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You ARE coming to the conference, aren't you?

Darrell's Discourse:

What does March mean to you?

By definition - to walk with regular and measured tread, as soldiers on parade. Until 700BC, March was the start of the year and the beginning of the war season. Ironically, in recent times, the Vietnam War, the Iraq war and the protests in Syria all started in the month of March. Is it coincidence? These countries are all in the northern hemisphere and they all experience the start of Spring.

For Australians - it is the beginning of Autumn.

For this year's District Governor - a big crazy month.

- Staging the district conference 9, 10, 11 March with the theme FUN (Fellowship Unites Nations) - a little different to the definition of March!
- D9600, 9630 and 9640 combining to host a dinner for RI President, Ian Riseley, 19 March at Loganholm.
- Start of the commitment as housekeepers at the Commonwealth Games Village.

For Rotary International - it is Water and Sanitation Month. It is one of Rotary's six areas of focus.

When I was a child, the crudest form of sanitation I experienced was walking down the back yard to the...

When I was a child, the crudest form of sanitation I experienced was walking down the back yard to the outhouse (better known as the dunny) which was often fumigated by the next door neighbour stoking up the incinerator adjacent. Then I walked up to the laundry under the house to wash my hands from a running cold water tap. Do you realise that over 2.5 billion people do not have that basic luxury that I had as a child with adequate but basic sanitation services? And over one billion people lack adequate access to clean water let alone running out of a tap! The consequence of this lack is disease and illness.

This is where Rotary steps in and why it considers water and sanitation so important. To assist Rotary in making a difference check out [WASRAG](#)

(Water and Sanitation Rotarian Action Group) for ideas or talk to our district chair of [RAWCS](#) (Rotary Australia World Community Service). As a last century poet, W.H. Auden said,

'Thousands have lived without love,
Not one without water.'

But I wouldn't want to live without love!

Darrell Brown, Governor, District 9640

Gatlang, Nepal: Rebuilding after the earth quake by Dave and Robyn Harmon

The trekking team that joined us in Kathmandu were a group of remarkable people. Their patience and support of us was outstanding and each day they would take care of our needs and check that we were safe, staying hydrated, resting when required and not succumbing to altitude sickness.

Our group purchased a guitar in the hope we could have some singalongs in the villages we visited. On the eve of our four day trek, we were settling into



Mick Lyons on the bulding site

Syabrubeshi for the night when we started playing and singing some tunes. Our Nepalese friends soon tuned in and gathered around us to enjoy the music. Naresh, our head guide, also picked up the guitar and started playing a tune that was familiar to the Nepalese and we all clapped and cheered with encouragement.



It's not all just walking long distances, carrying heavy packs and swinging picks and shovels!

On the nights we weren't singing along to the guitar we played games to include our Nepalese companions and to improve our communication and language skills. We laughed and giggled our way through 'Celebrity Heads', 'Name 5...' and 'Getting to Know You Q & A'. We learned so much about each other, our differences in language and culture and our similarities. The close bond we were forming was greatly enhanced by us insisting our trekking team share our meals with us and we soon became one big inclusive team.



We walked alongside each other, ate together, prepared meals and sang together. We worked on the building site alongside each other. We paid our respects to our porter Lhakpa whose mother died whilst on the trek and were privileged to be invited into his family home when we arrived in Gatlang to bear witness to her funeral procession. We meditated and prayed together, handed out the



Mick Lyons handing out Dental Care items to the kids house packages to needy families and presented the school community with technology and education resources alongside each other. We taught children and adults about dental hygiene and how to brush their teeth. We played with children, drew pictures and painted and taught them how to sew. We laughed, cried, danced, sang and worked alongside these beautiful people...And we couldn't have done any of it without them!

[Lots more photos on their Facebook Page](#)

Next: RC of Currumbin-Coolangatta-Tweed supplies sewing machines for Gatlang people

RC of Currumbin-Coolangatta-Tweed sends two sewing machines to Nepal



Diana Traversi (3rd from left) sent us this photo of her club donating two sewing machines to go with the Ballina on Richmond team to Gatlang, Nepal (see previous page). They are gratefully accepted by Mick Lyons and Clarissa Huegill of RC Ballina on

Richmond (centre), with RC CCT President Glenn Rees and President-Elect Michelle Mitchell on right.

Clarissa and Mick took the donated portable sewing machines, sewing equipment and educational posters, one for Gatlang, the other for the Kathmandu, Kirtipur hub of the DAYS FOR GIRLS project, which is project managed by Mrs Gayatri Napit and Rtn Jotik Napit from RC Freshwater, WA (on the left of the picture).

The DAYS FOR GIRLS project was commenced in Nepal in 2014 by Rtns Michelle Mitchell and Diana Traversi. There are now 4 operating production hubs for DAYS FOR GIRLS kits.

Does it make a difference?

Does it ever!

Back in Oz after a year overseas

The start of a new year is a time of change; a time of endings and new beginnings. For the recently returned exchange students from District 9640, this sentiment is felt all too acutely. Throughout January, these students returned from all over the world – Europe, America and Asia and settled back (or tried to) into their old lives. Some might have thought their exchanges well and truly behind them, but they were given the chance to once again connect with Rotary at the Rebounder debrief last weekend. A big thank you must go to Linda Jackson for hosting and helping organise the day, along with the Youth Exchange committee of Chris Thurtell, Stuart Fairly, Gary Knuckey and Terry Brown. During the day, Rotarians headed discussions with both the students and the accompanying parents, who shared and discussed their varying experiences both abroad and at home. This gave the YEP team valuable feedback while at the same time it allowed the students to connect through their experiences, hearing their similarities and differences. All the while the participants were spoiled with delicious food prepared by the current inbounders.

As a rebounder who just came back from Germany, I can only say that this day helped a lot in such an emotionally tumultuous time. It was a pleasure to meet the "new" inbounders, and to see the other rebounders after a long year. I won't say my exchange was perfect, far from is in fact, but moments like these made it worthwhile.

by Kieran Power



Front row: Lachlan Evans (USA), Kieran Power (Germany), Bridget Moloney (Japan), Sophie Hannah (Spain)
Second row: Lily Banasiak (Italy, far left), Jae Bond (Germany, far right).

At rear: Stuart Fairley, Gary Knuckey, YE Chairman Chris Thurtell and Linda Jackson

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Registrations for the District Conference 2018 close on 28th Feb 2018: There is still time to register, but only just...



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.

Note: some people voiced **concerns about parking**: there will be a free **Shuttle Bus between the big car park and the resort**.

[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.

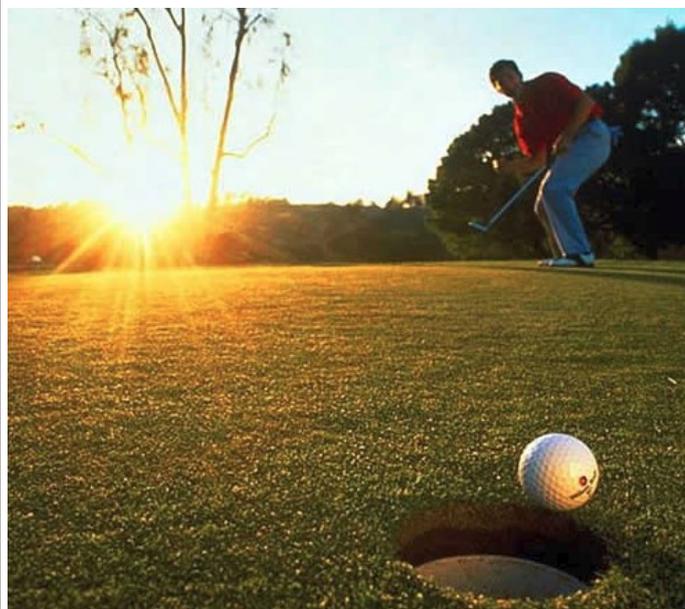
Just have a look at some of the **Keynote speakers!** Selecting just a few of them at random:

- **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!
- **Scott Williams** - "The laughing doctor"
- **Peter Beattie** - former Premier of Queensland and Chairman of the Commonwealth Games

Ah... and to finish it all off: Join us for the Paella in the Park on Sunday!

Last chance to register. [Click here](#)

Fancy a Golfing Competition before going into the Conference?



So you are not prepared to give up your regular golf, but on the other hand you wouldn't miss the District Conference for quids:



On the Friday morning of the conference, there will be a Round Robin completion on the magnificent **Emerald Lakes Golf Course**. They'll have **"Pre-Golf Yoga"** (*just visualize... Ed.*), Tea, Coffee and Muffins (*yeah, I can see that!*) and **Steve Bradbury**, the famous Gold Medallist of the 2002 Winter Olympics will be there. And, if you feel lucky: there is a **\$30,000 prize** for a hole in one. Proceeds are in support of **Australian Rotary Health**.

[Click on this link for details and to book](#)

Several Rotarians are running in the Commonwealth Games Baton Relay

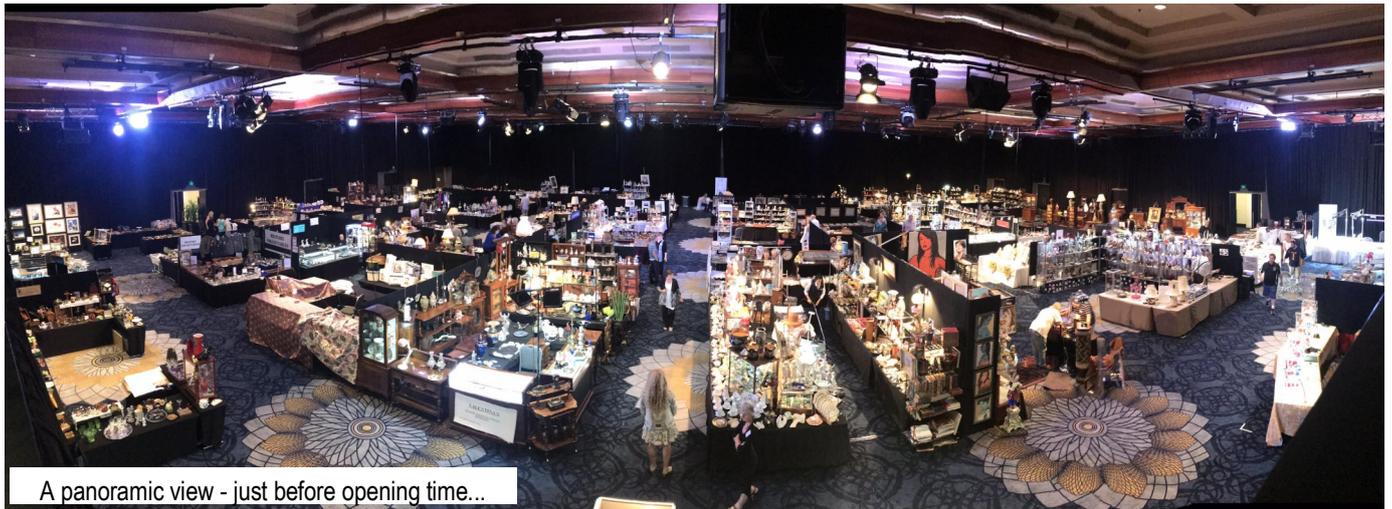
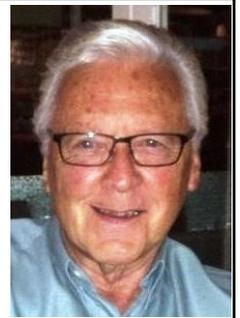
Name	Rotary Club	Start time and date	Start location
Geoff Price	Tweed Heads South	3:30 pm, 04 April 2018	91 Albatross Avenue, Mermaid Beach QLD
DG Darrell Brown	Surfers Sunrise	12:28 pm, 04 April 2018	Doug Jennings Pk /Seaworld Drive, Main Beach QLD
Daryl Sanderson OAM	Surfers Sunrise	10:01 am, 02 April 2018	172 Bayview Street, Runaway Bay QLD
David Kenny	Jimboomba	10:42 am, 01 April 2018	Doug Larsen Park, Logan St, Beenleigh QLD

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Team effort for the 2018 Rotary Antiques Fair by Roy Howard

Members of the Runaway Bay Rotary Club, their wives and family members worked flat out during a five day period in early January, setting up and running the 2018 Rotary Antiques, Collectables & Book Fair at The Star (formerly Jupiters Casino) on the Gold Coast. One of the largest antique fairs in Australia, the event attracted nearly 60 exhibitors, displaying furniture, jewellery, silver, china, clocks, prints, books and other collectables. The Fair which celebrated its 31st year on the Gold Coast, has long been associated with Rotary and has proven in past years to be a major fund raiser.

Willetta brought all their experience with them, and together with a committee led by President Eric Lewis, commenced planning for the 2018 Fair in September, 2017. Advertising and promotion commenced in October with the introduction of a dedicated website, followed by radio ads, brochure distribution and outdoor banners displayed throughout the region.



A panoramic view - just before opening time...

This event was handled by the Rotary Club of Palm Beach until their recent closure, following which the coordinating member, Peter Campbell, joined Runaway Bay RC. Peter and his wife

The setting up for the Fair commenced on Wednesday, 3rd January, and involved more than a dozen Runaway Bay RC members, plus other helpers, who spent a full day marking out the booths, setting up tables and partitions, and helping the exhibitors unload the display items. During the Antiques Fair, from Thursday till Sunday, a full complement of members, plus wives and family members, worked a shift system at the ticket counters and raffle counter, with some Rotarians on duty from 7am till 9pm. On the Sunday evening members helped to reload vehicles, and on the Monday morning all items from the event were removed from The Star before noon. Truly a herculean effort by all concerned.



Any serious collector of clocks would salivate...

The primary task of the Runaway Bay Rotary Club committee is now to assess the ongoing viability of this event, and work has already commenced to examine all aspects of the 2019 Antiques Fair.

Joining us for the Paella in the Park on the Sunday of the District Conference?

There's still time - only just...

If you have already registered: yes, you can still add it! Email Franz Huber
franzhuber@onthenet.com.au



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

Ian Risely called his Rotary address on membership – Serious Fun. He goes on to explain the phenomenon that is Rotary and the huge impact it has through our relationship

with it.

New Rotarians come to the table with an openness and inquisitive interest seeing their Rotary experience as a thrill and a privilege, and it is. But through an excessive focus we will find that Rotary takes over our lives. When fun and excitement turns into pressure and stress, our half full glass becomes half empty, and the great work we achieve is tainted with cynicism and criticism.

Finding the balance in any relationship is a critical success factor – no less for our relationship with Rotary. Take a momentary breath and relax – keep it fun, because you underestimate the power of your energy.

- # FUN is a serious aspect of enjoyment
- # FUN is not critical and judging
- # FUN will energise others to greater things

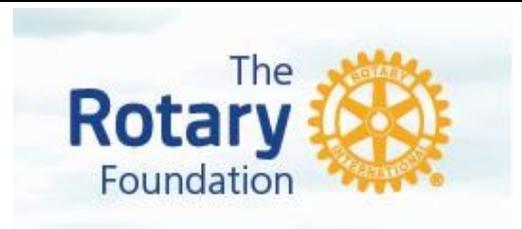
I see the glass half full... but of poison.

Woody Allen
⁽¹⁾

⁽¹⁾ Suzie Annelie is a Nom-de-Plume

Some charities have overheads of as much as 90%. Are you concerned ?

For the 10th consecutive year, **The Rotary Foundation has received the highest rating – four stars – from Charity Navigator**, an independent evaluator of charities in the U.S. In the most recent ratings, [the Foundation earned the maximum of 100 points](#) for demonstrating both strong financial health and commitment to accountability and transparency. In a letter to the Foundation, Charity Navigator notes that "only 1 percent of the charities we evaluate have received at least 10 consecutive 4-star evaluations, indicating that The Rotary Foundation outperforms other charities in America. This exceptional designation from Charity Navigator sets The Rotary Foundation



apart from its peers and demonstrates to the public its trustworthiness." The rating reflects Charity Navigator's assessment of how the Foundation uses donations, sustains its programs and services, and practices good governance and openness.

Donations to **The Rotary Foundation** are fully tax deductible in Australia. See District Website for more details.

(Article from RI South Pacific and Philippines Regional bulletin)

Gold Coast Rotary Bus makes RDU magazine. So does Barnaby Joyce.

What bus? What magazine?? I hear you ask... OK, seriously: In view of the "majors" angling for every possible advertising exposure in this Commonwealth Games season, to get that deal with Surfside Bus Lines is quite a feather in the cap of our District's Chair of Public Relations, **Andy Rajapakse**. The bus

features the February edition of the Rotary Down Under magazine (Page 8). Every paid-up Rotarian receives a copy every month in the mail. Not every one is reading it cover to cover, but often there are some quite good, thought provoking articles in it. For example, the current edition's Cover Story, *'Taking it to the streets'* about Rotary's involvement with homeless people is well worth your spending some time reading. And yes, just as if you had not heard enough of him: **page 31 of the current edition even features Barnaby Joyce**. No, no! He is not homeless! He actively works with a team serving breakfasts to the homeless in Brisbane.



GOLD COAST ROTARY BUS

District 9640 launched their new brands, who wanted every bus on the (see "Young Professionals Flock to

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Rotary takes ordinary people...

This regular section features Rotarians from our District who has 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”



Barbara Upson-Shaw - Byron Bay Citizen of the Year 2018



Within Byron Bay Rotary, 'Barb', a remarkable woman, has taken Service Above Self to a new level. Over the last ten years or so she has steadily increased her commitment to help other people. Amazingly her dedication has combined with a never ending well of energy and an application to the projects, which results in real outcomes. She is a doer and an achiever.

Within the last 12 months Barb has been crucially involved in some fantastic programs, some of which would not have come to fruition without her 'Can do' attitude and her gift of communicating with people.

She singlehandedly introduced the bi-annual Helicopter fundraiser, which will be run again this year on 8th July. She has coordinated with many

stakeholders and Volunteers, sold raffle tickets everywhere and never tired of explaining the benefits of buying the ticket. From organising the helicopter and pilots to liaising with the beneficiaries, Byron Bay High School, Byron Bay Primary School and several other projects supported through Rotary, Barb has been constantly on the phone.

For the SHIFT Program, a local three months' programme for five women at a time, Barb has been tirelessly fundraising through Rotary, which financially supports the project. This program is for homeless women and helps them to get back on their feet.

Barb is centrally involved in the 'Bravehearts Project' which Byron Bay Rotary has brought to the Shire, now for the tenth year. It is a professional play conducted in 10 Primary Schools and 5 Preschools, which this year taught 932 young children how to be safe from possible abuse. Barb has coordinated with every school involved to bring the program together, scheduling, organising transport for the kids and helping on the day.

Barb has taken on many other roles as fundraiser and organiser, too many to mention in a brief article.

Barb adds value that enhances the wellbeing of both individuals and the community. This together with her capacity to make things happen are rare gifts that enrich the long term wellbeing of Byron Shire.

She is a woman of great integrity, committed to her family and community, reliable, generous and, when having committed herself to a task, produces an excellent result which exceeds expectations.

(Article by Gerd Schmittat, Rotary Club of Byron)

The best part is that when it transitions from being a community service to a friendship.

Steve Kotler, Author of 'Abundance - The future is better than you think'

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Family Membership: Why didn't I think about that?

I haven't yet come across any clubs in our District, or for that matter anywhere in Australia, that promote Family Membership (that doesn't mean it doesn't exist though). Yet, it is such a logical thing to do: A lot of small businesses particularly have Mum and Dad and at least one son or daughter (or the whole lot of them). So, why should just one be a member of your club? I just can hear the objection if you asked Mrs Bloggs to join: "Oh, when my husband is going to the meeting, I need to babysit the kids!" or "I could not possibly go to a breakfast meeting as well, somebody has to look after the shop!" How many families would be quite happy to share the opportunity to have a good chinwag with some fellow Rotarians on a "share" basis, e.g. this week it's my turn, next week his. Ditto for Father and Son businesses.

There are some good examples from [The Rotarian](#) magazine (yes, you can read it online) on how some clubs in the US are handling this:

Moorpark Morning Rotary offers family membership for \$100 per month and lets you register up to 3 members of your family under the same

membership--- which includes breakfast! (<http://www.moorparkmorningrotary.com/membership-information/>)

Rotary Club of Tucson's family membership is open to all immediate family members, includes access to all club activities and committees, and assigns a mentor to the new member. (<http://tucsonrotary.org/stories/rcot-family-membership-cateogry/>)

Rotary Club of Lockport created a family membership application that categorizes family designees and requires that all representatives go through an eight-step initiation process. (<http://lockportrotary.com/> click on Family Membership Application under "Join us").

Check out the [Starting Guide for Alternative Membership Types](#) document to get started and find out how you can modify your bylaws to reflect new membership types. Do you know of clubs in Australia who have implemented family membership successfully? Send me [an email](#) so we can recognize them and share their story on one of Rotary's media platforms!

Ed.

ALSTONVILLE ROTARY

Ninth Annual

ANTIQUES, VINTAGE & COLLECTABLES FAIR

Saturday 19 May 9am to 4.30pm

Sunday 20 May 10am to 3pm

Alstonville Leisure & Entertainment Centre

Commercial Road Alstonville

Click for more information



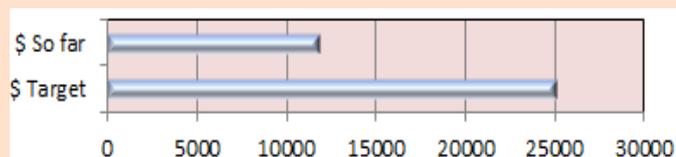
There is a magic tool for Membership Assessment and Development Right under your nose.

What - What not - Why - How - When - Check Lists... [Click here](#), then follow the dots.

(A previous edition had a 'dead' link - my apologies. This one definitely works! And to stop malevolent rumours: this is NOT a selfie of your editor. I sport a moustache! 😊)

Antiques: Granny had it - Mum threw it out - I bought it back.

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

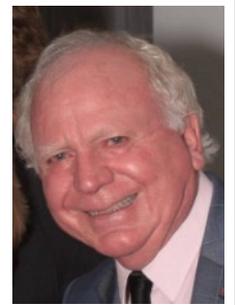
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“Say again: We knit some chicks, and then...?” By Kevin Moran

So, run this past me again! We knit some Chicks, shove an Easter Egg up their posterior and then sell them to raise money for Days for Girls? And you think that will be successful? That’s the type of response that I received from



my fellow members at Ashmore Rotary when I first floated the idea of holding a fund raiser for that wonderful charity, Days for Girls, that Ashmore so strongly supports.



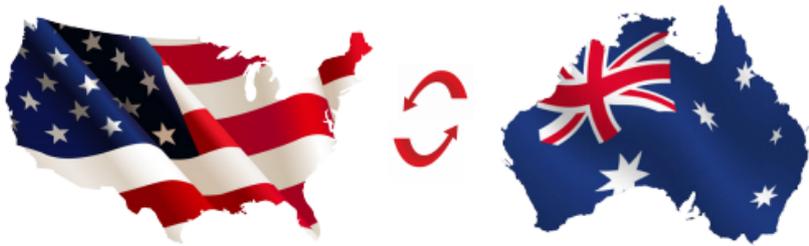
But I had seen the idea work successfully in Ireland the year before, when I was visiting my family there. I brought back a Chick and the knitting pattern, enlisted help from the Club’s members and also from the volunteers at the Days for Girls sewing day. I ended up with over 800 chicks and made \$3000 for much needed materials, used in making the kits.

We are at it again this year. So far over 1000 chicks have been knitted, with more to come. We would like to see this year’s fund raising top \$5000.

You will get a chance to see and buy the Chicks at the upcoming District Conference, as Ashmore Club has booked a table there to display and sell the little chirpers!

Who needs sausages when you have Chicks??

Rotary  **GSE/GCE FAREWELL INVITATION**
 Join us for an Aussie Roast Dinner to say goodbye to these two fabulous teams.....as they switch places



WHERE: Volunteer Marine Rescue
 Muriel Henchman Dr, Main Beach QLD 4217
WHEN: Saturday 17th March 6 for 6.30pm
COST: \$25 - choice of roasts and dessert with bar facilities - all CASH
RSVP: 9th March to Sue Lea leasuekev@bigpond.com 0417 817 964



Rotary  

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](#)

Dinner With Rotary International President Ian Riseley and his wife Juliet
 When: 19th March 2018, 6:30 pm for 7:00 pm
 Where: Fitzy's Function Centre, Bryants Rd, Loganholme (Exit 28 from M1)
 Cost: \$55.00 per head (plus booking fee \$1.75)

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

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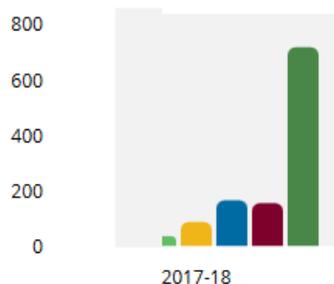
Why do Rotarians keep their age secret? By Denis Hallworth



There is a curious thing I have noticed when updating Rotary Club Central for my club.

On the Dashboard of Rotary Club Central is a series of graphs representing various aspects of my club, Membership Trends, Gender Trends, Age Trends, Project Trends and Annual Fund Trends.

As Club Secretary, I have always asked each member all the necessary questions when they



Age Group	Count
29 and Under	18
30-39	27
40-49	35
50-59	86
60-69	164
70 and Over	154
Unreported	716

join to allow me to register them correctly with the District database and the Rotary International database of members.

I recently went to the District tab, and the same set of graphs showed on screen, but when I saw the Age Trends graph I was surprised!

There is a really long bar at the right hand side of the graph, much longer than all

the other bars. My curiosity kicked in. What did that massive bar represent?

That was when I discovered a funny thing about Rotarians: they keep their ages secret.

The long green bar, the BIG ONE, represents the number of Rotarians in District 9640 who have not recorded their birth date in the District database. Of around 1200 members, 716 are unreported.

I don't know why that is the situation, but look at the graph, there it is.

Then I had an idea, silly, but here it is, lets try to make our District the only one in the world where every member has recorded their birth date in the system. Crazy, it won't happen, but I'll put it out there and see what happens.

It is probably lucky that I am District Webmaster and can update every member's record, so **I'll make an offer, if you send me an email with your name, club and birth date, I will update your record for you.** All 716 if necessary.

My email address is denish@onthenet.com.au

I wonder whether I should be worried?

What do you get for getting up at 3:00 am ?

By Diane Traversi



A massive truckload of hay for the draught affected farmers of western Queensland!

Every second Sunday of the month, the team from R.C. **Currumbin-Coolangatta-Tweed**, assisted by Friends of Rotary and some of our student volunteers, organize and man our Car Boot sale, also with a BBQ stall at Stocklands Car Park, Burleigh Heads. **The early birds get there around 3.00am** to open the container and set up the perimeter barriers, signage and flags. We are experts in car parking in the dark, and we cater to the needs of the hungry. We

cook a superb sausage and onion sandwich and bacon and egg wraps, proceeds of which go to help our local charities.

In the month of November our fundraising was to benefit RURAL AID - BUY A BALE. Our semi-trailer of hay, valued at \$5,500, is due to leave this week for drought stricken farmers in Queensland. **We have**

an on-going collection of used, good quality bras for "SUPPORT THE GIRLS", a charity for women in need of support, coming from DV, homeless or prison situations.

Our Car Boot Sale is a great way to recycle goods or to pick up a bargain. We have avid buyers and sellers, and the sale operates every second Sunday of the month from 5.00am until 10.30am. By 11.00 am all the barriers are removed, the car park is clean and we have finished for the day!

The operators are our unsung heroes!

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