



HORIZONS



Rotary - Central Blue Mountains

Effective - Energetic - Enterprising - Empowered

Rotary District 9685 - Australia

Wednesday, June 21, 2017



The Atlanta Eye, Atlanta Georgia USA, displaying the Rotary logo to promote the 108th annual Rotary International Convention.

Please turn to the next page

Rotary and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation announce \$450 million commitment to end polio

ATLANTA, Ga. (June 12, 2017) – Today in Atlanta Rotary President John Germ and Bill Gates, co-chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, announced a commitment of up to \$450 million to support the eradication of polio.

To an audience of nearly 40,000 Rotary members attending the humanitarian organization's annual convention, Rotary and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation renewed their longstanding support for ending polio.

Rotary committed to raise \$50 million per year over the next three years, with every dollar to be matched with two additional dollars from the Gates Foundation.

This expanded agreement will translate into \$450 million for polio eradication activities, including immunization and surveillance over the next three years. This critical funding helps ensure countries around the world remain polio-free and that polio is ended in the remaining three endemic countries: Afghanistan, Nigeria, and Pakistan.

In a partnership spanning a decade, Rotary and the Gates Foundation, along with the other Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) partners, have led the effort to end polio worldwide.

This funding extension reaffirms a commitment established at the 2013 Rotary Convention in Lisbon, Portugal, when the Gates Foundation pledged to match Rotary contributions two-to-one, up to \$35 million per year through 2018. Rotary, including matching funds from



Bill Gates, co-chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and RI President John Germ announce new pledges toward the polio eradication effort at the Rotary Convention

the Gates Foundation, has donated more than \$1.6 billion to polio eradication.

Today's announcement comes on the heels of the news that world governments and other donors have pledged to contribute US\$1.2 billion total to the GPEI for polio eradication efforts. The government funding—also announced today at the Rotary Convention—will substantially help to close the US\$1.5 billion funding gap, allowing partners to immunize 450 million children every year and support rigorous disease surveillance in both endemic and at-risk polio-free countries.

Film debuts at international convention

Around 2,000 people watched the debut of Rotary International's new virtual reality film, "One Small Act," at one of the largest simultaneous viewings of a VR film.

The film follows the journey of a child whose world has been torn apart by conflict and supports the causes that Rotary champions, including polio eradication and peacebuilding.

Angus Fraser, of the Rotary Club of Quirindi in New South Wales, Australia, was among those who registered for the event, which was a part of the Rotary International Convention in Atlanta, Georgia, USA.

"The film was great. A bit shocking; I didn't really know what to expect from it but it was really cool," he said. "I think the film's message will open up the world a bit, to make people realize there are terrible things happening and there are people trying to help -- Rotary being one of the main groups doing that."



Please turn to the next page



What's On....

June

- Wednesday 21 - Rotary Year 2017-2018
- Thursday 22 - Combined board meeting
- Wednesday 28 - CBM changeover function

July

- Saturday 01 - District 9685 changeover - Hornsby RSL
- Wednesday 05 - Guest speaker TBA
- Sunday 9 - Food van - Grand View Market
- Wednesday 12 - Guest speaker TBA
- Wednesday 19 - Guest speaker TBA

Our Mission

Central Blue Mountains Rotary has a very simple mission; to provide service to others within our local community and overseas, to promote integrity, and to advance goodwill through fellowship.

We have a long and successful history of supporting our local community and assisting overseas. Since being established in 1976 we have achieved, quite simply, nothing less than outstanding results every year. We are proud of our contribution to helping others.

How Rotary Smart are you?

District 9685 Rotary Leadership Institute one-weekend, two day course starts next weekend - June 24-25.

It's been designed for people who prefer two days of learning in one hit, rather than have it spread over three different days, as would normally happen.

If this better suits your availability then please register now at rli.rotarydistrict9685.org.au

This weekend course is held at the District Office, Thornleigh. Morning teas and lunches are provided.

Each day starts at 8:00 for 8:30am and finishes around 3.30 - 4.00 pm.....REGISTER NOW!

Surf's up, Rotarians!



One of Rotary's newest fellowships, Surfers Unite Rotarian Fellowship. The mission of the fellowship is to connect Rotarians interested in surfing, host surfing events to teach newbies how to surf, attract youth into Rotary, and raise funds for Rotary efforts including ending polio.

ROTARY DISTRICT 9685 CHANGEOVER

Saturday 1 July 2017
6.00pm for 6.30pm

Hornsby RSL Club, 4 High St, Hornsby

\$55 per person incl. 2 course dinner

Register at changeover.rotarydistrict9685.org.au

RSVP Friday June 23, 2017

Mountain Ghost

Katoomba's Winter Magic Festival is a celebration of music, art, parades and stalls. Last year an estimated 50,000 attended, the largest festival in the Blue Mountains.

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. Last year 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* 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 4 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 4 hours and 7 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.....



A souvenir stamp sheet commemorating The Rotary Foundation's Centenary is available now. It can be used for general postage or presented as a gift.



Established in 1917 with a donation of \$26.50, The Rotary Foundation is dedicated to advancing world understanding, goodwill, and peace. Through grants and other resources, Rotary members develop sustainable projects that promote peace, fight disease, provide clean water, support education, save mothers and children and grow local economies.



Fighting disease



Funding medical and dental programs



Providing clean water

000/500

BUY NOW AND AVOID THE RUSH!

You can direct deposit to CBM's charity account: BSB: 802-084 - A/c 731641 - but please tell us who you are when making a deposit, then send an email to Ian Scott at stampsheet@scottadr.com telling us what you have done.

The sheets are A4-sized and individually numbered with eight \$1 stamps embedded. Each has a Foundation Centennial tab set in a Foundation themed design. Money raised after expenses from the sale of 500 stamp sheets will go directly to The Rotary Foundation.



LIFT THE LID ON MENTAL ILLNESS

Celebrating Hat Day

October 10, 2017 - which happens
to be World Mental Health Day

The direction of Australian Rotary Health research into mental health, is of vital importance to us all, particularly since statistics clearly demonstrate the staggering fact that the age when problems start is dropping alarmingly and youth suicides are on the increase. We owe it to the children of our country to help NOW.