



**Rotary Opens
Opportunities**



THIS ISSUE

Musings from DG Debbie

RYLA wrap 2021

Coffs Science Challenge

ARC 2021

CALENDAR

16 May District Assembly Narrabri
22 May R C South West Rocks
Changeover
23 May District Management
Meeting
29 May R C Barraba Changeover
30 May District Assembly Port
Macquarie
5 June Hastings Rotaract
Changeover
5 June Armidale AM Changeover
6 June R C Lower Midcoast
Changeover
7 June R C Kempsey Changeover
7 June R C Warialda Changeover
8 June R C Moree on Gwydir
Changeover
8 June R C Wauchope Changeover
10 June R C Nambucca Valley
Changeover
11 June R C Moree Changeover
12 June R C Armidale North
Changeover

MUSINGS FROM THE DG

This week's standout was RYLA and the celebratory dinner for over 220 people who joined together to reflect on 50 years of the successful program. WOW what an achievement.

PDG Phil Hafey represented me at the evening dinner, and he provided me a copy of his response to the Rotary International toast. I thought you might be interested in reading it.

Speech by PDG Phil Hafey RYLA 50th 5 May 2021
Good evening fellow Rotarians and friends of Rotary,

Thank you, Grace, for your toast to Rotary International and, as we celebrate over 50 years of RYLA in District 9650, it is appropriate in the Centenary of Rotary in Australia and New Zealand that I spend a few moments outlining the history of Rotary's involvement in youth programs.

I do not intend to discuss the many youth programs that are well known to us all, but rather I will focus on some of the lesser-known activities.

In 1921 Rotary Clubs were formed in Melbourne and Sydney and the first projects of both Clubs involved children. In Melbourne it was a picnic for 200 children from Queensberry Street State School and in Sydney there was an outing for 120 children and their nurses from the Royal Alexandra Hospital for Children. The Sydney Club also organised Christmas parcels for war widows and their children.

In addition, both Clubs carried out surveys to determine the needs of boys and in 1925 the Rotary Club of Sydney held its first major project – "Boys Week" with the theme "Sound Manhood comes from Safe Boyhood" and the surplus funds from this project provided a new building for the Boys Brigade.

The Peer Support program, which most people in this room will be familiar with, owes its existence to the Rotary Club of North Sydney and Rotarian James Dibble who was a popular television newsreader and broadcaster.

Legacy is another organisation which owes its existence to a Rotarian. In 1923, Major General Sir John Gellibrand founded the Remembrance Club in Hobart to assist needy or distressed returned servicemen and their families. The success of the Hobart Remembrance Club encouraged Sir John to propose the formation of similar organisations in Melbourne in 1923 and Sydney in 1926.

RYLA has an interesting beginning. In 1959 the State of Queensland was celebrating the centenary of its proclamation as a separate colony and the Rotary Club of Brisbane was asked to arrange a program involving young people. "Gundoo Week", which involved Rotary Clubs and youth from all over the State, was a social, educational, and cultural experience intended to emphasise the importance of youth, and particularly of youth leaders, in the rapidly developing State. "Gundoo" is an Aboriginal word meaning youth gathering or youth corroboree.

As an aside, I note that the cultural experiences in Gundoo Week included Symphony Orchestra concerts and visits to the Art Gallery and Museum. From what I hear, the cultural experiences at recent RYLA's have mainly featured David Mayne's Dad Jokes.

Rotary Clubs throughout Queensland selected young leaders aged from 18 to 25 to visit Brisbane for 10 days. The young leaders were accommodated in Rotarian's homes and attended a Grand Ball, a Garden Party at Government House hosted by the Governor, a symphony concert, a special church service and youth rally in addition to visits to State Parliament and other places of interest in Brisbane. Gundoo week was so successful that Rotarians thought it should be repeated and the Governor of the District centred on Brisbane announced that the first RYLA Week was to be held in May 1960.

E-NEWS CONTACT

If you have something for the E-news please email editor Laura Telford at laura.telford@rotaract.org.au before 5pm on Friday to make sure it will appear in the next edition!

MUSINGS FROM DG DEBBIE CONT.

As interest in RYLA increased and more Districts became involved, the program developed and in 1969 the Australia-New Zealand Central RYLA Committee was established and in 1970 the RYLA Manual was distributed and RYLA was operating in every District in Australia and New Zealand. In 1971 Rotary International announced at the International Convention in Sydney that RYLA was a recommended youth program of RI.

There is no doubt that RYLA in District 9650 has changed the lives of countless young people over the years. But what is RYLA. Many of you will have seen the promotional video where many Rylarians struggle to find the words to describe what RYLA is. Krystyn Barker from Armidale Central once told me that RYLA is where you learn everything you didn't realise you needed to know, and these words sum up District 9650's RYLA program perfectly.

District 9650's RYLA program has justifiably earned the reputation of being the best and there have been many efforts to beg, borrow or steal the resources and syllabus used from all over the world.

The success of the RYLA program is due to many people and organisations and it would be unwise to single out individuals. However, the work of the organising committees over the past 50 years must be recognised and applauded.

The Rylarians who return as leaders to ensure that the participants gain the most out of the RYLA experience also deserve special mention as do the corporate organisations who support the program by sending employees year after year.

Finally, the RYLA program would not be the success it is without YOU, the participants who have willingly moved out of your comfort zones, embraced new challenges, and immersed yourselves in the RYLA experience.

Congratulations to all those who have been involved with District 9650's RYLA program and I wish you all a belated Happy 50th Birthday.

YEP, De Briefing

I was invited to the YEP debriefing this morning at Wauchope to provide the welcome. It was so much more than that because I got to speak with students that I only knew by name and some parents who knew me because I became involved in their family's exchange. It was good to hear some feedback on their experiences. One thing struck me and that was that even if they had a less than perfect exchange because of Covid, they still had a positive experience, and those experiences will stand them in good stead for any challenges that present themselves in the future. I asked one student, "If you were given the opportunity to go again, would you? And he replied yes. That yes was all I needed to hear because it validated the program and acknowledged the professional and caring support the YEP Committee gave to everyone. Thanks once again to Chair Bev Bartlett, Diana Reynolds, Grant Heaton, and Allan Brown.

RI. Membership

Register Now: Building a Welcoming Community for People with Disabilities

Club and district leaders,

Join us Thursday, 27 May, at 11:00 Chicago time (UTC-5) for the fifth webinar in our accountability and inclusion series, Building a Welcoming Community for People with Disabilities. Interpretation will be available in French, Mandarin, Spanish and Portuguese. Everyone who registers will receive access to a recording.

What does someone with a broken leg, someone in a wheelchair, and someone pushing a stroller have in common? They would all struggle to enter a building without access to a ramp. To build truly inclusive organizations, we need to offer products and experiences that can be used by the widest range of people, regardless of ability. Because exclusion can happen at any time, depending on the specific set of circumstances.

According to the World Bank, one billion people, or 15% of the world's population, experience some form of disability, and the prevalence of disability is growing due to population ageing and the global increase in chronic health conditions.

In conversation with disability rights advocates, we will learn to:

Challenge assumptions we may have about people with disabilities.

Adopt practical solutions for making experiences more accessible for everyone.

Recognize that exclusion happens when we solve problems using our own biases.

Include and learn from people with a range of perspectives.

To Register https://rotary-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_EPWYxK45SxOG5nUtpMus-Q

(and submit your questions to our experts. We look forward to hearing your thoughts and questions.

GRANT REPORTS

DUE!

Reporting time for 2019-20 District Grants

A reminder to Clubs with 2019-20 District Grants - Final Reports are due in May.

Records show that Final Reports have been received from: Bellingen, Laurieton, Port Macquarie STEM project, Port Macquarie West, Sawtell & Tamworth (Bicycles).

My thanks

Final Reporting time for 19-20 projects by: Armidale AM, E-Club, Narrabri,

Wauchope & Woolgoolga.

Final Reports are also due for District Grants Deferred or Delayed from 2018-19:

Coonabarabran, Macksville, Tamworth (NYSF) & Taree on Manning.

Project Variation: Port Macquarie (Sensory Garden) - DRFC approved substitute project for 20-21

The District Grant Final Report ProForma is available on the District Website by searching d9650 Documents Library / Foundation / Grants / District Grants Project Final Report

Please send reports to iansimpson15@bigpond.com and keep a club record of the financial transactions for the project.

Ian

Ian Simpson

D9650 Grants Stewardship Committee

RI CONVENTION UPDATE

Registration for the 2021 Rotary Virtual Convention and Preconventions is now open. You can go to the convention website to access registration. Once you click on the REGISTER or REGISTER NOW button, you will be directed to the official registration site, Cvent, where you can complete the registration process and learn more about registration and program details.

The special registration rate of \$49 is available till 7 May 2021. After that, the registration fee is \$65.

- The 2021 Virtual Convention will open innovative opportunities to learn and to engage with the family of Rotary, near and far.
- Together, we'll inspire action, strengthen our commitments, work on our challenges, and celebrate our successes.
- Join us virtually to explore how our digital network makes our global relationships more powerful.

• Register now – cheapest RI Convention you will ever attend!

Maurie Stack
2021 Rotary International
Convention Promotion Team

DEBBIE'S MUSINGS CONT.

Rotary Opens Opportunities | 12-16 June 2021.

This year's virtual convention will be better than ever, opening more innovative opportunities to learn and engage with the family of Rotary. In the virtual convention space, you will be able to network in virtual lounges, meet new partners in service, and join fun activities with Rotary members from around the world. There are twenty not-to-be-missed breakout sessions planned, covering topics including member engagement, developing leadership skills, Rotary's new area of focus: The Environment and much more.

Exciting new activities this year include meet and greets with leaders, virtual cooking classes, Rotary trivia contents, a virtual photo booth, a 5K walk, and a DJ dance party.

The Virtual House of Friendship will be your place to connect with fellow Rotarians about projects, chat with staff, shop, sign up for the 2022 Rotary International Convention and explore exhibitor booths.

The Rotary Foundation Donor Summit – 15h June 2021 The Power of Philanthropy

As part of the Virtual convention registration, the Rotary Foundation Donor Summit on Tuesday, 15th June 2021 will celebrate leadership through giving. This Foundation-based presentation will feature remarks by Rotary seniors, a keynote message, an Arch Klumph Society ceremony, and entertainment.

As one of the Foundation's valued donors, you will have access to this exclusive session upon registering for convention.

Re: Australian Rotaract Conference and National Training Day

on behalf of Rotaract Australia (MDIO) Chair Samantha Fewster. The virtual Australian Rotaract Conference and National Training Day will be taking place on-line on Saturday 15 and Sunday 16 May 2021. This is an excellent opportunity for our younger professionals and leaders, as well as anyone in the Rotary family, to meet, network and learn!

Samantha says:

We welcome anyone in the Rotary family to attend the upcoming virtual Australian Rotaract Conference and National Training Day. Tickets are AU\$25 per person and cover the two days, including workshops by our two keynote speakers Dr Tyson Yunkaporta and Jo Sparks. It will be catered towards a Rotaract audience but would be particularly valuable for newer Rotarians or anyone taking on a board role for the first time and Rotary program alumni (specifically the Saturday). On the Saturday night we are holding our annual Rotaract Australia Awards night, which is included in the ticket registration but is also free to family, friends and anyone who would like to join and celebrate the amazing achievements. Tickets can be purchased on our website (<https://conference.rotaract.org.au>), including the free ticket option for the awards night. If anyone has enquiries, they are welcome to contact conference@rotaract.org.au.

Upcoming District Assemblies

Please respond to District Secretary Patti Parsons and let her know you are attending in good time. It is important to know well in advance to ensure the venue is adequate and we comply with COVID restrictions. Also, we need to know how many to feed! (very important)

Sunday 16th May 2021 Crossing Theatre Narrabri

Sunday 30th May 2021 Charles Sturt University, Ellis Parade Lake Innes Port Macquarie

Service project Webinars: Increasing and measuring your impact.

Presented by Larry Cooley, an experienced international development consultant and expert in strategy and scaling.

Tuesday, 11 May, offered in English at two times:

- 08:00 Chicago time (UTC-5) – register
- 17:00 Chicago time (UTC-5) – register

What is a Theory of Change?

Presented by Drew Koleros, an expert in program evaluation and learning, as well as in using theories of change – a tool for successful project and program design.

Tuesday, 18 May, offered in English at two times:

- 08:00 Chicago time (UTC-5) – register
- 17:00 Chicago time (UTC-5) – register

How to use a Theory of Change to Strengthen Program Design and Delivery Presented by Drew Koleros as a follow-up to the 18 May webinar.

Thursday, 20 May, offered in English at two times:

- 08:00 Chicago time (UTC-5) – register
- 17:00 Chicago time (UTC-5) – register

DEBBIE'S MUSINGS CONT.

District Changeover – Saturday 26th June 2021 Panthers Port Macquarie 6 for 6.30pm.
We will be sending out invitations to our changeover and would love it if we could get as many of you supporting as possible. This will be a fun evening where we can wine and dine and enjoy some fabulous after dinner entertainment from Matt Zarb from the Taree on Manning Club. We heard a little from him on the Sunday morning at Conference and I am certain people will be very happy to listen to more. Let us get behind this event, celebrate the last year and welcome DGE David Mayne and Heather to theirs. The 26th of June will be a special night for all.

Commemorating a Centenary of Rotary in Australia

The book to mark the centenary of Rotary in Australia - 'HUMANITY IN ACTION: Celebrating 100 years of Rotary clubs in Australia and island neighbours' - is now complete.

Five hundred and twelve pages of historical text, stories of Rotary achievements through the various eras, dozens of pages of club, district and personal data - along with an amazing gallery of dated and modern images went to the printer during the first week in March.

ORDER YOUR COPY OF 'HUMANITY IN ACTION' FROM – \$25 plus postage -
PDG Harry Durey – Phone: 0407 005 910; email: hdurey@bigpond.com

Remember,
Opportunities are like sunrises – If you wait too long you miss them!

COFFS COAST SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING CHALLENGE

The 2021 Science and Engineering Challenge was held at Woolgoolga High School on Tuesday 27 April 2021. This is the 5th year Woolgoolga has hosted this event.
Last year just 3 weeks before our event we had to cancel the Challenge because of Covid. Therefore, we were delighted that we could proceed this year.
The Rotary Club of Woolgoolga was approached by the Head Teacher, Science Woolgoolga High in 2015 and formed an organizing committee to plan for the Challenge. Sponsors were sought from the local community and the Coffs Coast Challenge were fortunate to secure sponsorship for 5 years from Pacific Complete.
Pacific Complete was appointed by Roads and Maritime Services as the delivery partner for the Woolgoolga to Ballina Pacific Highway upgrade.

Seven High Schools from across the coast participated and 240 students were supported by over 30 volunteers, mostly with a professional background in Engineering, Science, Mathematics Teaching, Nursing and Project Management.

The Challenge is designed by the University of Newcastle who along with their program partners Office of the Chief Scientist and Atlassian bought the event to Woolgoolga High School who hosts the event for the Coffs Coast. The organizing Committee and supervisors on the day are all volunteers.

The goal is through fun and practical hands-on activities, to inspire young people about the opportunities available in science, technology and engineering. The Challenge has been a huge success again in 2021 with Year 9 and 10 students participating. At the last minute one of the local High Schools withdrew and a Woolgoolga High Year 7 class stepped up to the plate competing against peers that were 2-3 years older than themselves; and they did it well.
Students showed great enthusiasm and determination to win for their school. Teachers from the schools involved have indicated that the Challenge has had a significant, positive and lasting effect on the students' approach to science and technology in the classroom.
Woolgoolga High School won the event again this year with South Grafton coming a close second (separated by 1 point) with Evans River in third place.

Patty Delaney

Secretary

The Rotary Club of Woolgoolga Inc

Chair

The Coffs Coast Science and Engineering Challenge 2021

HASTINGS ROTARACT TO HOST MENTAL HEALTH GALA BALL

Hastings Rotaract is proud to officially announce our new (and final) date for our Mental Health Ball on Saturday May 29th at Panthers Port Macquarie. This event will be masquerade themed in efforts to unmask mental health in our community. Please come along from 6pm to enjoy the festivities.
Tickets are \$60 per person or \$450 for a table of eight which includes a two course meal, entertainment and a drink on arrival. Please see the attached for further details.
Book your tickets now via <http://events.humanitix.com/copy-of-mental-health-ball>



RYLA D9650 2021 - AMAZING BEYOND ANYTHING

What an amazing group of participants attended this years RYLA 9650 program. Saturday afternoon as over fifty participants and leaders packed their bags and swags ready to leave Lake Keepit there was a tangible pall of gloom hanging in the air. The wonderful success of this week is seen and heard in the way participants have responded to this unique RYLA program. They arrived on May the 1st apprehensive and maybe even a little bewildered at what the week lay ahead for them. Once the nerves settled and new friendships were established, participants began a comprehensive program of self awareness and personal growth. Every participant has their own and unique leadership style and the program gives them the tools to identify and use those individual tools in their personal and professional lives. RYLA 9650 attendees have also formed 'lifelong' friendships and created substantial support networks. Again, it was hard yesterday for them to leave the RYLA 'bubble' however, they were encouraged not to leave RYLA but take it with them to their personal and professional lives. I have two things to say to Rotarians reading this now. Firstly, thank you for the amazing support you give the 9650 RYLA program. It was well above expectations as we are all coming out of COVID. Secondly, never underestimate the young people of today. Seeing what these Rylarians are capable of assures me that the future is in good hands. Thank you again 9650. Well done.

David Mayne
RYLA 9650 Chair



ARC SCHEDULE

for Saturday 15 May, Conference Day



Conference Opening

10AM AEST / 9.30AM ACST / 8AM AWST 12PM
NRT / 11AM SBT / 9AM TLT

Rotaract Australia

10.15AM AEST / 9.45AM ACST / 8.15AM AWST
12.15PM NRT / 11.15AM SBT / 9.15AM TLT

Keynote: Dr Tyson Yunkaporta

SAND TALK: HOW INDIGENOUS THINKING
CAN SAVE THE WORLD

10.45AM AEST / 11.45AM ACST / 9.45AM AWST
12.45PM NRT / 11.45AM SBT / 9.45AM TLT

Break

12.15PM AEST / 11.45AM ACST / 10.15AM AWST
2.15PM NRT / 1.15PM SBT / 11.15AM TLT

Keynote: Jo Parker

LEADING FROM WITHIN

12.45PM AEST / 12.15PM ACST / 10.45AM AWST
2.45PM NRT / 1.45PM SBT / 11.45AM TLT

Break

2.15PM AEST / 1.45PM ACST / 12.15PM AWST
4.15PM NRT / 3.15PM SBT / 1.15PM TLT

Public Speaking

ROTARY, TOASTMASTERS AND YOU

2.30PM AEST / 2PM ACST / 12.30PM AWST
4.30PM NRT / 3.30PM SBT / 1.30PM TLT

Conference Closing

3PM AEST / 2.30PM ACST / 1PM AWST
5PM NRT / 4PM SBT / 2PM TLT

THE Santos SCIENCE EXPERIENCE

Where Science meets fun!

For students in Year 9 and 10

This is a Rotary sponsored Science program 'held over 3 or 4 days to engage students in a wide range of fascinating science activities under the guidance of scientists who love their work.'

The programs are held during the school holidays and in every state at many universities. You can elect your program as you apply.

Check out the website www.scienceexperience.con.au



Empowering tomorrow's future STEM leaders

Oscar Rainger was sponsored by the **Rotary Club of Inverell East**. NYSF was a really great experience. There were so many good talks about subjects, particularly in areas that before I would have said I wasn't interested in. This really was a testament to the quality of the people they brought in for the zoom lectures, who made their talks engaging despite being over zoom. The Barry Marshall lecture, the cognitive science session and the CERN live cross were some of the highlights. Of course, going to Newcastle for in-person activities was the best part of the program. It was a lot of fun to meet like-minded people and see what the university had to offer at the same time. Overall, the whole experience didn't really make it any easier to choose what I want to do, but it did demystify university and working in STEM, meaning that when I make a choice I'm confident it will be the right one.



Applications for NYSF 2022 are OPEN, Planning has already begun to offer another brilliant Science program for current Year 11 students in January 2022.

It's time to find the students in your community who will benefit! It would be fabulous if every club found ONE student – fabulous for Rotary and Rotaract but more

importantly, fabulous for the students! www.nysf.edu.au Any club who would like more information. dihall605@gmail.com 0411704654

RYLA Rotary Youth Leadership Awards That's a Wrap!!

Another successful D9650 RYLA

- 46 participants
- Representing 25 Clubs
- 224 Formal Dinner guests
- One RYLA Oceania Observer
- 10 exhausted RYLA C'tee Members
- Until next time





LET'S END MALARIA

SAVE THE DATE

THE ROTARIANS AGAINST MALARIA
ANNUAL CONFERENCE
IS BACK FOR 2021!

**SATURDAY 13 & SUNDAY 14
NOVEMBER**
MERCURE HOTEL, CANBERRA

Contact: ramp@rawcs.org.au

Rotary Club of Armidale Central



BOOK FAIR

8-15 May 2021

9:00am to 5:00pm

ARMIDALE RACECOURSE

See you there!

PLEASE NOTE:

Covid-19 regulations must be observed with social distancing being essential and is a condition of entry to provide your contact information.

FACE MASKS & GLOVES ARE ENCOURAGED.
EFTPOS IS AVAILABLE

