

Rotary Opens  
Opportunities

## THIS ISSUE

Musings from DG Debbie

RYLA update

Insurance Update



## CALENDAR

April 18 - District  
Assembly Tamworth  
May 16 - District  
Assembly Narrabri  
June 26 - District  
Changeover

## MUSINGS FROM THE DG

How things can change in a blink of an eye. From a post Conference high to an emotional low. Like most people along the Eastern seaboard and now inland the weather event recently experienced has left a trail of disaster, loss and suffering. All of us know someone who has suffered to some extent or know others who have lost everything.

In an area where rising water triggered an emergency response, I received the phone call at 11.30pm advising if I lived in a certain area I was to evacuate NOW! I live the safe side of the river so was OK but to others I cannot imagine the panic that would instil. What do you do, get dressed? Family, Pets? Livestock? Valuables? In the morning, the full extent of the tragedy became very clear. From COVID isolation to a water enforced isolation. I had a look at the Hastings River from the road bridge. The water is usually many metres below, now it was almost level with the road and a raging muddy torrent filled with trees, debris and most heartbreakingly people's animals.

Like most people I have been watching the news and seeing the video evidence of water inundation. I guess the most upsetting was hearing about local people who lost everything in a matter of hours. I heard of a community yesterday that had been coping on their own. Massive loss but trying to be resilient when they needed an emergency response from professionals to help them. It just goes to show how people try and carry on and deal with it. I am reminded of a comment from one of our keynote speakers at Conference "Doing nothing isn't an option" I couldn't physically fix the problem, but I could get on the phone and use the internet to report how they had been missed and needed not only a disaster response but someone to listen and respond appropriately. Talking to fellow Rotarians who had different connections and skill sets certainly made me feel better, as I had confirmation later that help was on its way. I know many have been involved in some way and President Elizabeth Fielding is writing an article to highlight the Cluster three response and how we can all make a difference. If your clubs have been involved in supporting the local community or Emergency Response teams let us know.

In last week's ENews I wrote about Dr Ray Hodgson's speech at Conference. One of the most impactful statements he made was the amazing financial response when he partnered with Rotary and became a Rotarian. The graph to the left represents what happened financially.

- Rotary became involved with the project in 2017, and after this time funds began to accumulate far more quickly.
- Rotary gave the project more prestige and led to greater awareness among the general public.
- Connection with numerous Rotary groups in the United States led to many donations from that country.
- Rotarians in the US created a platform: Disaster Network of Assistance Rotary Action Group (DNA RAG) to allow tax-deductibility for US citizens who donate to the project. As a result, many more Americans are supporting the project.
- The target of the hospital fundraising is \$AUD 1,520,000. This includes funds raised for land acquisition and the fitting out the hospital.
- The raised funds to date are \$AUD 1,351,000. We can see the end in sight.

If you would like to help us achieve the end and finish this hospital, then please go to

<https://donations.rawcs.com.au/36-2015-16>

NEW CEO RAWCS – Andrew Woodward

Congratulations Andrew on your recent appointment.

## MEDIA RELEASE

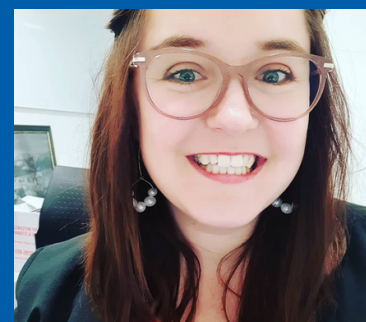
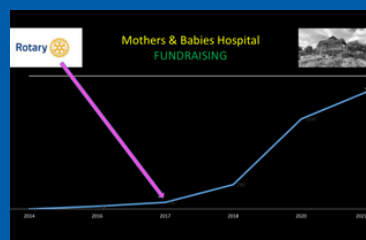
## National Flood Relief Appeal

Australian charity, Rotary Australia World Community Service, today announced the creation of a national Flood Relief Appeal for people impacted by the recent floods up and down the Eastern seaboard.

Australians impacted by the recent floods will be the beneficiaries of money raised by Flood Appeal and will be able to liaise with their local Rotary Club to advise of their needs.

The fundraising campaign, which aims to raise in excess of \$10 million, was launched this week to support the communities in need after yet another disaster impacting Australians.

"The money raised from the Appeal will go directly and quickly to support those impacted, providing essential items and financial support where Disaster relief and Insurance claims won't stretch," said Rotary Australia World Community Service Ltd CEO Andrew Woodward.



## E-NEWS CONTACT

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

# MUSINGS FROM DG DEBBIE CONT.

"The number of disasters Australians have endured in the last two years have been significant and left a lot of people in very difficult financial positions," Mr Woodward said.

Rotary Australia World Community Service has previously raised money for Bushfire and Drought affected areas and sees this disaster as just another where the network of Rotarians can step in to assist.

Mr Woodward said that he expects the money to help people with the things that insurance or disaster relief funds cannot replace. Whether it be helping farmers build new fences or providing food and clothing to those that have lost everything, the money raised will be crucial in helping families get back on their feet as soon as possible.

Rotary Australia World Community Service is a not-for-profit charity that aims to be the leading Australian charitable organization for people's wellbeing, supporting Rotarians and Rotary Clubs undertaking humanitarian projects in Australia and overseas.

Tax Deductible Donations to the appeal can be made here: <https://donations.rawcs.com.au/flood-appeal> or from the Rotary Australia World Community Service website at <https://rawcs.org.au>

Andrew Woodward is available for interviews and photographs.

Link to headshot photo here

Media Contact: Andrew Woodward 0411 075 107, [andrew.woodward@rawcs.org.au](mailto:andrew.woodward@rawcs.org.au)

Thanks to the generosity of Fantastic Aussie Tours in Katoomba, Rotary District 9685 now has a moving billboard to help promote the Centenary of Rotary in Australia and New Zealand. The Big Red Bus will be moving around the District soon and will be available for Clubs wishing to promote their centenary celebratory project(s). It is a 'working unit' and will be on the road between mid-March and the end of June when not on school runs or group tours.

## Commemorating a Centenary of Rotary in Australia

It's official. 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.

The Centenary book project was initiated by the RI Zone 8 Institute in 2012 but commenced organised planning and work in 2014. Seven long years of research, requesting information and photographs, writing, endless emails and meetings followed for the duly appointed RI Zone 8 History and Archives Committee.

Colour page proofs were approved as this magazine goes to press. Delivery of the finished product is scheduled for the first week in April - in time for the official launch by Australia's Governor General, the Honourable General David Hurley AC DSC FTSE, in Government House, Canberra, at 5 pm on Thursday, April 8, 2021.

Whilst many Rotarians and supporters have worked on the project since the beginning, those on the History and Archives Committee in the last two years have really borne the brunt of the 'action'. PDG Paul Henningham OAM - author of 'Seventy Five Years of Service' to mark the 75th anniversary of Rotary in Australia in 1996 - was the guiding light until his passing in 2018, when leadership passed to former RDU Managing Editor Bob Aitken AM. Secretary PDG Harry Durey, PDG Marilyn Barton, PDG Ted Richey and PDG Susan Wakefield OAM made up the remainder of the hard working team.

As pressure mounted and other tasks surfaced, several other dedicated Rotarians and partners were coopted to the Committee to ease the load - PDG Jennifer Scott, Janet Lawrence (deceased), Dennis Chellingsworth and his partner PDG Lorraine Coffey, PDG James Wilcox and PDG Bruce Allen.

RI Past Director Noel Trevaskis lent invaluable support and guidance once funds were allocated by Institute to complete the project in 2017. Funding was granted on condition that every Club in Australia receives one complimentary copy.

Four thousand copies of 'Humanity in Action' have been ordered and two thousand are already accounted for in pre orders.

Committee chair Bob Aitken has urged Clubs to pre order their copies now and arrange special presentation functions with local Government Councils, Libraries and Schools to promote Rotary's Centenary which officially falls on April 21, 2021.

## CLUB INSURANCE FORMS

Should have been returned last Friday 5th March 2021. Have you returned your club insurance documentation to the District Insurance Officer? NB. Have you included the travel document? Remember if you have people attending PETS or Assemblies next year then this should be put on the travel form. Do not mark nil or their will NOT be any insurance for them. Please ask for help if you are having difficulties sooner rather than later. Help may be available in your club, a past District Governor or an Assistant Governor. Don't delay please complete and return to Brett White.

## DG 2023-24 APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN

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. 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](mailto:dloveday@hdl.com.au). Please note: Past District Governors of this district are eligible to apply.

# DEBBIE'S MUSINGS PART 3

'The book is the perfect gift for guests at special events and District Conferences. After the official launch in Canberra we have plans in hand to continue promotion of Rotary's Centenary using the book as a resource for unique on line blog presentations,' he said.

Concluding his comments, Bob Aitken heaped praise on the many individuals and Rotary organisations to lend support to this vital historical project – Gay Kiddle and the staff at RDU, Grace Ramiriz and the staff at RISPPPO, Graphic artists Rhys and Meagan Martin of iMedia Corp (AU/NZ), Geoff Wright of printing contractors The Wright Stuff NSW Pty Ltd.

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

## LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT

Rotary's Learning Center now available on mobile devices

You can now take Rotary's online courses on most mobile devices. See our how-to guide for detailed instructions or follow these steps to get started:

On your mobile device, use a browser to go to [my.rotary.org](http://my.rotary.org) and sign in to My Rotary.

Tap the ☰ menu at the top left of your screen.

Tap the plus sign next to Learning & Reference, and then choose Learning Center.

Go to your app store and download Go.Learn. Don't open it from here.

Return to your browser. From the same Learning Center page in My Rotary, tap the link to the Learning Center.

Go.Learn works with iOS10 and later as well as Android 6 and later. Note that the app has some limitations, including in some of the interactive learning options. You will need to use a computer to download certificates or view additional resources. Links to the Learning Center may not work on mobile devices. Instead, go to the Learning Center through My Rotary, then search for materials or courses.

Hone your skills with Toastmasters International

Become a more effective presenter, communicator, and leader through the courses Toastmasters International developed for our Learning Center. From speechwriting and interpersonal communication to building consensus and leading a team, these courses will help you grow professionally and personally. All eight courses are now available in several languages in the Learning Center. Search by topic Toastmasters.

## LEARNING CENTRE COURSE UPDATES

There are several new and updated courses and learning plans for club and district officers in the Learning Center:

District Training Committee Intermediate learning plan

District International Service Committee Intermediate learning plan

Starting a Club

Get Ready: District Interact Committee

Send links to these courses to incoming officers before they start these roles, and include the courses in your training curricula.

We are coming to the end of March which is Water and Sanitation Month – the first Rotary project was a toilet. In communities where there are no services incremental steps can go a long way.

When Rotary members tried to bring toilets to a remote island, the population wasn't ready, by Diana Schoberg

In many remote places, toilets that are connected to sewers or septic tanks are the exception, not the rule. In those areas, toilets that operate without water seem like an ideal solution. These toilets feature two or three holes: one for urinating, one for defecating, and, in some models, one for washing. But when a group of Rotary members tried to bring these toilets to a remote island in Indonesia, the community wasn't ready for technology that the Rotarians thought of as no-frills, but the intended recipients saw as overly complicated. Learn more about the sanitation ladder, and why in some communities, incremental steps can go a long way.

Clean water, sanitation, and hygiene education are basic necessities for a healthy environment and a productive life.

But when a group of Rotary members tried to bring these toilets to a remote island in Indonesia, the community wasn't ready for technology that the Rotarians thought of as no-frills, but the intended recipients saw as overly complicated. "The community didn't want it, and in fact the project had to be redesigned. It cost the project a couple of years," says Mark Balla, president of the Rotary Club of Box Hill Central, Australia, and vice chair of the Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) Rotary Action Group. "People thought it was a great idea but didn't think about the cultural appropriateness. That's so important when developing a project."

Part of the problem was that the project made too ambitious a leap. One tool that could help is the sanitation ladder, a graphic representation of levels of sanitation service that might exist in a community. "It helps you visualize the progressive steps to take to raise up a community from having absolutely no services to having the highest quality and most reliable services," says Erica Gwynn, the WASH area of focus manager for The Rotary Foundation. Developed by the World Health Organization/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply, Sanitation, and Hygiene, the sanitation ladder concept can help Rotary clubs design a needs assessment, understand a community's sanitation level, and set goals for a project.

# DEBBIE'S MUSINGS PART 4

‘The sanitation ladder shows the gradual steps communities may take in improving their facilities. At the bottom rung of the sanitation ladder is open defecation, whether it takes place in a field, forest, body of water, or other outdoor area. “A rainstorm is going to carry those feces across a wider range of space,” Gwynn says, “and with that comes the transmission of diseases.” Every two minutes, somewhere in the world, a child under five dies as a result of poor sanitation, poor hygiene, or unsafe drinking water.

“The impact of being at that bottom rung is drastic,” Balla says. On a business trip to India in 2012, he saw how the level of sanitation facilities can have all sorts of impacts beyond disease transmission, including contributing to educational disparities for girls, who may leave school when they reach their teens if there are no toilet facilities.

One step up is “unimproved” — that’s the disposal of feces in a pit or bucket. It’s more contained, but an unlined pit is still in contact with soil, and a heavy rainstorm will transmit diseases. And poop in a bucket has to be emptied somewhere. “It’s not really contained — it’s temporarily contained,” Gwynn says.

At the next step up the ladder are latrines that are shared among households; on this rung, facilities are designated as “limited.” This is an improvement over the two previous steps, but shared facilities are often detached from homes, which can lead families to feel less ownership and responsibility for maintaining the latrine. “It ends up filling up quicker, or sometimes one family can’t afford to pay to empty the latrine,” Gwynn says. “Often, we see long-term management of these facilities that is not optimal.”

“Basic” facilities, the next step up, include improved facilities that are not shared with another household. This goal looks at safety as well as access: latrines with lined pits that help minimize the spread of fecal matter and safe platforms such as concrete slabs that users can stand on without the risk of falling in.

At the top rung on the sanitation ladder, and the target of the sanitation-related Sustainable Development Goal, are “safely managed” facilities. At this level, not only does a household have access to its own toilet, but the waste is safely collected and treated. “Now we’re talking about the full cycle of what happens to your feces,” Gwynn says. Safely managed facilities solve many of the problems caused by shared facilities such as a pit latrine in a slum. That pit latrine may be lined and have a nice slab on it. But it fills up fast, and the way the waste is collected and disposed of is unsafe — somebody has to go into the hole and bring the waste out, and then it is dumped into a nearby river. “How are we protecting anybody any differently than if we did open defecation?” she asks.

Balla and Gwynn stress the importance of a needs assessment — a step that is required by The Rotary Foundation for any global grant application — to determine where a community lands on the sanitation ladder and where residents aspire to be. The community needs to drive the project in order to arrive at the most sustainable solution.

While the Foundation will not fund projects on the “unimproved” rung of the ladder, Rotary clubs that are interested in doing sanitation projects should be wary of jumping too many steps at a time. “We don’t always have to aim for the ultimate rung on the ladder, which is ‘safely managed,’” Gwynn says, although she notes that the final goal is to get there. “But sometimes it’s much more feasible and affordable to go one or two rungs up the ladder at a time. Behavior change is very difficult if you take too big of a jump.”

Remember,

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

## COMMUNITY RALLIES AS FLOODS PEAK

It started with a phone call and escalated quickly. 400 RFS and Fire and Rescue personnel were due in Port Macquarie that night and needed to be fed for at least the next 10 days. Within 2 hours representatives from the 3 Port Macquarie Rotary clubs as well as the Rotaract Club were at the indoor basketball stadium to plan a strategy to meet this need. We also included the combined Lions clubs of Port Macquarie and Tacking Point

Starting at 6 in the morning and operating on a two day roster each club, we cook a hot breakfast and distribute lunch packs and wave them off. They arrive back late afternoon, have a shower and relax and then we serve them a delicious dinner that has been prepared by an external caterer.

It’s a wonderful example of how quickly service clubs can come together to fill a community need and strengthen relationships between all the clubs.

Heather Mayne Port West, Col Norton Port Sunrise, Elizabeth Fielding Port Macquarie



Rotary



District 9650 celebrates

# 50 PLUS YEARS OF RYLA

One of Rotary's most successful youth programs

**WEDNESDAY 5TH MAY 2021**  
**6PM for a 6.30 start**

**BLAZES AUDITORIUM, WEST TAMWORTH LEAGUE CLUB**  
**58 PHILLIP ST, TAMWORTH**

**HOST CLUB: RC TAMWORTH FIRST LIGHT**

\$50 per person  
Dress: Cocktail/Jacket & Tie

*Guest Speaker*

Australian Local Hero of the Year 2020  
**BERNIE SHAKESHAFT**  
Founder of Backtrack

**DIRECT DEPOSIT**

Account: Rotary Club of Tamworth First Light  
Bank: NICU | BSB: 802 298 | Account: 10065200 | Reference: Your Name

**RSVP: FRIDAY 23RD APRIL**

Dimitry Betts | 0422 268 863 | Dimitry.Betts@outlook.com  
PO Box 271 Moonbi NSW 2353

Please advise dietary requirements



Rotary Youth Leadership Awards

**Applications Close 9th April**  
**NOMINATE NOW – Leaders of the Future**

2021 RYLarian Dominic Goodwin-Hauck  
Sponsor RC Gunnedah

2020 Gunnedah Citizen of the Year  
2021 Australia Youth Trust  
Tom Harvey Citizenship Award  
Presented by Her Excellency Margaret Beazley

**Invest in the Youth of your Community**

Application on D9650 Webpage  
Applications close Friday 9th April  
Camp at Keepit Sport & Rec 1 – 8 May

Celebrate 50 Plus Years RYLA in D9650  
Wednesday 5th May Tamworth  
Guest Speaker Bernie Shakeshaft  
2020 Australian of the Year Local Hero  
Founder of BackTrack



What can you  
do for peace?

Rotary  
Australia &  
New Zealand



CELEBRATING  
**100**  
YEARS

## The future of PEACE LEADERSHIP

**21 - 22 April 2021**

Online Symposium

[peaceleadership.org.au](http://peaceleadership.org.au)



### Plenary Lecturers



**PROF TILMAN RUFF AO**  
Founding Chair of ICAN,  
2017 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate



**NATASCHA HRYCKOW**  
Coordinator UN Panel of  
Experts on Somalia



**DR EMMA LESLIE AM**  
Executive Director, Centre for  
Peace & Conflict Studies



**JOSÉ RAMOS-HORTA AC**  
Nobel Laureate, Former  
President of East Timor

Listen to world class speakers  
Join a peace project  
How to develop a peace project  
Engage in facilitated discussions

### SESSIONS ON

INDIGENOUS  
RECONCILIATION  
FAMILY VIOLENCE  
ECONOMICS AND PEACE  
HUMANITY &  
HUMANITARIAN AID  
BUSINESS &  
HUMAN RIGHTS  
WHAT YOU CAN DO  
FOR PEACE

### Panel Discussion: How do we reverse the Doomsday Clock?



**IAN H.S. RISELEY OAM**  
Past President of Rotary  
International



**THE HON GARETH EVANS AC**  
Former Politician & Academic



**STEVE KILLELEA AM**  
Founder, Institute for  
Economics and Peace

2 DAY PROGRAM | \$66 REGISTRATION | [PEACELEADERSHIP.ORG.AU/TIX](http://PEACELEADERSHIP.ORG.AU/TIX)

### Attention all Rotary and Rotaract Clubs!



National Youth  
Science Forum

Applications for NYSF 2022 will be available online from early April 2021.  
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](http://www.nysf.edu.au)

Happy to speak to any club who would like more information. [dihall605@gmail.com](mailto:dihall605@gmail.com) 0411704654