



**Rotary International District 9650**  
**E News - Sunday 15 March 2020**

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| <b>Rotary International President</b><br><b>Mark Maloney (Gay)</b><br><b>Rotary Club of Decatur Alabama USA</b> | <b>District Governor</b><br><b>Phil Hafey (Bronwyn)</b><br><b>Rotary Club of Laurieton NSW Australia</b> |
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**MESSAGE FROM DG PHIL HAFEY**

**District Conference Cancelled**

The District Conference Committee met this morning (Sunday 15 March) and unanimously decided to cancel this year's D9650 District Conference.

This decision was taken following discussions with the Public Health Unit and medical practitioners and well as advice from State and Federal Health Departments and the District's Insurers.

The Committee decided that the welfare of our Rotarians is paramount and would be placed at risk if Conference was to proceed and this was the main reason for the cancellation.

As Rotarians will understand, this decision was not taken lightly and the Committee are devastated that the District isn't able to come together and celebrate the achievements of our Clubs in this challenging year where our main focus has been on community support during these recent times of drought and bushfires.

The Committee will meet again on Thursday to collate the information required to determine all of the financial implications of the decision and more details will be published in E News next week.

At this stage it is proposed to feature some of the Conference agenda at District Changeover on 27 June 2020 including some presentations. There will be more

**Cancellation**

Rotary District 9650 Conference  
 2020  
 South West Rocks



details on the  
 Changeover  
 closer to the date.

**DISTRICT GOVERNOR 2022-2023 - EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST INVITED**



D9650 Clubs are invited to submit their suggestions for nominations for District Governor for the 2022-2023 year.

Such suggestions are to be received by DG Phil Hafey on or

before Tuesday 31 March 2020.

D9670 are also seeking expressions of interest from their Clubs for District Governor for this same year, being the first year that D9650 and D9670 will be the one new District.

The nominations received by the respective District Governors will be considered by the Nominating Committee which will comprise the District Governor, District Governor-elect and District Governor-nominee of both District 9650 and District 9670 together with the Chair of the Transition Committee.

The District Governor Nomination Application Form, is located in the Documents Library on the District 9650 Website and is to be returned direct to DG Phil Hafey **no later than Tuesday 31 March 2020**. By mail to P O Box 92, Bonny Hills 2445 or via email to phil.hafey@bigpond.com

Clubs are reminded of the following as specified in the D9650 Policies at 4.05.2.1:

*The Nomination Form requires that the Nominee suggestion from the Club be endorsed via a resolution of members adopted at a regular meeting of the club naming the suggested candidate. The resolution shall be certified by the club secretary. A club may suggest only one of its own members as a candidate for governor-nominee. (RI Bylaws Article 12.030.3)*

The criteria for eligibility for District Governor include:

- Candidates must, at the time of taking office, have been a Club President and been a Rotarian for 7 years;
- The successful candidate must attend Rotary Zone 8 and Rotary International training;
- Given this will be for a newly formed District, Rotary International have advised that Past District Governors of either D9650 or D9670 are eligible to apply.

The interviews for the position of District Governor 2022-23 of the District created by the merger of D9650 and D9670 have been scheduled for the weekend of 30-31 May 2020 at a venue yet to be decided.

**ROTARY INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT 9650 INC**

[www.rotary9650.org.au](http://www.rotary9650.org.au)

Contributions are sought and encouraged. Please e-mail to Neville Parsons: [neville.parsons1@outlook.com](mailto:neville.parsons1@outlook.com)



The National Youth Science Forum (NYSF) is a not-for-profit organisation that runs a number of residential programs to encourage young people in their passion for science.

Our programs show the wide variety of engaging, rewarding and inspiring study and career options available in science, technology and engineering fields. Our flagship program is the NYSF Year 12 Program, which runs in January each year for students about to enter year 12.

Since 1984, more than 12,000 young Australians have progressed through the NYSF Year 12 Program (including those run under the organisation's previous banner, the National Science Summer School (NSSS)).

Rotary is the Founding Partner of NYSF and today the 21 local Rotary districts across Australia continue to conduct selections for the NYSF Year 12 Program on behalf of the NYSF.

**A message from CEO National Youth Science Forum, Melanie Bagg**

Thank you for your patience regarding a decision on reimbursements following the cancellations affecting the 2020 National Youth Science Forum (NYSF) Year 12 Program.

We deeply appreciate the special relationship we have with Rotary and your long-time support. As we make our way through this time of crisis, we thank Rotary for the calls, emails and advice we continue to receive.

We are delighted to report that the Board unanimously supported NYSF Management's recommendation to fully reimburse Rotary Clubs for their contributions to student fees for the cancelled Session C of the 2020 NYSF Year 12 Program.

Session C students and their families will be also be fully reimbursed by the NYSF now, rather than waiting for the lengthy insurance process to run its course as this could take months.

The board also approved \$120,000 to enable a series of activities for new NYSF Alumni throughout 2020 in various locations throughout the country. This will include those from Session A and Session C who missed part or all of the experience and are now officially considered NYSF Alumni.

As you are aware, Session A participants completed a significant portion of the NYSF Year 12 Program. Based on this and the extensive Alumni program we will be providing, the NYSF will not be offering any financial reimbursement for Session A.

It is possible that Session A students may receive a partial reimbursement, depending on the outcome of NYSF's pending insurance claim. Session A students

and their families will be notified once this is determined. All clubs with students should have received this email with a clear message of how to claim a refund as per above.

*And now for the future!!*



STEM LAB VISITS • LECTURES • SITE TOURS • WORKSHOPS • SOCIAL EVENTS

Lets make an effort to advertise and promote this program so that our young people can live a life with a group of positive and caring people as Rotarians are.

We need to model this to all our young people who are growing up in a world of uncertainty and increasing anxiety.

2020 has been a disastrous year. Its time for Rotary to turn it around.



**IMPORTANT TRAINING DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES**

***SUBJECT TO CHANGE AS WE MANAGE OUR RESPONSES TO COVID-19***

**PRESIDENTS-ELECT TRAINING SESSIONS**

**District Training Assemblies:**

**Sunday 5 Apr 2020**

District Training for Incoming Club Offices at Armidale

**Sunday 19 Apr 2020**

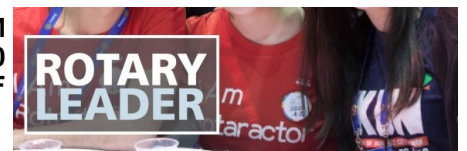
District Training for Incoming Club Offices at Port Macquarie

**Sunday 3 May 2020**

District Training for Incoming Club Offices at Gunnedah

**Please schedule in your diaries NOW**

**EXTRACT FROM MARCH 2020 ISSUE OF ROTARY LEADER**



Effective 1 July, Rotaract clubs will be able to choose the sponsor relationship that best meets their needs. New Rotaract clubs can choose to organize with or without a sponsor. Existing Rotaract clubs can continue to be sponsored by a Rotary club or decide, with their sponsor club, to end the arrangement.

<https://www.rotaryleader-en.org/rotaryleader-en/en202003?pg=1#pg1>

**Joint Message from Rotary International's President  
Mark Daniel Maloney & President-elect Holger Knaack**



Sunday 15 March 2020

Dear Fellow Rotarian

The COVID-19 coronavirus is affecting every aspect of our lives in real time, and this puts Rotarians in an unfamiliar place. As People of Action, we are most comfortable when we are fully engaged in the world – moving freely, meeting openly, and offering helping hands. These are very difficult times for people who, like us, are at our best when we are learning, growing, and serving—together.

We are also leaders in our communities, and these times call for leadership.

In many ways, this also is our time. We have proven abilities to reach out and collaborate to offer immediate help to people in need at a rapid pace. These are precisely the skills needed all over the world today. The global effort against COVID-19 depends on actions taken in every country. Rotary has the unique ability to help improve those efforts in every community and every country.

Using all the technology we have at our disposal, we as Rotarians can continue to reach out and collaborate on big projects with Rotary clubs, Rotaractors, and Interactors. There are a number of examples where Rotary clubs are helping health authorities communicate best practices or provide needed equipment or support that have been shared with our leaders around the world. As Rotary's president and president-elect, we have been thinking of these issues very seriously in regard to upcoming Rotary events.

As you may be aware, we have made the difficult decision to cancel two Rotary Presidential Conferences honoring our relationship with the United Nations- one in Paris, another in Rome.

In the near term, we recommend that Rotary districts and clubs cancel or postpone meetings or events following the advice of national and local health officials.

We know that clubs and districts are seizing the opportunity to become leaders in their communities and are making better use of technology in this time of need. For example, a Rotary e-club in Italy held a live online session about COVID-19 awareness, a Taiwan club worked with companies and a pharmacy association to donate 1,600 bottles of hand sanitizer to the city of Ji-Long, and Rotary clubs in Sri Lanka helped upgrade

software and hardware for the health promotion bureau to assist its social messaging.

We cannot know quite yet what path this virus will take. We know we can play a role to help “flatten the curve,” reducing the number of cases in the short term to allow our health systems to address this issue.

If the collective global effort helps bring the situation under control, then we hope to re-embrace our core values at the 2020 Rotary Convention in Honolulu. Our time together will have greater meaning and purpose than ever.

Please know that we are taking a close, continuing look at our plans for the convention in June to make sure all attendees' safety will be protected.

We are following the lead of the world's most trusted sources, including the World Health Organization (WHO) and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, for their guidance.

We want you to be able to make decisions about what is best for you and your families in terms of attending this year's event.

In the meantime, this is an opportunity for us to demonstrate that *Rotary Connects the World* in innovative ways.

We should be closely following the advice of the [WHO](#) and local health authorities. Again, this includes canceling Rotary club events and meetings in the short term to reduce unnecessary interactions that could cause infections. We can put a greater emphasis on the work we do in our communities by helping our less fortunate neighbors cope with the effects of isolation and fear, or by supporting our health authorities to address this situation

We are dealing with this situation in real time. Please visit the [rotary.org COVID-19 response page](#) for ongoing updates

This is an unprecedented challenge for nearly all of us. But it is also an opportunity for Rotarians to find new, meaningful ways to lead individuals and communities to connect and do good in the world

We have never been prouder to be part of an organization that does so much to protect and strengthen our communities, at home and across the globe

Kindest regards

Mark Daniel Maloney

2019-2020, President, Rotary International

Holger Knaack

2020-21, President, Rotary International

**Rotary International District 9650 Conference 2020 - March 20 to 22  
South West Rocks Country Club**

**Now Cancelled following advice from Public Health Unit and other experts, due to risks  
re corona virus and the concern for Rotarians, partners and guests health**





**Keep those applications coming!**

*Thankyou to the sponsor Clubs....*

"I am so thankful to my Rotary club for sending me to RYLA.

The program has boosted my confidence in ways I never could have imagined.

It has opened so many opportunities for me and has helped me to find meaning and a sense of family in my community.

I was also selected to return to RYLA as a leader and again as a leader's leader – allowing me to strengthen my leadership skills, which later led to me pursuing a traineeship as a Youth Insearch leader.

Thanks to my Rotary club I have also had the opportunity to travel the world and contribute to my own community in meaningful ways. I've made amazing friends and have truly learned the meaning of 'bloom where you are planted'."



**Meg Hanlon RYLA 2016, 2017, 2018**

Sponsor Club: RC Inverell  
Volunteer In Timor Leste

**Applications are required NOW**

**Rotary Youth Leadership Award**

**D9650 Seminar  
2<sup>nd</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> May 2020**

**Lake Keepit Sport & Recreation Centre**

Attendees to be 19 - 27 year old looking to develop their own personal purpose and profile for life.

Application & brochure on [www.rotary9650.org.au/RYLA](http://www.rotary9650.org.au/RYLA)  
All enquiries to go to:

Louise Matthews E: [lmjew@bigpond.com](mailto:lmjew@bigpond.com)

**WALCHA ROTARY CLUB'S RYAG SHEEP 2020**

Walcha Rotary Club staged RYAG Sheep from 3 to 7 March drawing 31 agriculture students in Years 9 to 11 from schools across the New England, Northwest and North Coast. As in previous years, the program again took the form of a residential camp with daily excursions to local farms for tuition from local producers and other experts who presented workshops covering a wide range of subjects building a comprehensive introduction to the sheep industry.

The program was made possible by the generosity of local farmers and other presenters who selflessly gave their time and expert knowledge.

Hands-on workshops covered the selection and judging of rams, embryo transfer, low stress stock handling,

whole farm management, stock freighting, assessing pastures, drone demonstrations, genetics, carcass scanning, comparative farm business options, faecal egg counting, butchering, shearing, wool classing, fibre testing, dog training, stock rotation practices and much, much more.

In a departure from previous years where the student stayed in shearers' quarters on Europambela Station, this year the students were accommodated at the Walcha Showground in dormitories with a pavilion converted for dining, socialising and evening tutorials.

The showground allowed more than ample space for the students to roam and kick a football or sit around a campfire.

The camp culminated with an evening at the Walcha Golf Club featuring a Gala Dinner and Wool Industry Fashion Parade in which the students strutted their stuff and delighted their parents as well as filling the air with youthful energy as they showed how much they enjoyed and appreciated every aspect of the RYAG experience.

Walcha President Andrew Corlette said:

*'RYAG organisers strive to provide a program which combines valuable and relevant learning experiences with an environment which is also good fun.'*

Reviewing the students' written workshop evaluations Andrew commented:

*'the feedback shows the kids really got engaged in the tuition, enjoyed the camp experience and made new friends. It seems everyone agrees it was the best ever RYAG Sheep program.'*

Walcha Golf Club was the venue last Friday where over one hundred people came together to celebrate the culmination of Rotary Youth in Agriculture (RYAG) – Sheep, a 4-day program put together by the Walcha Rotary Club. The evening featured a Gala Dinner and Wool Industry Fashion Parade in which the students strutted their stuff and delighted their parents as well as filling the air with youthful energy as they showed how much they enjoyed and appreciated every aspect of the RYAG experience.

The students and Rotary Club organisers extend a gigantic vote of thanks to the numerous generous sponsors and the army of presenters including Hamish McLaren, Angus Carter, Chook Keeley, Chris Betts, Andrew Blomfield, Martin Oppenheimer, Sara Bower, Tim Lawrence, Lewis Khan, Lu Hogan, Liz Foster, Julie Harris, Brent McLeod, John Croake, Harold Manton, Bill Harris, Jonathon Cross and Tony Overton. Also to Cecelia Oppenheimer and Josh Lockyer for their exceptional achievements as supervisors and mentors to the students.

Photo below: Students at the shearing shed at Petali

