

"I am delighted to have been selected by the joint D9650 and D9670 Selection Panel to be the District Governor to lead the new merged District being District 9660 from 1 July 2022. In this role I will be supported by my wife and Rotarian Patti, together with a District Management Team that will be selected from Rotarians with the required skills, enthusiasm and commitment from every corner of the current membership of both Districts.

It is my intent to ensure that we have the best skills to lead and support the individual Clubs within the new District and at the same time ensure that there is a mix of experience and younger talent to ensure that we build from day 1 appropriate succession planning into all District Leadership roles.

I appreciate the challenge in bringing our 2 Districts together as one, but I see many opportunities to ensure that the work of Rotary through our Clubs and our individual Rotarians continues to enhance the quality of life for all in the communities within the geographic footprint that will be District 9660. My recent experience in positioning the merger of Holiday Coast Credit Union with Regional Australia Bank will be invaluable as it is about communicating with all of the members and ensuring that all are invited and encouraged to share the journey and to help in building the new District and to do so by ensuring that everyone is engaged in the process and encouraged to look to the future in building a stronger Rotary in our Clubs and our District.

I know that the need for Rotary today is far greater than it has ever been as the work and support that we as Rotarians do and deliver in each of our communities, in our District, in our Region and within and outside Australia is work that enhances the quality of life for many and continues to make a real difference in our world. Our task over the next few years and indeed in the first year of the new District is to ensure that we transform where required and enhance our ability to continue to do good in our communities and the world through passionate Rotarians that are engaged via their Rotary Clubs and or their passions for doing good.

I look forward to being your District Governor in 2022-2023 and to delivering a harmonious and successful unification of the 2 Districts being District 9670 and 9650 into a very strong and exemplary Rotary District being District 9660 that will function from day one as "one team" totally committed to making a difference in each of our communities through the Rotary values, culture and programs."

Finally I note that the strength of District 9660 will be very much built from the actions and focus of Rotarians in each of our Clubs from today forward and in this regard we need to focus on having a very clear Club Vision and Strategic Focus that will strengthen the Club, tell our Rotary success stories and engage with our communities each and every day. In doing these things well I am confident that we will at each Club encourage new members that want to join to deliver real and meaningful change in their community and the communities of the world. Remember people are more likely to engage in supporting a cause or causes that resonate with their own beliefs, shared experiences and values.

Thank you for the privilege to serve as your District Governor in 2022-2023 and I commit to do all in my power to deliver a very successful first year of the new Rotary District 9660 in 2022-2023."

PDG Neville Parsons