

CONNECTIONS

GOVERNOR'S MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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DG Wayne and Suzanne

MEMBERS of Rotary District 9465, how long is a month?

Last month we were looking forward to our District Conference and planning the many events for the next few months, however we all know our current position in Australia and how things have changed.

We now have a situation where we no longer can run District or Club meetings in person and are exploring ways to meet via electronic means.

Our District website has some ideas and on the left hand side there is a link to members who have volunteered to assist clubs and members with Zoom virtual meetings.

Rotary International has updated their information re COVID-19 on My Rotary. The information is located here: <https://www.rotary.org/en/rotary-monitors-coronavirus-outbreak>

This is a time to look after yourself, loved ones and the community. There is a lot of uncertainty and worry in the community and as Rotarians we are in the position as a group to provide guidance and assistance to our community and, if required, leadership.

President Ric McDonald from Rotary Club of Southern Districts summed it up well when in an email to me he put the following quote on the bottom

*“‘Social distancing’ is the wrong term. Physical distancing is better.
Let’s all stay social and connected (virtually).”*

Remember the theme this year is **ROTARY CONNECTS THE WORLD**.
Stay healthy, support each other and your community.

Wayne Milnes

District Governor 2019-2020
District 9465, Western Australia

TRF Actions to encourage projects against Covid-19

24 March 2020

Source: eflashonline group

DECISIONS: The Executive Committee, acting on behalf of the Trustees,

1. approves a special, one-time exception be given for these unprecedented circumstances to allow Covid-19 related expenses incurred since 15 March 2020 to be reimbursed through the 2020-21 district grants;
2. agrees to a waiver of the 30% foreign financing requirement for any new global grant that addresses Covid-19;
3. agrees to allow districts to designate that their DDF contributions to the Disaster Response Fund be held exclusively for Covid-19 grant activities; (This does not apply to cash contributions.)
4. effective immediately, agrees to a transfer of \$1 million from the World Fund to the Disaster Response Fund with stipulation that it be used for Covid-19 response efforts;
5. limit the number of Disaster Response grants any one district can receive for Covid-19 response to one;
6. requests the general secretary to promote this decision while encouraging contributions and transfer of DDF to the Disaster Response Fund;
7. requests the general secretary to provide the Trustees with an update on how district, disaster response, and global grants are being used for Covid-19 response at their next meeting.

Request for Exceptions to Grant Policy to Allow Quick Response to Covid-19

Background:

The World Health Organization has declared the Covid-19 virus to be a pandemic. Rotary provides several options through which Rotarians can demonstrate their care and concern for their own communities and those around the world. Below is a range of grant options available to Rotarians to address this pandemic, including two decisions that allow flexibility to current policy.

District Grants

Districts can use district grant funds to support activities like the purchase of thermometers, masks, etc. Districts can use contingency funds from an open district grant, or repurpose previously planned activities for a Covid-19 response. Regional grant officers will be ready to answer questions to help districts with this option.

As of 12 March, US\$30.3 million still remains unreported in district grant funding for 2019-20, indicating districts may have a substantial amount to immediately apply to Covid-19 projects if so desired.

As districts prepare to submit new district grant applications for 2020-21, we encourage them to designate funds for a Covid-19 response.

For those districts that may have exhausted their 2019-20 district grant funds, the decision below allows them to be reimbursed for Covid-19 related expenses dated back to 15 March 2020 out of their 2020-21 district grant funding.

Global Grants

Global grants are an excellent way to respond effectively to Covid-19. For example, if your community needs medical equipment, global grants offer a way to pay for these expensive items.

The Rotary Foundation is expediting any applications for these types of Covid-19-related projects. Regional grant officers can be contacted to help.

In global grants, at least 30% of the financing must come from outside of the country where the project takes place. If the Trustees agree to waive this requirement for Covid-19 projects, it would greatly expedite the speed at which these grants can be developed.

TRF Actions to encourage projects against Covid-19

Disaster Response Fund & Grant

Rotary's Disaster Response Grants provide a fast and effective way to respond to local disasters. Districts can apply for up to \$25,000 at a time, depending upon the availability funds.

The Rotary Disaster Response Fund makes funds available through Disaster Response Grants to help districts around the world respond to disasters. The fund accepts online and offline cash contributions and DDF. While the Foundation anticipates an increase in grant requests for Covid-19, this fund remains general and contributions of both cash and DDF will be used where Rotarians stand ready to respond to the disasters they are confronting.

The Philanthropy team will coordinate an announcement on Rotary.org alerting the Rotary world that Rotary supports districts in their efforts to address immediate coronavirus pandemic needs using Disaster Response Grants. This story can highlight Disaster Response Grants as a flexible resource in need of support by donors to encourage giving to supply funding for disasters around the globe. Philanthropy can also circulate a Covid-19 specific email appeal to generate giving towards this general fund.

We have seen some success with this approach over the past year; however, given recent economic turbulence and donor uncertainty surrounding Covid-19, an emphasis on gifts of DDF with secondary focus on giving from individuals is prudent.

Trustees may consider allowing districts to designate that their DDF contribution to the Disaster Response Fund is to be held exclusively for Covid-19 activities. This would not apply to cash contributions because at this time our system is not configured to direct cash contributions to a separate fund, and we want to provide options Rotarians can act on immediately.

Request to transfer \$1 million from World Fund to Disaster Response Fund

Background:

The executive committee is giving consideration of steps to increase options for Rotarians to utilize The Rotary Foundations grants - including district, global and disaster recovery - to support Rotary's response to COVID-19. Unfortunately, at this time, the disaster response fund has a balance of less than \$10,000.

The general secretary recommends transferring \$1 million from World Fund to the Disaster Response Fund. This decision offers the following benefits:

- a) demonstrates the Foundation's ability to be nimble and responsive;
- b) expedites the Foundation's processing of disaster recovery funds and grant requests;
- c) will inspire districts and individuals to contribute to the disaster response fund which will increase the financial resources available.

The impact on global grants budget and other budgetary implications are hard to quantify at this time. If global grant activity mirrors what occurred in FY19, global grants would require approximately \$36 million (FY19PA) of the \$42 million FY19 World Fund budget. As of last week, global grant World Fund commitments were on the same trajectory as last year. Although directing \$1 million from the World Fund reserved for global grants seems like a safe reduction, if global grant activity accelerates, perhaps to provide medical equipment in response to Covid-19, the Foundation may not be able to keep up with demand. However, the \$1 million being considered is likely to be used for Covid-19 response in either case and the Disaster Response Fund would allow grants to be made more quickly and help secure additional contributions. ●

In the last two months, new members have been inducted into the Rotary Clubs of Baldivis, Canning, and Mandurah Districts



Dual celebration: 115th birthday of Rotary and induction of Ann Bayliss



PDG Brian Eddy formally inducts Susan Marshall into membership as President Ross looks on



President Be Westbrook proudly inducted past Rotarian Martin Sadle

Rotary Club of Albany Port



UPDATE ON THE CRITICALLY ENDANGERED WESTERN GROUND PARROT APPEAL

From Paul Wettin

The Committee's decision is to cease the special fund raising campaign (<https://www.givenow.com.au/crowdraiser/public/findingandprotectingthelastwildwesterngroundparrots>) on 31st March as per the current deadline. To a significant extent this decision is influenced by the current circumstances with the COVID 19 virus which is having such a great impact on all aspects of our society.

We greatly appreciate the DG highlighting our campaign and particularly that it resulted in the major donation of some \$7,000 from the Boulder Rotary Club in addition to the donation from the Rotary Club of Albany Port. The Friends will continue to accept donations via its long standing donation process (<http://www.western-ground-parrot.org.au/#donate>).

When we're all stuck at home, you may be looking for things to do. Here are two fun ways to keep busy and happy

Get growing - plant veggies, ornamental and/or edible flowers

Bake up breads - baking is a good way to release some creative energy while feeding the family.

CLUB CHARTER ANNIVERSARIES

MARCH

09 Kenwick

10 Pinjarra

11 Mill Point

APRIL

11 Mandurah Districts

12 Attadale

15 Collie

15 Mount Barker

22 Kwinana

26 Hannans-Kalgoorlie

It's time
to
INSPIRE

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE SURPRISED?

Bet you have no idea how much YOU'VE done as a Member of Rotary.

We're challenging each club and each member to write your Rotary history down.

Not only for self-reflection but this later can form a part of your club's marketing strategy moving forward after this pandemic, and it may make a great coffee table book, complete with photos of our events and projects.

Have you ever looked back over your Rotary history and realised WOW, I/we really made a difference. It's funny as we practice Service Above Self but we don't think to check list our good deeds which can be empowering and motivational in itself.

So in this time of self-isolation write down your personal history, and perhaps hold a zoom meeting or a What's Up chat about your clubs history and share it with us here at Rotary In Western Australia.

Let's remind ourselves of all the amazing things we've done and when this is over that we'll continue to do.

I think it's important to say some people join and then give 100% to Rotary, others attend meetings, some work BBQs and events whilst others use connections to make a difference.

I was asked at a club meeting I was a speaker at as to whom was more worthy, in today's world some people have loads of time, others no spare time, what used to be an expectation of you giving your life to the association is now where Rotary hope you can support in whichever way suits your health, both physical and mental, your finances, your family and your time.

Every member brings extreme value to our association.

Here is one of our members, Sharyn McCaskey, who is in self isolation and wrote hers down click here: <https://mdvs.com.au/my-rotary-journey>

Well, over to you now, once its written please send us your list via Facebook messenger to our Rotary In Western Australia Facebook Page, we're excited to read them.

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

Kind Regards
Sharyn McCaskey

DOING HER ROTARY BEST TO HELP

from Jean Tait

Rotary Club of Fremantle

Our member **JINNY HENSHAW** is continuing her travels this time down the East Coast of Australia on her way to Tasmania. Always practical and energetic Jinny and her partner Greg wanted to help in the aftermath of the fires in some way and contacted President Stuart to see what Rotary were doing in the East. Fremantle Rotary has already donated \$2000.00 collected by our members and past members from local and international sources and President Stuart was able to give Jinny contacts on the east coast from Rotary. Here is her email.

"Hello Stuart and everyone at Rotary. Thanks for information re bush fire help. Greg and I have ended up at a place called Corryong/Cudgewa in Victoria just to the west of Mt Kosciusko National Park. The area had 70 farms affected by fire and a group organised by Belvoir Wodonga Rotary set up a camp at the showgrounds and have teams going out every day fencing and helping farmers. A great range of people have come in to help (through a Facebook post put up by Barry's daughter) . Other Rotary members, grey nomads, young bankers, old farmers, travelling solo women all turn up for a day, a week. A group of guys turned up who had had a 50-year reunion graduating from Ag College. A lady caught train from Sydney, is in a tent and runs the catering. It is brilliant organisation. Catering from locals, tafe, donated food etc. All meals. The Army are here too and we go for dinner at their camp tonight. Huge job with houses lost, sheds and fences for the cattle. I have done some fencing and some kitchen. This is a very good story from a badly affected community. Lots of praise for Rotary from locals. Sending some pictures. We are here until Friday.

I never knew I was going to learn fencing in my life. Leaving here tomorrow and going for an explore Mt Kosciuszko area. There are beautiful valley's and farming country around which has had some rain and the green is coming back. Some hills had very hot fires and are still black.



The organisers from Rotary Belvoir Wodonga here did an amazing job. One of the main ones was called Bruce Hogan. I had a conversation with him the other night and he and his wife are going on a 10 week trip with their two sons and families. They all have caravans (3 vans) all self-contained. He has asked if I know anyone Perth or Fremantle area who has say a block they can all park on for about three days . I think it is late April or into May but no definite dates yet. Or his email is bhoganemail@gmail.com.



Out of interest for your club - they estimate that the Rotary contribution here around Corrywong/Cudgewa was three quarters of a million dollars in kind (materials and labour). Mostly the group was "Dad's army" with average age late sixties and up to 80 with a few young ones coming in when they could. One day a team leader said they sent a Melbourne web designer out to fence today!"



Rotary Club of Rockingham

Rockingham Rotary President Beth Philipps presents Sue McClennan, Safety Bay Primary School teacher, with one of 60 microscopes the club donated. The Rotary Microscopes in School

project was the concept of the Chief Scientist of WA, Prof. Lyn Beazley, as she was concerned at the huge shortfall of young people going on to study science at a higher level, she said that unless a love of science was developed in students at an early age this trend would be difficult to reverse. The Rotary clubs can participate by donating a set of magnifying microscopes carrying the Rotary emblem to primary schools in their area or any other school they may wish to sponsor. The aim is for a set of microscopes to gravitate up and down through each class from Kindergarten to Yr.6.



The following week, the club also held its Apprentice of the Year Awards. The finalists were; Brent Hollis (Marine Smash Repairs), Jai Wallace (Prestige Locks), Sean Heart (Rockingham Harley Davidson), Alexander McAndrew (Rockingham Nissan), Zachary Bywaters (Rustico Tapas & Wine Bar), and Brooke Baker (Rowson O'Connor Hair).

The winner of Apprentice of the Year was Jai Wallace.



The Rotary Club of Rockingham wishes to thank all the employers who nominated their apprentices. We received a lot of applications and the panel said it was a difficult decision to decide on a winner as there were so many outstanding apprentices in our community.

— Sec Rowan Lambert

April is MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH MONTH

CONNECTIONS

Governor's Monthly Newsletter

Wayne Milnes, District Governor
District 9465 Western Australia



To submit an article, please email Newsletter Editor [Giovanna McKay](#) short stories and photos (no more than three) of new members and/or club projects undertaken.

For upcoming events, please email eDigest Editor [Bob Phipps](#)

With in-person weekly meetings, events and activities cancelled, I don't expect clubs will have anything to report in the coming months. However, we need to push on with our monthly newsletter for continuity and to keep Rotary, and the communities we serve, in our hearts and minds.

In this regard, please don't hesitate to share your "feel good" stories as we continue to face the ongoing challenges. Stay safe, everyone.

— Giovanna