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SMILES FOR HUNTER MUMS  
SEE HOW A D9670 CLUB GETS  
GREAT RECOGNITION FOR THEIR  
MOTHERS DAY PROJECT.

HELPING THE DISADVANTAGED  
CAN YOUR CLUB SUPPORT ROMAC IN  
D9670? WHY NOT CHECK OUT THE  
LATEST ROMAC SUCCESS STORY AND  
SEE WHAT YOU CAN DO TO GET  
INVOLVED.

EDUCATING GREAT LEADERS  
SEE HOW RLI CAN EDUCATE LEADERS  
IN YOUR CLUBS AND ASSIST IN RE-  
TAINING YOUR MEMBERS.

○ No. 11

○ MAY

○ 2014—2015

# District digest

COMMUNITY, STRENGTH AND VALUES

*Well this month **District Governor Gerard McMillan** updates D9670 on how he should be on the downhill run...but so many exciting programs have taken place over May that it has actually been an exciting ride to keep up with. From Youth Programs to District Assemblies, our District Governor has been super busy seeing all Clubs giving back to our communities and having fun doing it...*



After the conference, some have said I'm on the **downhill run**...but we are far from it as there is still so much happening in the District...

During April, one of the many youth programs was **RYCAGS** (Rotary Youth Crops Agronomy Grain and Seed) where Past President Geoff Smith and his team conducted another fantastic program in Narromine that puts the attention onto those **working the land**. This sector is so often forgotten, particularly the hardships they face.

I was made aware that today some families in Longreach, who continue to **battle the drought**, are eating just one meal every second day. The RYCAGS program in Narromine sees students aged 16 to 20 involved in **hands-on activities** to better understand life on the land, which is a very worthwhile initiative.

Closer to home, we continue to recover from the **devastation of the floods**, which hit hard in Dungog. Rotary Club of Dungog President Bob Humphries has been amazed at the **offers of assistance** from Rotary Clubs throughout Australia and is so humbled and appreciative. Those in need have been well supported by the **generosity** of Rotary.

There are many good and generous people and always a **disaster** that needs our attention. News of another earthquake in Nepal is upsetting to say

the least; but know these people are being assisted with **ShelterBoxes**, a very tangible and effective project that offers some comfort when all seems so hopeless. Please **continue to support** this great Rotary initiative.

On Wednesday May 6th, Yvonne and I travelled to the Rotary Club of Dubbo West which was a **German Night** attended by Hans-Dieter Steinbach, **German Consul-General** (based in Sydney) and the District's three Rotary youth exchange program students from Germany.

On the night, Club President Lance Murphy presented a cheque for \$5,000 to the ShelterBox program. According to ShelterBox conveyor, Assistant Governor Peter Croft, this was the **biggest single donation** he has received this year. There is much need for clubs to continue to support this initiative.

It was lovely to hear from the youth exchange students who had just returned from their **Capricorn Ramble** that took them to parts of Australia most of us only imagine seeing. They have enjoyed their **exchange visits** and each have their own story to tell. In the next two or three months they will journey back home and I know they take with them many **fond memories of Australia**. I express gratitude and appreciation to the Rotary Clubs who hosted the inbound youth exchange program students; and especially the **counsellors and host parents** as a

collective .

Yvonne and I have met these students on numerous occasions and are so impressed by this program and the **positive experience** it provides young people throughout the world. This is a neverending story for the hard working **Youth Exchange Program (YEP)** committee, under the Chair of Denise Parkes, who are in the process of conducting interviews on May 23rd for the next group of exchange students who will **go overseas in 2016**. I am indebted to this committee and the great work they do. The students comment how well briefed they are by Denise and her team—so thank you to all involved.

Another youth activity during the month of May was **RYPEN** (Rotary Youth Program of Enrichment) at Myuna Bay. The Committee Chair is Zoey Kirwan, who is a young mother of three herself, but manages to find time to **commit to young people** and this fantastic program. Congratulations to all involved.

We also have the **Model United Nations Assembly (MUNA)**, another youth initiative, that sees senior students teaming up in pairs to discuss important **global issues**. The conversation is in our District and conducted at the Muswellbrook Council Chambers. The event is on this Saturday 23rd May and I recommend Rotarians attempt to **attend this Assembly** and listen to these bright, young people. My thanks to Past President Megan Valentine and her MUNA committee on their organisation of the weekend and also to the **Muswellbrook Shire Council** for providing such as appropriate venue.

(Continued on Page 2...)

(Continued from Page 1...)

Congratulations also to Rotary Club of Muswellbrook and Past President Phil Lawlor who have secured **significant sponsorship** for this event over the years.

The **Rotary Foundation** meeting on Sunday, May 17th, saw the **changing of the guard** when Past District Governor Alex McHarg chairs his last Foundation meeting—having completed his three years as Chair. On July 1st, I will pass on the role to Past District Governor **Peter Raynor**. If Rotary Clubs and individual Rotarians could support the Foundation, the **charity arm of Rotary**, now is the time to do it.

As we approach the new Rotary year, many took the opportunity to take part in the **President Elect Training Seminars (PETS) and District Assemblies**, led by District Governor Elect Adrian Roach and his **Learning & Development** team at Singleton and Dubbo. I acknowledge all those involved with those two weekends and also Rotary Clubs of Singleton on Hunter and Dubbo West who **provided catering** over these days.

In one of the breakout sessions at the District Assembly it was stated by some **newer Rotarians** (of two years membership) that they **learnt more** in that one day about Rotary than in the previ-

ous two years. The format of the Assemblies has **evolved over the years**, as a result of feedback received by the training team, both in **delivery and content**, so much so that both experienced Rotarians and newer ones find attendance at PETS and Assemblies a **worth-while experience**.

It also inspires me to remind you all of the importance of **continued mentoring of all Rotarians** - like a farmer we can't allow ourselves to merely plant a crop and walk away hoping it grows. Our crop of Rotarians, both new and long serving members, **need ongoing attention and care**.

On May 24th, I will meet with the **Group Study Exchange (GSE) Team** that leaves for Germany soon. It is with regret that Past President Birgitta Smith has had to withdraw from leading this **group study** because of an injury. Sympathies to Birgitta because I know how much she was looking forward to this trip which was, no doubt, an **opportunity of a life time**.

On a brighter note, Past President Wolf Sturmer from the Rotary Club of East Maitland has, at very short notice, **jumped on board**...so sincere thanks to him. We wish the group well and know they will **enjoy their trip** to Germany.

District Chair of the GSE, Shari Tanzer

has sent out notices to clubs for the **2016 tour of Taiwan**. Applications are open now so consider taking up this **amazing opportunity**.

In closing, I ask all Rotarians to **share your Rotary stories**. In the words of Rotary International President Gary C K Huang: "*Whenever I travel I ask my hosts to talk to me about their clubs. What I value most about these conversations are the stories I hear - the stories that, taken together, tell the story of Rotary.*"

*"I've heard stories that have made me laugh and stories that have moved me to tears. I've heard stories of how our service changes the lives of others and how it changes us as Rotarians. When I hear these stories, I can't help but wonder: How many other lives could we change for the better by bringing more people into Rotary? And how many more people could we bring into Rotary simply by sharing our Rotary stories?"*

I share RI President Huang's request that you share your Rotary story - these stories are what **inspires us and encourage others to join us**.

*"They help light up our service as we work to Light Up Rotary."*

Yours in Rotary

*Gerard McMillan*

- ⇒ **CULTURE**
- ⇒ **DIVERSITY**
- ⇒ **FELLOWSHIP**



Thinking of attending the 2015 RI Convention - the **São Paulo 2015 Carnival?**

Why not check out the official website for the convention to get all the information.

Head to [www.ricsconvention.org](http://www.ricsconvention.org)

for all the latest information and don't miss out on the great events!

Interested in seeing some of the highlights of **South America?**

Did you know that District 9670 are organising a special escorted group tour to coincide with the **2015 RI Convention?**

Contact Escape Travel  
Charlestown on  
**1300-765-128**  
for more details

# Bringing smiles to Hunter Mum's...

2015 has seen another stellar year for the annual Mothers Day Flower fundraiser for the Rotary Club of Greenhills Maitland. **Doug Crawford from the Rotary Club of Greenhills Maitland** points the District towards the great article published in the local Maitland rag about two Club member who got the great privilege of celebrating Mothers Day together while helping others.....



**Above:** Sharing the Rotary love! Secretary of Greenhills Maitland Rotary Club, Bethwyn Burke and her Son and club member, Alex Burke spend their Mothers Day together fundraising for Rotary programs.

"A Hug for Mum at Rotary Club Flower Stand "

By Jessica Brown

*The Maitland Mercury—Sunday 10th May 2015*

"The average Mother's Day entails breakfast in bed and a card, but for Bethwyn Burke it means an early start and selling about 800 bunches of flowers.

Mrs Burke and her family, including son Alex, are members of the Rotary Club of Greenhills Maitland—and Mother's Day is the group's biggest fundraiser of the year.

During the weekend, the club set up stands across Maitland and sold more than 800 bunches of flowers.

The sales make about \$8,000 for the club and the money goes to Rotary programs, including foreign aid and

youth scholarships.

"I think it is a nice way to spend Mother's Day," Mrs Burke said.

"At the end it is good to see where all the money goes."

Mrs Burke's son, Alex Burke, joined her at the flower stand at Rutherford on Sunday for the Mother's Day rush.

The family from Buchanan spends a lot of time together in their kitchen and benchtops business and have been Rotarians since 2012.

The two laughed at the idea of breakfast in bed and said helping the club was a great way to spend the day.

"She loves helping people," Alex said of his mother.

"She is a very happy person."

## DISTRICT INSURANCE RENEWALS

Rotary International District 9670 Incorporated's suite of insurance policies **expires** on 30<sup>th</sup> June, but will be renewed.

A certificate of currency for coverage under the General Liability policy which covers Public Liability and Products Liability will in due course be issued in the name of each of the District clubs and incorporated associations. However, these certificates are often not available until about the **third week in July**.

If your club or entity is holding an event during the first 3 weeks of the new Rotary year and you have been asked to provide a certificate of currency valid for a date within that period, special arrangements can be made.

If you need such a certificate, you should contact the incoming District Insurance Officer,

Rotarian Margaret Raynor, [mlraynor@bigpond.com.au](mailto:mlraynor@bigpond.com.au) to so advise.

If another entity, such as a local government council, or the owner of land on which you are holding some function has requested that its interest be noted on the certificate, this should also be advised so that appropriate certificates can be obtained.



**Rotary Oceania Medical Aid for Children (ROMAC)** is a Rotary-based, Australian and New Zealand initiative that harnesses the assistance from medical experts, hospitals, nurses, physiotherapists, pathology and radiology services, airlines, sponsors and other supporters to provide medical and surgical services to disadvantaged patients across developing nations of the world.

East Timor teenager Dulcia Gusmao (14) now has a new lease on life...

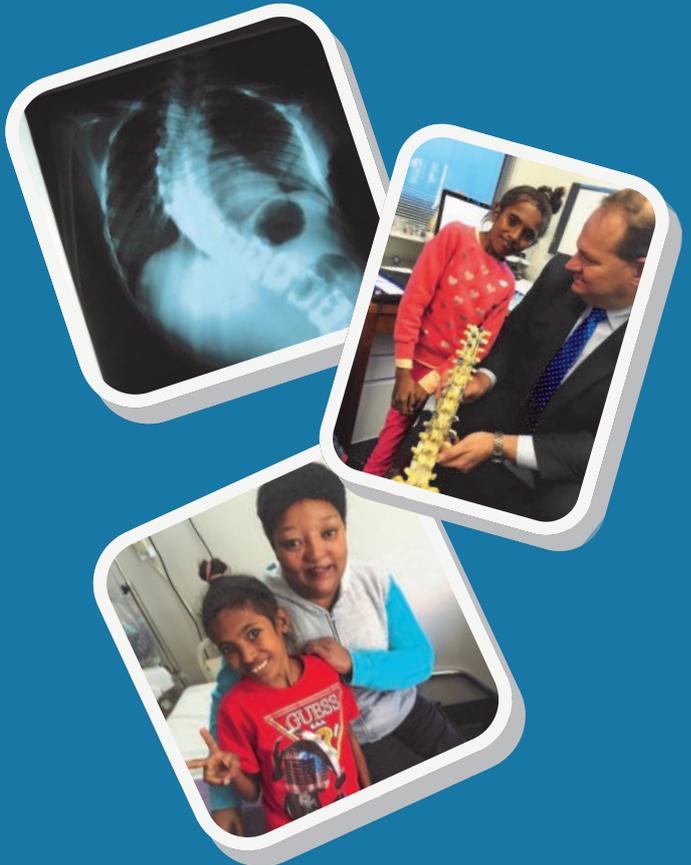
Dulcia arrived in Newcastle with her Aunty Didy Pereira (24) for spinal surgery in April to correct her scoliosis by implanting metal rods and screws in back to support her spine. This surgery was urgent as Dulcia developed difficulty in breathing and she is also grossly malnourished.

The procedure was done by spinal surgeon, Dr Rob Kuru at Newcastle Private Hospital on a humanitarian basis. ROMAC were fortunate to locate a lovely young couple who speak Tetum; willing to host and translate as the girls speak no English.

Dulcia is the first of two ROMAC patients for District 9670—both with the same spinal problem. We are hoping that Dulcia will be fit to travel home at the end of May as ROMAC have our next patient Esperanca Santos (17) booked for surgery on 15th June at Newcastle Private Hospital..

We are looking for Rotarians in our district who might like to get involved by hosting these beautiful girls on a daily basis and showing them our wonderful part of the world.

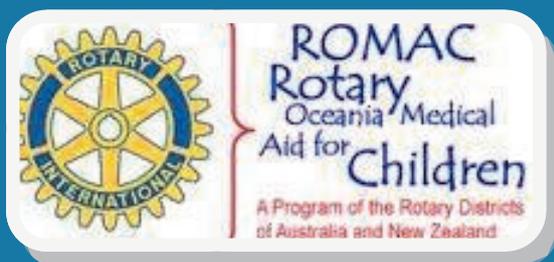
Recent ROMAC patient, Charlie Nurak (with club feet) was sponsored by the Rotary Club of East Maitland. Charlie's story was a lovely and rewarding success...but unfortunately he and



his family lost everything in Cyclone Pam that hit Tanna Island in March 2015.

ROMAC is looking for donations, as there are still 50 children on the ROMAC waiting list for surgery.

ROMAC provides free medical treatment for children from developing countries through life-saving and/or dignity restoring surgeries not accessible to them in their home country.



Please donate to [romac.org.au](http://romac.org.au)

For more details, ROMAC Chair in D9670 is Lyn Thorpe OAM, President of the Rotary Club of Adamstown New Lambton.

Lyn's email is [dkthorpe@bigpond.com](mailto:dkthorpe@bigpond.com). or phone 0428-011-056

# District Membership & Community Involvement

And Q2 is off to an exciting start...**Peter Sivyver, District Attendance, Participation and Contributions Chair** reports on how District 9670 tracked for the third month of 2015 and looks forward to receiving more information from each club, each month, over the Rotary year.

## CLUB STATISTICS - APRIL 2015

Every month, Rotary Clubs all over our District catch up at meetings, participate in community projects and donate their time, money and resources to causes far and wide.

★ Interested in what knowing how your club is participating? Why not head to our new District website to check out what's been reported at [www.rotary9670.org.au](http://www.rotary9670.org.au)

Can't see your club's stats here? Why not send an update to [ppsivyver@bigpond.com](mailto:ppsivyver@bigpond.com) and we will add them to our next edition.

ROTARY CLUB	MEMBERS	HOURS	%	RANK
Adamstown New Lambton	26	8	89.8	6
Belmont	26		92.6	4
Cardiff	12		75	17
Charlestown	48	240	87.1	8
Cobar	13	7	100	1
Dubbo	21	56	89.71	7
Dubbo Macquarie	25	90.5	100	1
Dubbo South	59	560	97.17	3
Dubbo West	44	33	71.25	19
East Maitland	42	228	84	10
Kurri Kurri Sunrise	22	26	59	25
Maitland	39	346	70.5	20
Merriwa	21		83.5	11
Myall Coast	29	83	69	22
Narromine	12		70	12
Nelson Bay	51		75	17
Newcastle Sunrise	19	94.5	80	13
Rutherford -Telarah	41	315	83.07	12
Salamander Bay	34		62	24
Singleton	39		78	15
Toronto Sunrise	29	94	67.2	23
Wallsend Maryland	32	144	78	15
Waratah	20		92	5
Williamstown	21	208	78.09	14

## Do you have something to add to the District Digest?



Got an exciting event coming up? How about an outstanding project you would like some publicity for?

Well why not drop us a line at [districtnewsletter@rotary9670.org.au](mailto:districtnewsletter@rotary9670.org.au) and let us know what your up to.

All submissions need to be received by the **15th of each month** to ensure our editor has enough time to include them in the upcoming publication.

So hop to it...and drop us a line!



## DEAR CLUB AND DISTRICT OFFICERS

Between 19-22 May, we are introducing several updates to the Club & District Administration pages that will make your administrative tasks easier:

**Quick links:** You'll be able to designate favourite links from the Club & District Administration section and access them from your My Rotary dashboard. [See an example.](#)

**Terms of access:** Incoming club and district officers will have access to club and district information by 1 June. Most outgoing club and district officers will retain access to the information for 12 months.

**Overall redesign:** Related activities will be grouped together on Club & District Administration pages. See [an example](#) and the [new landing page](#).

If you have questions, contact [rotarysupportcenter@rotary.org](mailto:rotarysupportcenter@rotary.org).

## WHAT IS RLI?



The Rotary Leadership Institute (RLI) is a multi-district, grassroots leadership development program of member districts organised into regional divisions throughout the world

RLI conducts a series of quality leadership development courses for potential club officers and other club members, including those who have recently joined a Rotary Club. The courses emphasize both leadership skills and knowledge of Rotary around the world.

All course sessions are completely interactive and the 81 RLI Regional Divisions believe that leadership education has a positive impact on membership retention by creating enthusiasm and furthering engagement for Rotary.

For the first time, President-Elect Ravindran has set a goal for membership retention as part of the requirements for the 2015-16 Presidential Citation program. This is significant step for Rotary because prior R.I. membership goals have normally used percentage/numerical member increases as the goal. There has been continuing realisation that Rotary membership losses have been primarily caused by retention problems rather than a lack of sufficient recruitments.

So what do you think, could your Club consider improving Rotary retention rates in D9670 by sending all new Rotary club members to a RLI course during their first year of membership? Why not give it a go...

To join the discussion on all things RLI, head to their discussion group at [rotary.org/myrotary/discussiongroups](http://rotary.org/myrotary/discussiongroups)

# FLUTRACKER

If you are interested in helping researchers from the University of Newcastle track influenza activity across District 9670 you can join a weekly online survey that takes less than 15 seconds to complete.

Flu-tracking monitors for early warning signs of severe influenza outbreaks or pandemics and provides participants with a weekly report and a link to maps of influenza activity.

For more information on the project go to [www.flutracking.net](http://www.flutracking.net)

This project is being conducted by researchers from Hunter New England Health and the University of Newcastle.



14th RLI—Exploring Rotary  
East Maitland  
Bob Main  
Ph.: 0432 398 737  
[robhel4@bigpond.com](mailto:robhel4@bigpond.com)

17th - Upper Hunter Science & Engineering Challenge  
19th Muswellbrook  
Phillip Lawler

21st RLI—Exploring Rotary  
Dubbo  
Bob Main  
Ph.: 0432 398 737  
[robhel4@bigpond.com](mailto:robhel4@bigpond.com)

27th Assessment & Placement Day—2016 Outbound YEP Students  
Tocal College. Tocal  
Denise Parkes  
Ph: 0417 263 303  
[deniseparkes39@gmail.com](mailto:deniseparkes39@gmail.com)

**All correspondence on  
District 9670 matters to be sent to:  
PO Box 348, Singleton, NSW, 2330**

## RLI – Exploring Rotary Rotary Leadership Program



The RLI Team is offering the Rotary Leadership Program at two locations across the District commencing in April.

Why not join us to experience an exciting interactive program that explores the world of Rotary.

Dates and venues;

East Maitland: 14th June.

Dubbo: 21st June.

Simply fill out the registration form to become part of the movement to learn more about Rotary.

Contact Bob Main from the RLI team at:

Email: [robhel4@bigpond.com](mailto:robhel4@bigpond.com)

Phone: (02) 4960 1982

Mobile: 0432-398-737

**Rotary**  
District 9670

