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Are they really going that fast?
Darrell and Kerrie are currently on skiing holidays

Darrell's Discourse: Peace is not the absence of conflict...

'Most people do not listen with the intent to understand; They listen with the intent to reply'
Steven Covey.

Is this you?

So let's reflect on and respect Rotary's February theme - Peace and Conflict Resolution month.

You might not be aware that we started up a District Leadership Help Desk this year to assist Rotary clubs having conflict issues. In the wider world of Rotary, we refuse to accept conflict as a way of life. So why

should we accept conflict in Rotary clubs?

Mahatma Gandhi says

"Peace is not the absence of conflict, but the ability to cope with it".

Hopefully, if needed, our Leadership Help Desk can assist your club to cope with it (Contact: Stewart Hase 0417 255 995 or email stewart.hase@gmail.com).

In society we already have domestic violence, bullying in schools or the workplace, road rage, just to name a few. Conflict cannot continue without someone's participation. Rotary fosters understanding and provides communities with the skills to resolve conflicts. Albert Einstein said *"In the middle of difficulty lies opportunity"*. I hope

that you can reflect on these words of wisdom when the inevitable tension arises at home, in our clubs and in our society and find that opportunity.

Globally, Rotary is always working to overcome conflict to promote peace in oblique ways. It takes action to address the underlying causes of conflict including poverty, inequality, ethnic tensions, lack of access to education and unequal distribution of resources. Look at Beaudesert's humongous effort to facilitate education in Cambodia. Look at Stanthorpe's efforts in Fiji in fitting out kitchens,

hospitals and providing clean water. Look at Surfers Sunrise and its House of Hope for abused children in Samoa, to name a few. This is Rotary in action in providing a

better environment to break the cycle of conflict to promote peace. These clubs and many others are finding that opportunity.

I think that we should pat ourselves on the back. We as Rotarians observe and action these ideals because, after all, we are People of Action. Rotary makes help happen.

Darrell Brown,
District Governor 2017-18

In the wider world of Rotary, we refuse to accept conflict as a way of life. So why should we accept conflict in Rotary clubs?

Hope Island Christmas Buggy Parade - by Wayne Kirby

With 3 golf courses and over 1000 buggies within an easy buggy drive from the Sanctuary Cove Village, it is the ideal place to have a parade to celebrate the golf buggy lifestyle and to provide joy and entertainment for the festive season.



The parade was run in conjunction with the Sanctuary Cove Christmas Carols and was tasked with delivering Santa to the excited crowd of over 2000 people.

In July, the Rotary Club of Hope Island proposed the idea to the village manager (Mulpha) and they gladly approved the project. They also provided the 3 prizes for best cart, best lights and random draw.

Once the parade was approved the promotional work commenced. My organizing committee included Jill Wade, Martin Macfarlane, Joe Wilkinson, Prue Berry and Diana Dodd. On the day, of course, just about the entire club was involved. Being the first year it was important to get the word out. We used the local community Facebook groups and backed that up with pamphlet drops to letterboxes and posters in the village. We also tagged onto radio ads that Mulpha ran for the event.

Our original target was between 15 and 20 vehicles to participate. We exceeded our goal and we were delighted to have 32 vehicles on the night. The buggies paid \$20.00 each to participate.

The police lead out the parade with their all terrain vehicle and one very excited young lad riding along sounding the siren. We also had the

Rural Fire Brigade to escort the Santa Sleigh at the rear. Humphrey B Bear even paid a visit arriving in a bright orange Moke.

The local community really embraced the idea and you could feel the excitement build in the days prior to the event. On the night the buggy creations were grand and glittery on a massive scale.

The best part of the night was hearing the excited screams of the hoard of children each time a buggy passed, and then the roar when they saw Santa arrive with Rudolf at the stage. The event not only served as a fundraiser, it was also excellent PR for Rotary, and also comfortably fits into the Community Service classification.

And what about sizzling sausages? Rotary Hope Island also had the customary sausage tent there. They worked hard: at times we had 15 people on the go. We served up 50 kg (!) of sausages. Funds raised are directed towards the



[Zephyr Foundation](#) and the [Rural Fire Service](#). We would like to acknowledge our major sponsors, [Lifestyle Golf Cars](#), [EZGO](#) and [Mulpha Sanctuary Cove](#) for their generous support for the night.

Rotary Hope Island is an active and growing club based north of the Gold Coast. We gained 12 new members this year and have had many successful projects: a corporate golf day, gala dinner, pride of workmanship and other community events. These all help to provide our membership with rewarding experiences and pleasure in helping out so many worthy charities.

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Registrations for the District Conference 2018: Only the first 300 registrants get into the free Dolphin Show !



You may not be aware of this: The free [ok, we ask for a Gold Coin Donation, all for a good cause... Ed.] Dolphin Show on Sunday morning is only open to the first 300 registrants. Yes, including partners and guests.

Conference Chairman **Jo Gorman** and her team have been busy, beavering behind the scenes. Next month's District Conference at Seaworld is coming together nicely, thank you.

[Click on this link](#) to learn all about it, where you can also register. **You have already paid for attendance;** it is part

of your annual membership fee and it includes attendance to all the [keynote speakers](#). Only individual meals and the Saturday night entertainment naturally attract a fee. And note: After a meeting with Seaworld, we are happy to announce that the cancellation fees have been wiped (well, almost, just \$10.00), as long as you notify us **before** 22nd February 2018 (two weeks before the conference).

Just have a look at some of the **Keynote speakers!** Selecting just three of them at random:

- **Allan Pease:** He is the guy who wrote that famous book on Body Language, as well as 'Why men lie and women cry'
- **Karen Phillips:** Executive Director of the Australian Women's Institute and founder of the Women in Business Awards of Australia
- **Laurie Lawrence** - who hasn't heard of the famous swimming coach!

Note: Registrations close on 28th February 2018. [Click here](#) to register

District Award Applications close in 10 days' time

Note, this year's District Conference (see above) is about **2 months earlier** than it was for the past couple of years

Who will get the inaugural Best Club Communications Award?

Applications close at 12 noon, Friday 9th February 2018
That is less than 2 weeks away! For full details, [click on this link](#)



New: International Rotarian Educators Fellowship

The **International Fellowship of Rotarian Educators** is one of RI's newer fellowships. The website address is www.rotarianeducators.org. As you can see from the website, one does NOT have to be an educator or work in the field of education to be a member - just have a passion for or an interest in education.



International
Fellowship of
Rotarian
Educators

Membership: one year \$US 20.00, three years \$US 50.00, or a lifetime membership \$US 100.00

Also, as you can see from the website, you can make payment by PayPal or by credit card.

ENCHANTING RHINE

ROTARIANS ON THE RHINE CRUISE

May 20 - 27, 2019



Enjoy a 7-night cruise from Basel to Amsterdam

AmaWaterways will donate \$100 to the END POLIO NOW campaign for every cabin purchased through Travelbugs / Connoisseur Travel for the Rotarians-on-the-Rhine-Cruise May 20, 2018 aboard AmaKristina.

Do you go on cruises?

Did you know there is a **Rotary Fellowship of Cruising Rotarians?** Rhonda Whitton is organizing a Rhine River cruise in May 2018. The cruise company donates \$100.00 pp to Polio Plus.

Full details on their Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/cruisingrotariansfellowship/>

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Me?? - you mean I can affect World Peace?

"Rotary is the golden strand in the cable of International Friendship" was, according to lore, a slogan coined some 90 years ago in 1928, when Sir Harry Lauder led a chorus to welcome the founder of Rotary, Paul Harris, to the Rotary Club of Glasgow.

The most lustrous and resilient of the threads in this cable then must surely be those which so readily can be identified as the dedicated activities of The Rotary Foundation. Over the years the Peace Scholarships, Rotary Volunteer work, Group Cultural Exchange, Youth Exchange and in our region the hundreds of projects of [Rotary Australia World Community Service](#) (RAWCS) have undoubtedly achieved much in the promotion of 'World Peace and Conflict Resolution'.

But just what can you do, as an individual, to contribute towards that elusive goal of World Peace? After all, it is unlikely that any of us ever will be elected to the United Nations Assembly (and I am not even sure whether that club is promoting world peace!) Will the building of schools on Samoa and Cambodia, the installation of water supply in PNG and Fiji, the rebuilding of homes in Nepal, just to name a few, make a difference? In the political sense of the meaning: Probably not in a big way, since the principal beneficiaries are unlikely to have a lot to say politically in what goes and

After all, it is unlikely that any of us ever will be elected to the United Nations Assembly (and I am not even sure whether that club is promoting world peace!).

what doesn't in their countries. Matter of fact, in many countries where Rotary helps with 'Donations in Kind' there are quite a few wealthy individuals, often in high powered positions, who don't seem to go exactly overboard to help their under privileged fellow countrymen. So, just what can we do then?

For the individual Rotarian, The Rotary Foundation (TRF) undoubtedly offers the most direct involvement in the pursuit of peace. By educating young people, by sending professional volunteers into a developing country, by direct sponsoring of community projects with Matching Grants, TRF helps to build communities that are gradually less dependent on handouts. Only when a community can totally look after itself can a

true democracy be established and maintained. Sending Rotary Volunteers to teach anything from effective agriculture to paramedics, to continue the immunisation of children

against Polio year after year (we are almost there!) costs money. [A contribution to TRF](#) by becoming a Benefactor to the foundation, or by purchasing a Paul Harris Fellowship, is truly a contribution toward peace and understanding among peoples of the world.

Rightfully, you then can call yourself a 'Peacemaker'.

Ed.



BE THE INSPIRATION

Website. [Click on this link](#)

[To download the graphics, click here](#) (you need to log in).

Denis also has uploaded the links to 12 videos of individual speakers from that event (just below it, or [go direct via this link](#)).

RI President Elect Barry Rassin's Theme for 2018/19

So, you weren't able to participate in the International Assembly? Here's the next best thing: District Webmaster Denis Hallworth has uploaded **the videos** to the District



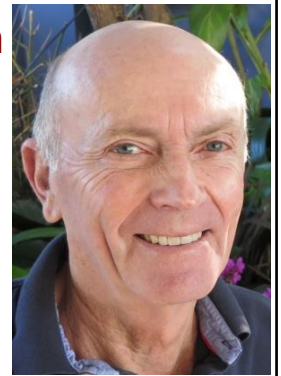
Rotary



BE THE INSPIRATION

Redistricting - important points to consider

DG Darrell Brown



It has come to my attention that there is some negativity towards redistricting in a couple of clubs due to lack of information. This is an attempt to summarise articles over the last couple of months.

- The G Train (comprising IPDG, DG, DGE, DGN) all support redistricting. **We have not taken this decision lightly.** There is no other option available to us to expand our district, north or south. If we do not redistrict, we will be left as the meat in the sandwich & eventually squeezed out.
- We have **declining membership** in all districts in Australia. In our district, as of:

July 2012 - 1351
July 2017 - 1192
Dec 2017 - 1200

The last statistic is hardly one to rave about. We did reach 1229 in November but we always lose a large number in mainly June and then December when membership fees are due.

Why? Member's age is one reason.

- When we hit the 1100 membership figure (which is inevitable by the statistics) we will be forcibly redistricted.
- Increasing membership is a struggle all over Australia. In our district some clubs are increasing very well. Most clubs struggle to maintain membership. A couple of clubs have had no new members for over many years.
- **Why do we need increased membership?** - To allow us to continue the good work that Rotary does in the world. Remember the theme this year? **Rotary: Making a Difference.**
- Last year Glen Innes wanted to relocate to the district south of us. It has 40+ members. Since the rejection of their proposal to move

southward, it is an unhappy club. Redistricting will solve their problem.

- If we are forcibly redistricted in the future, RI will give us no say as to which clubs go where.
- When the coastal clubs south of Ballina were proposed to move southward late last year (Note: the southern district is proposed to go as far as Newcastle) all clubs expressed a desire to go northwards. Their request was heeded & districts north and south agreed. Further, it was endorsed by RI Parramatta.

My Prediction

- If we lose the vote to redistrict and when our membership decreases to 1100, our district will be split at the state border. We will lose our regional ties of Northern Rivers / Gold Coast, Tenterfield / Stanthorpe.



• If we are left as the **meat in the sandwich** between two substantially larger districts, are you prepared to:-

- 1) For the clubs that need to: Change attitudes and embrace the membership strategies that RI has given us?
- 2) Adopt my DG Goals #1 & 2 which are aimed at increasing and retaining membership? Evidence suggests that this is not happening.


The decision is yours. Our G Train will adopt a **glass half full** attitude whichever way the cards are dealt.

Darrell Brown,
District Governor 2017/18

If we lose the vote to redistrict and when our membership decreases to 1100, our district will be split at the state border.



DISTRICTS 9600, 9630 AND 9640
**DINNER WITH ROTARY INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT
IAN RISELEY**



Dinner With Rotary International President Ian Riseley
and his wife Juliet

When: 19th March 2018
Where: Fitzy's Function Centre, Bryants Rd,
Loganholme (Exit 28 from M1)
Time: 6.30 for 7pm
Cost: \$55.00 per head (plus booking fee \$1.75)

Don't miss this exciting opportunity to meet with RI President Ian and his wife Juliet and to hear more about the strategic direction of Rotary together with an update on current Rotary Programs and his current Peace Building Conference Tour.

[PURCHASE TICKETS HERE](#)

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[Click here for full details and to book](#)

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Suzie Annelie ⁽¹⁾: RoFUNtary (FUN in Rotary)

Alright, how are your New Years Resolutions going?

Here is a relevant tweet that I found:

Start-up idea: a gym named Resolution that runs for the 1st

month of the year, collects subscription fees, then converts to a bar named Regret.

FUN Rotary resolutions:

- I am bringing one fun person I know to the next fundraiser to lift our energy and spirit;
- I am going to put \$2 a week into the Centurion money-box and then

- get my club to have fun participating in a matching grant activity;
- I will tell someone new about a fun Rotary activity every day (GCE, Youth exchange, an International Project);
- I will find 4 fun friends and book us all into dinner at the Rotary Conference.

FUN is contagious

FUN facilitates laughter

FUN will never be the reason someone didn't come to your club

Congratulations! Multiple Australia Day Awards in D9640!

On last Friday's Australia Day, several Rotarians from our District were recognized with high honours. Our hearty congratulations go to all!

Ian Yarker OAM (Rotary e-club of Next Gen Queensland)

Ian received an Order of Australia Medal for Services to the community through Rotary International. *(Note: must be something in the water at the Yarkers: Ian's wife Heather received her OAM in 2010 ☺)*



Barbara Upson-Shaw (Rotary Club of Byron Bay)

was awarded as **Citizen of the Year at the**
[Byron Shire Ceremony](#)

Des Harvey (Rotary Club of Grafton Midday)

received the '[Clarence Valley Citizen of the Year](#)'
award for 2018.



Rotary District 6980

GCE from Central Florida

WELCOME DINNER

Murwillumbah Services Club
10 Wollumbin Street, Murwillumbah NSW 2484

Tuesday 20th February 2018 6pm DST

\$30 per head plus your own drinks

RSVP 12th January 2018

Please pay by EFT at time of RSVP

Rotary Club of Mt Warning AM (Murwillumbah) Inc

BSB: 722244 A/C: 147608 Reference: Your Name

RSVP by email to: helenhunts@yahoo.com.au

Please:

- forward payment confirmation; and
- let us know if you have any special dietary requirements...



Club of Mt Warning AM Murwillumbah Inc

Your invitation to:-

Rotary District 6980

GCE from Central Florida

WELCOME DINNER

Murwillumbah Services Club

10 Wollumbin Street, Murwillumbah NSW 2484

Tuesday 20th February 6.00pm DST - RSVP 8th February

Click here for all details and to book

Has your club got any of those 'unsung heroes', ordinary people who have grabbed extraordinary opportunities to do more with their lives than they ever dreamed possible?

Tell us about it! Email to D9640newsletter@gmail.com

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Rotary takes ordinary people...

This regular section features Rotarians from our District who have attained extraordinary achievements, in the spirit of the first Australian to become Rotary International President, **Sir Clem Renouf**, who said

“Rotary takes ordinary men and gives them extraordinary opportunities to do more with their lives than they ever dreamed possible”



Milton Colburt, Col Lee et al - Ballina-on-Richmond

2010 was a significant year for our club; it was the year that reinvigorated club members to 'get involved' in something new and exciting. It was the inception of the 'Our House Fundraiser' and the year of the first 'Ballina Food and Wine Festival'.

Like other Rotary Clubs, Ballina-on-Richmond has been involved in many projects, one such project was the 'Our House' fundraiser, which involved 12 Ballina Shire Service Clubs working together to raise funds for a cancer care facility to be built in Lismore. ('Our House' featured in the November 2017 edition - [click here](#)). Col Lee was the Chairman of this committee and with Ballina Shire clubs working together, over \$300,000 was raised. This 'Our House' fundraiser gave our club a belief in 'ourselves' to have the capacity to run a successful and significant annual event. That event is the [Ballina Food and Wine Festival](#).



Milton Colburt was the founding chairman of the inaugural Food and Wine Festival. Milton has been a Rotarian for over 50 years, having joined Rotary in 1966 at the age of 27. Milton has served various club roles including President of his club in Sydney.

Fortunately for our club, Milton moved to Ballina and became a member.

The club was looking for a new project to get stuck into and Milton put forward an idea, a very good idea as it turns out – to run a food and wine event, our own signature fundraising event. From initial planning in 2008, the Ballina Food and Wine Festival became a reality in 2010. The first festival was held outdoors at the Ballina Jockey Club. At the time Milton commented: "We've got the whole club membership working on the event. We want the festival to become a signature event for Ballina." These comments certainly ring true to this day.

The festival started with only 25 exhibitors and

450 attendees. Over the past 8 years, the festival has swelled to over 70 exhibitors and 3000 plus attendees. Yes, it requires a huge amount of work from Rotarians, but our club has thrived because of the idea from one person – Milton and the dedication of our club members. The local Rotaract club members also help out each year.

Col Lee OAM, took over the reins as chairman from Milton in 2014. Col is a charter member of the RC of Ballina-on-Richmond, serving many roles in the club including President twice over. Ballina Shire Citizen of the year in 2012, OAM recipient in 2014, Col has enjoyed

being part of a festival which continues to grow and evolve each year and is now well and truly a 'signature' event for Ballina.

The festival provides financial support to worthy causes both local community international and Rotary projects. Some of the local beneficiaries over the years have included: Ballina Lighthouse and Lismore Surf Lifesaving, Riding for the Disabled, Ballina SES, Our House, Biala Special School and Ballina Rotaract Club. The funds these organisations receive **make a real and lasting difference** to them and befits our club logo - "Putting the Smiles back in the Community".

Milton and Col, both Paul Harris Fellows, embrace the values of Rotary and are an inspiration to current and new club members. Milton's and Col's contributions to Rotary are outstanding and our club is proud to have them as treasured members of our club.

The Food and Wine Festival is not just about raising funds, its about friendships, comradery, supporting each other and enriching the lives of many. The success and longevity of this event is because of all our members, their passion, and commitment to the values of Rotary.

(Story provided by Jodie Shelley)

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Stop Press! New Rotary Exchange Rate

From 1st of February, the RI Exchange Rate is improving from A\$1.30 to
\$1.24 per US\$1.00.



Now is a good time for clubs and individuals to make their contributions to the Annual Fund and the PolioPlus Fund.

RC Runaway Bay's Antique Fair last month a great success



Making a Difference: Rotary Peace Centres

Ray Higgs

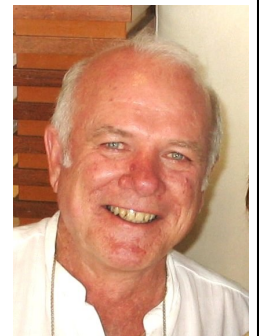
2017 celebrated 100 years of the Rotary Foundation – the sponsors of the Rotary Peace Fellow Program.

That program currently has Class XV nearing the completion of their [Masters in Peace & Conflict degrees at UQ \(University of Queensland\)](#), one of six Universities around the world participating in this important program. Others are in Japan; Sweden; Thailand; United Kingdom and the USA. Up to 110 Rotary Peace Fellows are selected annually. On our [District 9640 web site](#) you can see the support that our district is providing to Rotary Peace Fellows. The program is privately funded by The Rotary Foundation via Rotary club members around the world. Class XVI will arrive in February 2018.

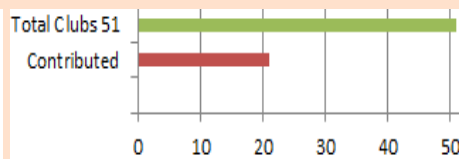
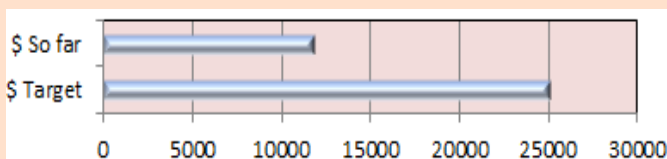
It began in 2002: The Rotary Foundation partnered with leading universities around the world to create the Rotary Centres for International Studies in Peace and Conflict Resolution, or Rotary Peace Centres.

Rotary Peace Fellows began Masters Degree studies in the fields of international relations, sustainable development, peace studies, and conflict resolution. In 2006, a new Rotary Peace Centre at Chulalongkorn University, Thailand, began offering 3 month professional development programs in peace & conflict studies for mid-level and upper-level professionals.

Each year the Class of **Rotary Peace Fellows present a Seminar at UQ**, drawing not only from their studies, but also from the Applied Fieldwork Experience undertaken during the year. This allows the Peace Fellows to extend their professional and practical skills. **This year's event will be held on 24th March 2018.** Do yourself a favour and go! It is enlightening and a worthwhile experience to increase your knowledge.



How are we progressing with Kerrie Brown's ROMAC appeal ?



ROMAC



And what about DG Darrell's goal to raise funds for an Australian Rotary Health Scholarship? Yep, still the same as last month: Only \$5,505 of \$33,000 so far

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