



District Governor  
Gerrard McMillan

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**NEWSLETTER: 24th July 2014**



**ROTARY CLUB OF CESSNOCK**  
**DISTRICT 9670**  
**SPOKE**

## **PRESIDENTS REPORT**



This week saw my first Board Meeting for this Rotary year and my first meeting as President.

While there was a smaller group meeting than usual we managed to have an informative meeting and in the absence of Robyn Drayton the international toast this week was proposed by our guest Peter to his club in Canada – The Rotary Club of Cambridge North who hold a golf tournament and fun run as their major fund raisers to support a local children's centre. Peter and his wife Barbara have been staying with Steve & Janette Jackson following their attendance of the Sydney convention. Peter and Barbara have helped us at a Bunnings BBQ where they had so much fun they have offered to help out again this Sunday, well done and thanks Peter and Barbara. Next week Peter & Barbara will say goodbye to

Australa and travel to New Zealand before returning home, safe travel and enjoy the rest of your journey.

Some points of interest from the Board meeting was correspondence regarding the upcoming RYLA Program to be held over the long weekend in October. If you know of a your person 18 – 25 years of age who you think would benefit from this program please pass their name on to George who will follow up and discuss application with the Board. We also had notification of the 2015 Group Study Exchange program which will see a group from District 1900 in the Essen/Dortmund region of Germany visit our District. The Board has decided to nominate our club for consideration to assist with hosting the group, if successful we will hold further discussions for the possibility of host families and what this entails.

The Rotary Club of Morisset is once again hosting the Morisset High School Student Dinner on the 20<sup>th</sup> August 2014 and have sent an invitation for our members to attend this night. Please advise Janette Jackson next meeting if you wish to attend, the cost is \$30 per person and it would be appreciated if monies could be paid next week.

Gail is continuing her great work at East Cessnock Primary School and with the help of Margaret Maley has transformed the area into a picture adding a colourful display of flowering plants to the area. There is still a lot of work to do on planting the fruit trees as soon as this cold spell has passed and some warmth gets back into the soil. Gail will need some willing hands to finish this project and we look forward to some more photos to show the success of this project. Keep up the good work Gail.

We were advised that two of our members are not very well this week with Brian Howe in hospital and Brad Dewhust having a few health issues. Our thought are with both men and their families along the road to recovery. David Lennon has been working on getting some inspiring speakers for the next month and next week we will hear from David Robson who will talk to us about the Postie Bike Race being held in October. August we will have John Barnes from the Cessnock Art Gallery and the participants of the this year's MUNA weekend attend a meeting to talk of their experience and accept certificates from the Club. Looks like an interesting month coming up.

Next week sees the arrival of Iver Harsjoen our new exchange student from Tynset Norway. Janette and Steve Jackson will meet Iver at Sydney airport on Tuesday morning and not only welcome him to Australia but to their home as his host parents for the first 3 months of his stay. We will get the opportunity to meet Iver at our next meeting where I know we will all make him feel welcome.

See you all next week, your President Vicki



# INTERNATIONAL VISITORS FROM CANADA



A second visit from Peter and Barbara Ascenhurst from the Rotary Club of Cambridge North in Canada. They came to Australia to attend the Sydney International Convention and have travelled around our Ausie shores since then and decided to visit us again. They helped out in the Bunnings BarBQ last time and guess what???? They are not getting out of it this time either. They are staying with Steve and Janette Jackson and you were both very welcome in our club again.

## ROTARY IN ACTION



Left: Hannah Soole enjoying the snow in Switzerland

Below: 2014 Rotary Group Study Exchange Team: Erin Murray (Operations Manager, Hunter Business Chamber), Andrew Best (Club Manager, Lake Macquarie PCYC), Helen Squires (Senior Environmental Scientist, Landloch) and Karen James (Zookeeper, Taronga Western Plains Zoo), and Lindy Hunt (Principal, Seave High School) have been selected to represent not only their profession, but also this region.



### Providing Unique Cultural Experiences

Every year, Rotary clubs across the world select students and young professionals from their local communities to participate in exchange programs, with the intention of broadening their cultural, educational and vocational experiences.

The Rotary Youth Exchange and the Group Study Exchange both provide the opportunity of an extended stay in another country for eligible participants, an opportunity that has been proven many times to be invaluable to participants and unique to Rotary programs.

Over 7,500 high school students between the ages of 15 and 18 from Australia are selected annually to spend a year with a variety of host families while attending school abroad. Not only do the students reap the benefits of learning about the country they visit, they also educate their fellow students and host families about their own country. Hannah Soole from Dubbo spent 2013 in Switzerland as a Youth Exchange Student, reporting that this opportunity of a lifetime with its exposure to all kinds of culture, history and art, has made her more appreciative of everything around her.

A group of four young professionals between the ages of 25 and 40, chosen for their excellent leadership qualities, along with their group leader recently departed for the US to spend four weeks studying the expertise displayed by their chosen professions in Virginia. The Rotary Foundation funds the Group Study Exchange.

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Thank you Dubbo Photo News for providing this space for news and events from the Rotary and Rotaract Clubs of Dubbo.

The District 9670 GSE team that went to the USA came back with a wealth of knowledge plus they had a great time. The District is now looking for possible candidates for the next GSE Team to go to the Rhur area of Germany next year. It would be a wonderful opportunity to become a team leader or a team member, so please consider who you may know that could benefit from this program.

## ROSTER 24th July 2014

INTERNATIONAL TOAST	Robyn Drayton
TELLER:	Maley/ S Crane
WELCOME TO GUESTS:	Janette Jackson
INTRODUCE SPEAKER:	David Lennon
GUEST SPEAKER	John Robonson
VOTE OF THANKS:	Gail Ythomas
FINE SESSION:	Peter Carver
STEWARDS:	All members

## 31st July 2014

Gail Thomas
Maley/ S Jackson
Alison Crane
Peter Carver
All members

## FUTURE EVENTS

24th July - John Robonson (Postibike Race)

Meeting time is 6 for 6.33pm

Apologies to Graham Lidbury by 11am on Thursday on phone **0419 682 573**

or Email: lids@westnet.com.au

**REMEMBER: you will be charged for your meal if you are absent and do not apologize.**



# OUR PAST EXCHANGE STUDENTS



We know that Matt has returned safely to his family in Austria, but he was caught giving the Australian soil a farewell kiss before he left our shores. A message from Matt:  
“It was really amazing on your southern soil down there.

Thank you so much for everything! I certainly had a very pleasant flight

BUT soo long! I am looking forward to a visit from some crazy Aussies”

Another success story from our previous exchange student Fanny Ori from Hungary. One of Fanny’s host parents were the Illefe family and her host sister Alyse is in Hungary visiting the Ori family. Alyse is pictured on the left of both photos. On the top photo Fanny is next to her two sisters, one being younger and one older. It looks like they have taken Alyse to the Hungarian Scout group in which Fanny and her sisters are very much involved. It would no doubt be a very good holiday for Alyse, as I recall how well the Ori family looked after Claudia and myself when we visited them in Szombathely, where the Ori family live.



Over two hundred Rotarians and guests attended the District 9670 Changeover that was held at the Singleton Diggers Club alongside the Rotary Club of Singleton Changeover on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2014. Apart from a quality meal, great fellowship, the odd joke, it was an occasion to acknowledge the efforts of Brian and Madeleine Atkins and those numerous hardworking Rotarians who supported them to enable the smooth running of both the district and the district programs. Plus the introduction of our new DG Gerrard McMillan



## FAREWELL DINNER FOR GREG AND LORRAINE BEVAN



Past President, past District Governor Greg has been the Chairman of the District 9670 Youth Exchange Committee for the past three years. Greg and Lorraine have been on the Youth Committee for about fourteen years, and that is a very long time to be devoted to a cause in which they have both believed in since Greg joined Rotary. It was Past DG Alf Bray who initially asked Greg to become the chairman after the retirement of Peter Bentley Howard. Since taking that office, Greg and Lorraine have devoted countless hours of service, in order that both the Inbound and Outbound Exchange students in our district have the best chance of success in their exchange year. There was a large number of fellow Rotarians who attended the meeting, to thank and to congratulate both Greg and Lorraine for their dedication in the service which they both provided over many years.



It has been said many times, that District 9670 has one of the best Youth Exchange Committees anywhere in Australia and indeed therefore anywhere in the world. It will be a hard act to follow but Denise Parkes will no doubt follow in that great tradition. Denise has picked her own team and we wish her all the best, so that the students in our district keep getting the best advise possible.





The dinner meeting was attended by many distinguished Rotarians. The top photo has Rotarians and partners who have been in the Chairman position in previous years, plus Denise and Jack Parkes. The photo below has past, present and future District 9670 Governors with their partners in one group. Unfortunately, Gerrard McMillan, our current DG could not attend due to ill health.





# GROUP STUDY EXCHANGE (GSE)

Group Study Exchange is a flagship program of our District and of the Rotary Foundation. The Group Study Exchange (GSE) program of The Rotary Foundation is a unique cultural and vocational exchange opportunity for young business and professional men and women between the ages of 25 and 40 and in the early years of their professional lives. The program provides travel grants for teams to exchange visits between paired areas in different countries. For approximately 4 weeks, team members experience the host country's institutions and ways of life, observe their own vocations as practiced abroad, develop personal and professional relationships and exchange ideas. Teams are hosted by Rotarian families in the receiving district, and have the opportunity to share a range of experiences with these families.

This District has exchanged in many parts of the world, including the USA, Italy, Jamaica, England and Denmark and Lithuania over the past 5 years.

## 2015 Group Study Exchange to Germany

In late May 2015, our District will exchange with District 1900 in Germany ([www.rotary1900.de](http://www.rotary1900.de)) The district includes areas in the Rhur - Rhine region such as Essen and Dortmund. The area has a long history with industrial activity, stemming from steel works established more than a century ago. This district will host a team from Germany in March 2015.

This 4 week exchange will provide opportunities for both professional and personal growth through immersion in a new culture, vocational visits as well as developing relationships abroad. This is no holiday! The 4 week program keeps team members on their toes with social, cultural and vocational commitments whilst in the host country, in addition to home hosting. It provides a unique opportunity to engage on a level not experienced by other visitors.

The age of applicants have to be between 25 and 40 at the time of travel. Have been in a vocation for a minimum of 2 years and NOT be descendant or relative of a Rotarian.



Despite the industrial history of Essen, it is generally regarded as one of the greenest cities of Germany.