



**Rotary Opens
Opportunities**



THIS ISSUE

Musings from DG Debbie
District Assembly DG David
World Record Attempt

CALENDAR

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
22 June RC Dorrigo Changeover
30 June R C Taree on Manning
Changeover
2 July Coffs Harbour Daybreak RC
changeover



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 THE DG

Hello everyone, last week I made a mistake in my reporting from Barraba. I inadvertently put in the news that Bryan Barrass was the incoming president. No, he is not! It is Mike Simpson. Sorry gentlemen for the mistake. Whilst writing about Barraba I thought I would relate a bit more about "My all-Australian Adventure" I will just preface this by saying I have permission from Andrew (Playhouse) to write this before you all write in and condemn me.

I guess its no surprise to everyone that I make the odd mistake, have the odd mishap, and laugh about it, along with many others. It proves we are all human and not perfect.

I usually stay at the Playhouse when I visit Barraba, and last week was no exception. I pulled up just before 4pm, to find Andrew (proprietor) had left me a note taped to the front door, to say he had just popped out and give him a ring. So, no problem. Andrew had, had a big weekend so far with a large musical night at the Playhouse and family had descended on him. He was showing them to a friend's place. Fifteen minutes later Andrews back, I am doing my emails from the car because it was a bit chilly. So, all good, Andrew is amazing, carries your bags in and makes you welcome. I said I was with the Rotary Club that night so did not need feeding but would appreciate an early breakfast on Sunday morning a I needed to be in my room on zoom to open and welcome everyone to the Port Macquarie assembly. We agreed 7.30am. So bright as a button (not) I went downstairs for brekkie the next morning, to find the hotel empty, silent, dark, and cold. No one around. No signs of life or Andrew. I waited 15 minutes and thought he was cutting it a bit fine. Other people turned up for breakfast. So, I gave him a call on the phone, to find out the poor man had overslept. He had set his alarm for 7pm not 7am, who has not done that. Poor Andrew was mortified. I was amused. It did not take him long to front up and get things going and I was in my room for the 8.30am link up with Port.

When I checked out Andrew was still apologising and making a comparison between the Playhouse and himself and Faulty Towers, except he was Basil, Sybil, and Manuel. I thought it pertinent to let Andrew know about some of my mishaps and we had a good laugh about it. Everyone has those bad days! And we all make mistakes.

Our club had a zoom meeting on Wednesday night. It is usual for Dr Ray to give us an update from Nepal and what is happening in the world with Covid19. A few days earlier I had shared an upsetting email with him from my friend and past president Ranjeev Shrestha from Dhulikhell. The email read as follows: -

Dear Rtn. Debbie Loveday, District Governor
Namaste,

Hope you are doing well. I follow your good works on Facebook and happy to see everything.

Our first instalment of equipment is almost gone to Dolkha Hospital. We are just making documents and probably site visit once lockdown is lifted.

At moment, we are in the second wave of covid-19 for a month killing lot of people. Even my Rotary mate was dead. I lost 7 classmates and more than 23 relatives. I almost lost the hope to be alive. Now things are getting less in our areas and more infection in village areas. Hope things get better.

Thank you for your cooperation and hope you will enjoy the remaining time of your tenure.

With Best Regard

Dr Ray shared this with our club members, and it just highlights that in some parts of the world that are never reported on in the main news many people have "nearly lost hope to be alive".

Do you remember at my Conference in March Peter Baines keynote speaker number2 on Saturday morning talked about a life of being sent to many of the world's disasters and crisis areas? One thing he said has stuck with me. He said, **"In a crisis it is not an option to do nothing – start something!"**

MUSINGS FROM DG DEBBIE CONT.

So, I spoke with Dr Ray and Ranjeev and said we could try to get a global grant for some equipment to help the doctors in this covid ravaged country. The doctors needed a mobile X Ray machine and ECG machine so they would not contaminate the hospital equipment being used for non-covid patients. This would speed up the process of evaluating and triaging patients. Ranjeev held a zoom meeting with the doctors and local health officials and a community needs assessment was procured. In short, we have put together a global grant for this equipment. Since starting the grant so many people have pitched in to help. Maurie Stack our Foundation director, Committee members, suppliers of equipment in Nepal, the Rotary Club of Gongabu in Nepal. Medical experts in the Covid ward of the hospital in Dhulikhell. Rotary is responding! Hopefully, the grant will be submitted tomorrow, and we will await the Foundation response.

Last night I attended the Hastings Rotaract changeover. Would not have missed it for the world! I am so happy to support this wonderful group of young people, who have achieved so much in a very short time. It was a great evening of merriment, reflection and some interesting games which showed that most of us have a competitive streak, some more than others I might add. So, congratulations to Jack and his board for a successful year and I look forward to being with you in the next year.

Next week I am closer to home. In fact, 4 minutes away at the Wauchope changeover. Obviously, Wauchope being so close to home are well known to me and almost but not quite family. Looking forward very much to that evening. More about that in next week's E News.

WHO IS COMING TO DISTRICT CHANGEOVER?

I asked this last week and so far, there have not been many responses. Please do not leave David and me exchanging pins on our own. Get your RSVP to District Secretary Patti and transfer \$40 each into the district bank account.

District Changeover – Saturday 26th June 2021 Panthers Port Macquarie 6 for 6.30pm.

Invitations to our changeover have now been sent out. I have attached a copy to this newsletter. Please let District Secretary Patti know if you are attending and pay your \$40 to

BSB: 932-000

ACC: 500097454

REF: Surname District Changeover

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.

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL DATA SERVICES

Dear current and incoming Rotary club officers:

This is a friendly reminder to update your club membership and officer information in your local country or district database by 1 July 2021. We will use this information to generate your July 2021 club invoice.

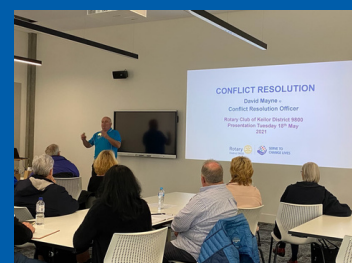
It is important that your club's member information is up to date, because Rotary cannot change the club invoice after it has been generated or accept membership updates with your payment. As a current club officer, you can ensure that your club invoice will be correct by updating the information in your local database.

1. Your club has indicated that it is using a local country or district database connected to RI to manage membership. Please make all updates to membership in your local database.
 2. Report all new or terminated members and 2021-22 club officers no later than 1 July 2021.
- Members with admission dates of 1 July 2021 or before will be counted for the July 2021 club invoice.
 - Members with termination dates of 1 July 2021 or before will not be counted for the July 2021 club invoice.

If you are interested, you are able to see your membership changes reflected in Rotary International's database by signing into My Rotary. If you see any discrepancy please contact data@rotary.org.

Besides updating membership, any changes to subscriptions to Rotary (formerly The Rotarian [in English]) should be reported to data@rotary.org prior to 1 July 2021.

For more information about the club invoice, including how-to guides and answers to frequently asked questions, go to My Rotary's Club Administration pages. For help with membership questions, contact: data@rotary.org.



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.

Here are a few membership-related sessions you may be interested in attending virtually or sharing with clubs in your district:

- 13 June: Rotary Alumni: A Hidden Gem for Membership and Service
 - 13 June: Innovative Ideas to Start a New Rotary Club
 - 15 June: Grow Rotary through Engagement
 - 15 June: Mission Inclusion: Accelerating DEI in Rotary
- 'ENVIRONMENT OPENS EXCITING NEW OPPORTUNITIES'

Article by RI Director-Elect Jessie Harman

Excitement is building with the addition of Environment as Rotary's seventh area of focus. Much of the excitement relates to the opportunity for increased environmental activities and outcomes. However, equally exciting is the opportunity for Environment to attract new supporters and members into Rotary. From 1 July 2021, Rotarians will be able to apply for grants from The Rotary Foundation to deliver projects with environmental outcomes. It is not the first time The Foundation will fund environment-related projects; indeed, the Trustees have allocated more than \$18m in Foundation Global Grant funding to environment related projects over the past five years. Yet giving Environment separate recognition is likely to result in more environmental projects and better environmental outcomes, thanks to Rotary. There may be other wins as well. The new focus on Environment may mean more partners and members for Rotary. Environment is a cause dear to the hearts and minds of many people. Not only will recognising Environment enable us to leverage our impact, but it also provides an invaluable opportunity to connect with new supporters, re-engage with existing members and promote Rotary in our communities. I encourage all clubs to consider how they can leverage the new focus on Environment to also deliver membership and public image benefits for Rotary. To coincide with the launch, clubs could:

- Organise and promote an environment related project in the town and invite community members to participate
- Host an in-person or online forum on an environment-related topic
- Hold a competition or awards event to recognise community members who have achieved positive environmental outcomes in the area
- Partner with a local, regional and/or national environmental organisation to deliver and/or promote an environmental project

Photo credit: Rotary International

- Organise an advertorial in the local paper to promote existing Rotary projects in the area of Environment
- Feature your club's environment related projects on your digital and social media platforms, along with a call to action for supporters and prospective members to join you
- Develop a plan to increase and promote your club's involvement in environment related activities and projects

Recognition of Environment as the seventh area of focus reminds us that The Rotary Foundation, Public Image and Membership are inextricably linked to Growing Rotary. To grow our membership, we must focus on making a difference where it matters most and ensure that our community continues to recognise us as relevant and responsive. The Environment Sustainability Rotary Action Group (ESRAG) in Australia, New Zealand and Pacific Islands will launch the new area of focus with a virtual event on Friday 4 June 2021 at 6.00 pm. Featuring interviews, project videos and speed networking from around our region, the event is free. You can secure a ticket by visiting: ESRAG ANZPI - ESRAG ANZPI - Environmental Sustainability Rotary Action Group - ANZPI Region

From Rotary Training Talk, May 2021 issue Three new or updated courses are available in the Learning Centre:

- Conducting Training Online Offering training online can help facilitators overcome physical distance, accommodate busy schedules, and create a more inclusive and more accessible learning environment. This course includes two demonstrations of how to facilitate a learning session in a virtual environment.
- Getting Started with the Learning Centre This updated course offers information and tips for new users of the Learning Centre. It also has a new video about key features of the Learning Centre.
- Get Ready: District Membership Committee Learn the essentials of how to grow Rotary through strategic planning and promotion. (Languages available soon)

DISTRICT ASSEMBLY

Last Sunday we held the last of three District Assemblies at CSU in Port Macquarie. This Assembly was well attended with over 140 participants keen to hear about the Rotary world and changes happening. Participants were able to 'break out' into various informative sessions covering areas such as Foundation, youth, conflict resolution, membership and PR. All feedback was positive with everyone seeming to enjoy the day as well as giving very useful suggestions. Special thanks must go to Neville Parsons, our District trainer as well as Ken Hall the Districts incoming Learning & Development officer for organising and Managing the days activities. Thanks must also go to all the presenters who made the day the success it was. Thanks to all the participants who ensured that the day was productive and informative. DGE David



DEBBIE'S MUSINGS CONT.

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!

A STORY FROM THE HEART - PDG LORRAINE COFFEY

I sat in the intensive care unit waiting to be collected (for the second time), when a nurse walked past with a familiar big brown paper bag.

I said to myself, "I wonder if the owner knows about the journey that's ahead of them?"

Why was I sitting in the ICU of St Andrews Hospital in Brisbane? I'd had open heart surgery on Monday, May 31; a quadruple by-pass. How did I get there? The story is too long to tell in full, but in short, I knew that my Mother's family had suffered from Coronary Artery Disease. My mother had her first quadruple by-pass at age 64. Why did I think I had it? I didn't. I had no symptoms as such, apart from a bit of breathlessness and fatigue at times. I just decided one day, that as I had inherited everything else from Mum, that I should get my heart checked. I didn't expect to find anything; it was just a 'precaution' I thought I should take.

Fast forward a few weeks and I'm diagnosed with Atrial Fibrillation (AF); a few more tests and I am sent to hospital in Brisbane to have an Angiogram. "I probably need a few stents" I told myself, and then I'll be fine.

I was soon facing a heart surgeon telling me I needed surgery right away. I really didn't have a choice (thanks Mum) and so here I am, on Sunday June 6, sitting at my computer and looking out at the view of Brisbane city from my room.

The journey is not an easy one, and I still have long way to go, but I am amazed at the wonder of modern medicine. An AF issue caused me to be sent back to ICU; I spent five days there. The care was fantastic, and the skills of our ICU doctors and nurses are not appreciated by us - we take them way too much for granted.

I met a young Nepalese student there, and told her I had a connection to her country. "I've got goose bumps" she said when I told her the story of Dr Ray and his Mothers and Babies Hospital. She hopes to train as a Nurse and Midwife and go back with those skills. It drove home again to me that no matter where you go in this world, you will always find someone who has been touched by Rotary.

My apologies for all those club changeovers I was going to attend, and now can't. I understand that DG Debbie has stepped up to the plate to organise alternatives. My aim is to get back for my own club's changeover on July 9, but at this point friends, it is one day at a time, one step at a time. I've got phone and email if anyone wants to speak to me.

PDG Lorraine Coffey

HIGHLIGHTING CLUB PROJECTS

I have permission from DG Debbie to proceed with that project started by an Armidale Rotarian last year.

I will be putting together a document that showcases each Club's Signature Community Project/Activity. There will be one page per club in our District.

This will contain some information about the project, plus also what other other community activities each club normally does in their town.

The document was going to be a reference document for clubs looking for ideas for projects. Now it will be a celebration of what Rotary has achieved in our District in the first 100 years of Rotary in Australia!

Please see attached document to this week's e-newsletter!

-District Community Director
Kel Walls

WORLD RECORD SOCKING!

What an incredible feat by Rotary (and Rotaract) Clubs in Port Macquarie this week!

We always knew our world record attempt for the Longest Washing Line of Socks was a crazy, 'outside the box' idea but I bet Sir Clem Renouf also had people thinking he was a little 'out there' to suggest we could collectively eradicate polio from the world through Rotary and were hesitant to get on board until they could see it had traction and could really happen.

* We did it!! We smashed the world record with 10km of continuous washing line completely pegged with socks of all colours, sizes and patterns less than 1cm apart. That equated to 107,886 socks...all pegged with sustainable stainless steel pegs donated for use by Melbourne Company Activated Eco. Nothing will go into landfill either!! That was President Heather's only stipulation for supporting Project designer Trevor Gilson's unique record-breaking sock idea.

It's been a mammoth engineering feat also, designing, constructing and testing the Longest Washing Line but thanks to one of Rotary's most stellar qualities; our membership, we had some fabulous creative minds who worked to finding a solution that achieved this.

A Massive Thank You to all those Rotarians and clubs across our District who lent their support, either by sending us your socks, sending \$\$ to help in our fundraising target or joined us in pegging the socks over Thursday, Friday and Saturday. It was a wonderful show of Rotary working together. Truly invigorating!!

Over the past few weeks, we have had lots of great publicity; from social media through to print media and TV news across Australia. People from all over have seen and heard about our World Record attempt. But more importantly they've heard more about Rotary and are hopefully realising that we are much more than a 'group of men who cook great Bunnings BBQs'. We are an amazing mix of people who can creatively find ways to help our community and have a lot of fun along the way.

-Heather Maybe
President RC Port Macquarie West



GIANT BOOK SALE

**3 DAYS
ONLY!**

Fiction, Non-Fiction &
Antiquarian Books

Friday June 11
9:00am to 6:00pm

Saturday June 12
9:00am to 6:00pm

Sunday June 13
9:00am to 1:00pm

**PANTHERS
AUDITORIUM**



PANTHERS PORT MACQUARIE



ANNUAL BOOK FAIR

Tuncurry Memorial Hall
Wednesday 30th June till
Saturday 3rd July 2021
Doors open 9.00am

Covid Rules in Place
Free Entry

Applications for NYSF 2022 are OPEN!



Mackenzie Toone-Spokes was sponsored by the Rotary Club of Port Macquarie.

NYSF was a great experience, and I am so glad I was able to obtain this opportunity. The forum allowed us to explore so many different aspects of the STEM field and was really eye opening in terms of careers and future pathways. I very much recommend this program even if you already have a career set in mind because you are really missing out on so much information and so many opportunities if you don't go.

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

Rotary Youth Leadership Awards **SAVE THE DATE**

D9650 RYLA 2022

Lake Keepit Sport & Recreation Centre

Saturday 30th April – Saturday 7th May

Please include in your Club Budget &
Calendar for 2021-2022 Rotary Year

Supporting our youth to become community
leaders of the future.

