



## Rotary International District 9650

### E News - Monday 18 November 2019

<b>Rotary International President</b> <b>Mark Maloney (Gay)</b> <b>Rotary Club of Decatur Alabama USA</b>	<b>District Governor</b> <b>Phil Hafey (Bronwyn)</b> <b>Rotary Club of Laurieton NSW Australia</b>
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#### CANCELLATION ROTARY SHOWCASE

Advice of cancellation of the 2019 Rotary Showcase was issued to all Club Presidents and Club Secretaries as well as the Management Committee on Thursday 14 November—**extract of that message follows:**

*Given the continuing Bushfire Risk and the road closures that remain we have decided this morning to cancel this year's Showcase 23 & 24 Nov 2019.*

*Can you please arrange to advise your members .*

*I with District Treasurer Pam Foye will over the next few days look to return those payments already made to the District Training Account for the Rotary Showcase.*

*I will tonight send more information re the SGM to sign off the Audited Financial Statements for 2018-19 and again remind you of the option of completing the Proxy Form and returning to District Secretary Patti or arrange to attend via Zoom Meeting that I will provide details after work today. (Thursday 14 Nov 19)*

*I thank you for your understanding at this time and I extend to those members and those communities that have been greatly impacted by the current bushfires.*

Neville Parsons

District Trainer & Finance Committee Chairman

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#### ARRANGEMENTS FOR SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING (SGM) SATURDAY 23 NOVEMBER 2019

The Special General Meeting (SGM) on Saturday 23 Nov 2019 at 11am will now be held by "Zoom Meeting" for any Club that wishes to actively participate in the formal SGM and the Zoom Meeting Details for accessing the meeting have been provided to each Club President and Club Secretary on Thursday evening 14 Nov 19.

If joining via Zoom then I recommend that Clubs within each town look to have representatives meet together and a group dial in to the actual SGM this will ensure that we have a manageable number of locations in the Zoom Meeting.

As you are aware Clubs can indeed vote via Proxy and the required Proxy Form that must be received by District Secretary Patti Parsons on or before 11am

Thursday 21 November 2019 has been distributed to Clubs.

The Audited Financial Statements for the District Operating Account and the District Committees subject to Audit were distributed to each Club President and Club Secretary on 30 September 2019. The new format Consolidated District Account and the actual SGM Agenda was distributed to Clubs on 31 October 2019 together with a copy of the Proxy Form.

Should your Club require copies of the Audited Accounts to be re-sent or indeed any questions or comments in relation to the Audit and the SGM Agenda then please email D9650 Finance Committee Chairman Neville Parsons asap. Details of any such Questions and the response will be provided to all Clubs.

Thank you for your support in ensuring that we get the required quorum at our SGM to approve the 2018-2019 Audited Financial Statements.

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#### Please Provide Banking Details for Refund Showcase Booking Fees to District Treasurer

District Treasurer Pam Foye requests that Clubs and Rotarians that have made payments to the D9650 District Training Account for the now cancelled Rotary Showcase are to please urgently email her the BSB and Account Number of the account to which the refund is to be returned. Pam Foye's email is: pamfoye1@gmail.com

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#### MESSAGE FROM DG PHIL HAFEY:

##### CLUB VISITS THIS WEEK POSTPONED

The decisions to cancel Showcase and postpone our Club visits this week were not taken lightly but were necessary to guarantee the safety of our members and also ensure that the District and Rotarians did not suffer financially as a result of last minute decisions.

As I write, it is not possible to travel from Clusters 1, 2, 3 and 4 to Tamworth safely, if at all, without taking long detours and some of those routes are problematic.

The Club visits will be rescheduled for February which is already a busy time for Clubs and District as the training for incoming officers commences. I will be in touch with each Club in the next fortnight to confirm arrangements.

**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)

## MESSAGE FROM DG PHIL (Cont)

The Club visits that have been postponed are as follows: Uralla, Walcha, Barraba, Narrabri, Coonamble, Coonabarabran, D9650 E-Club, Gunnedah 2380, Gunnedah West, Tamworth Sunrise & Glen Innes

It is appropriate to address some of the issues that were to be discussed at Showcase in E News this week and in future issues.

### Insurance Compliance

Compliance with Insurance requirements continues to be a concern.

District Insurance Officer, Brett White, is available to assist Clubs complete the required documentation in a timely manner.

All of the documents are located in the Documents Library on the District website ([www.rotary9650.org.au](http://www.rotary9650.org.au)) and **Brett's Contact details** are:

[brett@bdwmanagementservices.com.au](mailto:brett@bdwmanagementservices.com.au)

Mobile: 0427 659 606

Remember, most projects and activities in the community require Insurance documents to be completed.

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### ROTARY CLUBS OF TAREE BUSHFIRE APPEAL

Julie-Ann Booth of Taree on Manning prepared the following article last weekend as shared by AG Cluster 4 Murray Difford to DG Phil on Monday 11 November:

*"Our area has had devastating fires rip through our communities. Lives have been lost & properties have been burnt to the ground. Some people don't have anywhere to go & the evacuations points are overflowing with people, cats, dogs, chickens, rabbits & various other family pets. Supermarkets shelves are becoming empty & the whole area is covered in thick dense smoke & supply trucks are having problems getting through. Convoys of semi-trailers sitting dormant on the side of safe highways.*

*It is a picture right out of the movies, too surreal for words.*

*So many of our Rotary members have been out fighting side by side with other community volunteers on the front line & in logistics for hours & days & weeks now to save as many homes, lives & property as they can.*

*Being a resident of Old Bar, it has been too close for comfort. our little village was saved at the 11th hour as these horrendous fires tried to destroy it, is being marked as the Miracle Village. Our neighbour Wallabi Point has been almost wiped out, again homes have miraculously been saved.*

*Other little communities haven't been so lucky, other Rotary District Clubs haven't been as lucky, yet some have at the same time.*

*The smoke has been so dense that it has created it's own weather pattern, trees are now falling onto roads, houses & cars, roads are slowly starting to reopen. So the watch continues even after the fires have gone out.*

*Our dams are being drained of much needed water that was attempting to help us survive the drought to help put these fires out.*

*Our community is banding together in ways I haven't ever seen before. Medical supplies have passed on from person to person, then onto the media who could get into dangerous areas & then onto the Fire fighters to give to the actual person at risk. Clothes, food & water are being donated to those in need at epic proportions.*

*People on the dole have been donating a lot of their pension cheques towards buying water for the those who need it most.*

*If nothing else let's hope that change can be made at the highest level so something like this won't ever happen again. There will be so much learning that will come from these devastating conditions in every community. It is times like this one can be so grateful for service clubs like Rotary they promptly jump into action to help & support fellow Rotarians.*

*We are so grateful that the Australian Defence force has jumped into action. More volunteer Fire Fighters who also sprung into action & jumped into planes from every State to help us as soon as they knew we were in trouble. The relief to see so many planes & helicopters flying overhead dumping water on the most precarious areas & doing their best to save us. Thank-you.*

*I trust that various Rotary Clubs will give us, Australia as a collective right now, a lending hand where we need it. And we say thank-you."*

Taree on Manning has launched the RAWCS "Taree and MidCoast Bushfires Appeal". Funds raised will go to those who lost their homes in the fires.

"We have registered this as a Rotary Australia Compassionate Grant" said local Rotary Assistant Governor Murray Difford. "This means that not only are donations tax-deductible but the first \$15,000 donated will attract a dollar for dollar matching grant from funds donated by Dick Smith."

Anyone wanting to support those who lost their homes to the bushfires over the weekend (or during the month of November) can donate by googling Rotary Australia World Community Service. Simply click the Donate button at the top and then "Click Here to Donate to a Specific Project". Then enter the number which is project number **41 of 2019 – 20**.

Direct Link: <https://donations.rawcs.com.au/41-2019-20>

For more information please telephone the Project Manager Rotary Past District Governor Maurie Stack on 0427 668 821 or email [maurie@stacklaw.com.au](mailto:maurie@stacklaw.com.au).

**Photo Below: courtesy Taree North Bulletin & RFS**



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

**Diarise Now for  
a great Rotary  
weekend**



**Rotary: Strengthening Local Communities**

**Rotary Fun &  
Learning**



## Art Classes for local Veterans & returned service people



Pictured left:  
Local Artists  
Wingham Rotarian  
Ron Hindmarsh &  
Jillian Oliver

Using art as a therapeutic tool for veterans is becoming increasingly popular and is known to assist in dealing with PTSD.

Tinonee artist, Ron Hindmarsh and Wingham's 2017 Citizen of the Year, Jillian Oliver, who is also an artist, provide art classes for current and former Australian Defence Forces personnel.

Jillian is a former police officer who sustained a serious injury to her arm which later necessitated its amputation. She has used, and is still using, art as therapy.

"I found so much benefit from it, and I'd like someone else to benefit from it," Jillian said.

"It's something I find such peace from doing, because I get a lot of pain and I still have things I'm dealing with medically, and also not having a job that I love."

Jillian has a special interest in the history of the military and supporting the defence forces. She first came up with the local art therapy for vets idea after seeing a picture on Facebook of Australian forces in Afghanistan at a dawn service.

"It's just a beautiful picture and I thought 'I'll give that a shot' and I started painting it," she said.

When it was finished she sent a picture of it to the page she saw the initial photograph on and was immediately contacted by the officer in charge. Jillian ended up donating the painting to the unit in Afghanistan to raffle off, with the proceeds going to their chosen charity – an orphanage in Afghanistan.

A Northern Territory MP visited Afghanistan and came back to Australia with a print of her painting, which is now hanging in his office in Canberra. As a result, Jillian was contacted by the chairman of the Australian National Veteran Arts Museum in Melbourne.

"They do a lot of stuff with returned soldiers with depression and PTSD. They run therapy sessions and art classes and they're quite involved in finding ways to help people deal with injuries and mental illness," Jillian said.

After talking to the museum, Jillian was keen to start local classes to help local veterans and ADF personnel, and approached painting buddy Ron Hindmarsh, who was more than happy to get involved.

The art classes initially were only for veterans or ADF personnel, but in this last year the classes have been expanded to include emergency services personnel.

No artistic ability is required, and Jillian encourages those who do not think they are artistic to come along and try it anyway.

"Not everyone is artistic, but there are all different forms of art," she said.

The art classes are held every 2nd Thursday morning at the Wingham St Matthews Church Shop premises in Isabella Street Wingham from 9:30am to 12:30pm and the cost is \$5 per class and that includes Morning Tea.

The following is an extract from an e-mail from Ron Hindmarsh:

Sunday the 3rd. Nov. PDG. Neville and Patti Parsons came down to the Taree Craft Cottage and opened the Art Exhibition we are having for our "Art and Soul" art group. This exhibition will be on till the 29th. Nov. in the first week they have sold 6 paintings and have a number of inquiries re our classes.

At the opening we had representatives from Police, Fire, both dept., SES and council, all very interested and are now fully aware of program.

Our local member, Steve Bromhead, is fully aware of this program and has advised us on how to apply for grants. He has also given our group 10 easels to help with painting and display. St.Matthews Church in Wingham have allowed us to use their shop to hold classes and display paintings, from which 4 paintings sold and orders taken. St.Matthews have included our program with their community support programs so we are automatically covered by insurance. Our group are up to 10 members, all excited and eager, communicating outside of class with each other and a number of them, when finished a painting at home, put their works on facebook. This program and our class going well.

### Your E-News Editor observes:

*This is a great project and one that I am sure Rotarian Ron Hindmarsh would be happy to provide information to help Rotary Clubs start in our other communities in D9650.*

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### District 9650 representative for the 2022 Rotary International Council on Legislation and 2020-2022 Council on Resolution.

The nominating committee consisting of PDG Ken Hall (Chair), PDG Harry Durey, PDG PRID John Boag, PDG John Barwick, and PDG Garry Johnson OAM have selected PDG Bob Ryan as the District's representative for the above position.

PDG Ian Jackson was selected as the alternate delegate.

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### MESSAGE FROM FOUNDATION DIRECTOR

The Rotary Foundation is seeking information on the success of the Ride like a Girl movie in raising funds for PolioPlus.

Could clubs which ran a movie night send me a quick email providing a guesstimate of how many attended and what funds were raised.

Rob Byrne from the Foundation did a great job organising and publicising this movie and we would like to give him this feedback. *Many thanks Maurie Stack*



**Join us in Honolulu for  
the 2020 Convention!**

It's a wonderful way to make friends from around the World

6—10 June, 2020. Register today @ [riconvention.org](http://riconvention.org)





**Rotary Youth Leadership Award  
D9650 Seminar  
2<sup>nd</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> May 2020**

**Lake Keepit Sport & Recreation Centre**  
(between Tamworth & Gunnedah)

Attendees to be 19 - 27 year old looking to develop their own personal purpose and profile for life.  
RYLA inspires and creates leaders of the future

**Lending a Hand**  
D9650 Tafea Project Vanuatu 2019



**Picture above: Andrew Stokes**

Past RYLarian & current President Hastings Rotaract  
"I had heard about the D9650 Tafea Project & the positive impact it was having on the lives of the locals. As President of Hastings Rotaract, participating in an International Project was one of my goals.

The whole experience was a new & exciting adventure & a great opportunity to "do good" within the international community & to experience another culture.

We worked on a school on the island of Tanna doing repairs, installation of guttering & shelving & repairs on the Rotary work shed.

The locals were so friendly & accommodating. My most memorable moment was driving around the townships in the back of a ute with all the locals smiling & waving.

I would recommend to anyone to take the opportunity offered through Rotary to participate in an international project & experience the culture first hand & not just as a tourist."

**RYLA Adding value to our community**

The program is brilliant, the results outstanding, and the experience is life changing.

**Brochure & applications on website**

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

**DG Partner's Project Account:**

**Account Name:**

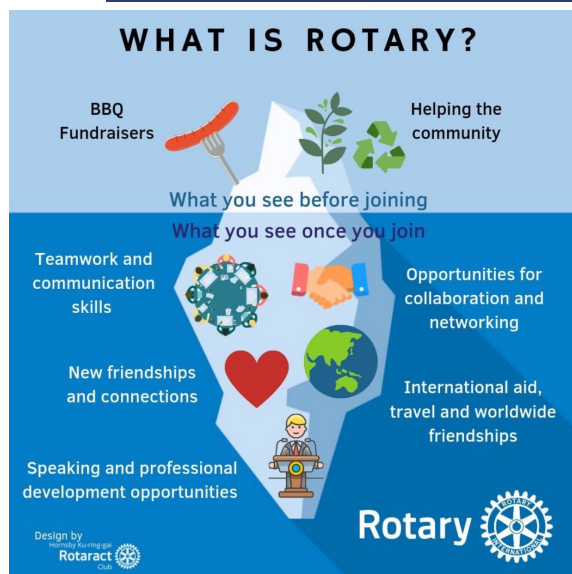
Rotary International D9650 DG Partner's Project  
**For Direct Credit (electronic payment)**

**BSB:** 721-000

**Account No:**

500143137

**Reference Required:** Rotary Club Name



Rotarians & Guests bidding farewell to PDG Harry and Joyce Durey in Armidale on Saturday 9 November 2019.

Thank you for your contribution and good luck for the future.

