

ANNUAL REPORT 2013-14 - SUMMARY

This executive summary of the District 9685 Annual Report has been prepared for the District Changeover, Saturday 28 June 2014. The full report including audited financial accounts will be presented at the AGM in December, 2014.

A New District: The Steering Committee's significant contribution resulted in a very successful transition from Districts 9680 and 9690. District 9685 was incorporated on 22 April, 2013.



Redistricting provided an opportunity to review established projects and practices. District 9685 embraced a positive approach to change and an inclusive culture. The number of programs shared across clubs and Districts increased, as was working collaboratively with other community organisations.



Rotarians were invited to support the culture of our new District through a competition to design a graphic identifier using the words "From the mountains to the sea".

The competition was won by Ross Lambert (Rotary Club of Ku-ring-gai).

District Membership: The District reaches from Manly to Lake Macquarie and all places west to Lithgow. As at 1 July 2013 there were 78 Clubs and 2140 Rotarians. There has been a 1% growth in membership. The target set in the **Regional Membership Plan** was 3%. There are currently 7 Rotaract and 7 Interact clubs.

Official Visits: The format initiated in District 9680 last Rotary year was continued. All combined Zone visits were completed in August/September 2013. This gave the opportunity to share the many changes as well as promote District plans for 2013-14. It also allowed us to consider future directions in a timely fashion and share understandings of the directions RI President Ron Burton was taking our organisation. Outcomes included increased connects and enhanced opportunities for club collaboration and additional DG visits to club activities.

Financial Matters: The establishment of new bank accounts has been effected and the transfer of moneys held in the previous Districts implemented. Sound financial management and effective practices have been adopted. This is indicated by the Budget accepted by Presidents at the 2013 District Assembly and the fact that the District has come in under budget, including a small profit at the Conference because of the generosity of our Sponsors.

District Administration and Governance: The Committee of the Association (COTA) met 6 times. COTA is responsible for financial administration, policy development and compliance with legal and RI requirements.

- The DG Nominating Committee appointed **PP BRUCE LAKIN (Rotary Club of Pittwater)** as the **2016-2017 District Governor**.
- **PDG DAVID RANDS** was appointed as the district representative on the **Zone 8 RI Director Nominating Committee**
- **PDG JOHN DODD** has been elected to the **2016 RI Council on Legislation**.

District Team Meetings: The six District Team (Avenues of Service Directors, Administration Team and Assistant Governors) meetings supported all clubs. Three District wide Presidents meetings were held and regular Zone Presidents meetings were conducted by Assistant Governors (AGs). They also conducted club governance “health checks” across all clubs during February/March 2014. The annual report includes statements by the Avenues of Service Directors detailing the diversity and quality of the many projects conducted by clubs both locally and internationally.



National Public Relations Campaign: We now have a strategic national approach, “CONVERSATIONS INTO ACTION”. The campaign includes strategic radio advertisements. This has significantly lifting the profile of Rotary in Australian communities.



Training and Development: Considerable emphasis has been placed on training for Rotarians led by District Trainer, Lindsay May.

In particular, the Rotary Leadership Institute (RLI) has been fully subscribed. RLI offered a series of three day courses at our Thornleigh office. They proved to be very popular because of the diversity and interactive nature of sessions. Participants valued the opportunity to develop knowledge and skills both about Rotary and Leadership.

The
Rotary
Foundation



The New Rotary Foundation Grants model was implemented and a record number of clubs sought District Grants. The quality and scope of Global Grants increased significantly. Features of these grants included an emphasis on sustainability, developing partnerships with external organisations, working effectively across Rotary clubs and Districts and an increase in the scale of fundable projects. In total 40 District Grants and 3 Global Grants were approved to

the value of \$ 640 000. Our sincere appreciation to the Foundation Committee led by PDG Tony Castley.

Our District 9685 **Rotary Peace Scholar** this year was Mezghan Temory from Afghanistan.

District Conference: A one day conference featured significant use of IT, breakout sessions, amazing speakers, awards and first class entertainment. The conference proceedings were live-streamed world-wide and showcased on the Concourse in Chatswood. Five webinars were conducted during the following week. The day concluded with a cocktail party. Over 1000 Rotarians and guests participated and met the RI Representative PDG Trish Boyle (Rotary Club of Invercargill, NZ).



Sincere thanks to the conference chairman Noel Cislowski and his committee Les Walsh, Bobby Holder, Tom Sweeny and John Melville.



RI International Convention: 1-4 June, 2014



How fortunate to have this event in our town this year. What a truly grand experience to be among 20 000 Rotarians and friends from so many parts of the world joining us for work and leisure activities.....significant speakers, world class entertainment, the Billabong , bridge climbs, home hospitality, free transport, many new friendships and ideas exchanges and such truly amazing winter weather.

Delegates set world records for the number of climbers and also the number of national flags displayed on the bridge at one time. This event also promoted the Global Polio Campaign and contributed over \$ 40,000. The End Polio Now Walk at Olympic Park and the announcement by our PM – amazing! The work of the Host Organising Committee (HOC) has been widely praised for the quality and innovation. Rotarians from all over Sydney say “thank you”.



Hearing Health Partner Project: Clubs have responded through all avenues of service to draw attention to the huge need for understanding and real accommodation (e.g. using microphones) for people with hearing loss. The opportunity to work with the Chinese Community across Sydney with Chatswood International,



District 9675, Australian Hearing is on-going. The target for \$33,000 for a PhD Scholarship through Australian Rotary Health is in sight – contributions are now over \$20,000. Thank you.

DISASTER RELIEF - Bushfires: In October 2013 the bushfires devastated areas of the Blue Mountains. Over 200 homes and significant damage was sustained by communities. Several Rotarians lost homes or suffered damage to property. Rotarian response across the nation was amazing and the main burden of management fell to the Rotary Club of Springwood and President Laurie Waterson. Their outstanding response won the great admiration of all. The impact will go on and Rotary will continue to have a role - helping to rebuild lives and communities on the Mountains into the future.



The Rotary Club of Vinegar Hill was admitted to Rotary International on 23 June, 2014 with a charter membership of 22. This newest club reflects our changing world. It is a family friendly, inclusive, low cost and flexible Rotary Club. It is the first Sunday afternoon coffee club in Australia.

Note: The Rotary club of Wahroonga, currently our largest club, was the first Breakfast Club in Australia.

During the first year of operation District 9685 has demonstrated unity of purpose. Clubs have engaged Rotary and changed lives through outstanding local and international service. There is abundant enthusiasm to promote Rotary and “do...good” in the world. The District Team has been dedicated to supporting and strengthening clubs.

The District was honoured to receive 3 prestigious RI Awards.

SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENT Award – Rotary Club of Lower Blue Mountains

RI SPOUSE/PARTNER Award - Jane Clifford (Rotary Club of Lindfield)

SERVICE ABOVE SELF Award - Malcolm Deall OAM (Rotary Club of Gosford North)



Thank you.

Graeme L Davies

District Governor 2013-14