

Rotary International District 9685 Report on First Six Months

Introduction: Rotary District 9685 began on 1 July 2013 as a result of redistricting. The D9685 Steering Committee formed in 2012 gave excellent guidance to the formation of the District which is comprised of 78 clubs from the former 9680 and 9690 Districts. 1 July membership was 2140.

District 9685 Governance and Finances: The District is incorporated and operates in accordance with the D9685 Constitution and Regulations through The Committee of the Association. YTD financial management shows D9685 is well within budget. Responsible allocation of funds surplus to required reserves is planned. Likewise the District Conference is within budget. Governance and financial issues within some clubs however will need to be addressed in 2014 with a special emphasis on the role and responsibility of the Club Board.

Key features of the 2013-14 year are the implementation of The Rotary Foundation Grant Model (previously referred to as Future Vision), the implementation of a “regional” three year Membership Plan with a goal to reach 1.3 Million Rotarians globally by July 2016, an Australia-wide PR campaign aligned with the Membership Plan, launch of new RI Website and branding and the Rotary International Convention to be held in Sydney June 1- 4, 2014. The Host Organising Committee (HOC) includes senior Rotarians from D9675 and 9685.

District 9685 2013-14 Goals include 25 aspirational goals divided into 4 KRAs. This brief report reflects on each of the KRAs.

The new District 9685: The main goal was to create an inclusive District and Club culture that is based on Rotary’s core values, adopts the District role to support and strengthen clubs, increase humanitarian service and enhance Rotary’s public image. Whilst this is a work in progress, redistricting has not resulted in a single resignation because of redistricting. District assisted projects undertaken have been Meet the Mayor (July), Official DG Visits on a Zone basis, adoption of a District graphic following a club based design competition, 1000 Photographs and 2500 Trees.

The response to the Blue Mountains Fires indicates progress towards Clubs identifying strongly with the District whilst at the same time highlighting the District/Club divide. Rotary has an official place on the Recovery Committee chaired by Phil Koperberg. PDG Harold Sharp has a watching brief on the allocation of funds to ensure due diligence is maintained. The District acknowledges the outstanding role played by President Laurie Waterson and the Rotary Club of Springwood. Clubs and Districts throughout Australia have been exceedingly generous. The District has been one of the first to utilise the Rotary Australia Benevolent Society. Rotary’s role is in the longer term recovery and community development. Total donations to date are around the \$200,000 mark and will grow.

Rotary is also responding to Disasters in Philippines and Syria. Both will involve Rotary involvement for a decade or more.

Promotion of Membership Growth: To date there has been a slow growth to 2167. The Regional Plan set a target for a growth of 65 members across the District in 2013-14. Our aspirational target is a District total of 2300. D9685 is fortunate to have an active District Committee under Mark Anderson. We are working in three areas; analysis to determine priorities, formation of new clubs and a dedicated support team to work with clubs to achieve their goals. Training is a key feature of

this approach and includes RLI, a public speaking skills, District Welcome to new members, women in Rotary and a symposium for the younger Rotarian.

Enhance Humanitarian Service through our Foundation: All clubs completed TRF Club Qualification and MOUs. The District maximised funds allocated to District Grant. This resulted in a record number of clubs seeking District Grants. Likewise Global Grants are fully subscribed. TRFC PDG Tony Castley and his team will focus on giving in 2014. There is scope to increase clubs achieve EREY. It should be noted that the District was successful with two Peace Scholars and D9680 was ranked 3rd in Zone 8 Polio giving.

Strengthen Our Network Through the Family of Rotary: There is an increase in the number of Rotarian couples, “friends” of Rotary, nurturing of Alumni and development of relationships with community and corporate partnerships in projects being developed by clubs. D9685 has a formal MOU with World Skills and is developing a joint District Emergency Services Awards similar to the State Police Awards.

The next six months: The agenda will include

- Meeting with Club Boards
- Meeting with MPs
- Promotion of the District Conference
- Promotion of the International Convention
- Promotion of EREY and TRF
- Hearing Health
- Review of Club Visioning
- Club compliance matters
- Training for new Rotarians, younger Rotarians, Women in Rotary, public speaking skills, RLI, conflict resolution.
- Close liaison with DGE Ian and transition to 2014-15
- Rotary Disaster Plan for Zone 8 Districts
- Recognition of Emergency Services
- The football and 2500 trees
- Rotary without borders
- Succession planning at all levels - Engage Rotary not ownership of programs or clubs
- Election of reps for COL and Director Nominating Committee

Graeme Davies

Governor RI District 9685, 2013-14