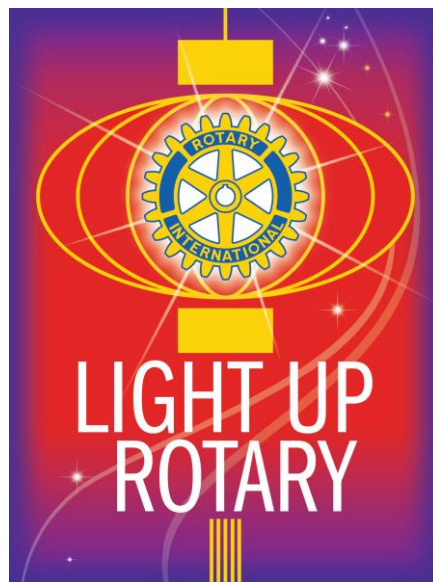


**Rotary**  
District 9685



## **ANNUAL REPORT 2014-2015**



## Year In Review – the District Governor’s Perspective

This report is based on the DG valedictory speech I gave at the District Changeover on 27 June 2015. On that night I thanked my District Team earlier in the program, and so I would like to start this report then, by thanking my Team.

### District Team

**Executive.** In my headquarters I had a skilled and dedicated volunteer staff. The Treasurer, Secretary, Communications Director, my Mentor PDG David Rands and the whole Committee of the Association. They ensured that we met the good governance requirements of running what is after all, an incorporated entity, with all the obligations that go with that. A special part of that executive was the “G-Train” – DGE Gina, DGN Bruce and IPDG Graeme – working to ensure continuity in the District. I very much appreciated their participation and advice, not to mention friendship.

**Service and Other Directors/Chairs.** There were also the subject matter experts on staff, who went out into the field and assisted clubs with their Training, Membership, Foundation matters and with their Avenues of Service. These go-to people helped clubs make the most of the efforts their Rotarians put into serving the community at home and abroad.

**Assistant Governors.** My “Wing Commanders”, the Assistant Governors, were my representatives in the zones, working with their “squadrons” – the clubs – helping them to hit their targets, encouraging their activities, developing their leaders and carrying the messages both ways. The Assistant Governors were vital to the effective management of the district.

There are of course many others serving district in sub-committees, some quite large undertakings with a large team of their own, such as Youth Exchange, and smaller governance teams, such as Insurance and Risk. There are many, many more who assisted the District to meet the objective of strengthening and supporting clubs in their service endeavours.

These good folk accepted the volunteer roles that are vital to us doing good in the world and they worked with passion, sharing their advice and counsel, their expertise, and very importantly, their time. Thanks Team.

### District Governor’s Report

I would like to recap our year of Lighting Up Rotary together by reporting on the achievement of some of our goals, and by looking at specific high points, challenges and learnings.

### Goals

We have kicked many goals this last year, and I will highlight just a few while skipping over others; please do not take it as a slight to those not mentioned, but as a means of keeping the report brief.

I would like to start with the Rotary Foundation; it really is the great enabler for our projects. This year we had around 40 successful district grants to the tune of around \$95,000, and these are activities ranging from gardens in hospitals, parks, a playground, the Smart Pup assistance for special needs children, Gro-Trees, Special Olympics, science and engineering challenge and many overseas projects. We have 27 active global grants, which is just fantastic. We have managed to leverage nearly half a million dollars for wonderful projects

from adult literacy in KwaZulu Natal, water and sanitation projects in Ghana, an indigenous student literacy program in North Queensland, toilets in Nepal [and if you have seen the reports from the Nepal earthquake, this was built like the proverbial brick outhouse and in fact people ended up storing items in there and even sleeping in the loo] and Lao water projects, to mention just a few.

Put on top of this our Vocational Training Team which I'll come back to, our masters level scholarship and our impending peace scholar and you can see just how much can be achieved through the Rotary Foundation.

We had fairly ambitious targets for the Rotary Foundation giving this year. We were looking for \$450,000 in the Annual Fund and \$130,000 in Polio. A lot of things got in the way of achieving that objective, the low Aussie dollar, disasters and needs elsewhere, but we still managed USD \$342,000 in the Annual Fund and USD\$121,000 Polio – Well done!

In terms of per capita giving, we have 23 clubs who are at the level of more than \$100 per member, we have on top of that 10 more over \$200 and 5 over \$400 per capita. A fantastic result, and how about the Rotary Club of Beecroft at \$738 dollars per member, again well done. A big special thanks to the District Rotary Foundation Chair PDG Tony Castley and his team for their outstanding efforts this year

Closely linked to the Foundation is the International Service Avenue. These two are not mutually exclusive and a lot of clubs doing international projects use the Foundation to boost their funding as well as taking advantage of the planning and governance rigour it provides. Similarly clubs are using Rotary Australia World Community Service, or RAWCS, because it is an outstanding way to get donations online and almost immediately into your project, and again, to tap into the skills and knowledge of people out there who have done this before.

This year has also been marked by a great support for Shelterbox and Disaster Aid Australia in response to disasters. As an aside, I hope you have seen the amount of assistance poured into Nepal from India; the Rotarians there have certainly done a fantastic job.

I haven't counted all of the RAWCS projects we have, but they are numerous and they're wonderful projects. What really surprised me was the number of projects we have in Africa, something I did not know before. A lot of these projects start from personal contact; Rotarians travel overseas and are smitten by the plight of people in underprivileged countries and are determined that they will do something about it. They plan and set up the project, get a RAWCS number, and they are on the way doing good in the world.

Now if we combine our International service with our Community service, including donations to other smaller local charities, that is about where 90% of our funds raised go. Community represents the bulk of our service.

We really do have the A to Z of activities in community. Well, the A to Y! A Little Ray Of Giving, which most of you will know is the Christmas gift collection for underprivileged families supported by Ray White real estate. Y being the Yarran Early Intervention Services Christmas party. Community Services Chair Marilyn Mercer has amassed a list of the community service projects and there are at least 250 discrete activities mentioned.

What's been really satisfying for me this year, is the number of inter-district activities with District 9675 - Sydney Community service you might call it. We have teamed with District 9675 and others in the Rotary ANZAC Commemorative Garden at Concord (Repat) Hospital, Soap Aid, The Australian Rotary Districts Blood Drive, the "Kids in Need" Open Day, Kiss MS Goodbye, Red Shield Appeal, various Rotary Fellowships, Soils for Life and the Australian Transplant Games 2016.

What we do in our local community is really the face of Rotary, And so it drives our public image and our recruitment. It is thus very important and I applaud all of you for the range and variety of community service activities undertaken this year.

In that vein I also mentioned Vocational service. The Pride of Workmanship Awards and the Police Officer of the Year Awards, and also the very processes for selecting the finalists and winners, are huge part of our community involvement. Cast your mind back to your last awards night and hear the words of the senior police or the employers or work colleagues; they really do appreciate the opportunity to recognise those who give service above self. And it promotes Rotary and our values in the community.

Let me now turn to Youth. We say, like a lot of people, that our youth are our future. The difference with Rotary is that we do something about it. And I am just so heartened by seeing the young people of our community who go through the Rotary Youth Program Of Enrichment, or the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards and come out the other end empowered by our programs. The same applies in spades to Rotary Youth Exchange. Even where it is only 20 students per year, we are making progress towards international understanding, goodwill and peace. They add light and energy to our clubs, to the communities they are in, to the schools, and to their host families. If your club is not involved in youth exchange or is wavering, can I please ask you to look to the reasons you should be involved rather than reasons you should not. The rewards are an enormous.

And I don't take anything away from clubs in their interaction with schools in their local area through public speaking programs, essay competitions, vocational assistance and similar programs. Again, those clubs that are involved in this will tell you that our young people are brilliant and it's up to us to assist the community to guide them in citizenship, and in the values that will hold them in good stead for the future. You could even let the students come and run your club meeting, as the Rotary Club of Belrose does for its youth night.

Let me turn to membership. I'm very grateful that membership chair Harold Sharp has managed to engage the majority of clubs in the district this year. We had roughly a 45 net gain, about 2%, for the year. The trouble is, we have a slump or a "step down" in membership from 30 June to 1 July each year and this can mask our base figure, which shows a steady decline over the last few years. Yes, we have done well this year, we have a high retention rate, clubs are generally replacing the members they lose and our trajectory is good. We just have to keep working on it. I missed our goal of a 10% increase in membership, but with Harold's good work and another strong membership team for next year, we can keep working towards a real increase.

I'd like to finish up this goal section with mention of Turkey in the Centenary of Anzac. Firstly, congratulations to David Dean who with the support of his wife Margaret stood up and successfully conducted the Vocational Training Team (VTT) to Turkey in the field of diabetes.

This VTT will have a lasting impact on the management of patients with diabetes in Australia, Turkey, Tanzania, Kenya, Afghanistan and Pakistan. The action plans developed will ensure the outcomes are lasting and I look forward to hearing David and the team at 2016 District Conference. It was wonderful to have the workshop leaders out from Turkey for the Hunter Valley Conference too.

I said that I'd be going to the Peace Conference in Istanbul, which I did, and I was very pleased to co-sign the Istanbul Peace Declaration along with others. We're hoping that this declaration will lead to tangible outcomes between Turkey and Australia in the area of peace, more on that at a future time. But what really heartened me is the great range of activities undertaken by Rotary clubs in this district to mark this special Anzac Day this year. From my own club's Handshake For Peace at the Leura Lone Pine Memorial, which was a brilliant event, the aforementioned ANZAC Garden in Concord, to the many clubs supporting the ceremonies in their local communities, refurbishing Memorials and setting up new ones, you all ensured this significant date was commemorated with thoughtful remembrance and with respect. For that I thank you all.

### **Highlights**

I'm wary of pointing out the highlights of the year because I guess everything's been a highlight. Significantly for me it has been the helicopter view, the big picture view I have of the District and the vast amount of work, the service that you provide. I've been so impressed by your responses to the disasters in Vanuatu, in Nepal, and in our own backyard with the drought in Queensland. Clubs do not sit around waiting for direction from above when something happens, they immediately swing into action and start raising funds knowing that in a very short time the need will be identified where Rotary can assist the affected areas. It truly is a mark of the values-driven organisation that nobody sits around waiting to be told what to do. Another highlight is the introduction of Club Visioning into district. This has the power to refocus clubs on where they need to go and what they need to do to get there, and I especially thank David Mylan for his work here. The Rotary Leadership Institute courses are going exceptionally well – 8 courses were run and well attended. If you don't know what it is about, speak to someone who is a graduate and you will find a Rotarian who has been up-skilled, up-knowledged and empowered in Rotary service.

I can't move on from this section though without mentioning the District Conference, where my committee, led by Jennifer, and my home Club put on a wonderful District Conference full of information and inspiration and fun. I do believe District Conferences are an important part of our Rotary growth and education, and we really need to encourage new and not-so-new members to get along to conferences so we can share the fellowship, share information, and share a celebration of Rotary.

### **Challenges**

There have been challenges of course. One that strikes me (amongst others) in membership is actually getting our beneficiaries, those who benefit from our programs, to understand that we will not be here providing the services unless they join us. Now some do join, but when I look out at functions and see the vast array of Mums and Dads, siblings, co-workers, employers - all on the receiving end of Rotary service - I think just how much I would love to see them join us. I ask you all to keep that in mind for the future and don't be shy in pointing out that, without their help, Rotary service projects and programs may not continue.

Another challenge has been getting the communication balance right. There is so much information we need to pass on to you, and yet it is so easy to get the impression of being flooded with Rotary email. It is a real challenge, and I ask you all to bear with District and the Communications team; treat your Rotary emails as if they were business emails, deal with them quickly, delete what you don't need, act on the ones you do.

Another challenge is getting clubs to nominate for awards. We all know that volunteers are rewarded by thanks, by a pat on the back, and by celebration. And we have the means to do this. We believe at District level that we aim the awards at important areas that help strengthen clubs, and so we would like you to take advantage of that. Maybe clubs need an awards committee and to think about it at the start of the year, making it a goal to achieve awards, and by so doing, you will be strengthening your club.

## **Learnings**

Let me finish by telling you some of the things I learnt this year.

I did learn that Rotary actually does transcend politics and ideology. The fact that we in this District have projects and Rotary volunteers successfully working in countries where the culture, the ideology, the level of political control is hard, or where our funds would normally be at risk, is testament to the power of Rotary; we do get in where angels could not. Our values and the expression of them in service are so very important.

I learnt that showing genuine interest in people and listening to them goes a long way towards empowering them to meet their goals and to build goodwill and better friendships.

I learnt that Rotarians are great people and they have great partners, they have great friends. I learned that their capacity and passion for community service is as big as their hearts.

I also learned that not everybody is visible in district. There are Rotarians quietly working away in clubs whose input is just as valuable and as needed as that of someone on a District committee. We are all wheels in community service, Rotary wheels, and we are all needed.

## **Overall Aim**

My overall aim this year was for you to take ownership of your Rotary membership, to rediscover your inner Rotarian - what it was that got you excited about Rotary in the first place - to see you all growing in Rotary, to be proud of your clubs and proud to serve. In one of my last acts as District Governor, I declare this aim met!

It has been a real privilege for Jennifer and I to serve you.

I thank you for your service, I thank you for your support to me, and I thank you for ***Lighting Up Rotary*** in District 9685.

**Ian Scott**

**District Governor 2014-2015**

**District 9685**

## Selected Director and Chair Reports

### Administration

Administration activities throughout the year have centred around supporting Clubs with their Club service, risk management, insurance, child protection, and conflict management responsibilities, responding to on-going queries across all areas.

With the introduction of Working with Children Checks (WWC), a major focus of activity has been:

- Preparing Rotary Clubs for the introduction of the new WWC
- Visits and presentations to Clubs on WWC
- Communication with representatives of Clubs needing advice on implementation
- Assisting Clubs with presentations and all aspect of Child protection
- Developing frequently asked questions (FAQ) for information, and
- Acting as the WWC Rotary Employer for Youth Exchange families and Rotarians.

The 30/06/15 renewal process for insurance is well progressed, awaiting confirmation from Insurers to allow us to issue Certificates of Currency for the 2015/2016 period. This should be complete by the last week of June to meet requirements of the many Bunnings Stores where Clubs provide BBQ services for fundraising.

Looking forward, All Rotary Clubs need to have their members obtain a WWC check before the 31st March 2016. Club Presidents need to appoint a member/team to oversee this process and register as an employee to check approvals of members. These records need to be kept in the Club and members reminded when their WWC is coming up for renewal (every 5 years).

Anyone, whether Rotarian or non Rotarian, who does not have an up-to-date WWC is not to work with children and young people unsupervised at any Rotary function.

Following a few nasty accidents whilst running events this year, it is important to remind clubs of the need to undertake a risk management analysis and complete the liability event organisers form.

Members should ensure to take the Emergency travel assist card with them for insurance contact details if required. Also a reminder that Government legislation prohibits general insurer's from providing coverage for medical expenses which attract a Medicare rebate (this also includes amounts incurred which are referred to as the Medicare 'gap').

Finally, my thanks and appreciation to the Administration team for their unstinting contribution and a job well done.

John Collins and Barry Edmundson    Risk management

George Condell    Insurance

Andrew Newman and John Wakefield    Child protection

Jennifer Scott

Conflict management

**Brian Plain**

**Administration Director**

## Community Service

One way to really appreciate the scope and depth of the work done by Rotarians and their families and friends in our district is to hold the position of District Community Service Chair.

Traditionally Community Service in our District includes the following sub-committees –

- Australian Rotary Health under the leadership of Trish Wetton, with the zone representatives. The activities included ARH Food, Wine and Music Race Day, Golf Day, Hat Day and ARH Christmas Party. Preparations once again were well underway for the Parra-Amble however it was postponed until November.

District donations to ARH have been less this Rotary year. At the beginning of June the total was just under \$56,000 compared with \$172,000 for the same period in the previous year. An appeal has gone to clubs in the hope that ARH will be remembered in their end of year hand-outs.



- BowelCare is strongly supported by our clubs. Sadly we saw the passing of Walter Leijten. Walter began the Bowelscan (now BowelCare) Program in Rotary District 9680 in 1990. He held position of Program Chairman for Districts he oversaw; D9685, part of 9675, 9690 and 9710. In an email from Prof Glenn Salkeld (Sydney Uni): “Walter was a true champion for public health, never wavering in his support of the bowel cancer screening program”. The Program that Walter started all those years ago now actively involves 110 Rotary Clubs and over 700 participating pharmacies.



- PROBUS in 9685 has been led by Peter Carroll and Gary Blackler. Probus in our District is thriving, with most clubs, such as the Combined Hawkesbury PROBUS, having a waiting list. The charter of Cabarita – Breakfast Point Probus showed remarkable co-operation between District Governors from 9685 and 9675. The club is in D9675 but was chartered by





Rotary E-Club of Greater Sydney which is in D9685. Also the Knightsbridge PROBUS was chartered by the RC Glenhaven

- Camp Breakaway did not continue its association with Rotary District 9685 this year. We thank David Waterhouse and his team for the work they had done over the past years.
- Aboriginal Health and Literacy Programs was led by Shamus Davies. Our Clubs have supported Indigenous Health Scholarships (ARH), Tales from the Dilly Bag, Book Buzz, Yuendumu Doors talk. Our district agreed to give \$5,000 to District 9550 (Qld and NT) for their Global Grant to provide a sustainable program in the focus area of basic reading and literacy to Indigenous pre-school children aged 0-4 years at Yarrabah in Queensland, one of most socially disadvantaged townships in Australia.



- Graffiti Removal – increasingly clubs have been following the lead of the Rotary Club of Epping and the Rotary Club of Turramurra in establishing a local graffiti removal project. Roger Norman has been the mainstay of this program.



### Other Projects



I congratulate the Boards of each of those clubs where a member(s) has come up with an initiative and they have given full support. In some clubs they are told "It will never work". A prime example of success is "The Glenbrook Gnome Convention". Hence, we have projects (almost) from A-Z. The attached list gives some idea and since I compiled this in 2014, in District 9685, many new community projects have been initiated and supported. These can be classed as inter-District or club.

### Inter-District projects

We have teamed with District 9675 and others to include the Rotary ANZAC Commemorative Garden at Concord (Repat) Hospital, Soap Aid, The Australian Rotary Districts Blood Drive, the “Kids in Need” Open Day, Kiss MS Goodbye, Red Shield Appeal, , various Rotary Fellowships, Soils for Life and the Australian Transplant Games 2016.



### Club Projects:

There will always be varying ways that Community Service can be utilised as each community “from the mountains to the sea” is different. 2014-15 saw a pleasing increase in remarkable new projects - ANZAC Dawn Service Candles and breakfasts; Australia Day breakfasts and Citizenship Ceremonies; Seniors Christmas Dinners and Concerts; Christmas Wrapping; a Little Ray of Giving, Little Blue Dragon – hold my hand campaign, CC International Women’s Day (IWD) EXPO, Picnic Under the Stars, Rainbow Club Family Fun Day; Lifeline; Save our Kids Program; Wallace Park Reserve Commemoration seat; “The Bobbo” Cycle Classic and so the list goes on.

### Rotary International Family and Community Service Award



Rotary International Family and Community Service Award certificates were utilised by some clubs “in recognition of outstanding service to Families and Communities”. One such certificate is proudly displayed at the reception counter at Medical Professional rooms at Windsor.

### Monthly District 9685 Community Service Newsletter

As promised at the District Assembly, I produced a Monthly District 9685 Community Service Newsletter in which were promoted and reported many and varied community works. This was distributed to all Club Presidents and Community Service Directors; DGs past present and future; all people whose event or organisation were mentioned and promoted in the District E-News. It was a good PR exercise which allowed non-Rotarians a small glimpse of what we do.

My day was really made when I received the following message from PDG Paul Henningham:

*Dear Marilyn, I have received your final Newsletter which, as usual, is packed with important and useful information. As a minor Rotary historian, I have found your contributions to our archive – so carefully selected and concisely presented – invaluable. I am sure that others will join me in thanking you for accepting the assignment and for the conscientious discharge of your duties throughout the year.*

*Warmest regards and keep smiling, Paul*

### District Community Service Awards

All clubs were invited to apply for the District Community Service Awards- one for clubs smaller than 25 members and another for the larger clubs. The awards are announced at District Changeover. Several high calibre applications were received.

This year many reminders were sent to clubs via emails and through their AG. However, relatively few clubs applied. It may be a case of modesty or that people are too busy to apply. I suggest that one person in the club is given the job of "Awards". I encourage more clubs to apply next year.

I commend the Rotary Clubs of Belrose, Carlingford, Chatswood, Gosford North, Ryde, Turramurra, Winston Hills and Woy Woy for their applications in 2015.

### The Future



Some transplant recipients who will take part

Already we are committed to the Australian Transplant Games which will take place in our District based at Penrith in September 2016. This will be another opportunity for our clubs to take the lead in the many and various roles. This will be a tremendous Community Service and PR exercise.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to act as the Community Service Chairman for RI District 9685 during 2014-15. It was been awe inspiring and inspirational experience.

**Marilyn Mercer**

**Community Service Chair**

## **International**

I am pleased to report that support for International Projects by clubs in our District over the last year has been fantastic. There are just too many things to report on individually so I will attempt to summarise highlights as follows.

- Approximately two hundred projects supported
- Disaster relief
  - Nepal Earthquake

- Cyclone Marcia in Southern Queensland
- Vanuatu Cyclone
- Funding of a substantial number of Shelterboxes
- RAWCS (Rotary Australia Community Service) support
  - Over 70 registered projects worldwide
  - Donations in Kind – 8 container loads sent
  - RAM (Rotarians Against Malaria)
  - Ranfurly Library – donation of books
  - Benevolent Society – 3 Projects

By its very nature “International” comprises a hugely diverse range of projects in a range of very different countries. In an effort to stop duplication of projects and make the planning of projects more simple, as a first step we had an International Seminar attended by sixty Rotarians. While the results were encouraging there is still a lot of work to be done.

As an experiment and to further attempt to share information, we had a Timor Leste projects day. About twenty attended and it was agreed that the exercise should be repeated from time to time.

Within the International Avenue of Service there are many who “make it happen”. The list is just too long to thank individually. However there are a few who deserve special acknowledgement. PP Miriam Jacka and her loyal team of volunteers at Donations in kind have done far more than what could be reasonably expected. The containers shipped as a result of their efforts are a testament to their commitment.

The District Awards were won by Carlingford in the large club category and Winston Hills in the small club category. To choose winners from the applications received was a daunting task.

To all those who assisted in “International” during the year – a sincere Thank You, and to DG Ian Scott I would like to say Thank You for giving me the opportunity to act as Director. I wish David Mylan all the best as he takes the reins next year.

**Theo Glockemann OAM**

**International Director**

## **Youth Service**

It has been another busy year in District 9685 Youth Service, with clubs across the district engaged in a huge range of activities that encourage, inspire and promote Youth in a variety of ways. From school awards, cultural exchange, leadership opportunities, public speaking competitions, building projects.....just to touch the tip of the iceberg. Congratulations to all clubs who are involved in making a difference for our future, the youth of the world.

A summary of District Youth Programs:

## **Rotary Youth Exchange 2014/15**

Rotary Youth Exchange combines Rotary's missions in International Understanding and development of our Youth. What better than to have a person with a lifelong understanding of International Peace through friendship and Rotary ideals?

District 9685 has retained a leading role in RYE across Australia. We have had 18 Inbound students from around the world: including from Mexico, Brazil, Taiwan, Japan, France, Denmark, and Sweden. They have all been enriched by their exchange, faced a multitude of issues and seen Australia through their Safari. They will return home with an International view of the world and have a lifetime of developing good international relations.

We currently have 16 Australian students spread around the globe being hosted by our Rotary counterparts. This will change markedly for 2016 and beyond with only Year 9 & 10 students being considered for exchange due to changes in Education Department policies. However, this shift will enable the students to be more committed to their schooling and less distracted by independent socializing. We anticipate having at least 10 students Outbound in 2016 and will build on that number into the future.

Clubs and their members have benefited from sponsoring and hosting students: there is always a different "feel" to a Club when the student is involved in meeting members and giving a different perspective. Hosting should be easier into the future with families of Outbound students taking on more of the Inbounds.

Many thanks to the RYE Committee for their dedication including organizing and supervising the Safari. Special thanks to our retiring Secretary Alison Bowland.

PDG John Dodd

RYE Chair

## **Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA)**

Nearly 80 young people attended RYLA at Elanora Heights in January 2015. It was an engaging week that challenged the young people with inspiring speakers, practical activities and community service opportunities. The RYLarians were all likeminded people coming from a variety of different leadership experiences such as Rotaract, SES, Sporting Groups, Scouts and community groups. Facilitated by former RYLarians, the action packed week empowered and changed the lives of these young people to go out and make a difference in their communities and beyond.

## **Rotary Youth Program Of Enrichment (RYPEN)**

### **Summer Camp**

All the elements came together to ensure a wonderful RYPEN 2015 Summer Camp by the sea.

**The venue** proved equal to the task. It was the first time that we had used the Sydney Academy of Sport and Recreation at Narrabeen, and it suited us very well. The sleeping accommodation was spacious and air conditioned, the meeting rooms fit for our purpose, and the outside facilities and activities better than we have experienced before – and to top it off, the food was unexpectedly good.

**The young Rypenians** – all 80 of them, from schools throughout the District, from both the public and the private school sectors, were a wonderful group of young people, who really threw themselves into the spirit of the Camp. We thank all the Rotary Clubs who are such strong supporters of the RYPEN Summer Camp for finding us, and sponsoring so generously these young people. It is fascinating to watch their progress during the course of the Camp.

**Our fantastic team** of eight young leaders, almost all past Rylarians, with the guidance and leadership of our Director Jon Phegan and his Assistant Directors Huw Price and Lauren McGrath, made sure that all our participants both enjoyed the camp and learned from their experiences.

**Our volunteer Rotarians** rallied to the cause as always, including car parking duties and manning the registration desk on the Friday night and assisted with the closing ceremony on the Sunday afternoon. We also thank our Rotarian on site – Camp Father Ward Pollard.

**The weather** was kind – fine, most importantly, and not too hot and not too cold – just right.

After involvement since the re-introduction of RYPEN into District 9680 - 15 years ago the Rotary Club of Wahroonga is bowing out, and handing the baton for the management of this wonderful Camp to our friends at the Rotary Club of Mosman. We wish them well, as we do the RYPEN Summer Camp.

Sue Owen

RYPEN Summer Camp Chair

### **Winter Camp**

Over 60 young people from across the District attended Winter RYPEN in June 2015. It was a fabulous weekend giving the young students a great opportunity to be challenged, inspired and encouraged to pursue leadership in their school and community groups.

Winter Rotary Youth Program of Enrichment is aimed for that large group of, boys and girls, aged between 14 and 16 years, school years 8 to 10, who show some qualities of decency, courage, persistence, sincerity and application in everyday life, which deserve further development. The principle aim is to communicate to young people a series of ideas, problems and social experiences which will assist them in forming their own values and moral standards, and to broaden their horizons culturally, socially and academically.

*Winter RYPEN aims for the average student and not for the outstanding few.* RYPEN is an intensive program, consisting of plenary sessions, workshops and sport and entertainment activities. Participants will be given an opportunity to learn from achievers in the worlds of business, sport and entertainment. Presenters will speak at keynote sessions and workshops and share their experiences with participants, while emphasizing the need to work hard and stay focused. At the same time, participants are interacting with peers from different backgrounds and improving their teamwork skills. All this is done in an informal atmosphere, where questions and debates are encouraged.

The motto of Winter RYPEN, which emerged from the first seminar in 1980, is **“the Cultivation of Youth”**.

## **MUNA**

The 2015 Model United Nations Assembly (MUNA) was a great success, seeing over 120 students participate across the weekend of 16/17 May at Baulkham Hills High School. Six resolutions were debated by the 40 participating teams, each representing the political and cultural views of their allocated nation. With a high standard of debating from all teams it was challenging to find a winner, however in the end it was the representatives from South Africa (Knox Grammar School) who were selected as the champions, selected to compete at the National MUNA competition in Canberra in August. Highlights of the weekend included the Parade of Nations, where students display the national dress of their selected country, and the delicious yellow curry, integrating some international flavour into the program, cooked by the E-Club of Greater Sydney's head chef Pavarne Lambert. A huge thank you must be passed on to all of the 30 volunteers who assisted over the weekend, host venue Baulkham Hills High School, and corporate partner Prestige Wedding and Event Hire, without whom the event would not be possible.

Phil Wishart

MUNA Chairman

## **Rotaract**

This Rotaract year has been a year of collaboration. In addition to many local and international projects undertaken by our individual clubs, for the first time ever we hosted a Bi-District Community Event volunteering at the Donations in Kind warehouse. This has evolved into an ongoing, twice yearly commitment. Our strong relationship with Rotaract in District 9675 has enabled a successful Bi-District bid to host Rotaract Games - one of the biggest Rotaract events in Australia.

In addition to our ongoing club events, we have hosted 3 District & RYLA events to promote stronger collaboration between our clubs and individuals. We have also introduced a district calendar to improve planning and collaboration between clubs.

Our District has introduced two new awards - the *Rotaract Achievement Award* and the *Rotaract Lifetime Honours Roll* - to recognise the incredible contribution of so many Rotaractors. One of the most poignant moments during my term was to induct 3 extraordinary Rotaractors onto the Rotaract Lifetime Honours Roll.

Ricky Leong

District Rotaract Representative

## **Interact**

The Interact program has been very well put together by our forefathers. The structure of the program and the ease of set up means that the Interact Chair's role becomes primarily promotion of Interact with very minimal administrative work.

Of significance this year is the fact that the Rotary Club of Woy Woy chartered the Interact Club of Brisbane Waters Secondary College in August of 2014. Their School Interact Club commenced with 21 Charter Members and they were ably assisted by Jayne Mote and Annette Karton of the Rotary Club of Woy Woy.

There are also moves afoot to further promote Interact into the schools in the Blue Mountains region.

There are presently only 8 Interact Clubs in the District.

One of the Interact Clubs, James Ruse Agricultural College has been in operation for over 50 years, making it the longest running club in a NSW high school. It is actually older than some of the clubs in our district. They are very active and are always seeking opportunities to volunteer their help.

Interact is a wonderful way to be able to allow the students to be able to do things for the community while in a school. It allows them to have the structure to give back to the community and provides an orderly way to do it through a proper leadership framework using the Interact model. It also becomes the first taste that the students get of Rotary. In an ideal world this would then dovetail into RYPEN, Rotaract, RYLA and then Rotary.

Bruce De Graaf

Interact Chairman

### **NYSF**

22 Year 12 students were selected from across D9685 and sent to NYSF Sessions in either Canberra or Perth in January, where they were part of a group of 396 students who have to be the best community-minded science students in Australia, and hence major players in Australia's future.

NYSF has been supported by Rotary since its inception in 1983, and is one of the largest Rotary projects within Australia.

The National Youth Science Forum, in Australia and overseas, "aims to give a deeper insight into science and its applications for the benefit of all mankind: and to develop a greater understanding between young people of all nations" (LIYSF). Students are selected based not just on their academic achievements, but also on their other interests and their social and communication skills. In the January NYSF fora, and throughout their NYSF experience, these young scientists will acquire additional skills that will allow them to take their place as tomorrow's leaders.

Sarah Whereat

NYSF Chairman

**Jade Catherall**

**Youth Director**

## **Vocational**

The year started with District Assembly and I was fortunate to have some great presenters on the various vocational subjects, some from outside the Rotary family. This was appreciated by the Vocational Directors present and favourable comments were received.

Pride of Workmanship is a vocational program embraced by many clubs in D9685 (and



beyond) and like you, I was fortunate to attend several throughout the year. Some clubs combine PoW with Community Service Awards which makes for an interesting event. Award events of this nature allow clubs the opportunity to engage with the local media.

Some clubs have engaged in Police Officer of the Year Awards, and some clubs included a police officer award in their PoW evening.

Many clubs have an interest in the topic of Professional Ethics, however to my knowledge only one club invited the District Chair to talk on this topic at a club meeting.

The Vocational Excellence Awards and the high school students' Four-Way Test Debate were included at the District Conference and some very positive comments were received. Also, Marg Sachs was presented with an RI Vocational Service Leadership Award at the District Conference.

I believe we can do more with the Rotary and TAFE Links program, and it is recognised the difficult and uncertain times being experienced by the TAFE organisation. Regardless, there is considerable interaction between Rotary Clubs and TAFE colleges throughout D9685. Likewise there's more we could be doing with WorldSkills Australia in support of local competitors.

We are providing support for the Rotary Emergency Services and Community Awards initiated by D9675; Jade Catherall and I are evaluated nominations for the Rural Fire Service category.

I attended the PCYC NSW State Conference and Rotary was mentioned a few times during the day. Several Rotary Clubs are involved with PCYCs throughout NSW and I will forward a MOU to DGE Gina for signing after changeover.

**Peter Kirkwood**

**Vocational Director**

## **Membership**

As chairman for membership I have thoroughly enjoyed the year which was both challenging and rewarding.

My main objective was to highlight the awareness in all clubs of the challenges of membership acquisition and retention and that these challenges must be the no.1 priority in all clubs if Rotary International is to continue "to make the world a better place"

I addressed PETS and District Assembly and personally visited some 62 clubs as their guest speaker emphasising that each club must be proactive and establish an ongoing membership acquisition plan which should be reviewed at the end of each year.

I am confident that as a result of my personal visits the majority of clubs have changed their approach to membership acquisition and retention and in the coming years club membership will be taken seriously and a proactive approach will be implemented.

Of all the ideas and facts that I brought up in my presentations the two that had the greatest impact were:

- To acquire a new member you have to ask
- The members of the club membership committee are the entire club

Sadly the district still has 5 clubs who do not invite females to join . Winston Hills club will hand in its charter at the end of this rotary year and will merge with Hills Kellyville club and neutral bay club will also hand in its charter. The rotary clubs of Pittwater and Narrabeen Lakes are at present in discussion for a possible merger in the coming year.

I have met regularly with the incoming district chairman PP Lindsay May and passed on all my notes and recommendations.

I confidently predict that in the year 2014-2015 in excess of 250 new Rotarians will have been inducted into district 9685 and the district will have a nett gain in membership growth.

My recommendations for recognition for the clubs that have achieved outstanding membership growth figures (as at time of reporting) are:

- \* Small Clubs    Kincumber nett gain 9
- \* Large Clubs    Crows Nest nett gain 9
- \* Clubs gaining a certificate of achievement:

Ku-Ring-Gai nett gain 6

Kurrajong North Richmond nett gain 6

Lower Blue Mountains nett gain 7

Mosman nett gain 4

Norwest Sunrise Bella Vista nett gain 6

The Entrance nett gain 4

**PDG Harold Sharp**

**Membership Chair**

## **District Foundation Report**

### **Grants**

The district has had a very successful year with Foundations grants- our most successful year ever.

District Grants

40 District Grants were approved to 38 clubs,  
\$95,000. DDF from the Foundation to fund these grants

#### Global Grants

We have 27 active Global Grant applications. This quite amazing when compared with last year where we had some 6 or 7 applications and 4 approved. Congratulation to the 27 clubs involved.

Of the 27 active grants:

15 have been approved

3 are submitted

9 are in draft.

\$543,716 total funds from TRF into our GG's as at May 8<sup>th</sup>.

#### Funding to the Foundation

USD\$342,000 Annual Fund.

This is unfortunately way short of our target of \$450,000 but this is due to a number of reasons, 1) clubs giving strongly to Shelterbox as a result of the Vanuatu and Nepal disasters, 2) the devaluation of the A\$, and 3) what appears to be quite difficult economic times in some areas.

USD\$121,000 to Polio Plus.

USD\$515 416 total into the Foundation- including Annual Fund, Polio and Grants. This is once again the highest in all Zone 7 and 8- Australia, New Zealand, Philippines etc.

Only 2 clubs in the District have not contributed anything to the Foundation ( Annual fund or Polio ) and we hope those clubs or the members might consider donating in the future.

#### District Shield

Goes to Beecroft. With USD \$25,367 to the annual fund – relates to USD \$738.28 per member! They have 22 Centurions and 8 Paul Harris Society members.

As at June 26<sup>th</sup> we had 578 Centurions and we expect that will go over 600 . Congratulations to Pittwater, Richmond, Beecroft, Upper Blue Mountains Sunrise, St Ives and Wahroonga who were all 100% centurion clubs !! Our most ever!!

Thanks to all clubs who were over \$100 per capita - \$100 per capita being the Foundation recommended target. We have 23 clubs who are at the level of more than \$100 per member, we have on top of that 10 more over \$200 and 5 over \$400 per capita. A fantastic result, and how about the Rotary Club of Beecroft at \$738 dollars per member.

**Tony Castley**

**District Rotary Foundation Chair**

## **Special Projects, Initiatives and Innovation**

### Club Visioning

Since June 2014 D9685 has been a member of the International Vision Facilitation Council which allows access to the Club Visioning Program.

### Program activities:

- 31 August 2014 thirteen District representatives successfully completed the Club Visioning Facilitator course
- During 2014-15 the following clubs participated in the Club Visioning Program:
  - Rotary Club of The Entrance
  - Rotary of Hunters Hill
  - Rotary Club of Galston
  - Rotary Club of West Pennant Hills Cherrybrook
  - Rotary Club of Terrigal
  - Rotary of Clubs of Pittwater and Narrabeen Lakes under the guise of the Rotary Club of Utopia
  - Rotary Club of Umina

### Future program activities:

- Information session on Club Visioning to be scheduled in late 2015 for Assistant Governors and District Officials

### For further details:

District 9685 Vision Facilitation Chair - David Mylan (Terrigal) on 0411 878 854 or email

[clubvisioning@rotarydistrict9685.org.au](mailto:clubvisioning@rotarydistrict9685.org.au)

### District Strategic Planning

The District Strategic Plan was endorsed by the Committee of the Association (COTA). The Plan reflects the ideas, aspiration and objectives generated by the attendees at the District Planning Session held in May 2015.

**David Mylan**

**Special Projects, Initiatives and Innovation**

A little Ray of Giving	Bourke School breakfast program	Community service awards	Indi Kindi books to assist the N	Indi Kindi books to assist the N	Indi Kindi books to assist the N	Pioneer Club House	RYLA	Sydney Heritage Fleet
Aboriginal Education	BowelScan	Council BBQ	Ivanhoe No 47	Ivanhoe No 47	Ivanhoe No 47	Pioneer Club House	RYPEN	Sydney Hospital
Ag Farm	Breakfast at Gosford Public School	Codwys Nest Centre "project"	Chowdering Hosp in Sri Lanka	Chowdering Hosp in Sri Lanka	Chowdering Hosp in Sri Lanka	Plant Sales	RYSS Arts Warehouse	Teddy Bears Picnic
Annual art show	Covered Outdoor Learning Area	Cyber Bullying (in conjunction with F	Chowdering Hosp in Sri Lanka	Chowdering Hosp in Sri Lanka	Chowdering Hosp in Sri Lanka	Plant Sales	Sailability	Tertiary Bursaries for gifted cl
Anzac day	Build your Future today -Camb	Dalmar Children's services	Juniperina	Juniperina	Juniperina	Police Officer of the Year	Sailability	The Shack
Anzac day	Bunnings Community BBQ	Dalmar Children's services	Kariong Festival	Kariong Festival	Kariong Festival	POOTY (Police of the Year) Award	Sailability	Tour de Hills (Cycle Race).
Anzac Day Peace Park service	Bush Fire Brigade	Dahwood Jumble sale	Kingswood Park Public School	Kingswood Park Public School	Kingswood Park Public School	Precinct playground	Scarecrow Activity at the county	Treasure of Joy
Anzac Day Service	Bush/City Youth exchange	Davidson Rural Fire Brigade	Knitting squares to Wrap with	Knitting squares to Wrap with	Knitting squares to Wrap with	Primary Schools' Debating	School competition "design and	Treasure of Joy
Apex Santa Sleigh	Bushcare	Dilly Bag	Kuringal's got Talent	Kuringal's got Talent	Kuringal's got Talent	St. Nicholas	Sea Scouts	Trinh Foundation (speech the
ARH	Camp Breakaway	DOCS	Kurrambee School – school for	Kurrambee School – school for	Kurrambee School – school for	St. Nicholas	Senior citizens' Christmas outin	Umina Precinct Kiosk
ARH mental health of outback	Children's night	Donations to schools	Lane Cove Art Show	Lane Cove Art Show	Lane Cove Art Show	St. Nicholas	Senior citizens' Christmas outin	Umina Precinct Kiosk
Arts and Craft Show	Carols by Candlelight	Eagle Raps	Lane Cove Fair	Lane Cove Fair	Lane Cove Fair	St. Nicholas	Senior citizens' Christmas outin	Umina Precinct Kiosk
ASK program	Castle Hill Show Gates	Echo Point Picnic Shelter	Lane Cove Scouts	Lane Cove Scouts	Lane Cove Scouts	St. Nicholas	Senior citizens' Christmas outin	Umina Precinct Kiosk
Ask the Experts	Catering Caravan	Emergency Medical booklets	Legacy	Legacy	Legacy	St. Nicholas	Senior citizens' Christmas outin	Umina Precinct Kiosk
ASPECT	Central Coast Conservatorium	Epping Street Fair	Library Support	Library Support	Library Support	St. Nicholas	Senior citizens' Christmas outin	Umina Precinct Kiosk
Australia Day event	Century Challenge Cycle Ride	Fathers Day	Lifeline	Lifeline	Lifeline	St. Nicholas	Senior citizens' Christmas outin	Umina Precinct Kiosk
Australia Day Flag Raising	Christian Community Aid	Fathers Day nursing Home isits	Lifeline Book Fair	Lifeline Book Fair	Lifeline Book Fair	St. Nicholas	Senior citizens' Christmas outin	Umina Precinct Kiosk
Australia Day function	Christmas lunch for Seniors	Film events with PCYC	Local schools support	Local schools support	Local schools support	St. Nicholas	Senior citizens' Christmas outin	Umina Precinct Kiosk
Babes with Babes	Christmas pudding sales	Fireworks Northbridge	Local Schools support	Local Schools support	Local Schools support	St. Nicholas	Senior citizens' Christmas outin	Umina Precinct Kiosk
Bay to Bay Fun Run	Christmas Trailer	Flower sales	Lone Parents	Lone Parents	Lone Parents	St. Nicholas	Senior citizens' Christmas outin	Umina Precinct Kiosk
BBQ Rowland Village	Christmas Tree Sale	Food and Wine Festival	Manly Community Centre	Manly Community Centre	Manly Community Centre	St. Nicholas	Senior citizens' Christmas outin	Umina Precinct Kiosk
BBQ shed for Salvation Army	Christmas visits to nursing hom	ForeSight Foundation	Manly Womens shelter	Manly Womens shelter	Manly Womens shelter	St. Nicholas	Senior citizens' Christmas outin	Umina Precinct Kiosk
Bear Cottage	Clean Up Australia	Forestville Spring Fair	Mary Mac's Kitchen	Mary Mac's Kitchen	Mary Mac's Kitchen	St. Nicholas	Senior citizens' Christmas outin	Umina Precinct Kiosk
Benevolent Society, Penrith	Clean up Australia	Gift Wrapping	Matthew Talbot Homes Support	Matthew Talbot Homes Support	Matthew Talbot Homes Support	St. Nicholas	Senior citizens' Christmas outin	Umina Precinct Kiosk
Blackheath Area Neighbourhood	Clean up Australia	Girl Guides	Meadowbank Ferry Trip (elderly)	Meadowbank Ferry Trip (elderly)	Meadowbank Ferry Trip (elderly)	St. Nicholas	Senior citizens' Christmas outin	Umina Precinct Kiosk
Blackman Park centenary trees	Clean up Australia	Giving Tree	Meals on Wheels	Meals on Wheels	Meals on Wheels	St. Nicholas	Senior citizens' Christmas outin	Umina Precinct Kiosk
Blood bank support	Clean up Kenthurst	Golf Day	Mega Swim	Mega Swim	Mega Swim	St. Nicholas	Senior citizens' Christmas outin	Umina Precinct Kiosk
Boating Day for Homeless Kids	Coast Shelter (homeless in Gosford)	Goody Markets	Melbourne Cup Trifecta	Melbourne Cup Trifecta	Melbourne Cup Trifecta	St. Nicholas	Senior citizens' Christmas outin	Umina Precinct Kiosk
Bobbin Head Cycle Classic	Coast Shelter (homeless mission)	Griffith Removal	Mens Shed	Mens Shed	Mens Shed	St. Nicholas	Senior citizens' Christmas outin	Umina Precinct Kiosk
Bollyhills foundation	Community Aid Service	Grandparents Raising grandchild	Mental Health Forum for School	Mental Health Forum for School	Mental Health Forum for School	St. Nicholas	Senior citizens' Christmas outin	Umina Precinct Kiosk
Book Fair	Community and Drug Alcohol	Griffith Removal	Microscope Project	Microscope Project	Microscope Project	St. Nicholas	Senior citizens' Christmas outin	Umina Precinct Kiosk
Book Prizes at schools	Community Awards night	Hall use for Community Services	Museum Foundation	Museum Foundation	Museum Foundation	St. Nicholas	Senior citizens' Christmas outin	Umina Precinct Kiosk
Book Sale	Community Centre painting	Hamper Packing	Mobile Blood Bank	Mobile Blood Bank	Mobile Blood Bank	St. Nicholas	Senior citizens' Christmas outin	Umina Precinct Kiosk
Book Swap	Community College Support	Hawkesbury Race Club, Rotary	Mothers Day	Mothers Day	Mothers Day	St. Nicholas	Senior citizens' Christmas outin	Umina Precinct Kiosk
Books for Lifeline	Community Health Centre Christmas	High School Debate	Mothers Day	Mothers Day	Mothers Day	St. Nicholas	Senior citizens' Christmas outin	Umina Precinct Kiosk
Borgnis Street Christmas Lights	Community Health Centre Christmas	Homeless in Gosford	Mothers Day Nursing home visit	Mothers Day Nursing home visit	Mothers Day Nursing home visit	St. Nicholas	Senior citizens' Christmas outin	Umina Precinct Kiosk