

HORIZONS

Central Blue Mountains Rotary

Effective - Energetic - Enterprising - Empowered

Rotary District 9685 - Australia

Wednesday, June 19, 2019

Raising awareness of Rotary's efforts to eradicate polio



The 3km "Hamburg on the Move" walk kicked off at Hamburg City Hall and proceeded through the historic centre of the city, raising awareness of Rotary's efforts to eradicate polio. Photo by Thies Ibold

up front



“Translated into economic terms, Rotary is annually generating a scale of social and economic problem-solving effort that is worth nearly nine times more than it costs the organization to produce.”

That Rotary members log a lot of volunteer hours should come as no surprise to anyone familiar with the organization. But a new report just released by Johns Hopkins University provides a powerful look at the impact of all those volunteer hours.

The special report prepared for Rotary International by the Johns Hopkins Center for Civil Society Studies found that Rotary members had volunteered a total of 5.8 million hours within a four-week survey period.

Extrapolating those results over an entire year, the report gave a conservative estimate of nearly 47 million hours of volunteer effort generated by Rotary members in a typical year.

The report then analyzed the economic impact of all those hours and estimated the value conservatively at \$850 million a year, if communities had to pay for the services that Rotary volunteers provide.

Rotary, with the help of Johns Hopkins University, is the first global service organization to conduct an empirical analysis of its volunteer's impact using an internationally sanctioned definition of volunteer work.

The authors of the report noted in their conclusion that at each stop, the analysis had chosen the most conservative estimates.

“This makes the results reported here all the more remarkable,” the authors noted. “Translated into economic terms, Rotary is annually generating a scale of social and economic problem-solving effort that is worth nearly nine times more than it costs the organization to produce.”

Rotary General Secretary John Hewko said the figure doesn't even include the in-kind contributions and the money that Rotary clubs and the Rotary Foundation raise every year.

In addition, the figure doesn't include the volunteer work of the many relatives and friends of Rotary that members often involve in a project, or that of members of Rotaract, Interact, or the Community Corps, that would easily double the estimate of Rotary's economic impact.

WhatsOn....

June

- Wednesday 19:** Guest speaker, Tara Cameron:
"Conserving now for the future"
- Wednesday 19:** FoodBank collection/distribution
- Friday 21:** Lawson Public School Breakfast Club
- Friday 21:** BM Grammar School sports day catering
- Wednesday 26:** CBM Rotary changeover
- Friday 28:** Lawson Public School Breakfast Club

July

- Saturday 06:** District Changeover - Hornsby RSL Club



Guest Speaker 19 June



This week, we'll find out what "Conserving Now for the Future" means, when Tara Cameron is our guest speaker.

Tara is a teacher and senior vice-president of the Blue Mountains Conservation Society.

Tara's presentation will educate and perhaps challenge our views on both local and wider conservation issues.

DG Susan and DGE Kalma warmly invite you to

ROTARY DISTRICT 9685 CHANGEOVER

Saturday 6 July 2019
6.00pm for 6.30pm

\$55 per person incl. 2 course dinner

Hornsby RSL Club, 4 High St, Hornsby

Register at changeover.rotarydistrict9685.org.au

RSVP Friday 28 June 2019

Enquiries: changeoverregistrations@rotarydistrict9685.org.au



Cornelius Appel, from Kindiehill Hill School, Wentworth Falls, attended the winter RYPEN camp last weekend. He was sponsored by Central Blue Mountains Rotary.



Rotary announces US\$100 million to eradicate polio

June 10, 2019

Rotary is giving US\$100 million in grants to support the global effort to end polio, a vaccine-preventable disease that once paralyzed hundreds of thousands of children each year.

The funding comes as Rotary and its partners in the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) address the final—and most pressing—challenges to ending poliovirus transmission, and as Nigeria approaches three years without any reported cases of wild poliovirus, bringing the Africa region closer to polio-free status.

“We have the wild poliovirus cornered in the smallest geographic area in history, and now there are just two countries that continue to report cases of the wild virus,” said Michael K. McGovern, chair of Rotary’s International PolioPlus Committee.

“As we work with our partners to apply innovative new strategies to reach more children, and embrace lessons learned thus far, Rotary is doubling down on our commitment to end polio for good. I’m optimistic that the end of polio is within our grasp, but we must remain vigilant in rallying global political and financial support as we push towards a polio-free world.”

While there were only 33 cases of wild poliovirus reported in 2018, the last mile of eradication has proven to be the most difficult. Barriers to eradication—like weak health systems, insecurity, and mobile and remote populations—must be overcome.

To support polio eradication efforts in endemic countries, Rotary is allocating half the funds it announced today to: Afghanistan (\$16.3 million), Nigeria (\$10.2 million), and Pakistan (\$25.2 million). Additional funding will support efforts to keep vulnerable countries polio-free:

Chad (\$102,395)

Democratic Republic of the Congo (\$9.5 million)

Ethiopia (\$2.6 million)

Iraq (\$6 million)

Kenya (\$6.3 million)

Mali (\$1.2 million)

Somalia (\$1.4 million)

South Sudan (\$1.2 million)

Syria (\$1.7 million)

Yemen (\$2.1 million)

The World Health Organization (WHO) will receive \$1.3 million to conduct research, and will also receive support for surveillance activities in its Africa (\$10.9 million) and Eastern Mediterranean (\$4 million) Regions.

Rotary has committed to raising \$50 million a year to be matched 2-to-1 by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, amounting to \$150 million for polio eradication annually.

“Everyone
has the power
to succeed”

Our guest speaker on 12 June, Peter Brooks was born with his physical disability, but he didn't let that stop him competing with fully able-bodied fellow students at school, even playing water polo. His motto became, “if it's physically difficult, take it on”.



Gold Medals: Steve Cookson, Miriam Ranson and Peter Brooks after the presentation

Peter was already a seasoned triathlete when in 1998 he was identified as a potential LC1 cyclist for selection in the National Team for Sydney 2000. Peter decided to continue racing in Triathlons, but promised to watch the Paralympic Games in Sydney.

Inspired by that experience, Peter switched to track and road cycling and qualified for the National Team at his first attempt in 2001. He went on to represent Australia for six years, becoming World 'Team Sprint' Champion in 2002.

Peter then qualified for the Athens 2004 Paralympics in the 4km Individual Pursuit, in a time of 4:54.7, only two seconds off the world record.

Based on the performance of others, Peter knew that, to have a realistic chance of winning Gold in Athens, he would need to shave that two seconds and perhaps have to equal or better the world record.

So, heart in mouth after years of cycling training, come September 2004 at the Athens Paralympic Games, Peter competed in the 4km Individual Pursuit and won Gold! He narrowly missed equalling the world record by just 0.040 of a second, but had achieved his long-term goal of being number one in the world.

Then came the Team Sprint - Peter added a second Gold medal as he rode at 50kmph and his last six laps were the fastest, showing great physical reserves and mental strength.

Still “pumped”, he added a Bronze in the GC Road Race and Road Time Trial.

After the Paralympics, Peter moved into coaching and worked for the Australian Paralympic Committee. He now works for insurance company, AIG.

Peter stopped road racing in 2006 after an accident, but he still rides regularly with his family of three offspring. Who knows, we may be seeing the Brooks name up in lights and on the podium again!

...Steve Cookson

Why are Conventions so memorable?

How do you explain the “WOW” factor that you experience when attending a convention?

Story: Jennifer Scott

I asked co-president Ava Emdin from Central Blue Mountains Rotary. Hamburg was her first convention. Her response: “If you can only attend one Convention in your life, do it! It changes your thinking about Rotary, no matter how many years you have been in Rotary. If only I went the year before I was president.”

Another Rotarian responded:

“It is all about the people you meet. The experiences you share and the ideas you take home to your club”

“It is the lives you touch. Hearing from and meeting amazing Rotarians and seeing how their projects are changing lives all over the world”.

This year Hamburg hosted 27,000 Rotarians and over 800 Rotaractors from more than 130 countries.

The general sessions captured and distilled Rotary’s five core values. These values are more than just words - they are our guiding principles



DIVERSITY - Rotary at its best unites the world.

President Barry acknowledged Rotarians can’t serve the world unless we see and hear that world accurately. For this reason the RI Board has committed to increase the number of women in leadership roles to at least 30% by June 2023.

LEADERSHIP - Pres Barry called Rotaractors, Rotary’s rock stars. He thanked all those Rotarians and Rotaractors who created one thousand Rotaract clubs this year.

- We were given a mnemonic for the word - lead.
- Listen to the heartbeat of your club
- Encourage your members to take on specific responsibilities and engage your members

FELLOWSHIP - transcends all boundaries that makes rotary a force for peace world wide. British Rotaractor, Chis wells taught us a new word - “**Dogoodery**”, to explain the value of joining together and volunteering.

INTEGRITY - is about not tolerating bad behaviour. Integrity means translating ethics into personal actions and reminds us that without integrity there is no innovation. If you don’t trust your colleagues you are not prepared to open up and suggest new ideas and directions. For Rotary, integrity is what connects us.

SERVICE - to others is an integral part of our mission. Our global mission is the ongoing goal to rid the world of polio. Despite our impressive progress the last steps have been the most difficult. We therefore need Rotarians now more than ever to bring about the end of polio - for the sake of all the world’s children, let’s get over the finish line.

Mountain Ghost

The Ghost was under the impression that all days were 24 hours long, but evidently it means the shortest day time and the Ghost, being the genius he is, reckons it must also be the longest night, and he is correct.

Winter Magic Festival, Katoomba



THE WINTER SOLSTICE

The Mountain Ghost loves the annual Winter Magic Festival at Katoomba and has been to many over the last 10 years or so and it gets better each year.

It is a celebration of music, art, parades and stalls.

Sadly, last year's Magic Festival was cancelled for financial reasons but good news it is back this year but without the Parade. Next year it will be back to full strength. In 2017 an estimated 50,000 attended, the largest festival in the Blue Mountains.

But the Ghost wondered why it was held on or close to the Winter Solstice. What is the Winter Solstice? The 21st June will be the shortest day of the year in the Southern Hemisphere.

The Ghost was under the impression that all days were 24 hours long, but evidently it means the shortest day time and the Ghost being the genius he is reckons it must also be the longest night, and he is correct.

The Ghost asked his friends at the Australian Geographic Society for an explanation. It all gets down to the fact that the Earth is tilted at about 23 degrees, so at some point the top of the Earth (Northern Hemisphere) is closer to the sun than the bottom (Southern Hemisphere).

We are at the point where the Southern Hemisphere is further from the sun. In the Northern Hemisphere they will be experiencing the Summer Solstice at this time. Solstice by the way means "sun still".

In the Blue Mountains the sun will rise on the 21st June at 6.59am and set at 4.53pm. At the Summer Solstice in the Blue Mountains there would be an extra four hours and 31 minutes of daylight.

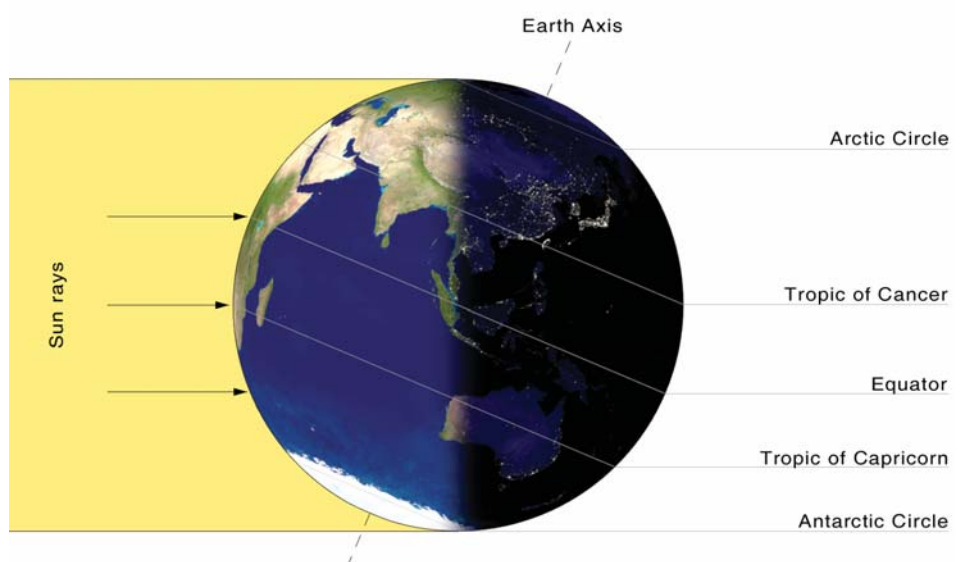
In Reykjavik (Iceland) the sun rises at 11.22am and sets at 3.29pm giving a total daylight of four hours and seven minutes. The Ghost thinks it's hardly worth getting out of bed.

There is a lot of cultural significance for the Winter Solstice. Stonehenge in England was aligned to catch the winter sunset at the Solstice.

The pagan people of Scandinavia and Northern Germany used to celebrate a 12 day mid-winter holiday called Yule. Many Christmas traditions such as the Christmas Tree, the Christmas wreath, the Yule log are direct descendants of Yule customs.

The Ghost hopes you have enjoyed the history of the Solstice and will see you at the Katoomba Winter Magical Festival next Saturday.....

Winter Solstice - Southern Hemisphere



Please turn to the next page

Central Blue Mountains Rotary



invites

You, your family and friends

to

Changeover 2019

Wednesday, June 26



Grand View Hotel, Wentworth Falls
6.30pm for 7.00pm - \$40 per person

Main + Dessert

Tea and Coffee

Drinks at bar prices



Celebrate the year of Co-Presidents Ava Emdin and Steve Cookson
and welcome Justine Murphy as President 2019-2020

RSVP: on receipt or by June 16, 2019 to:

Justine Murphy - 0434 621 629 - rotaryconnected@gmail.com

or Paul Twigg - 0487 139 381 - ptwigg@ozemail.com.au

Please pay by direct transfer to Central Blue Mountains Rotary Club Admin account:

BSB 802-084 (Sydney Credit Union) - Account: 731640

Payee (recipient) reference: 2606 plus your name/s

Please advise Paul or Justine of special dietary requirements when booking

Dress: Neat casual

Last chance to book!

Booking deadline extended to Wednesday, 19 June.