May 2022 | "Marbella Park" Morpeth near East Maitland |
| 15 May 2022 | West Tamworth League Club, Tamworth        |
| 22 May 2022 | Charles Sturt University, Port Macquarie   |
| 22 May 2022 | Charles Sturt University, Dubbo            |

- **D9650 and D9670 Changeover to D9660**

Saturday 25 June 2022 at Laurieton United Services Club

- **D9660 AGM and Showcase**

Saturday & Sunday 26 & 27 November 2022 at Tamworth West League Club.

- **D9660 2023 District Conference**

24 to 26 March 2023 in Tamworth at Tamworth Regional Entertainment Centre (TREC)

- **Rotary International Convention**

Melbourne (Victoria) 27 – 31 May 2023

- **D9660 Changeover 2023**

Saturday 1 July 2023 – Venue to be confirmed.

# YOUTH INSEARCH

District Conference was a great opportunity to hear direct from the team from Youth Insearch about the difference it makes in a young person's life to have the support of Youth Insearch. We heard from Neilani Botha; a participant, then a camp leader and now working in the admin at the Youth Insearch Sydney office. Hers is but one story of success. There are many more.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LfLnuSNTiFU&list=PLj6-ZGDChpX6LYn1SyDLKvUek6HBRkcDM>



I personally took the conference as my opportunity to invite and support adults who maintain supportive relationships with

## REPORTS DUE 2020-21

Reminder to Clubs with 2020-21 District Grants – the Final Report is due by May.

Records show that Final Reports have been received from: Bellingen (scholarship scheme), Coffs Harbour Daybreak (health clinic), Coonabarabran (tree planting), Coonamble (educational books), E-Club (youth education), Port Macquarie (STEM education), Sawtell (literacy program) Taree 1 (peace poles) & Taree 2 (handcraft activities) & Wauchope (potable water wells). *My thanks*

It's now Final Reporting time for these four 2020-21 projects: Glen Innes \$4000 (hygiene kits), Inverell \$4000 (potable water), Laurieton \$2500 (literacy & numeracy), Port Macquarie West \$4000 (socks record)

Please send/re-send reports to [iansimpson15@bigpond.com](mailto:iansimpson15@bigpond.com)



and keep a club record of the financial transactions for the project.

Ian Simpson  
D9650 Grants Stewardship Committee

representatives from various Youth Services here in Port Macquarie along so they could learn more about the concept of the PLACE-BASED MODEL OF SUPPORT that Youth Insearch is hoping to plant in as many communities as possible.

The Place-Based Model is where a social worker supports young people who attend youth in search camps. They need ongoing support when they return to their communities and assistance to access local resources to continue their journey towards overcoming their life hurdles/ challenges. The Youth Insearch funded social worker also reinforces the volunteer support adults who maintain supportive relationships with young people. young people. This model can work effectively in conjunction with already established youth services to add value and strength through shared resources. After all, they all aim for the same outcomes; happy, healthy, resilient and thriving young people.

If you felt inspired to start a conversation about Youth Insearch and a Place-Based Model of Support in your local community, please get in touch.

Invite local youth services to your meetings, find out what they do, where the issues are for young people in your community and tell them about Youth Insearch. I am very happy to connect you to the Youth Insearch team and help you arrange for them to speak at your club meeting sometime.

By Heather Mayne.

A Surprise PHF recognition

Thanks to PDG Maurie Stack, District 9650 was able to show gratitude and due recognition for years of 'Service above Self' to the 4 RYLA Leaders; DG David Mayne, John Carroll, PDG Rob Anderson & Louise Matthews. John and David have given around 15 years of devotion to this incredible program, from initial involvement as guest presenters to the combination of ideas that now sees our D9650 RYLA program well known and respected across the Rotary globe. Add to this mix, we have Rob and Louise who have acted in the roles of Treasurer and Secretary (and RYLA Mum) for around 8-10 years. Incredible dedication. They were truly worthy of the recognition but I'm sure each of them



Rotary Youth Leadership Awards

**APPLICATIONS CLOSE 1st April**

Please forward your applications ASAP

to allow for processing & planning.

(Application forms [www.rotary9650.org.au/RYLA](http://www.rotary9650.org.au/RYLA))

**Lake Keepit Sport & Recreation Centre**  
**30th April - 7th May 2022**

You're welcome to celebrate with us  
**RYLA Dinner**

**Wednesday 4th May**

Dinner 6pm for 6.30pm \$50pp

RSVP 22nd April to [dimity.betts@outlook.com](mailto:dimity.betts@outlook.com)

Blazes Auditorium West Tamworth Leagues Club

Entertainment & presentations from  
RYLA participants

**Guest Speaker**

2022 Australian of the Year Local Hero

CEO & Founder  
**Sober in the Country**  
**SHANNA WHAN**



would attest that the outcomes that each participant achieve through their RYLA experience and beyond is their greatest joy. The awards were presented by several past Rylarians present at the conference and observed by several others via Zoom. Congratulations to them all.

By Heather Mayne



# ROTARY & INTERPLAST A GOOD NEWS STORY

The Direct Patient Support project is one of Interplast's creative solutions aimed at continuing to provide reconstructive surgical care despite the travel limitations imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Through this project, Interplast and Rotary together fund patient surgeries in Nepal, Papua New Guinea, Fiji and Sri Lanka.

Patients like nine-year-old Rewan have been the beneficiaries of this life-changing surgical intervention.

Rewan is one of 6 children, living with their parents on a farm in the remote, eastern hills of Nepal.

Severely burnt on his neck while trying to start a fire with petrol in a cow shed, Rewan was initially cared for with dressing changes at the local district hospital, an agonising 24-hour drive from his home.

Without having access to the sophisticated burns treatment that we take for granted in Australia and New Zealand, the burnt tissue formed significant contractures under Rewan's chin and on his neck. In 2021 he was transferred to Kirtipur hospital in Kathmandu, a further 24-hour drive from the district hospital. There he underwent surgery for more than 8 hours to correct the neck deformity caused by the burn scarring and contractures.

Under the care of Dr Bishal Karki, Rewan spent 3 days in intensive care before being transferred to the post-operative ward. Finally he was well enough to be transferred to the general ward, where his father could at last visit his little son.

Rewan's father expressed his happiness and gratitude for the treatment his son received, thanking everyone involved for the support which enabled the life-changing surgery.



Rewan pictured after his surgery in 2021

Burns are a leading cause of unintentional, life-threatening injuries among young children in developing nations.

Both surgery and post-operative rehabilitation are essential to restoring function after a severe burn, particularly in children where burn contractures can often result in a life-long disability.

The Direct Patient Support program, funded by Interplast and Rotary donations, not only provides desperately needed care to the people of Nepal. The program also enables the Nepali surgeons to partner with a volunteer Interplast surgeon, who can remotely mentor his colleagues by providing advice and support.

Surgeries such as those made available to Rewan not only benefit the patients and their families, but also provide opportunities for upskilling the surgeons, anaesthetists and nurses.

With Rotary's support, patients like Rewan can benefit from Interplast's help, even though our volunteer teams can't travel to our partner countries at the moment. Interplast has found new ways to both repair bodies and rebuild lives during the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as to train clinicians throughout Nepal and other developing Asia-Pacific nations.

For more information please contact your Interplast District Chair or Interplast Rotary Coordinator Janette on [janette.etherington@interplast.org.au](mailto:janette.etherington@interplast.org.au)



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Repairing bodies & rebuilding lives  
in the Asia Pacific region

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[www.interplast.org.au](http://www.interplast.org.au)

[www.interplast.org.nz](http://www.interplast.org.nz)

## Rous RotaKids in the kitchen!

The Northern Rivers area is experiencing unprecedented torrential rain of late resulting in surreal flooding. So many of the local people are displaced; have homes submerged in flood water and animals lost --- causing anxiety to them and their families immediately, and no doubt in the future as the clean-up and damage assessed.

Rous RotaKids decided to make some Chocolate Cream Patty Cakes for the children in the Emergency Evacuation Centre, Goonellabah to enjoy as they patiently wait for waters to ease. The students worked eagerly on this project, as you can see in the photos. Mrs Duncan happily delivered the cakes to the Centre after school, Wednesday, 2 March 2022.

Well done Rous Public School RotaKids thinking of others at this dreadful time.



