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MALARIA VACCINE PROJECT NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE



PDG Sandy Doumany OAM
Chair



Gerard Brennan OAM
Committee Member



Laraine Brennan
Committee Member



Nina Kristensen
Advancement Manager
Institute for Glycomics

OUR HISTORY

In 2015 Sam & PDG Sandy Doumany attended a Rotary Against Malaria Conference, with Dr Danielle Stanisic as the Guest Speaker on Research for a Malaria Vaccine. She mentioned that the Laboratory needed a Separator which would cost \$8000.

Sam took that on board and approached PDG Graham Jones to see if we could raise the money required. Within a week, Graham, Sam & other Rotarians had raised the funds.

The Griffith Rotary Satellite Club was in the formation period and the cheque was presented to Dr Danielle Stanisic (a prospective member) at the next meeting. We all felt this sent a message to the new members “THIS IS THE POWER OF ROTARY”.

In 2016 Gerard Brennan had discussions with the Governor General’s Office in Canberra which led to the Governor General, Sir Peter Cosgrove, launching the Malaria Vaccine Project at a function in the Institute for Glycomics on 27 March 2017.

In 2019 the Australian Government made a Research Grant to the Project of \$500,000 matching the amount raised by Rotarians to that time.

On learning more about the journey for Professor Michael Good and Dr Danielle Stanisic with their research, there was a core of Rotarians who developed a passion to be part of the quest to save the lives of so many men, women and children and eliminate malaria from the world.

| | |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| Committee Chair | PDG Graham Jones AM |
| Committee | Neil Jones (Treasurer) |
| | Laraine Brennan (Secretary) |
| | Gerard Brennan OAM |
| | Hon Sam Doumany |
| | PDG Sandy Doumany OAM |
| | Teresa Dawson |
| | Karin Kolenko |
| | Mervyn Powell |
| | PDG Ross Smith |
| | PDG Dai Mason |



CHAIRMANS' MESSAGE

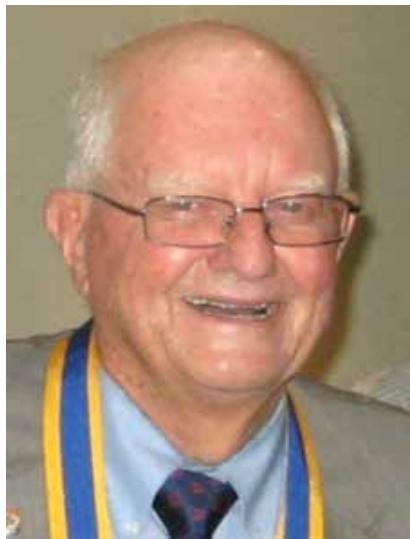
Dr Pedro Alonso [Director, WHO's Malaria Programme] issued 'a wake-up call' recently when he said, "Disruptions to antimalarial treatments during the COVID pandemic could lead to an additional 100,000 deaths in malaria". This would bring the number of deaths in malaria to over 500,000 per year and would represent the first increase in malaria deaths for a decade. He added that progress against malaria, which was dramatic in the first decade of this century, has stalled since 2016 and this alarming situation highlights a new urgency for the development of an effective malaria vaccine.

In the light of these sobering statistics, it was refreshing and timely to listen to Professor Michael Good's keynote address at the Rotary District 9640 Conference in May. He commented that, after very good results in a clinical trial to test the efficacy of PlasProtect® encased in a human blood cell, he was now working with the 'lipid' form of this vaccine. This lipid form has proven highly effective in animal models for malaria and has the key feature that it can be freeze-dried prior to use. This means that it can be deployed in all malaria-endemic areas of the world. Professor Good noted that their research was on track to commence a clinical study next year to test whether the lipid form is safe and activates the immune system. The good news is that there is money available from your generous donations to carry out these preliminary studies that will hopefully position the research for a larger lipid-form efficacy study in an endemic country.

We may be less than two years away from saving lives where it really matters. I extend my sincere thanks to all the Rotary districts, clubs, sponsors, foundations and individuals who have made this possible and to the Federal Government who matched our efforts with \$500,000. I also wish to say a special thank-you to some individual donors who have been incredible ongoing supporters: Maureen Stevenson, Vince and Barbara

Rehbein, Judge John Nicholson and Patsy, and the late Beverley McIlwain. We have now raised \$1.255 million dollars with almost \$50,000 so far this year. Thank you everyone and please continue to help us drive this vaccine forward and move it closer to eliminating the unacceptable loss of young children's and pregnant mothers' lives through malaria. They need our help more than ever!!

PDG Graham Jones AM



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MALARIA VACCINE PROJECT UPDATE

PROFESSOR MICHAEL GOOD AO

Since the last newsletter, World Malaria Day was marked on the 25th April. This is an internationally recognised day that highlights global efforts to control malaria, the need for continued investment and political commitment and to celebrate our achievements. Since 2000, the world has made historic progress against malaria resulting in hundreds of millions of clinical cases averted and millions of lives saved. We must remember however, that half of the world's population still live in regions where they are at risk of contracting malaria and this dreadful disease takes a child's life every two minutes. No single preventive measure will be solely responsible for eradicating the malaria parasite. A combination of strategies will be needed, including we hope, a highly effective malaria vaccine.

The majority of malaria vaccine candidates in development are "sub-unit" vaccine candidates that contain only a small part of the parasite, often just a single protein. Unfortunately, many of the parasite proteins that have been tested as a malaria vaccine are highly variable, so the vaccine really only protects against parasite strains that match the vaccine. This is similar to what we see with the annual influenza vaccine. As there are thousands of different parasite strains circulating in the field, some of which do not match, these vaccines have not shown high levels of effectiveness.

Our laboratory is working on a different type of vaccine approach that includes the whole parasite in the vaccine. This means that all parasite proteins are in the vaccine, including those that are invariant (the same) between different parasite strains. We believe this will result in an immune response that is broadly protective against the many different circulating parasite strains. We are one of the only research groups in the world working on a whole parasite vaccine that targets the blood-stage of the malaria parasite. It is the parasite's blood-stage that is responsible for the clinical disease associated with malaria infection and is also able to infect the mosquito vector.

Laboratory studies focused on our whole blood-stage parasite field-deployable malaria vaccine are continuing to show promising results and the plans for a Phase I trial of this vaccine in 2022 are progressing well. In the coming weeks, we anticipate submitting a manuscript describing the evaluation of our field-deployable vaccine formulation in pre-clinical studies. These studies included extensive optimisation to maximise vaccine efficacy and identifying which parts of the vaccine-stimulated immune response are critical for killing the malaria parasite.

We are also concluding the immunological studies from our recently completed trial for our chemically attenuated *Plasmodium falciparum* whole parasite blood-stage vaccine candidate. This study involved administering 3 doses of the vaccine to malaria-naïve volunteers and then infecting them with malaria parasites to see if the vaccine was protective. Although we are now focusing on a next-generation field-deployable vaccine formulation, this study represents the first time that the effectiveness of a whole parasite blood-stage vaccine candidate has been evaluated in humans. We look forward to submitting this manuscript late in the second half of 2021 as it provides proof-of-concept for a whole parasite blood-stage malaria vaccine approach in humans. This clinical study and our future Phase I trial next year have really been made possible through the contributions of Rotary and Rotarians. We are truly inspired by their passion and commitment to help rid the world of this devastating disease.

ZEROING IN ON MALARIA ELIMINATION*



Recently, the World Health Organisation (WHO) highlighted that the progress in controlling malaria has levelled off in many of the countries that are hardest hit by this disease. At the same time, it is encouraging to know that there are a number of countries with low levels of malaria that have been moving towards the target of “zero malaria”.

Since 2017, the WHO has supported a group of 21 countries across 5 regions through a special initiative known as “E-2020”. Their common goal was to eliminate malaria by 2020. To reach the elimination milestone, a country that was malaria endemic in 2015 had to achieve at least one year of zero indigenous cases and then maintain this through until the end of 2020. **Indigenous cases of malaria** are those acquired by mosquito transmission in an area where malaria regularly occurs whereas **introduced cases of malaria** are acquired by mosquito transmission from an imported case in an area where malaria does not regularly occur.

Seven E-2020 member countries succeeded in reaching this milestone: Algeria, Belize, Cabo Verde, China, El Salvador, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Malaysia. Note: Malaysia is a special case because although malaria species transmitted between people have been eliminated, the *Plasmodium knowlesi* malaria parasite, normally found in monkeys, continues to infect people. Three countries who were not part of the E-2020 initiative also reached this milestone: Azerbaijan, Sri Lanka and Tajikistan.

Common drivers of successful malaria elimination included: political commitment to ending the disease, engagement of communities and free primary health care ensuring that all people in need of malaria-related health services could access them without financial hardship.

How does a country obtain the WHO’s malaria-free status? Certification of malaria elimination is granted when a country proves beyond reasonable doubt that indigenous malaria transmission by mosquitoes has been interrupted nationwide for at least the past 3 consecutive years. A country must also be able to demonstrate the capacity to prevent the re-establishment of transmission of the malaria parasite. A national surveillance system that is able to rapidly detect and respond to any malaria cases must be operational, together with measures to prevent local outbreaks due to any imported cases of the disease.

The final decision on awarding malaria-free certification rests with the WHO Director-General, based on a recommendation by the Malaria Elimination Certification Panel. A total of 39 countries and territories have been certified malaria-free.



People photo created by jcomp - www.freepik.com

While this is great progress, it is important that countries that have eliminated malaria do not become complacent. Once people develop immunity against malaria, they have to be continually exposed to the malaria parasite to keep this immunity. Much in the same way you need booster shots for vaccines. Once malaria is eliminated and people are no longer exposed to the malaria parasite, they will begin to lose their immunity. If indigenous malaria transmission does reoccur, they may be at greater risk of developing severe and fatal malaria than they were before.

This resurgence of malaria has been seen before in countries that had eliminated/nearly eliminated the malaria parasite. It can happen for many reasons, but most recently it has been seen due to COVID-19-related disruptions to malaria preventive measures e.g. spraying of insecticides, malaria diagnosis and treatment services and provision of bed nets. Timor Leste, a country that reported zero indigenous cases of malaria in 2018-19, saw an outbreak of the disease along its shared border with Indonesia in 2020.

The malaria parasite is extremely clever and that is why it has been with us for millennia. The continuing development of resistance by the malaria parasite to currently used anti-malarial drugs and by the mosquito to vector control interventions, highlight how fragile our progress against the malaria parasite is. It also highlights why we need multiple tools to fight malaria. No single preventive measure in our toolbox will likely be responsible for parasite eradication. We also need to add new tools, such as a highly effective malaria vaccine, to continue parasite elimination, prevent parasite resurgence in malaria-free areas and progress towards global eradication.

* Taken from: "Zeroing in on malaria elimination: final report of the E-2020 initiative." <https://www.who.int/publications/item/9789240024359>

Dr Danielle Stanisic
Associate Research Leader

BEHIND THE MICROSCOPE LENS

Dr Reshma Nevagi - Postdoctoral Research Fellow



Tell us about you! When did you join Institute for Glycomics?

I was born in India and I lived in 5 different cities, moving around as a family unit for my parents' work, my higher studies and my own career path. I am a pharmacy graduate; I did a Bachelor and Master of Pharmacy in India. In my Master of Pharmacy degree, I had a research component during which I discovered my interest in research and that is when I decided to do PhD to excel further. In 2015, I arrived in Brisbane ready to pursue a PhD at the University of Queensland. After completing my PhD in 2019, I joined the Institute for Glycomics as a Research Fellow.

What are your research interests?

My research interests revolve around vaccine development for infectious diseases. My research work is at the interface of chemistry and biology as I feel both fields go hand in hand to deliver any health research project to success. I am a pharmacist that progressed her passions into research. My scientific background in pharmacy and research fuels my passion for pharmaceutical drug and vaccine development process

Why science?

I grew up in a large extended family, always surrounded by my uncles working in different science and technology fields; either as an engineer or science teacher or medical representative. During my primary education, my parents encouraged me to participate in interschool science exhibitions and workshops, which developed my interest in chemical science. Later in my high school years, I was blessed to have a great inspiring biology teacher who inspired and lit my fire. This was the pivotal moment that I decided to take up Pharmacy studies to learn both chemical and biological science.

What is your career highlight to date?

Securing a competitive international scholarship to pursue PhD at the University of Queensland was a turning point in my career. Being provided an opportunity to travel to Australia for academic research was life-changing for me.

What are your interests outside of work?

In my free time, I love cooking and gardening. Cooking helps me stay connected to my Indian food heritage. In my free time, I like to video call my mom and try her recipes. I am not as great a chef as her, but I will be one day. I also love organic food; and I have recently started growing Indian herbs, tomatoes, and veggies in my backyard.

What is your role in the Malaria Vaccine Project?

I am involved in two significant projects in the lab; one is about developing slow-release formulations for a controlled infection immunisation malaria vaccine approach, and the second project is about developing a liposomal field-deployable whole parasite malaria vaccine. I am involved in multidisciplinary work for the pre-clinical laboratory evaluation of malaria vaccine candidates. This includes the characterisation of liposomes, vaccine formulation optimization, flow cytometry, immunological assays and pre-clinical laboratory evaluation.



AFRICA'S GRIM REAPER

Mukaajanga Christopher Seruwagi

Greetings!!! I feel so lucky to have written this article. That's not all; I also feel blessed for two reasons. One: that you are at least taking the trouble to have a glance at it. Second: that I am a living witness of what other people just hear about or read in scientific books and journals.

Let me begin by briefly sharing part of my growing-up story. Originally, I am from a family of four. We are two brothers; who once had two lovely little sisters (bravo! to my mathematical parents). I went through primary school like any other kid in the village, completed high school and now, I am at the University in Nairobi. Next to our home in the village, we had neighbours from another tribe. They were this nice, old couple who happened to have only one grand-daughter. Her name: Evelyne. They had a custom (just like in some other parts of the Asian world) of finding future spouses for their daughters as early as possible. So, by the time one grows up, everything is clear and set. Since Eve and I used to attend the same primary school, and we were in the same class, they thought that I would be her Adam in the future. In a word, we were engaged. Whether by intuition or not, we both knew that after studies we would just get married and start life together. Even when the time came for us to go to different schools, there was no fear of losing each other.

However, the old wise men say that good times do not last long. After my final year in high school, I returned home just to be told that Eve had passed on. Of what?... Malaria, how long was she sick?... Only three days. Before Eve died, four years back I had lost both my sisters at an early age to the same reaper. It now seemed as though everyone I cared about was dying, disappearing like mist.

When people come up and announce that malaria has claimed more lives than HIV or than any other disease in Africa, it does not immediately make much sense partly because HIV is publicized in all corners, accidents are on every TV-news and politics has become part of the daily jokes. Malaria however is a silent killer and I attest to this that in almost every family in Africa, a child has been lost if not as an infant then by a miscarriage. When malaria attacks a person in a home, almost everyone will be infected or affected; because we share almost everything including bedrooms, especially as children.

The tragedy dawns when the home's breadwinner is carried off, then the whole family will face it hard. In most cases, he may not be able to attend to his job and in the long run, he may lose it. You find that one has lost a job, at the same, he is struggling to keep himself and his family alive with little or with even no money.

I have been infected with malaria several times (almost every year) and as I am writing this article, I know it is waiting for me with evil arms wide open at home. Just to put you into the picture of how it feels like to be infected with malaria.

Having malaria is equivalent to the experience of helplessly laying at the edge of your grave knowing that in the next minute or two, your body will be lying inside. It is an illness that sucks every single drop of blood, leaving the victim weak and helpless. That is why when it finds the young, anaemia escorts them straight to their little graves. Don't forget that it doesn't spare the grown-ups either!

A lot of research has been done, many books have been written about malaria and other tropical diseases. I too, have curiously read quite a number of these books in this regard. They have sweet suggestions, but even with such suggestions, the death rates due to malaria are still high. My cousin, MaryNakaddu, is a mid-wife and everytime she calls me, she tells me about the lives of babies lost to the plasmodium.

My story may not be comprehensive enough to represent all individual stories in Africa but everyone who has ever lost a sibling, a friend, a daughter or a son especially at an early age would wish that he or she were able to do something to save that one life. So when I heard about the project of working on the malaria vaccine by Dr. Graham Jones and his group through a friend, (one who has accompanied me during my stay in Nairobi,) I decided to share part of my long story and not only that, to also dip a hand into my savings and give what I can (I wish I would do more than that). Honestly, I hold in high esteem all the benevolent individuals, companies, and governments that responded quickly to the disaster of covid-19 and those who financed the covid-19 vaccine.

May the same spirit guide all of us as we do all we can to eliminate this deadly killer that has claimed a lot of lives especially of infants in Africa, in parts of South America and in Asia. I have faith that this project will change the universe and its history. Most importantly, it will save lives and I want to be part of that life-saving project because I believe that our lives gain more meaning when they are at the service of others.

A great thanks to all those involved, the medics and the project supporters all over the world.

To everyone, Shalom!

About the Author

I am Mukaajanga Christopher Seruwagi from Uganda; a country situated in the East of Africa. I am a student at Tangaza University College, Nairobi taking a BA.in Theology. I framed the title of this true-life story inspired by an online article

I happened to read by Abigail Dami, a fellow malaria fighter. Pondering at the past events in my life used to fill me with grief and disappointment, but now I am glad to say that there is much hope, there is a star upon the stormy, dark sea.



HEARTFELT THANKS TO PDG HARRY BOLTON AND SHAUNA BOLTON AND DISTRICT 9640

29 APRIL 2021

A special event was held for Past District Governor Harry and Shauna Bolton at the Institute for Glycomics to extend the sincerest appreciation for their tremendous support of the Malaria Vaccine Project via their Partner Project 2019 - 2020.

Throughout this time, they visited all Rotary Clubs in District 9640, flying the flag for the Malaria Vaccine Project and providing progress updates along the way. Reflecting on the 'year that was 2020', their ability to garner support and donations was nothing short of admirable. Living in Tenterfield, which was experiencing an incredible drought and then ravaged by bushfires, they continued to devote their time and efforts to Rotary. Linking arms with District 9640 clubs, many members of our communities were touched by the generosity provided across various projects including 'Water for the West' and 'Fodder for the West' .

The final amount raised for the Malaria Vaccine Project via the District Governors Partner Project was \$27,292.00.



EVENTS - ENGAGEMENT - FUN

FIRING UP THE BBQ FOR THE MALARIA VACCINE PROJECT

SANCTUARY COVE INTERNATIONAL BOAT SHOW

20 - 23 MAY 2021



The Sanctuary Cove International Boat Show was held from 20th to 23rd May 2021 with over 50,000 enthusiastic attendees enjoying the beautiful Gold Coast weather and atmosphere. Rotary Club of Hope Island fired up their BBQ's, armed with amazing volunteers and an abundance of sausages, ready for the masses.

COVID travel restrictions do have an upside. With international travel off the cards, reports following the weekend showed record numbers of Super Yachts, Boats, cars (even a helicopter) were sold.

The Sanctuary Cove International Boat Show is always a fabulous event and this year did not disappoint! Rotary Club of Hope Island are so appreciative to all who dug deep for a sausage and a donation. The Malaria Vaccine Project was one of the beneficiaries from the net proceeds.



WE'RE SOCIAL!

DATE CLAIMERS



**Hope Island Rotary Club
Black Tie Dinner**

25 September 2021

Sanctuary Cove Golf Club

Beneficiary: Malaria Vaccine Project

<https://www.facebook.com/RotaryHopeIsland>



**Surfers Paradise Rotary Club
Annual Race Day**

23rd October 2021

Govom/rcsurfers
sunrise

Planning an event to support the
Malaria Vaccine Project?
Have the details included in the
next newsletter by emailing:
n.kristensen@griffith.edu.au

100 Years of Rotary

EXCERPTS FROM AN INSPIRATIONAL CENTURY

A ROTARY MOMENT THAT WILL SAVE MILLIONS OF CHILDREN'S LIVES

Picture a group of 14 young people having breakfast at Griffith University, in August 2015, just before the Rotary Satellite Club of Southport-Griffith University was chartered. Three Rotary District 9640 Chairs had joined us for the meeting: current DG Andy Rajapakse (Membership), PDG Sandra Doumany (Extension) and Sam Doumany (RAM).

Satellite members were introducing themselves. One of them, Dr Danielle Stanisic, said that she was a research scientist working on a malaria vaccine at the Institute for Glycomics (Griffith University), and that she had been a National Youth Science Forum (NYSF) scholar. Danielle, who became a charter member of the Satellite club, also mentioned that her laboratory needed a Blood Separator to expedite the analysis of samples. She indicated that it would cost \$9,000. Capturing the moment, I said to the Satellite club, "We are about to do our first community project - let's donate the separator to the Institute! This is what Rotary is all about: it identifies a need, develops a strategy and then raises the funds to make it happen".

Andy captured the moment and donated \$1,000. Sam donated \$1,000 and offered further help from Rotary friends. I agreed to seek the rest from Rotarians and other Rotary clubs. In less than a week, we raised the \$9,000 and the separator was duly purchased and presented to the malaria research unit. But that is not the end of the story!

Our success imbued us with the energy for an even greater moment, an even greater leap of Rotary faith. It set the scene for the Rotary clubs of Southport, Broadbeach, Hope Island

and the Rotary Club of Griffith Gold Coast to establish the Malaria Vaccine Project (MVP): a partnership between these clubs, District 9640 and the Institute for Glycomics. A Committee was established by these clubs to drive MVP and raise money to support the malaria research. MVP, launched in March 2017 by the then Governor General Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC, aimed initially to raise \$500,000 for the development of a promising malaria vaccine created by Professor Michael Good AO and coordinated by Dr Stanisic. More specifically, this vaccine was expected to save the lives of nearly half-a-million children and pregnant mothers who die from malaria every year.



Governor General Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC launching the project in March 2017

The rest is history! MVP has raised \$1.2 million including a matching grant of \$500,000 from the Federal Government Department of Health, courtesy of Hon Greg Hunt, Minister for Health. With our dynamic Committee and District leading the way, we are so thankful to Rotarians and individuals from Australia and New Zealand for their huge support and passion for MVP.

Backed by this financial support, clinical trials have been completed at the Gold Coast to test the efficacy of the vaccine (PlasProtecT®) against a challenge from a malaria parasite.



Malaria Vaccine Project committee

Although the sample of volunteer subjects was small, Professor Good described the results of the clinical trial as excellent. He and his team are now working to test a lipid form of the vaccine that can be freeze-dried and transported anywhere in the world. Through Rotary's mighty efforts, a much-needed malaria vaccine may not be that far away. How timely it would be if that moment occurred during the 100th anniversary celebrations of Rotary in Australia!



Professor Good and his malaria research team

Rotarian
Past District Governor
Graham Jones AM

Rotary Club of Griffith Gold Coast
Rotarian 34 years



LIFE-CHANGING MALARIA PROJECT

My year as the District Governor's partner was an interesting one with many twists and turns.

During my involvement with Rotary leading up to our District Governor year, I became acutely aware of the work being undertaken at Griffith University under the guidance of Professor Michael Good and his team to develop a vaccine that would protect and eventually eradicate malaria. The Malaria Vaccine Project became a very important part of our year as my Partner Project. My target was \$20,000 - much needed funds for the clinical trials of the Malaria Vaccine in Australia.



Donation of \$5,000 from the Rotary Club of Mt Warning AM

During our visits to each club in District 9640 the importance of the Malaria Vaccine Project was highlighted to Rotary members and their guests. It was not only a fundraising opportunity but gave me an audience to raise the profile of the project and explain (in layman's terms) about the scourge of malaria and the progress of the malaria vaccine research. The importance of this ground-breaking research by the Institute for Glycomics at Griffith University on the Gold

Coast was highlighted in these presentations during club visits.

Many Rotary clubs in District 9640 already support the Malaria Vaccine Project by hosting specific events to fundraise for the research. These clubs didn't need any convincing to maintain their support of this very worthy project - we were preaching to the converted.

Unfortunately COVID-19, drought and bushfire had an enormous impact on fund raising for our year as so many clubs were giving so generously to the drought and bushfire cause leaving few funds available for the malaria project.

Unfortunately, with the arrival of COVID-19 D9640 District Conference in Tenterfield had to be cancelled. This conference was to have been an opportunity for attendees to hear Professor Michael Good from the Institute for Glycomics speak about the project and the progress he and his team are making. All was not lost however as many generous Rotarians chose not to receive refunds of their conference fees but redirected them as a donation to the Malaria Vaccine Project to the tune of \$5,527.

With other donations from clubs totalling near \$20,000 the final amount of over \$29,000 has been donated from the DG Partners Project for the 2019 - 2020 year.

A special thank you goes to Rotarian PDG Graham Jones for his enthusiasm and energy promoting the Malaria Vaccine Project. Also heartfelt thanks to the Rotarians of District 9640 for their continuing generosity for worthwhile and world changing projects.



A memorable night at the Rotary Club of Ashmore

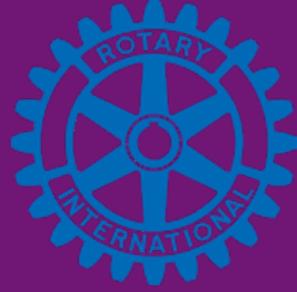
Rotarian
Shauna Bolton
Rotary Club of Tenterfield
Rotarian 3 years



ACKNOWLEDGING PDG GRAHAM JONES ROTARY FOUNDATION AWARD



At the recent Rotary District 9640 Conference, DG Andy Rajapakse was joined by Incoming Rotary International Director, Dr Jessie Harman in presenting to Past District Governor Graham Jones the Distinguished Service Award from The Rotary Foundation. This award is one of only 44 in the world and recognises the significant work that Graham has done in successfully securing two Global Grants from the Rotary Foundation. These have supported PhD students at the QLD Brain Institute at UQ, working in the area of human brain research with Parkinson's sufferers. Graham has and continues to mentor the two PhD scholars; Samra from Pakistan, and Chiemeka from Nigeria. Additionally, Graham initiated Rotary's involvement in fundraising for clinical trials of a promising Malaria Vaccine that has been developed at Griffith University's Institute for Glycomics. To date, \$1.255 million has been raised including contributions from Rotary clubs to the total of \$750,000. He continues to promote this important work to Rotary clubs, Rotarians and supporters. Graham has previously been involved in fund raising for Rotary's signature programme, Polio Plus at train stations with the vision of eradicating polio from the world. He initiated a connection with the Gold Coast Blaze Basketball team and the Gold Coast Suns AFL team to raise Rotary's profile in the community and to raise funds for clubs. Using his expertise as an educator, Graham contributed on District Committees for Rotary Foundation programmes such as Group Study Exchange and Peace Scholars as well as Ambassadorial scholars in the past. Congratulations Graham on achieving this most prestigious Rotary Foundation award.



The 100 years 100 Stories book has been produced as a **LIMITED EDITION**.

Additional copies may be obtained while stocks last from the Rotary Club of the Granite Belt

Contact: PDG David Lee
dwjlee@bigpond.com
mob: 0407 123 006

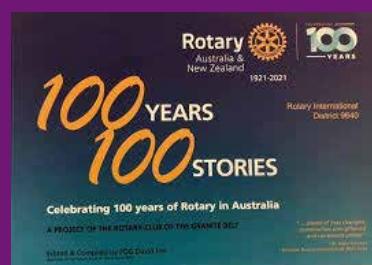
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CONGRATULATIONS PDG SANDY DOUMANY OAM

Congratulations to our committee member Sandy Doumany who received an OAM in the recently published Queen's Birthday Honours Awards.

The Award recognises her service to the Gold Coast Community which has been undertaken in large part through her active membership of Rotary. She was one of the founding members of the Rotary Club of Hope Island some 16 years ago.

Sandy is currently the Vice President of the club and is responsible for membership development. She has been very successful and the club now has in excess of 50 members. In 2012 she was elected District Governor of Rotary District 9640 which made her responsible for 54 Rotary clubs.

Sandy's service extends over a large number of projects designed to benefit the community. She has been a member of the Malaria Vaccine Project since its inception and has participated in many fund-raising functions for it. Her club is one of the largest donors having contributed in excess of \$35,000.

Another Club project close to Sandy's heart is the Armistice Memorial which was completed in 2019 and is situated at the entry to Sanctuary Cove. She was the Chair of the Committee which oversaw the project which provides a focal point for the community to honour Australian military servicemen and women. She had cherished the thought for many years and talks about it fulfilling a dream of the club's first President.

We warmly congratulate Sandy on her award which is so richly deserved. Sandy joins fellow committee members Graham Jones AM and Gerard Brennan OAM as a recipient of an Order of Australia award.



END OF FINANCIAL YEAR

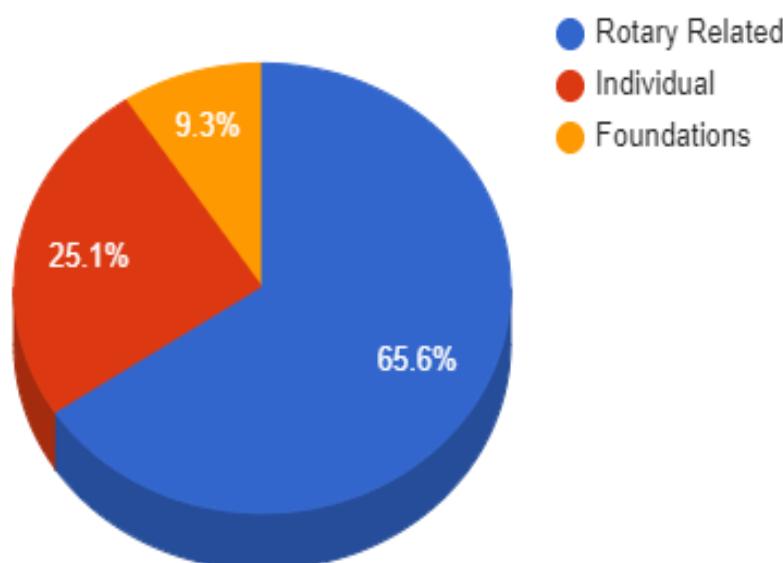
FUNDRAISING WRAP UP

The commencement of the 2020/2021 financial year was placed in the peak of the pandemic, but that hasn't stopped the 'power of Rotary'!

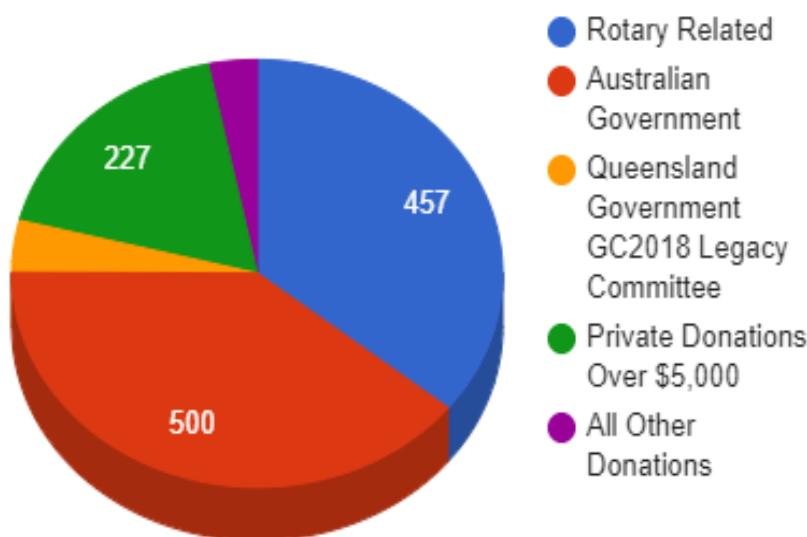
As we round the corner to end of financial year, a total of \$107,448.94 has been raised for this vital research. An absolutely incredible effort by everyone in such a tough year!

This brings our total fundraising efforts to \$1,274,517.

2020/2021 Donations (%)



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