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DISTRICT 9600 NEWS

The official newsletter of the District Governor



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Together, We

The New Normal

Thank you to all who joined into the District Zoom meetings on 17 April and 1st May. It is intended these will continue fortnightly until 30 June. The meeting on 12 June will be a General Meeting of the District to approve next year's District Budget as well as a normal zoom meeting for the District.

As we move closer to June 30 I urge members to undertake the courses in the Learning Centre of My Rotary. Please consider The Rotary Foundation in your end of year giving with the Annual Fund and Polio Plus high in your thoughts. The Foundation has already approved Grants of over \$US 13 million for Covid 19 responses.

Other Global Grants have also been approved and as a District we hope to approve funding for 6 new Global Grant submissions (5 water and 1 Covid 19) at our next Rotary Foundation meeting. In addition it is hoped we can assist our friends from D9910 (part of New Zealand and Pacific Islands) with their need in a Global Grant for Cyclone Howard ravaged Vanuatu. Thank you to everyone who has helped us get these Grants ready.

Applications for District Grants for 2020-2021 are open and will close shortly. Please get your applications into the incoming Grants Chair PDG Alan Stephens as soon as possible. alan@aandsstephens.com.au

Please see elsewhere in this newsletter reports from current Grants Chair Wendy Protheroe and District Foundation Chair PDG Eric Wood.

A reminder to all re youth protection. All clubs need to send their Blue Card lists and Volunteer Declaration Forms to the Youth Protection officer - Mary Kearney.

As Isolation restrictions are gradually being released and with a timeframe having been issued as to likely dates for lifting of restrictions, now is the time for your club to be ready to get back to service and also for your fundraising activities.

We trust you are all safe and well.

Yours truly,

DG Darryl



Thank you to everyone for your work in Connecting with your communities and for ensuring Rotary Service work continues

District Grants 2019-2020

We are at the stage of finalising each of the District Grants that were approved during the year and it's amazing to note the projects that Clubs have undertaken. The update in the DG Newsletter only three weeks ago advised that there were twenty five grants still to be acquitted. It's been a very busy time since then and we are now only looking for acquittals from ten grants - and in most cases we've already received progress reports.

Thank you to each of the Clubs that have realised the importance of this action - remember, we need to account for all of these before the monies for the coming year are released from the Foundation. Last year we had to wait for a few months - so let's work to make it a much quicker turnaround this year.

We did receive a message from the Foundation to advise that for the unallocated/returned funds we could allocate them to local COVID projects. Subsequently the Grants Committee approved two grants and these are underway. The first is the have purchase of hand sanitiser - being managed by PDG Eric and the second is social justice donations of two computers each to seven schools in recognition of the specific needs of disadvantaged/vulnerable students during this time. I am managing this project.

Some of the grants that were distributed this year fell into the following categories/names given by Clubs. Please share the inspiration we can get from being Rotarians who worked hard to make a positive difference in their communities and around the world.

Defibrillators – Schools & Community Groups	Solar Buddies: PNG & Solomon Islands	Rotary House – Nondugl. Internal Works
Climate Change	Water Tank - PNG	Uganda: toilets and walls
Royal Flying Doctors Service: Research & Ear Phones	STEM program: Bribie Island State High School	Philippines: Dental Equipment
Community Grants	Band Uniforms - School	Commercial Freezer - School
Equine Therapy	Drug & Alcohol Counselling	Rotary Arches
Solar Panels – Flexible Learning Centre	Sensory Room – Special School	Meals on Wheels – Facility refurbishment
Teacher in a Box – Teaching/Learning Aids	Container – to PNG	Cambodia – Toilets and rooms
Audio Visual Equipment – Community Group & School	Motor Car – to Community Support Group	District Grants – Hand Sanitiser and Computers to Disadvantaged students

I do believe that a read through these helps us to remember the value of donating to our Rotary Foundation - share it with our members.

PDG Alan Stevens is the District Grants Chair for the coming year, 2020 - 2021 and is currently receiving applications for District Grants.

His committee will be considering the first of these within the next month. We have considerable dollars available again this year so put your thinking hats on and get the applications submitted early so that your Club has a project to work towards.

Wendy Protheroe



From PDG Eric Wood

We have 1000 x 100ml bottles of Liquid Hand Sanitizer available for distribution to needy people.

These are free of charge thanks to a District Grant.

Please contact me on 0418 789951 or email ericwood@bigpond.com with your requirements.

Brisbane Near North Cluster & the Covid Isolation

Brisbane Near North is a cluster of six clubs, Rotary Clubs of Albany Creek, Aspley, Mitchelton, Pine Rivers, Pine Rivers Daybreak, and Samford Valley. With the exception of RC Aspley, which has a membership of 34 the other clubs are quite small with numbers in the low 20's or teens; however, they are not going to be beaten by a mere pandemic.

Like many Rotary clubs around the world the average age is getting up there, with many members in the at-risk category because of age alone. This is not going to stop them from meeting and maintaining community service wherever possible. A quick club round up will demonstrate what that means.

Rotary Club of Albany Creek has some very senior members, and while they are not all comfortable with technology are keeping in touch with each other over the phone. They have nominated member's responsibility and this appears to be working well. They have even looked after their president who has been a little indisposed of late. Keep up the good work team, taking care of each other.



Rotary Club of Aspley, under normal conditions meets every second week and have not ceased to do so. They are having regular Board meetings and general meetings alternate times. They have recently been introduced to Zoom and while some members have never experienced this mode before, are giving it a good go. At their most recent meeting they had 21 attendees, a pretty good effort. RC Aspley is involved in multiple local community projects and is determined to remain relevant to their local community. There will always be a need and they are exploring ways in which they can continue to fund their work.

Rotary Club of Mitchelton traditionally meets the second, fourth and fifth (when it occurs) Tuesday of each month. They are also embracing the Zoom culture and continue to maintain their meeting schedule, with one member joining the meeting from his hospital bed to maintain his connection to the club. Well done Ralph! RC Mitchelton continues to support their local community, but not to forget their own needs, are having a guest speaker at their next meeting (via Zoom) and are planning to do some group training on My Rotary. I guess that will mean they will all have accounts on myRotary very soon. Well done all.



Rotary Club of Pine Rivers Daybreak, have continued with their breakfast meeting schedule meeting weekly, again on Zoom. They continue to support Qld Police Service (QPS) Petrie DV support team, Rise Up, and the Encircle Community Centre. They have also explored a roster where they are able to continue to support their own members, who may be isolated for a number of reasons. This is a small club doing a lot of work, ensuring that Rotary is seen as Connecting the World.



Rotary Club of Samford meets on a Tuesday evening, fortnightly; however, some of their members are committed to other groups on Tuesday nights (COVID-19 influence), their solution to which is to meet on Thursday evening. They maintain their fortnightly schedule and have a short agenda which they work through. The club supports local community groups and they (RC of Samford Valley) are an active member of the local area support network. On an individual basis, the members are helping others in the community providing transport to and from appointments, and even some gardening. I joined their meeting last night and it was the most fun I have had in a long time.

The near North Cluster is alive and well. We are not going to let COVID beat us, and I am sure as we get better we will do and get more involved.

Ray Inkpen

Maleny Club Update

Thanks for all the updates at the District meeting last night. It's good to hear what everyone else is up to. The Maleny club is going ok, missed 2 meetings only, though the Board met at the regular time on Zoom as well as committees. We had our first whole club meeting last week just using my Free Zoom account as a test run. We had 23 members attend which was better than my expectations. One of our members is in New Zealand at present and she was able to join us as well so that was great, plus she gave a rundown on how things are going in NZ. We had an update on Anzac Day in Maleny 2020 style, a talk by our President - elect on "What I learnt being a candidate in the recent local govt elections" plus some project updates. So we got a lot covered in the 40 minutes and I got some good feedback from members after it.

I've contacted Ian about using the District licence for our next meeting, so I hope we can build on that encouraging start.

Thanks for your strong leadership during these unprecedented times. I know as a president at the moment, it has challenged me.

Regards

Sherryl Gregory



Ashgrove The Gap Update

Our Club members continue to:

- Help their neighbours out, saying G'day, doing shopping, or picking up medicines for them from their pharmacy;
- Volunteer with the Queensland's Care Army to help out in the wider community;
- Assist Club of Brisbane River City's 'Community Kitchen', to feed the many homeless and other people in need, once a week. This assistance also includes a \$500 donation.
- Collect personal toiletries for the homeless, supporting the efforts of the 3rd SPACE, a community organisation that operates in Fortitude Valley. This is an initiative recently established in partnership with the local Discount Pharmacy in the Gap, responding to the call from the RC of Hamilton Thank you, Linh Esmail of the Star Discount Pharmacy in the Gap;
- See through the construction of our Storage Shed at the Tramway museum. The project is expected to be completed in May, allowing us to then have a permanent storage place of our Santa Sleigh, our BBQ trailer and other goods. This Shed project was made possible with the \$21000 in grant received from the Brisbane City Council.

As mentioned in the last Roundup, our Club has so far donated \$10,000 to the following not-for profit community groups in Ashgrove The Gap and surrounding suburbs supporting victims of the effects of COVID 19:

RATG has joined the Western Cluster Domestic Violence Initiative, initiated by the Kenmore RC. RATG will contribute \$2000 towards the implementation of the Domestic Violence Strategic Plan, with each of the Cluster contributing \$2000 towards the upgrading of the DV Connect's telephone system.

Our Club meetings will remain suspended till at least 31st May 2020.

What a relief it was to have the social restrictions slightly relaxed by the Queensland Government this weekend.

The ability to get out to shopping centres and national parks as well as drive to places within 50 km was very much welcomed by all. For me personally, the ability to go out for a picnic with my grandchildren gave me a huge mental lift, even if other challenges in life remain.

I do sincerely hope that everyone remains sensible and maintains strict personal hygiene, regularly washes hands as well as downloads CORONA SAFE APP on our own smart phones, to ensure we eradicate the dreaded virus from our shore.

Donations to Community Organisations,
Francine Hinton

The RATG Board is very aware of how difficult it is for some many of us to be actively involved in the community during the present COVID 19 pandemic



We are also very aware that many community organizations are trying to continue their work in the community and their needs may have changed as a result.

We have decided to use some our reserves in the Benevolent Fund to help some of these organisations.

At this stage we have made donations to:

□ Moonyah Recovery Services Centre, Red Hill, \$2,000. They are trying to increase their community delivery to residents through the building and maintaining a community garden.

□ Zephyr Education Australia, \$2,000. Continued provision of services to provide support for children whose lives have been disrupted by domestic violence.

□ Piccabeen Community Centre, Mitchelton, \$2,000. The money will help Piccabeen supply food vouchers and purchase additional internet data for their clients.

□ Orange Sky Laundry, \$1,5000. For the provision of Personal Protection Equipment for volunteers.

□ St Vincent de Paul, \$1,500 for provision of food vouchers, assistance with bills (power, water, etc)

We will also be making donations of \$2,000 each to:

□ Immigrant Women Support Service, and
□ Brisbane Domestic Violence Service.

Finally, we will be making a purchase of \$500 worth of toiletries to be included in the donation box at the Star Discount Pharmacy to assist 3rd Space.

The Ways our Lives Changed with COVID19:

a survey of Toowong Rotary member by Carolyn Young.

Our lives have changed radically since COVID 19 reached Australia. In the midst of lockdown, members of the Toowong Rotary Club were asked to say 5 ways their lives had changed since the lockdown and 1 completely unexpected way it had changed. Of the 27 respondents, here are the themes.

Relationships

- Family and friends. We really miss face to face with our families and friends but we are compensating with rapid uptake of technology apps: Zoom, Skype, WhatsApp. 16 responses.

- Neighbours are featuring larger in our lives as we are confined to home. 4 responses.

- Our wider network. Rotary, church, choir, work colleagues, art class... some of these are available via technology. 10 responses.

Missing special family events like a funeral, major birthdays, being unable to visit elderly relatives in care. One member has added an extra family member – a 16 year old boy from Vanuatu who couldn't get home when his boarding school closed.

Setting up a support group for older residents in the apartment block eg visits, chats, baking.

Setting up a 2MA party with the neighbours: 2 metres apart and having drinks each in their own marked chalk circle.

Activities

- Cleaning up around the house and garden. 14 responses.

“The apartment is filled with a series of half completed tasks – work keeps interfering! Just hope we're not allowed out before the other half is completed”.

“Had to write voluminous lists of jobs to do around the house – hardly completed any of them because there's no rush.”

“I've changed from being a delaying declutterer to a daily declutterer”.

“If you drove past my house you'd be blinded by the light because it's soooo clean!”

- Reading, puzzles, podcasts, art, music, reading the news web sites, writing and soap making. Netflix! 10 responses.

“How many experts on all subjects appear at times like this.”

- Creative cooking and baking. (due to less dining out and more time). 8 responses.

- Working from home. 2 responses.

- Have more free time and am spending less money. 2 responses.



Let's not skip over Exercise

- We are doing daily exercise – usually walking but sometimes climbing stairs. We might be on the bike – inside or out. Some of us are dancing at home. 6 responses.

- We are missing the pool (2 responses) and the gym (3 responses)

- The dog is getting a LOT more attention eg twice daily walks. 4 responses. “The dog has decided that as we are now home all the time, she requires more attention and has also turned into an unwanted alarm clock!”

The Compensation of Technology

- Zoom has made a big impact on our confined lives, allowing us to virtually visit with our family members, friends and attend Club meetings. 11 responses. “Zoom: is it here to stay? It’s not the same as face to face but it’s amazing technology”. “I did Dog Obedience classes on Zoom: tall woman/short dog so it featured lots of my lower legs and the dog’s ears”
- WhatsApp, the phone and Facetime also feature large. 8 responses. “I had a Skype dress up dinner date with friends”.



Regrets & Concerns

- Vigilance about any sniffle.
- Taking responsibility for hygiene at high levels
- Concern for family and friends who are overseas.
- Missing dining out, coffee with friends. 5 responses.
- Missing out on watching sports.
- Shopping and the binge buying hoarders. 2 responses. “Oldies grocery shopping 7-8am. You could shoot a rifle down Indooroopilly Mall and hit no one!”
“The stupid buying behaviours are by people who vote.”

- Travel shutdown. 4 responses. “Getting rid of “travel one up man ship” eg “What are you doing this weekend? We are going to our house in Byron Bay. What are you doing? We’re flying to Sydney for the Australian Ballet at the Opera House followed by dinner on the Harbour. Sounds nice, just remembered we have booked next month for La Scala in Milan to see the Bolshoi. Oh saw that early this year and flew over first class. Met the cast after the show.”

The Unanticipated

- Leadership and teamwork from Australia’s federal and state politicians. 2 responses.
- Plethora of COVID 19 jokes and songs. 2 responses.
- Drop in fuel prices but who’s buying any fuel? 2 responses.
- Time for reflection: looking ahead at one’s own life and the world post pandemic. 2 responses.
- Brisbane has less pollution of air and noise. 2 responses.
- Meeting all the neighbours and young families out walking and cycling. 2 responses. “A lot of dads and mums have taught their little kids to ride their bikes”.
- Anzac Day morning ceremony in the driveway. “On Saturday morning we duly strolled down the drive and discovered that almost the whole street had turned out and were standing silently in their driveways with lighted candles in front of them. I will never forget the emotional feelings that I experienced that morning and my admiration for my neighbours. Not a word was shared, just nods and small waves, but we all knew what we meant: ‘Lest we forget’”.

Social Media

will keep us together while being apart



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”