



Rotary Opens Opportunities

September is basic education and literacy month. Rotary's goal is to empower communities to support basic education, reduce gender disparity in education, and increase adult literacy.



THIS ISSUE

Roadtripping with the DG
Update from Tamworth West
Update on District grants
Hats off for Mental Health

CALENDAR

September 7 - DG visit to Woolgoolga
September 8 - DG visit to Wingham
September 10 - DG visit to Bellingen
September 14 - DG visit to Laurieton
September 15 - DG visit Lower Mid North Coast
September 18 - DG visit to Lightning Ridge
September 18-20 - Zone 8 Rotary Conference online
September 19 - Coonamble Debutant Ball
September 21-24 - RYAG Dairy Wingham
September 21 - DG visit Glen Innes
September 22 - DG visit to Guyra

MUSINGS FROM THE DG

Happy Father's Day to all those dads out there! – "To the world you are a dad, to our family you are the world"

As you all appear to be following my all Australian Adventure with amusement, I thought I would recount a somewhat embarrassing trip out to Moree. I would like to preface this and say that I am not a collector of tickets and never have been. I made it to Inverell by staying on the main highways (tarmac) and those that had recognisable service stations and plumbed amenities. I was heading out to Delungra where my parents used to live. As you leave Inverell there is a 50km area followed by an 80km area. Unfortunately, I was distracted and thought I was on the wrong road and exceeded the limit. Next thing there was a flashing blue and red light in my mirror and one of the local constabularies at my side on his motor bike. I await Australian Post-delivery of my infringement notice!

Mondays visit to Warialda was rather special. Thank you to President Peter Hancock and Secretary Phillip Ledingham for hosting me. I had the pleasure in inducting a lovely young lady Ardina Jackson into Rotary. Congratulations, Ardina and welcome to the world of Rotary.

I know the members are excited about the prospect of their Facebook page now you have set it up for them. Please go on to Facebook and give them a like. https://www.facebook.com/WarialdaRotary/?ref=page_internal

The club has been busy this weekend at the local camp draft, feeding all the patrons. They are involved in Art Auctions, cleaning up of crown land, Golf Days, Battery Drives, and actively involved in the local schools, finding participants for Rotary Youth programs and supporting the camp for the blind.

Tuesday, I visited Moree on Gwydir club. At this point I would like to thank Secretary Linda Meppem and members for hosting me at their dinner meeting. I would also like to extend my best wishes for a speedy recovery to their president Gregg Humphries who was unable to attend that evening. I was treated to a four-course meal at their meeting! The club is involved in many community projects including a duck race, camp draft BBQ's. They connect with other clubs in the state and are looking at funding a covered eating area for one of their schools. They are also looking at supporting a driver education programs by providing simulators for students to learn to drive safely. They are active supporters of Ronald McDonald House.

I would like to thank AG Bruce George for accompanying me on my visits in his cluster.

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.

For some AG's they must travel quite a way after a day's work in order to be in attendance and support me at club meetings. I know Bruce and Kate travelled an hour and a half in order to support me at Barraba and similarly at Moree and then drive home afterwards. I really appreciate the support and the input of information and local knowledge they have given.

What have I learned from my visits so far? I have learned that Rotarians form strong friendships in their clubs. Their clubs are part of the local community, and local community is something they hold very close to their hearts. These friendships are gold. They know each other's history, their family history and are there for each other no matter what or how hard the going gets. They go the extra mile to help someone in need. In this year where Covid has affected all clubs and their fundraising abilities I take away with me a certain amount of pride in our members and their ability to keep going in difficult circumstances. Community service is said to be the 'Heartbeat of Rotary' and I have seen how community service has taken the place of fundraising in order to support those communities who have suffered drought, bushfire, flood and now pandemic. We have some amazing resilient people in Rotary – Thank You!

Remember

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



POLIO PLUS MOVIE NIGHT WILL LOOK DIFFERENT

This year, COVID has made planning and running the annual Polio Movie Event much more challenging than usual! There will be issues in some locations but, with appropriate measures, such as masks, sanitiser and sensible seating arrangements, it is possible for events to go ahead in most areas. This year's movie is *I Am Woman*. It's the story of Australian singer/songwriter, Helen Reddy, who shot to global stardom in the seventies. While set in the US, the movie is an Australian production shot in Sydney. Tilda Cobham-Hervey is sensational in the lead role.

Resources to help clubs include:

A PowerPoint file that clubs can use to quickly create marketing materials:

https://www.dropbox.com/s/uetrx8ykb44kn2d/IAW_Promo_ClubTemplate.pptx?dl=0

AND text for club newsletters and social media posts:

https://www.dropbox.com/s/lo6v08p0hw1qwmc/IAW_Posts_Aus_Clubs.docx?dl=0

The *I Am Woman* trailer is available on YouTube.

We also have a new short video on Rotary's polio vaccination programs



DISTRICT GRANTS THROUGH THE ROTARY FOUNDATION

Applications are invited from clubs for District Grants from the Rotary Foundation. Depending on the exchange rate at the time, we are expecting to have available something in excess of AUD \$40,000. Our policy is a maximum of \$4000 per application – unless there is a shortage of applications. There will be only one grant to each club. Applicant clubs must have one member who has during 2000 completed the Grants Management Seminar on the Learning Centre on the Rotary International Website – or it can be accessed by clicking on this link <https://learn.rotary.org/members/learn/lp/101/grant-management-seminar>

Applicant clubs must also have set a target to support the Rotary Foundation through Rotary Club Central on the Rotary International Website. There is an expectation that clubs will themselves contribute some amount towards the project. District Grants can be used for either local or international projects.

It is up to clubs to make the choice although Governor Debbie Loveday has expressed particular enthusiasm about international projects where there is often great "bang for the buck."

The 2020 application form can be found in the Documents Library on the Rotary 9650 website. Applications close on 31 October 2020. They should be emailed to our Grants chair Elizabeth Tollis – elizabeth.tollis@gmail.com.

Alternately they can be posted to her at P.O. Box 5190, Hallidays Point NSW 2430.

-Maurie Stack
District Foundation Director



HATS OFF FOR MENTAL HEALTH

Every October, Australian Rotary Health encourages Rotary Clubs, businesses, and individuals to get involved in Hat Day as part of 'Lift the Lid on Mental Illness'. If you are struggling for ideas to celebrate the month... these might help!

Host an online trivia/raffle session:

You may want to get a group of people together for a trivia/raffle night on Zoom. A bit of friendly competition is always fun. Plus, prizes could be awarded to those with the best/funniest/quirkiest hats!

Team Up with Clue Detective Puzzle Agency:

The Clue Detective Puzzle Agency, founded by Rotarian Catherine Eagleson, is teaming up with Rotary Clubs to sell puzzle memberships online as a contact-free way to fundraise for Rotary projects and Lift the Lid on Mental Illness. You may even want to get together with a group online to solve puzzles together. Find out more.

Ask Australian Rotary Health to Help You Organise a Mental Health Speaker:

Australian Rotary Health is funding plenty of Mental Health researchers who are more than happy to present their research to Rotary Clubs. Get in touch with our office to organise a speaker at your next Club meeting.

Bake Some Hat-Themed Treats:

Whether it be biscuits, cupcakes, or pancakes, baking 'hat-themed' treats could be a delicious way to raise money for mental health research. A simple online transaction and delivery to someone's doorstep can make the process 'contactless'. Don't forget to wear gloves while handling food!

Decorate Your Own Hats at Home

Depending on the restrictions in your area, you could gather with a small group of friends for a hat-decorating crafternoon! Make sure you send us your pictures!



Calling ALL Club Secretaries!

Wednesday 9 September 2020 - 7.30 pm

Bring your questions and receive your answers immediately.

Topic: District 9650 Website & Database

You decide how long you want to stay!

Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83203126355>

IMAGINATION RUNS WILD IN TAMWORTH

Of the many Organisations and Charities the Rotary Club of Tamworth West supports, the Dolly Parton's imagination library is one especially worthy of support in this Pandemic year.

The Library facilitates a free book gifting program devoted to inspiring a love of reading in the hearts of children everywhere. Each month, enrolled children receive a high-quality, age-appropriate book in the mail, free of charge.

Children receive books from birth to age five. Pictured are our RCTW President Mal MacPherson donating a \$5000 donation cheque to Shirelee Franks, a Representative from the Tamworth Regional Library, who oversees the Dolly Parton Imagination Library in Tamworth.

RCTW understands there are now 1,000 young children involved in this fabulous program locally. If you would like to find out more about Dolly Parton's imagination library please follow the link below:

<https://imaginationlibrary.com/about-us/>



YOUTH EXCHANGE

Our latest YEPPER is now available on our webpage D9650 youth exchange or use this link <https://www.rotaryyouthexchange9650.com.au> to read the latest stories of how our students are handling the time overseas.

BIRTHDAY FUN

Ahead of his birthday on September 1 Ken Hall has sent a target to raise \$1000 for Lifeline. For more information contact Ken via email: hallkr330@gmail.com

ZONE 8 CONFERENCE

Registrations are now open for the 2020 Zone 8 Rotary Conference. It was supposed to be held in Alice Springs but now we will have to go there via the internet. [Click here to register!](#)

RVFR FELLOWSHIP

Recreational Vehicle Fellowship of Rotarians (Aus.) Inc or RVFR as it is known by members. RVFR is a fellowship of Rotarians that have a common interest and love of outdoors, enjoy participating in recreational pursuits including caravanning, camping visiting different places within Australia most of all the friendship and fellowship that you make.

Most of our activities occur on the East coast of Australia as that is where our present membership lives. For convenience membership is divided into Zones on a geographical basis.

Each zone (gathering) is autonomous and conducts its own musters (event) throughout the year. Members from other zones are welcome to join in each muster.

For more information head to the official [fellowship website here.](#)

FIRST CONFERENCE SPEAKER ANNOUNCED!

Peter Baines OAM, was a forensic specialist who was sent to Thailand as part of the Australian contingent that was charged with the task of leading the international identification effort of the 5395 bodies that were recovered. It wasn't the enormity of the tragedy that spurred him to do something. He had previously worked in Bali after the 2002 bombings and saw plenty of death and destruction there. No it wasn't the death that inspired him but the hope and the opportunity to do something for a small group of kids living in the grounds of that temple in a tent at Bang Muang.

When Hands Across the Water Founder Peter Baines OAM first arrived in Thailand after the Boxing Day tsunami on 26th December 2004, the sight and smell of devastation was overwhelming. The former NSW forensic police specialist's job was to help with the victim identification process. He soon realised the impact of what had happened was far greater than anything he could have possibly imagined. "Whole communities had been affected and families torn apart – in some cases generations of family members were completely wiped out. All it took was a matter of minutes after the tsunami to hit for young children to suddenly find themselves orphaned. It was gut wrenching to see and I knew that something had to be done to help – for the kids and their communities," Peter says.

It was a wave of destruction that started thousands of kilometres from the beaches of Thailand. It travelled silently and without notice until it approached the West Coast of Thailand. As this body of water raced towards the golden and tranquil beaches there was alarm within the animals and birdlife as they sensed something was happening.

As the water reached the shoreline it was forced upwards, creating not a wave but a mass of water that was ten metres high in some locations. The power of this wave of destruction was unstoppable, it traveled kilometres inland with total disregard for who and what lay in its path. Like hungry jaws of destruction it consumed all that lay before it. Having destroyed communities, villages, homes and families the wave of destruction would recede leaving behind an impact that would last generations. It claimed generations of families. 5395 people would lose their lives in Thailand alone. A mere fraction of the 250,000 to 300,000 lives that would be taken on the 26th of December 2004.

The signs of destruction are increasingly hard to find within the coastal area that once was the centre of the worlds attention. But the scars on the hearts of those who lost their mothers, brothers, daughters, husbands, wife or other loved ones, they remain. You don't lose the most important person in your life and get over it. As a mother you don't get over the memory of that day when your child was ripped from your arms by the force of the water. As a grandfather you never reconcile with the choice you had to make when it came to decide which of the two grandchildren you held in your arms you would let go of and be swept away by the water knowing that unless you did, both would surely die. You learn to live with the loss, but you don't get over it.

Hands Across the Water... the beginnings We didn't set out to start a charity, we didn't set up a fundraising page in the hours that followed looking to capitalise on the human tragedy that unfolded before our eyes. Our origins occurred at a temple in Bang Muang north of the epic centre of the destruction in Khao Lak, months after the attention of the world was turning away.

"I couldn't change what had happened, but I felt I could change what happened next" - Peter Baines OAM



RAM NEEDS YOU!



ROTARY AUSTRALIA
WORLD COMMUNITY
SERVICE



ROTARIANS
AGAINST MALARIA

IMPENDING VACANCY OF THE POSITION OF RAM NATIONAL SECRETARY

The position of National Rotarians Against Malaria (RAM) Secretary will become vacant on 1st July 2021. The RAM National Executive is looking for 'Expressions of Interest' from a suitable candidate to take up this position.

We would expect the incoming nominee to take the opportunity to be mentored by the existing incumbent, Gloria Hargreaves.

Should you be interested please contact Gloria (egharg@netspace.net.au) who will then send you the Job Description and Nomination Form.

RAM National Manager

Dr Jenny Kerrison



Please ask them back....

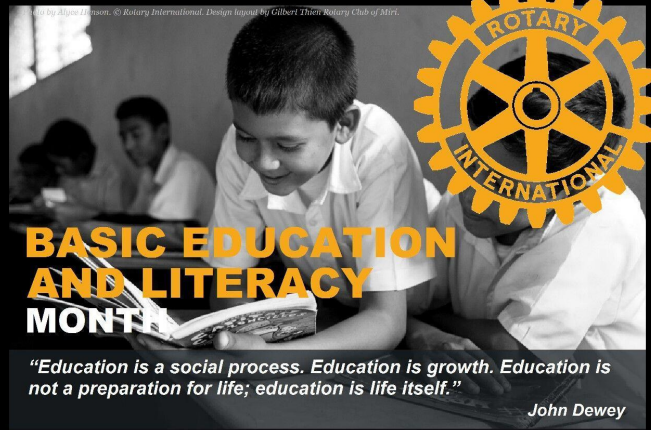
We urge ALL Clubs to invite the RYLarian(s) they have sponsored in 2020 to return & give a presentation at Club level.



1st – 8th May 2021

Lake Keepit Sport & Rec Centre
(More information & application forms to follow)

SEPTEMBER IS



Rotary

TAKE ACTION: Join Rotary. Get Involved





District 9650 Conference

Rotary an

International Affair

March 12-14th 2021



Panthers Bay St, Port Macquarie

ROTARY 9650.ORG.AU/DISTRICT-CONFERENCE

[HTTPS://WWW.ROTARY9650.ORG.AU/DISTRICT-CONFERENCE](https://www.rotary9650.org.au/district-conference)

