

Guest Speaker Ian Dyball – topic **The Rotary Foundation.**

Ian was introduced by Bruce Moy who told us that Ian is a retired professional engineer who returned to home town Taree when he bought and operated a childcare centre for 5 years. He was our Centennial Year Club President and District Governor in 2007-08.

The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International was formed in 1917 with the simple objective “to do good in the world.” In more recent years, the Trustees of the Foundation have given a clear direction with 6 Areas of Focus:



Peace and conflict prevention/resolution



Disease prevention and treatment



Water and sanitation



Maternal and child health



Basic education and literacy



Economic and community development

Ian then gave an outline of the Programs of The Rotary Foundation

1. **Polio eradication.** This is our number ONE priority. When we started in 1985, there were over 360,000 new cases of the wild polio reported each year; the 2 remaining polio endemic countries are Afghanistan and Pakistan. Efforts to immunize the children are hampered by the conflict and the remoteness of the many border crossings.
2. **District Grants.** These are small (up to about \$5,000) grants that can be used for local or international projects. The Rotary Club of Taree has successfully applied for 6 District Grants in the last 6 years.
3. **Global Grants** are large (US\$30,000 minimum) projects where clubs/districts work with international partners
4. **Vocational Training Teams** have replaced the former Group Study Exchange (which can still operate) and are focused on professionals travelling to learn or to teach about their vocation
5. **Area of Focus Scholarships**, formerly known as Ambassadorial Scholarships, offering post-graduate level of studies aimed at enhancing career experience
6. **Rotary Peace Scholarships.** Rotary has partnered with 7 leading universities around the world, including University of Queensland, where students are trained for placement variously around the world working towards peace and conflict resolution.

The Rotary Foundation is one of the largest privately funded philanthropic organisations in the world, having spent US\$328.5 million in 2017-18, and having an administration cost of a mere 1.68%. (check that figure against other leading charities). For the 11th consecutive year, The Rotary Foundation has received the highest rating — four stars — from Charity Navigator, an independent evaluator of charities.

Ian explained that there are 3 funds that support the Foundation programs:

1. **Polio Plus Fund;** to end polio NOW
2. **Annual Programs Fund**, for support today of the Grants and Scholarships. Under the “share” arrangement, contributions by Rotary districts are invested for 3 years and 50% returned for the district to fund District Grants, ie WE decide how the money is spent.
3. **Endowment Fund**, which is our legacy to secure tomorrow, where capital is invested and interest earned goes towards supporting the Annual Fund programs.

Ian then outlined the ways we can support the work of OUR Rotary Foundation, noting that all contributions are voluntary. It is disturbing that only 27% of Rotarians contribute to what should be our charity of choice.



The Centurion Program, where we can contribute A\$100 per year to the Annual Programs Fund via the Australian Rotary Foundation Trust set up to give tax deductibility. Contributions count towards Paul Harris Fellow recognition once the total is US\$1,000.



Paul Harris Fellow recognition, where a donation of US\$1,000 made by a club or an individual gives the opportunity for the club OR the individual to name a person a Paul Harris Fellow. This honours Rotary's founder Paul Harris, and can give special recognition to an individual whose life supports the ideals of Rotary and the Rotary Foundation.



Paul Harris Society member is a person who has committed to support the work of The Rotary Foundation in the amount of US\$1,000 per year



A Bequest Society member is an individual or a couple who have made a provision in their estate plan to gift a minimum US \$10,000 to The Rotary Foundation. The number of jewels designates the level of the bequest.

Ian drew our attention to the fact that each of the above gives Paul Harris Fellow recognition.

Ian expressed concern at the misunderstandings surrounding what is all too often referred to as "Paul Harris Fellowship award": Ian explained that it is NOT a fellowship, nor is it an award. It is an acknowledgement by the Trustees of the Foundation that a donation or bequest has been made for the furtherance of the work of the Foundation, and as is more often the case, it is a club that makes the donation and places a person's name alongside that donation. Hence the correct terminology is "Paul Harris Fellow Recognition".

Ian encouraged us to continue our support for the great work of the Rotary Foundation, as a club and as individuals, and reminded us of the theme of Past Rotary International President Raja Saboo: "Look Beyond Yourself" and recognize that our donation is going towards enhancing the lives of many in need.

Colin Rose gave the vote of appreciation and said that in his 44 years a Rotarian, Ian's presentation was the clearest and most succinct he had ever heard.



*President Ross then called forward **Mario Tomlin** and presented him with his Paul Harris Fellow Recognition pin and citation, commending him for his decision to support the Foundation.*

In response, Mario said he is in awe of the great work of our members, but his business during the week in Taree and family in Newcastle of a weekend prevents his more active involvement, hence his giving in this way.

All present warmly congratulated the world's newest Paul Harris Fellow.

