



**Rotary Opens
Opportunities**



THIS ISSUE

Roadtripping with the DG

NYSF update

Rotaract News

Congratulations to Rotarians

CALENDAR

February 13 - District
Finance Meeting
February 20 - District
Management Meeting
February 21 - District
Management Training
March 7 - PETS Armidale
March 12-14 - District
Conference
March 21 - PETS Port
Macquarie
March 28 - District
Assembly Port Macquarie
April 18 - District
Assembly Tamworth
May 16 - District
Assembly Narrabri
June 26 - District
Changeover

MUSINGS FROM THE DG

I hope everyone enjoyed Australia Day in their own special way and had some time to reconnect with friends and families. It is also a time of reflection for many. For me it was remembering my ancestor Henry Hacking who was a Quarter Master on the HMS Sirius. Port Hacking south of Sydney is named after Henry Hacking by Matthew Flinders in 1796. Sounds good doesn't it. His life went downhill a bit after that, and he found himself in court many times. He was granted a conditional pardon and ended up in Hobart. He was superintendent of the Port of Hobart in 1819 and eventually dies July 1831 in Hobart hospital aged 81. He is buried at St David's Hobart. Congratulations to everyone who received an award this year. BIG congratulations to Ken Hall (9650 E Club) who was named Citizen of the Year in Tamworth. I have been very busy with all things conference this week. I was even a guest speaker at my own club to talk about what we are doing and see if anyone would like to help on the day. My conference committee under the chairmanship of Neil Black from the Rotary Club of Port Sunrise have been amazing in their support. Thanks to Valda Sturrock for her expertise in managing the registrations.

Could I draw your attention to our centenary project - Rotary's "Longest Washing Line of Socks" World Record Attempt - a D9650 Rotary Centenary Celebration Event. This event apart from being fun is about our Public Image and about fundraising to support our Rotary programs, including Lifeline. On 17 May 2014, a group of about 30 young adults in Germany completed the building of a washing line 6.066 kilometres long with 69,152 socks pegged to it and set a new Guinness World Record. That record still stands but not for much longer! Port Macquarie, NSW, Australia is where this record will be smashed in 2021. The challenge is being led by Rotary and, as far as we know, it is the only major event in our District 9650 that is a celebration of 100 years of Rotary in Australia. Sovereign Hills (part of the Lewis Land Group) is the major local sponsor (up to \$30,000) and the site of the challenge is adjacent to the new Sovereign Place Shopping Centre in the heart of the Sovereign Hills residential and commercial development precinct a fast-developing suburb on the western outskirts of Port Macquarie. Rotary aims to build a washing line TEN kilometres long with over 100,000 socks pegged to it. The public launch of the challenge is planned for early February 2021 at Sovereign Place. The building of the 10.0 kilometre washing line is planned for early June 2021. Once built, an estimated thousand people of all ages will (working in small teams to a timetable and complying with social distancing and other Covid-safe requirements), take part in the orderly pegging to it of over 100,000 socks on a Friday and Saturday with Sunday in reserve. A Melbourne business, Activated Eco, a supplier of stainless-steel clothes pegs, is providing, on loan, up to 150,000 of these pegs for the challenge and also attending the event. Why are we doing this? A few reasons:

- To celebrate in a novel way the centenary of Rotary in Australia and the bicentenary of Port Macquarie
- To promote some messages about caring for our environment
- To provide an event in which everybody can be involved in some way
- To increase our community's knowledge of and support for four not-for-profit groups and to provide them with seriously needed funds.

We are engaging ten sponsors (up to \$5,000 each) - one for each of the 1.0-kilometre sections of washing line. We will be appealing to our Port Macquarie Hastings community to not only donate their unwanted/tired/lonely socks but also whatever money they can afford to help these four not-for-profits. We want to be able to say to our community that each dollar donated is being matched by a dollar from our major sponsor and our ten-line sponsors (i.e. 10 cents from each of the 10 line sponsors). We are appealing to all our D9650 clubs to help us smash this Guinness World Record and give our public-at-large a different view of what Rotary takes on. Let us show them that we are not just about raffles, barbecues, book sales, building public amenities ... which is what most people see. Please get behind this event, anyone can assist with their old sock or the ones that lost their partner in the washing machine!

2021 Club Changeovers - Thank you to those clubs who have notified their changeover dates. For those that have not, can you let your AG know when your club changeovers are please.



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.

2021 Rotary Convention Now Virtual Message from RIP Holger Knaack

Dear friends,

By now we have sadly grown accustomed to hearing of the need to shift major public events to being held virtually rather than face to face. Unfortunately, the Rotary Board of Directors was compelled to again make the difficult decision to celebrate this year's International Convention as a virtual event. While this may not be an unexpected decision, it is still a deeply disappointing one – for us and for our friends in Taiwan who have been planning an exceptional event.

I want to thank the Host Committee for the admirable job they did building support for what surely would have been one of Rotary's finest events. We had hoped that a combination of vaccine uptake and public health measures would have brought the COVID-19 pandemic under control. We all know that in many parts of the world the pandemic is still raging and we must maintain our vigilance and patience before resuming major public gatherings. Taiwan has done an admirable job managing the pandemic – and local Rotarians were still eager to host and celebrate with us. Under the guidance of the World Health Organization and the local public health organization in Taiwan, it became clear that an event of this scale would be impossible to host safely. While we are disappointed that we could not have a traditional convention, we are excited about the virtual event being planned for all Rotarians worldwide.

Last year's convention attracted significant viewership during its weeklong program. This year, we will channel all we have learned about staging the very best in virtual events into a program that promises to open new opportunities for you to be entertained, enlightened and energized. We will share more details about the 2021 Virtual Convention soon.

Convention, pre-convention, and ticket refunds

We will automatically cancel and refund all existing registrations. This includes purchases made for the Rotaract and Youth Exchange and the Intercountry Committees pre-convention events, and ticketed meal events. We kindly ask that you do not contact RI Registration to inquire about your registration, ticket, or housing cancellations as we work diligently to inform all attendees and process cancellations and refunds. For those who had already canceled prior to today, you will also receive a refund of the \$50 processing fee.

Host Organization Committee (HOC) ticketed event registrations

The HOC event ticket fees will be refunded by the Taipei HOC. For more information, please visit rotarytaipei2021.org.

RDU 2021 Monthly Themes, People of Action - If you have any great stories or story leads around these themes, RDU would love to hear about them.

February - Together, We Promote Peace (Peace and Conflict Resolution Month)

March - Together, We Fight Hunger (Water and Sanitation Month)

April - Together, We Protect (Maternal and Child Health Month)+ R100 Centenary Celebrations

May - Together, We Mentor (Youth Service Month)

June - Together, We Connect (Rotary Fellowships Month)

July - Together, We Empower (New Leadership Month)

August - Together, We Inspire (World Humanitarian Day)

September - Together, We Learn (Basic Education and Literacy Month)

October - Together, We Transform (Economic and Community Development Month)+ World Polio Day Coverage

November - Together, We Do Good In The World (Rotary Foundation Month)

December - Together, We Save Lives (Disease Prevention and Treatment Month)

District Governor 2023 -2024 District 9660

Applications are now open for the position of District Governor 2023 – 2024 for the new District 9660. The following is an extract from RI bylaws setting out the requirements for a DG: Please give this opportunity some consideration and I await your call. Please see attached information. Applications close 31st March 2021. If you would like to apply for this position, please complete the nomination form and return to me at dloveday@hdl.com.au.

Please note: Past District Governors of this district are eligible to apply.

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

CONFERENCE

102 of you have registered. Please do not leave it till the last minute. Thank you to the support from my own club, you are leading the registration numbers, closely followed by the Rotary Club of Port Sunrise and with Walcha a close third. Look out for us in Focus magazine and if you don't get it in your area, then go to the online version. I will be sending each club their own copy in the next week. I will be offering seats to the general public in two weeks if Rotarians haven't registered and I have seat available. Conference 2021 would make an excellent membership drive. I would point out that if numbers are restricted then seats will be offered on a first come first served basis. I would urge you to book asap if you are coming and not be disappointed if you leave it too late.

"Rotary an International Affair" 12-14th March 2021
Port Macquarie Panthers
Registrations are Open – please register at
<https://www.rotary9650.org.au/>



CONFERENCE TROPHIES

You will have received a letter from PP Glenda Barber recently. If you have a trophy can you, please get it to your AG who will be attending the District Management Training on 21st February 2021.

Submissions for District trophies should be forwarded to PP Glenda Barber
(gbarber@midcoast.com.au by 19 February 2021

POLIO UPDATE

Our campaign to end polio has faced many challenges in the last two years, not least the impact of the Covid pandemic. Cases of wild polio jumped in Pakistan and cases of 'circulating vaccine derived' polio became a serious problem in equatorial Africa. These setbacks were related to issues such as political distractions, Taliban resistance and virus mutations following the use of the 'mOPV2' vaccine. Great progress has been made with these issues:

- Governments have refocussed and there were zero cases in Pakistan in December
- Discussions have commenced with the Taliban
- A new vaccine, 'Novel OPV2' was introduced in October, and it is dramatically less likely to mutate. Eradicating a disease is no easy task but we are now back on track.

See more details at: https://www.dropbox.com/s/tkak6vaxqdzawv1/210121_PolioUpdate.ppt?dl=0

BOOKS FOR CHANGE PROJECT TARGET IN SIGHT

An article in the D9650 E-Newsletter in July 2020 outlined the background to the Books of Change project initiated by the Rotary Club of Port Macquarie Sunrise. The project aims to provide 50 boxes of science books and early learning materials specific to Aboriginal culture to selected remote primary schools in western NSW. To achieve this goal, Sunrise Rotary needs to raise \$5,000 to match a \$5,000 Rotary Australia Compassionate Grant which has been obtained and will be allocated to the project on a dollar for dollar basis.

Sunrise Rotary is delighted with the response to the call for donations and over \$4,000 has so far been raised. However, whilst the target of \$5,000 is in sight only a few more weeks are available before the deadline for donations will be reached. Therefore a further appeal is being made to members of Rotary and others to contribute to this project and help make a difference through the fabulous Deadly Science program. (Note: More information about the Books of Change project and the Deadly Science program are available on the Port Macquarie Sunrise Rotary website - www.sunrise-rotary.org.au)

All donations to the Books of Change project are tax deductible and may be made by clicking on the link below. <https://donations.rawcs.com.au/123-2019-20>

AUSTRALIA DAY IN THE MANNING VALLEY

Most Rotary Clubs within Cluster 4 were actively involved in Australia Day Celebrations across the Manning Valley. The day started off with myself and members of the Rotary Club of Lower Midcoast conducting a flag raising ceremony on Pilot Hill at Forster. I then travelled to Taree where the Rotary Clubs of Taree on Manning, Taree and Taree North along with Lions and Quota clubs were conducting Australia Day activities on the Riverbank with the new Riverstage being the focal point for Welcome to Country, music and announcements of local Australia Day Awards compared by Rotarian Bruce Moy.

With the attendance of both our State and Federal members of Parliament saw our 500 seat capacity fill early. Given the Covid-19 restrictions on numbers able to attend, both Gloucester and Wingham Rotary Clubs still saw strong attendance at their respective Australia Day celebrations

Laurie Easter - AG Cluster 4



ROTARACT UPDATE:

After a hotly contested election DRR Laura Telford is pleased to announce current New England Rotaract president Holly Macbeth as the District's 2021-22 District Rotaract Representative. Please reach out and congratulate her and wish her all the luck in her role next year!



RDU WANTS YOU!

The theme for the March edition of Rotary Down Under, which will centre around the People of Action campaign's 'Together, We Fight Hunger'. "Hunger hides in every community. That's why Rotary clubs support programs to provide healthy food and develop sustainable solutions to food insecurity. Fighting hunger to build stronger communities – that's what People of Action do." IF you have a great story get intouch with the editors today!

CONGRATULATIONS KEVIN FARRAWELL

It's with great pride that we congratulate Kevin Farrawell on being awarded a Lifetime Achievement Award at this year's Australia Day Ceremony in Kempsey. Kevin Farrawell has been a tireless worker for our community over 50 years. A member of West Kempsey Rotary since 1970 where he was once the President and was awarded Rotary International's highest honour the Paul Harris Fellow Award for community service. Kevin was a founding member of the Kempsey Men's Shed, and a founding board member of the Cedar Place Nursing Home, the Slim Dusty Heritage Centre and Slim Dusty Foundation. He's also been a member of countless community committees such as the Business Chamber, the Bush Fire Concert and CBD revamps.

CONGRATULATIONS CHRIS WATSON

A huge congratulations to Chris Watson who has been inducted into the prestigious Crystal Boot Awards (UK) Hall of Fame. It is a very well deserved win. Although without the love and support of Gemma Watson this would not have been possible. Congratulations we are so very proud of him. Chris is a member of Tamworth First Light club and came to prominence with his line dancing when awarded a Paul Harris fellow as a young exchange student in America when he raised considerable funds for his Rotary club over there by teaching them all to line dance.

NYSF 2021

Emily Madirazza <emily@madirazza.net> Our candidate for NYSF in January 2020 – I thought I might give you an update on NYSF 2021 as my experience last year in 2020 was not as thrilling as had been promised. Therefore, NYSF promised a refund for the "portion of funding that my family contributed. Instead of this, I elected to go to the completely digital NYSF 2021. It was well worth it this year. Some of the highlights were:

- A medical science cross to the SAMWRI in South Australia. The researchers including Early Career Fellow Melissa Cantley told us about their work on blood cancers and how 50% of people with multiple myeloma die. This is because this type of cancer is usually diagnosed when it reaches distant parts of the body. These researchers are working on how to improve the survival rate of people with this type of cancer through analysing the role of the bone microenvironment in its progression from pre-cancerous stages. I had no idea there was a microenvironment inside our bones!
- An interesting presentation on genomics from Professor Vanessa Hayes from the University of Sydney. She told us about how she sequenced the first African human genomes from an individual called Celsisi. She described how the people that were ancestrally closest to us – people who live in Africa – have far more diverse genomes than we do and this changes their microbiome and reduces their susceptibility to disease. I was honestly astonished at the difference in diversity between Western people and people of African descent! She also described the difference between genomics and genetics – apparently genomics is the study of the relationships between all our genes while genetics looks at the composition and function of a single gene. I always thought they were the same! I was inspired by how she traced the origin of modern humans back to a Botswanan homeland by utilizing the multidisciplinary nature of science.

There were also several other interesting presentations! I loved the podcast / panel interviews about science communication and various prominent scientists – like Cathy Foley! – weighing in on where they think science will take us! I was glad to see PDG Ken Hall talking about his achievements in helping to eradicate polio. I am glad that it is only endemic in Afghanistan and Pakistan. People don't deserve to suffer.

This year, I am starting a Bachelor of Genetics at ANU in Canberra. I also hope to join the Rotaract Club down there. As always, thank you so much for both the financial and moral support you have provided to me and other young people with ambition and drive just like me! I love how your organization strives to take action however you can, not waiting on others to act first. Sincerely – Emily



WANTED!

1. Clubs please complete their Board for 2021-22 on the district database as soon as possible.
2. Members to check their personal details on the District database. If the information is incorrect here, it will be incorrect in the directory!
3. Check your club calendars of events which have been set and can be included on the district Calendar for 2021-22.
4. Take photos of new club presidents and secretaries for inclusion in the directory and email to Di Hall as a jpg attachment.

www.rotary9650.org.au



SAVE THE DATE

Wednesday 5th May 2021



50 PLUS YEARS

This special celebratory dinner will be held in Tamworth during the RYLA Camp to celebrate 50 Plus Years of RYLA in this Rotary District.

There will be a keynote speaker, past RYLArrians, current RYLArrians & entertainment to truly celebrate this leading Rotary youth program.

HOWEVER...

Due to COVID 19 we will be guided by NSW Health, Clubs NSW & Rotary D9650 restrictions at the time of the event. More information to follow as we move closer to the date.



A/Prof. Tilman Ruff AO
Nobel Peace Prize Laureate



Emma Leslie AM
Nobel Peace Prize Nominee



Dr José Ramos-Horta AC
Nobel Peace Prize Laureate



Natascha Hryckow
Coordinator UN Panel of
Experts on Somalia

Save the
DATE!

A Peace Symposium to celebrate
Rotary's Centenary Down Under and to
acknowledge Rotary's peacebuilding efforts



The future of PEACE LEADERSHIP

21-22 APRIL 2021

ONLINE SYMPOSIUM

Featuring

- Outstanding world class speakers
- RI President Holger Knaack
- Past RI Presidents
- Rotary Peace Fellows
- Optional sessions:
 - Family Violence
 - Indigenous reconciliation
 - Economics & Peace
 - Humanitarian Action
 - Business & Human Rights Law
 - Peacebuilding projects

More details and registration
information available soon

Conference website:
<https://peaceleadership.org.au/>

Rotary Remembrance



Neville Clarke OAM – PDG – PHF + 7
Died – 15th September 2019
R/C – Port Macquarie West

DISTRICT CONFERENCE – PORT MACQUARIE
12-14th March 2021

SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE

Following the Ecumenical Church Service on
Sunday 14th March 2021, we will be having a Service of Remembrance,
acknowledging all Rotarians in District 9650 who have died from
31/3/2018 up till the conference in 2021.
(Note - this is for two years, as we were unable to hold this service earlier this year due to Covid.)
Please send the following –
the name of your deceased Rotarian,
the name of your club.
His/her date of death,
PLUS a photo (head-shot) in a jpeg file as an attachment.
Please send to Kerry Medway (R/C of Port Macquarie)
via email- kerry@kerryedway.org ASAP,
so we can start collating a power point for the service. THANKYOU."

Environment – our new area of focus!

As most of you know by now, The Rotary Foundation
Trustees and Rotary International Board of Directors
have approved adding a new area of focus: supporting
the environment.

Supporting the environment joins peacebuilding and
conflict prevention; disease prevention and treatment;
water, sanitation, and hygiene; maternal and child
health; basic education and literacy; and community
economic development.

Over the past several years, more than \$18 million in
Foundation global grant funding has gone towards
environment-based projects. Now with this approved
and added area of focus, grant applications for projects
will be accepted from 1 July 2021.

From a communications perspective this is a great time
to work on proactive story mining.

As Rotary's Sr. Coordinator in Communications and
Public Relations I am on the lookout for stories we can
promote to an external audience via social media,
newspapers, magazines, radio and television.

When the time is
right, I'd like to try
and assist Rotary
members in
placing stories in
media and
hopefully spread
the word.

If you've heard about any environment initiative
projects in progress (started or starting as a result of the
new area of focus) or become aware to please keep me
informed of any such projects as they become available.

For further information and to let me know of any
stories contact me at angela.stavro@rotary.org

Angela Stavrogiannopoulou
Sr. Coordinator Communications and Public Relations
RISPPPO



D9650 Training for 2021-2022 Rotary Year

All Venues are currently being secured and details will be provided once all finalised.

Date	Training	Location & timing
Sunday 21 February 2021	District Management Team 2021-2022 Training	Port Macquarie 8:15am to 4:30pm
Sunday 7 March 2021	Inland Presidents-elect Training For Presidents 2021-2022	Armidale 8:15am to 4:30pm
Sunday 21 March 2021	Coastal Presidents-elect Training For Presidents 2021-2022	Port Macquarie 8:15am to 4:30pm
Sunday 28 March 2021	Coastal Training Assembly For 2021-2022 Club Office bearers	Port Macquarie 8:15am to 4:30pm
Sunday 18 April 2021	Central Training Assembly For 2021-2022 Club Office bearers	Tamworth 8:15am to 4:30pm
Sunday 16 May 2021	Western Training Assembly For 2021-2022 Club Office bearers	Narrabri 8:15am to 4:30pm