

Rotary International

District 9685



Annual Report

2015-2016

Rotary
District 9685



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DIRECTORS

Rotary International President 2015-16
K R (Ravi) Ranvindran
Rotary Club of Colombo, Sri Lanka



District Governor 2015-16—District 9685
Gina Growden and PDG Harold Sharp
Rotary Club of Terrigal

DISTRICT TEAM 2015-16

Executive

District Governor	Gina Growden
District Governor's Partner	PDG Harold Sharp
Governor's Mentor	PDG David Rands
Governor's Support	Michael Schwarcz
Secretary	John Steel
Treasurer	Peter Ainscow

Directors

District Governor Elect	Bruce Lakin
District Governor Nominee	Peter Ward
Training Chairman	Annona Pearse
* RLI	PDG Barry Philps
* Club Visioning	David Mylan
Communications Chairman	Les Walsh
Conference Chairman	Angelo Raveane
Administration	Bryan O'Shannassy
Membership	Lindsay May
* Club Extension	PDG Graeme Davies
* Women in Rotary	Lyn Davies
Public Relations	PDG Bob Aitken
Foundation	PDG Tony Castley
Projects Director	PDG Paul Erickson
Community Service	Terry Davies
Vocational Service	Jade Catherall
International Service	David Mylan
Youth Service	Bruce de Graaf
District Photographer	Bill Forsyth
District Rotaract Rep	Amanda Firkins

Assistant Governors

Beaches	Barry Starr
Blue Mountains	John Isbister
Central Coast	Peter Ward
City North	Noel Cislawski
Hawkesbury	Bob Kaye-Smith
Lower Central Coast	Bobby Redman
Nepean	Peter Agar
Northern District	Trish Wetton
Northwestern District	Penny Hill
North Shore	Swapna Prasad
North Shore Central	Theo Glockemann
Peninsula	Raylene Jarvis
Riverside	Paul Wynn
The Hills	Jan Duffy
Upper Central Coast	Russell Grove
Upper North Shore	Sivaraj Sagathavan

Theme for
Be A Gift to

2015-16
the World



Be a gift to the world

ROTARY DISTRICT 9685 INC.

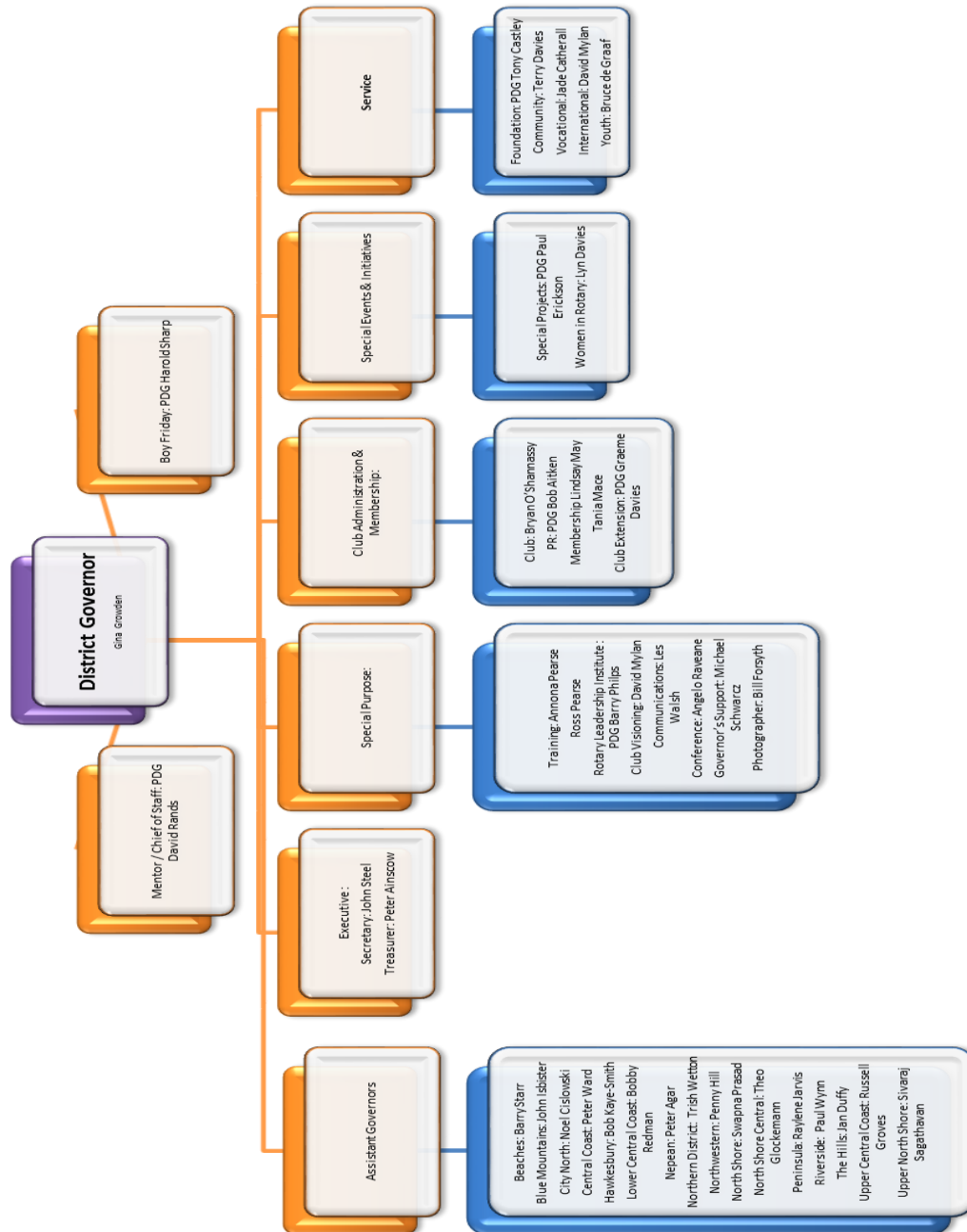
ABN: 212 564 68211

PO Box 143, Pennant Hills

Telephone: 0414 685 214 (Secretary)

Front cover photograph courtesy Sue O'Neill—Nabirye, Uganda

DISTRICT TEAM 2015-2016



PRESIDENTS 2015-16

Balgowlah	Ian	Grayburn
Beecroft	Lionel	Jackson
Belrose	Chris	Brownlee
Berowra	Tom	Borg
Blackheath	Eddie	McCoy
Brookvale	Dick	Heintz
Carlingford	Ben	Fox
Castle Hill	Mike	Hallen
Central Blue	Noel	Hiffernan
Chatswood	Nick	Dorsch
Chatswood International	Anthony	Ching
Chatswood Sunrise	David	Perabo
Crows Nest	Ian	Pocock
Dee Why Warringah	Glenn	Booth
Dural (joint)	Alf	Barbagallo
Dural (joint)	Allan	Forno
East Gosford	Rod	Chippindale
Eastwood	Narelle	Barker
E-Club of Greater Sydney	David	Dean
E-Club of Southern Cross (Satellite)	Amanda	Barnes
Epping	Peter	Garrard
Erina	Garth	Morgan
Frenchs Forest	Bruce	Downie
Galston	Rod	Taylor
Gladesville	Robert	Erskin
Glenhaven	Wayne	Lever
Gosford	Don	Wiseman
Gosford City	Clive	Blunt
Gosford North	David	Rivett
Gosford West	Matthew	Cook
Hornsby	Geoff	Sell
Hunters Hill	Rodney	Binet
Kariong/Somersby	Ian	Burl
Katoomba	David	Arnott
Kenthurst	Tony	Goode
Kincumber	Dave	Richardson
Ku-ring-gai	Graham	Timms
Kurrajong North Richmond	Geoff	Agnew
Lane Cove	Jenny	May
Lindfield	John	Hepburn
Lower Blue Mountains	Drew	Fitzpatrick

Manly (joint)	Maggie	Shanahan
Manly (Joint)	Ezna	Prestipino
Mosman	Ward	Pollard
Nepean	Frank	Portelli
North Rocks	Mervyn	Tilden
North Ryde	David	Martin
North Sydney	Denis	Booth
North Sydney Sunrise	Trent	Zimmerman
Northbridge	John	Turner
Northlakes Toukley	Jenny	Abourizk
Norwest Sunrise, Bella Vista	Cherelyn	Suzuki
Pennant Hills	Ian	Chappell
Penrith	John	Harding
Penrith Valley	Peter	Murray
Richmond	Rod	Rose
Roseville Chase	Duncan	Campbell
Rouse Hill	Robert	Bredin
Ryde	Victoria	Gouel
Ryde E-Club (Satellite)	Rob	Mitchell
Springwood	Pat	Ainslie
St. Ives	Murray	Lennon
Terrigal	Jill	Hamilton
The Entrance	Torben	Nielsen
The Hills-Kellyville	Ray	Campbell
The Ponds	Bruce	Nicholls
Thornleigh	Leo	Leonardi
Turramurra	Rob	Byrne
Umina Beach	Shane	Johnson
Upper Blue Mountains Sunrise	Michael	Small
Upper Northern Beaches	Tony	James
Wahroonga	Marlene	Carty
Waitara	Arthur	Godfrey
West Pennant Hills & Cherrybrook (joint)	Cawas	Suhukar
West Pennant Hills & Cherrybrook (joint)	Teresa	Janowski
West Pennant Hills & Cherrybrook (joint)	Tony	Coote
Windsor	Terry	Munsey
Woy Woy	Marie	Armstrong
Wyong Tuggerah	Wayne	Ballard

DISTRICT AWARDS

District Governor's Shield for Large Clubs

(To be advised)

District Governor's Trophy for Small Clubs

(To be advised)

Rotarian Vocational Excellence Award

(To be advised)

Membership Growth Award – Large Club

Upper Northern Beaches

Membership Growth Award – Small Club

The Ponds

Bulletin Award

Springwood

Highly Commended: Woy Woy

Norm Roach Website Memorial Award

Kincumber

Highly Commended: Upper Northern Beaches

Golden Quill Award for Public Relations

Lower Blue Mountains

Highly Commended: Kincumber, Carlingford

Community Service Award

Gosford North

Highly Commended: The Hills Kellyville, Mosman, Kincumber

International Service Award

Mosman

Highly Commended: Wahroonga, The E-Cub of Greater Sydney, Kincumber

Vocational Service Award

Lower Blue Mountains

Youth Service Award

Gosford North

Highly Commended: Mosman, Springwood, Lower Blue Mountains, Kincumber

Rotary International Service Above Self Award

PDG Tony Castley (E Club of Greater Sydney)
Awarded at the District Conference.



PDG Tony Castley receiving his Service Above Self Award from Special Representative, Alagu Alagappan



Gosford North President Dave Rivett accepting the Youth Service Award from Youth Chair Bruce de Graaf

DISTRICT GOVERNOR'S REPORT—GINA GROWDEN



It has been a great privilege and an honour for me to have served as Governor for Rotary International District 9685 during 2015-16. I have enjoyed every minute of it and am extremely grateful for the opportunity.

the Rotary International Assembly held in San Diego in January

2015, then President-elect Ravi Ravindran announced his theme for the year: "Be A Gift to the World" and challenged Rotarians to work together to change lives in communities around the world in 2015-16. Ravi also encouraged us to look at ways we could bring back some of the fundamentals that have shaped Rotary over its 110- year history – particularly that of maintaining high ethical standards in everything we do - in our business lives as well as our Rotary lives, and also reintroducing the classification system which has ensured the diversity of our membership equipping clubs with the wide range of skills needed to carry out an ever increasing complexity of projects around the world.

In keeping with Ravi's challenges, my approach this year was very much a 'back to basics' one and my emphasis was on membership recruitment and retention, training, increasing the support of the Rotary Foundation, and strengthening the relationship between Clubs and District.

My overriding aim for the year was to have fun and enjoy Rotary. I believe this is paramount to our success – if we don't enjoy our meetings and our involvement in our service projects, our attendance will suffer and along with that our ability to carry out our projects, and eventually we will find other things to take the place of Rotary in our busy schedules.

I knew that in order to be successful, selection of my team was critical and I'm delighted to report that I believe I selected the best team I could possibly have had. Each person has given their utmost to carry out whatever was asked of them and I am extremely grateful to them for their support, their commitment to me, and their willingness to frequently 'go beyond the call of duty'. Their reports which follow will demonstrate that in 2015-16 we have had a very strong year of service both locally and internationally, and that District 9685 continues to live up to its reputation of being one of the premier (if not **THE** premier) Districts in Australia, and possibly the world.

Training

I am extremely grateful to my Training Manager, Annona Pearce (who was ably assisted by her husband Ross), for her very efficient and effective management of the training program. My 'back to basics' approach to training this year centred around my belief that it is essential to explain what each job entails, how to do it and then equip members with the skills they need to carry out the role – ie training rather than mere information imparting. After four years of Multi-District PETS in our District I opted to 'go it alone' this year and a comprehensive and intensive one-day training program for Presidents-elect was developed and held at Macquarie Graduate School of Management in March, with all but one club represented. My belief is that the successful Clubs are the ones that have good Presidents, so I was particularly keen to equip those who stepped forward to lead their Clubs during 2015-16 with the best possible preparation for the role. Rather than present a 'cavalcade of projects' at District Assembly I felt it much more appropriate that Club Avenues of Service chairs be given information on how to run a project – how to budget, how to source the resources needed, how to carry out the project, and then how to evaluate the worthiness or otherwise of the project at its conclusion. The Kings School at Parramatta was selected as the venue for

DA and proved an ideal location with ample parking, a 1000 seat tiered auditorium and spacious classrooms. Almost 600 members attended.



Pre-Pets Blue Mountains Zone

PETS and District Assembly

were followed by very a very successful training seminar on Club Runner and My Rotary run by Communications Chair, Les Walsh, and an equally successful International Seminar run by David Mylan, the District International Service Chair, early in the Rotary year. RLI (Rotary Leadership Institute) and Club Visioning continued to be integral parts of the District Training Program and I sincerely thank PDG Barry Philps and David Mylan respectively for their management of these programs, and all the facilitators who gave up their weekends and evenings to conduct the sessions. A decision by the Committee of Association (COTA) to provide all district training free of charge to participants had a positive impact on the success of these programs.

Membership

My goal of ending the year with 2100 members was, in hindsight, a bit ambitious but I am delighted to report that we have had a growth in membership during the year albeit modest (increase of 18 as at 8th June). Once again because of our healthy financial reserves, COTA agreed to offer 15 membership grants each of up to \$1,000 to Clubs seeking to hold specific projects aimed at attracting new members. Success of the grants was varied with 7 clubs having a net growth, 7 a net loss and one no change. Congratulations go to Upper Northern Beaches and The Ponds who won the District membership growth awards for large and small clubs respectively. Special mention and congratulations also goes to Turramurra Club who had an increase of 12 members during the year – the most of any club - but with a large proportion of those being inducted in May and June, they were too late to qualify for the Award.

I was particularly keen for Clubs to place special emphasis on retention this year and Membership Chair, Lindsay May encouraged Clubs to put the spotlight on their Club, do an honest appraisal, and then get their 'house in order' to make it as attractive as possible to new members. Despite opinions to the contrary, the most successful clubs in the District who have had good membership growth during the past year are ones that still observe the traditions of Rotary Grace, sergeant's sessions and singing of the National Anthem. Well run meetings held at a good venue, with interesting and informative guest speakers, great fellowship, and participation in



Women of Action recipient, Lucy Hobgood Brown

worthwhile projects were factors much more likely to have a positive impact on membership growth and to keep existing members engaged and enjoying their Rotary.

Whilst the percentage of female members in our District (25%) is above the average around the world (19%) and better than most districts in Australia (21%), I believe we should be striving for a more equitable target. With that in mind I created a Women in Rotary portfolio this year, chaired by Lyn Davies, to look at issues (such as bullying and lack of support) faced by female members in some Clubs, and to give those who had experienced

these a vehicle to express their concerns (and be listened to) – the ultimate aim of encouraging those women to stay in Rotary. A number of events to raise awareness of the significant contribution made by women to Rotary were held throughout the District during the year, including a very successful dinner to celebrate Women in Service which was held on the Central Coast and was attended by over 250 people.

The ultimate accolade received by our District was the announcement that Lucy Hobgood-Brown from the E-Club of Greater Sydney had been selected by Rotary International as a Rotary Global Women of Action recipient for her humanitarian work in the Congo – one of only six awardees world-wide. Lucy

was presented with her Award on Rotary International Day at the United Nations in New York in December.



New Centurions showing their badges (above) and the Centurion Pole (right)

Foundation



Whilst support of the Foundation continues to be strong – with almost all Clubs in the District making a contribution to 'Our Charity' during 2014-15 - my aim this year was to in-

crease the number of members who made a personal donation to the Foundation. Encouraging members to sign up as Centurions – an annual commitment of \$100 Australian to the Foundation - was an integral part of this. Foundation Chair, PDG Tony Castley developed and provided each member of the District with a Centurion Pole, a tube which holds fifty \$2 coins; a gimmick which was well accepted by the members and likely to result in the largest number of Centurions our District has ever had – even if not all 2100 members have signed up!

Our target of \$450,000 for the Annual Fund this year was an ambitious one and the fluctuating exchange rate coupled with bushfires in Victoria and Western Australia and other disasters in Fiji and Nepal has meant this a difficult target to achieve. The number of grants applied for and approved continues to increase each year and over 38 successful district grants have been funded this year, totalling \$92,500 with 40% being for projects within Australia and a further 18% being projects in our neighbouring countries of FIJI, Vanuatu, PNG and Timor. 33% of those

grants have been for Community Development and a further 22% for health related projects.

We have also submitted 34 Global Grant applications to Rotary International this year which are in various stages of approval - 20 have been already been approved the remainder are either in draft form or are awaiting authorization.

2015-16 is the final year of Tony's four-year term as Foundation Chair and during that period our support for the Foundation has increased significantly. My congratulations and sincere thanks go to Tony and his team for their fantastic efforts. Well done!

Post- Polio Seminars



Post –Polio Seminar attendees

When the District was approached by Polio Australia to join with them in conducting a pilot program consisting of a series of seminars to educate health professionals

on the diagnosis and treatment of Late Onset Polio (Post-Polio Syndrome), I was immediately interested. I felt that these had a great fit with our ongoing campaign to eliminate polio, and believed it was something District 9685 members would get behind.

An estimated 400,000 people in Australia are affected by the condition, a number of them Rotarians in D9685. 10 seminars were scheduled in various locations around the District between November and May at total cost to the District of \$20,000. Clubs were asked to contribute \$250 each towards the seminars, find a suitable venue and provide catering for the participants. Polio Australia plan to roll out the seminars to other districts in Australia and New Zealand once the results of the pilot program have been analysed.

Congratulations must go to John Edwards from the Rotary Club of Turramurra who, through sales of his excellent Cape to Cape Calendar featuring magnificent photographs of wild life in the Antarctic, has raised a fabulous total of \$14,258 for the End Polio campaign. When matched by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation's contribution, this means \$42,774.30 will go to the support the polio eradica-

tion campaign! Well done, John!

Service Projects

As always, our Clubs have been very active across all Avenues of Service during this year. The huge variety of projects and the level of hu-



Turramurra's Jumbo Flight

manitarian service provided to communities both locally and overseas continues to be very impressive and I'm constantly amazed at the type of projects clubs are conducting. One of my aims this year was to encourage clubs to work together on projects and I'm delighted that this is gaining momentum and I am sure that effective multi-club projects will become more and more common in future years.

Rotary Australia World Community Services (RAWCS) continues to provide a vehicle for streamlining funding for projects and sourcing the skills and knowledge needed to carry out the tasks. Our District has sponsored 68 active programs through RAWCS this year in 24 different developing countries - 8 of these projects have been supported by The E Club of Greater Sydney. District 9685 has recently formed a RAWCS District committee to further promote the op-



Western Sydney MUNA's Indian team

portunities available to Rotarians and Rotary Clubs in our District through this avenue.

Of course in addition to humanitarian projects, Clubs



Official Visit to Lower Blue Mountains—with President Drew, and Charter member PP Bill Peard

and Rotarians also support educational programs and there have been a huge variety of these conducted during the year. Our youth programs such as RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Awards), RYPEN (Rotary Youth Program of Enrichment) and Youth Exchange have been very successful and continue to empower those who participate. MUNA (Model United Nations Assembly) was also a very successful program in 2015-16 with the District's winning team from Shore School taking out the major prize at the National MUNA in Canberra, and then representing Australia at the United Nations in New York in December.

Club / District Relationship

One of the components of my 'back to basics' philosophy this year was to work on strengthening the relationships between Clubs and District. As well as carrying out individual Club official visits and meeting with Club Boards in conjunction with the official visit, I felt it was important to encourage clubs to develop a special relationship with their Assistant Governor. I felt that if clubs got to really know their AG and learnt to trust him/her they would be more inclined to confide in him/her if there



Conference Dinner, AIS

was an issue within the club. They would also be more inclined to take notice of information imparted to the Club from District. I asked each AG to make a minimum of 4 visits to each club during the course of the year. To make this feasible, I increased the number of zones in the district and restructured the zones, thereby reducing the number of clubs each AG was responsible for to a manageable number. I also organised zones into 'clusters' to encourage joint meetings and projects and organised for Cluster Presidents' meeting in the months when District-wide meetings were not scheduled. These appeared to work well and most Presidents felt they were worthwhile as they certainly enable the President's to get to know their fellow Presidents from the Cluster a little better. I also encouraged the Avenues of Service Chairs to attend these Cluster meetings to present on their specific portfolios.

Conference

As 2016 is an Olympic year I selected a sporting



House of Friendship, District Conference

theme – "Game On" for the annual Conference which was held at the Convention Centre in Canberra in early March. Registrations were a little disappointing at just under 600, but those who attended really enjoyed themselves with many saying it was among the best they had been to. Breaking from tradition, with the main aim of keeping the event affordable, the conference this year was held over one and a half days, commencing at 6pm on Friday night and concluding with a dinner at the Australian Institute of Sport on the Saturday evening. The program consisted of a variety of excellent keynote speakers on topics relevant to Rotarians who inspired and informed us, mixed with showcases of District programs and projects from all Avenues of Service. There was also a large "house of friendship" with over 40 District and Club projects on display. Many thanks must go to Conference Chair, Angelo Raveane, his committee, and the members of Crows Nest and Terrigal Clubs

who helped out during the weekend. It was certainly one of the highlights of my year!

Thank You

I am indebted to all Club Presidents and Rotarians for the very warm welcome accorded to Harold and me as we visited all the clubs during our official visits and again when we have attended your special functions. To me, this has been by far the best part of my year as Governor. Harold and I have been blown away learning of the wonderful work that you do in the name of Rotary and I sincerely thank you for your dedication and commitment to making the world a better place. You have certainly risen to President Ravi's challenge to ***Be A Gift to the World.***

I also sincerely thank my hard working District team - all 42 of you! Your talents, your expertise and the time and energy you have devoted to ensuring that this year has run smoothly and successfully is very much appreciated. As I said at the beginning of the year, I'm merely the conductor of the orchestra – you are the ones that create the music – I just keep you in time. In San Diego in January 2015, Ravi announced that he thought we were a pretty good bunch of incoming District Governors and were truly World Class. To me you, too, are all truly World Class. Thank you for your support, your belief in me, and your preparedness to do whatever was necessary to get the job done.

And finally to my husband, Harold (aka G.O.D – Gina's Official Driver). Thank you! I could not have done it without you!

Gina Growden
Governor 2015-16



TREASURER'S REPORT - PETER AINSCOW

Financial Report to the end of May 2016

ROTARY DISTRICT 9685 INCOME & EXPENDITURE 2015/16 (AS AT 31st May 2016)			
	Notes	Actual - 31st May	Annual Budget
Income			
District Dues		149,018	137,091
Interest		6,236	9,000
		<u>155,254</u>	<u>166,091</u>
Expenses (Excl GST)			
Governors Expenses		1,981	21,000
Administration		2,573	3,000
Audit		1,245	1,500
Avenues of Service		4,737	2,000
Directory		9,478	10,000
Conference/Functions		43,366	49,500
Information Services		3,647	2,000
Insurance		43,569	47,000
Public Relations		147	4,500
Thornleigh office		19,663	19,000
Training		43,864	38,500
Zone Institute		<u>11,631</u>	<u>10,500</u>
		<u>187,943</u>	<u>208,500</u>
Surplus (Deficit) - Business as Usual		<u>(32,689)</u>	<u>(42,409)</u>
Special Program Activity			
Refund - Sydney Convention	2	95,013	-
Less Donation Rotary Foundation	3	(35,000)	-
Less Donation Australian Rotary Health	3	(25,000)	-
		<u>35,013</u>	<u>-</u>
Membership Development Grants			
Post Polio Syndrome Program	4	(14,583)	(15,000)
Published Surplus (Deficit)		<u>(16,059)</u>	<u>(57,409)</u>

ABBREVIATED BALANCE SHEET (as at 31st May 2016)			
Cash at Bank			
District - Cheque	128		
District - Reserve and Term Deposit Acc's	228,486		
District Grants	32,955		
District Committee Assets	<u>139,410</u>		
			<u>430,979</u>
Debtors and Prepayments			40,370
Creditors			
Foundation Grants	33,928		
Other	<u>3,584</u>		
			<u>37,512</u>
Total Net Assets			<u>403,827</u>
RESERVES			
Accumulated Funds at 1/07/2015			244,568
Net Surplus for period			<u>(16,059)</u>
			<u>228,509</u>
District Committee Reserves			<u>175,318</u>
			<u>403,827</u>

Note - District Committee Assets have not been updated from 1/07/2015

Notes

- Includes cost of Centurian stands
- Refund received from HOC (host organising committee) of our share of the surplus arising from the International Convention held in Sydney
- Refund from HOC to be disbursed as follows
 - Donation to TRF (as above)
 - Donation to Australian Rotary Health for a student scholarship \$23K (as above)
 - Balance to be applied to a PR campaign to coincide with the announcement of the end of polio. (2016/17)
- Post Polio Syndrome Program

Cost of Seminars	19,800
Donations Received	
- Clubs	14,500
- Others	<u>1,500</u>
Net Cost to District	<u>3,800</u>

There are still 19 Clubs who have not made the voluntary contribution to the program. If you Club has overlooked making a contribution, please do so as soon as possible.

DISTRICT CONFERENCE—ANGELO RAVEANE

This year's Conference returned to the Canberra Convention Centre for the plenary sessions and the Gala Dinner was held at the AIS. The conference was organ-



"Dr Happy" (Prof Tim Sharp) addressing the Conference

ised by the Rotary Club of Crows Nest with the assistance of the Terrigal Club.

This year we tried a new format eliminating the Sunday sessions allowing attendees a full day to tour Canberra and surrounds. Apart from the shorter time we continued with the same format used in previous years, a mix of

keynote speakers intermixed with rotary content. There was also an Expo component with over forty exhibitors.

Over the past years numbers have been declining, reaching a low point of under 400 last year. A huge marketing exercise was undertaken with the DG and all the AG's and committee promoting the conference at every opportunity. We had some success in halting the decline

with a 50% increase in attendance. However it was still disappointing that twenty clubs had no representation.

Despite the low numbers we were able to still make a small surplus due to the great support of our sponsors, Dilmah, Tyrell's Wines, Subaru, North Shore Private, Ord Minnett and CBA.

Angelo Raveane
Conference Chair 2015-16



President Drew Fitzpatrick with members of Lower Blue Mountains Club at the Conference Dinner



PDG Tony Castley & DG Gina with Friday night speaker and Polio Ambassador, Rob Pennecott

COMMUNICATIONS — LES WALSH



District Website

The District website has been refreshed during the year and subject to continual review. The use of the latest templates provided by ClubRunner ensures that it is suitable for all platforms and devices.

District team members and others can assist greatly in identifying areas where updating is required.

District eNews

The eNews publication has been divided into several editions this year:

- The DGs eNews published on the first day monthly (13 editions)

- The mid-month eNews (11) helped reduce the number of articles that would otherwise be in a single monthly edition

- Conference eNews (16) to Club Conference Chairs and members generally assisted in a great response at the District Conference

- The Bulletin Editors' eNews (43) contained items relating to club news and events and provided a wealth of information for selection by club bulletin editors; previously individual items were emailed separately.

Email Communications

In addition to distributing the various editions of eNews, the email service has provided a valuable means of district communication to clubs. Some will say that there are too many emails, but who is to say what the picture would look like without the constant reminders and distribution of news? An average of 14,000 individual items (readers) a month was somewhat higher than last year. The communications team provides centralised resources for all district team members and is the

preferred means of emailing clubs ensuring currency of email addresses and professionalism.

Seminar

A successful seminar was held on 23 May 2015 providing hands on training for MyRotary and ClubRunner

ClubRunner

ClubRunner continues to provide the infrastructure for the district website and for 21 clubs within the district.

Les Walsh

Communications Director 2015-16



Kincumber President Dave Richardson receiving the District Award for best website

ADMINISTRATION - BRYAN O'SHANNASSY



Thank you District Governor Gina for the opportunity to be part of your team for 2015/16.

The Administration role was relatively quiet during this Rotary year. The majority of items relative to the role were been covered in detail at District Assembly.

However, some matters such as the importance of the Admin/Club Service role in the retention of members were followed up by email with Presidents and Club Service Directors.

During the year questions were raised regarding use of the District website, protocols (flags and order of introductions), insurance and Working with Children Checks. Queries regarding the latter item were raised by a number of clubs and dealt with appropriately.

Bryan O'Shannassy
Administration Director 2015-16

TRAINING—ANNONA & ROSS PEARSE



The training for District 9685 was predicated on a series of pre-PETS informal meetings in February 2015 that enabled DG Gina Growden to discuss her goals for the year ahead, and to encourage good

relationships between the Assistant Governors and their respective Rotary clubs. The meetings also enabled the training team to reinforce the importance of attendance at PETS and District Assembly and this was borne out in attendance numbers at both events.

Team Training and PETS were held at the Macquarie Graduate School of Management – a venue that encourages learning and provides high standard facilities. District Assembly was held at The Kings School, and this also proved to be an excellent venue that accommodated over 500 attendees.

Training for the 2015-2016 year was based on the principle of giving team members, Presidents and Club Board members the skills to do their job. The training included not just resource information but provided tangible skills in working with people, change management, presentation and strategies to build relationships, as well as important Rotary-based information.

Annona Pearse
Training Coordinator 2015-16



PETS Training at Macquarie Graduate School of Management

Club Visioning



Vision Facilitation helps a Rotary club design its OWN VISION, and to set out the steps necessary to achieve that vision. The process will help to improve communication and to ensure continuity & consistency in its leadership & programming so as to set the stage for future progress.

Visioning is an opportunity to bring together as many of the club's members as possible to share their dreams of its future. Supporting "Service Above Self", the process helps to transform the collective energy and talents into a team that is moving with intention in the same direction. During 2015-16 over thirteen percent of clubs in the District adopted Visioning as the framework through which to see, feel and develop their future, identify priorities across the Five Avenues of Service and The Foundation and Public Relations and Marketing and clearly articulate what they stand for in their community and the size of the club in the Year 2021. The Visioning Program is undertaken by successful clubs to ensure their sustainability and involve all members in the life of the club. Clubs seeking fundamental change participate in Visioning to identify opportunities for service and to reengage club members whilst opening the club's eyes to the future.

The District Vision Team was strengthened with six Rotarians from across the District graduating in November 2015 as Visioning Facilitators.

David Mylan
Club Visioning 2015-16



Rotary Leadership Institute

The interest in this course continues to grow with new clubs sending participants and previous participants encouraging other club members to attend. New courses were promoted directly to all Rotarians in the district. The information on the district website was reviewed and registration via the website is now available.

There were 9 courses completed during the year.

New course materials were introduced in August and all participants received an information booklet which contains further reading materials and references.

The feedback from participants continues to be very positive and discussions have highlighted new interests and greater understanding of Rotary

PDG Barry Philps
RLI Chair 2015-16

MEMBERSHIP—LINDSAY MAY



Clubs set individual goals that represented a cumulative membership goal of 2056 and as at 30 April the D9685 total was 2073, up 20 for the year. We are the only District in Zone 8 to have achieved our goal.

A Membership Development Grant was implemented in 2014-15 but most of the activity occurred early in the 2015-16 Rotary year. 17 clubs shared in \$15,000 with a maximum grant of \$1000. Activities varied but the most popular and successful activity was the 'welcome / cocktail' style meeting based upon the RC Yass blueprint where prospective members received a written invitation from the President and attended an interest meeting where short presentations about Rotary and the club were made. Individual follow up ensured each prospect was engaged. Clubs that did this well generated new members. Other grants funded promotional membership materials or adverts.

Key focus this year emphasised at PETS and District Assembly was the need to retain members by ensuring that club meetings and activities were interesting, relevant and fun. Club boards were asked to seriously examine their club activities to ensure that members were actively engaged and that weekly meetings were attractive to both existing and prospective members.

I believe that club executives are more attuned to the need to review the way their club presents to the outside world, with better PR and news about activities, in the knowledge that a well run and presented club attracts prospects and retains existing happy involved members.

Lindsay May

D9685 Membership Chair 2015-16



*Turramurra's 12th new member
Robert Delfino*

Women in Rotary—Lyn Davies

The District 9685 Women in Rotary portfolio was established this year to raise awareness of the significant contribution that women make towards Rotary meeting its aims of making the world a better place and to encourage more women to become Rotarians. Currently the percentage of our membership represented by women is 25% - up 1% since the beginning of the 2015-

16 Rotary year. (The average world-wide is 19%).

A series of events—some coinciding with International Women's

Day—were held throughout the District during the year, including an Expo at the Ourimbah Campus of the University of Newcastle, and information booths at the Zone Institute in Melbourne, the District Conference, and Seoul International Convention. Presentations were also made to a number of clubs within the District during the year, raising awareness of the issues that some women experience in being members of Rotary.

A strong relationship was forged with the Rotary Club of Castle Hill's project promoting Violent Free Families and this culminated with attendance at the Lisa Harnum Foundation Ball in early June.

The Women in Rotary Committee was delighted to have successfully nominated Lucy Hobgood Brown (from the Rotary E-Club of Greater Sydney) for a Rotary International Women in Action Award for her humanitarian work in the Congo. Lucy was one of only six women to receive this prestigious award and was presented with it at the United Nations in New York in December.



Women in Rotary Chair, Lyn Davies, with her mother at the Central Coast Expo

Lyn Davies

Women in Rotary 2015-16

Club Extension—PDG Graeme Davies



The traditional approach to Club Extension is establishing a new club usually in response to growth in population or identifying capacity in an area without an existing club. RI has an established process for

forming a new club. This process remains the only way to form a new Rotary Club.

will provide direction and options for those clubs currently considering termination or amalgamation.

PDG Graeme Davies Club Extension Chair 2015-16

In 2015-16 there were no new clubs chartered in accordance with these guidelines. There was however a new club formed, the Rotary Club of Upper Northern Beaches. This club was formed with members of the previous clubs of Terrey Hills, Pittwater and Narrabeen Lakes. In reality this was the outcome of the previous five plus years in which a solution to the issue of declining membership of each of these clubs was sought. It is pleasing to note that the new club is operating well.

During 2015-16 the opportunities resulting from new club formats, the 2011-14 club organisation pilot-projects and the concept of a “club within a club” were explored by a number of clubs. Many of these options were formalised at the 2016 RI Council on Legislation. In effect these changes have introduced new ways of thinking relating to Club Extension.

The Rotary Club of Vinegar Hill, a coffee club was chartered in June 2014. Whilst the concept was sound, the club struggled. In response the Club changed its meeting venue and name. The Rotary Club of “The Ponds” retained the coffee club format and is now showing potential for continued growth.

The other major trend that is attracting attention is the satellite club. Whilst established prior to 2015-16, the Ryde E Club (Satellite Club of Ryde) intends to remain an adjunct of the Rotary Club of Ryde whilst the Southern Cross E Club (Satellite Club of Central Blue Mountains) intends to ultimately charter as a separate club.

As we move into 2016-17, these developments

THE ROTARY FOUNDATION—PDG TONY CASTLEY

2015-16 has seen another very successful year of The Rotary Foundation in District 9685.

Rotary Foundation Grants have had another big year in our district. The district Grant Program kicked off in July and August with some 42 clubs quickly snapping up the \$107,000 of District Grant money available for this year. The steadily throughout the year we have had some 20+ Global Grant applications, building on our Global Grant numbers since the start of the program in 2012-13. As we close this year we have some two Global Grant projects successfully completed and closed, 20 other currently active “Approved” Global Grants projects, 4 grant application in “Submitted” awaiting final approval, and 15 other grant application in “Draft” and moving forward.



Peter Pearce's Madagascar Project

We were excited to have two exceptional applicants for our US\$30,000 District Global Grant Scholarship, and Alison French and Michaela Dolk were just so impressive we increased the grant total to \$60,000 and accepted them both. As the year closes we are also pleased that we are processing an excellent applicant for the Rotary Peace Fellow program.

Foundation funding to our clubs for District and Global Grants will exceed US\$500,000 by year end, and in the three years of this program we will have received more than US\$1.3 million in grant funding. Then when we add in the club's



Water Pumps in Africa



other donations to these projects the total expenditure for these District Grant and Global Grant projects exceeds \$4 million!

One of the highlight of the year was the Foundation Dinner

with our guest speaker- RI President Elect John Germ, who gave us a rousing address on the strength of our Foundation and then presented badges and certificates to a number of new Major Donors, Paul Harris Society Members, and Bequest Society members. The dinner was enjoyed by some 300+ Rotarians and guests.

Fund raising is of course a vital part of our Foundation work, and we have been very well supported again by our Rotarians and our clubs. This year we are hoping to double our Centurions and at this stage with 4 weeks to go, I think we have a good chance of achieving that. Our aim was to have 70 Paul Harris Society members, but we have just hit 75, and as usual we have had great support from our Major Donors, Clubs and others. Currently as we are writing this report 4 weeks out for June 30th, our Annual fund is just approaching US\$300,000+ and Polio Plus US\$100,000. Our per capita for the Annual fund and the Australia Cup is US\$137,000 and we are once again leading all 26 districts in Australia and New Zealand.

Finally of course the big news in Polio Plus ! This year the endemic countries are down to just two Afghanistan and Pakistan, and the total cases for this year will be under 20 as compared with 74 last year. In the penultimate anniversary year of our Foundation we are as we say “that close “ to eradicating Polio from the Earth.

I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank my committee of eighteen dedicated Rotarians, District Governor Gina, and all the Rotarians and clubs who have once again supported The Rotary Foundation. Thank you!

PDG Tony Castley
District Foundation Chair 2012-16

PUBLIC RELATIONS AND POLIO —PDG BOB AITKEN

PUBLIC RELATIONS

The 2015/16 Rotary year saw significant improvement in recognition and implementation of public relations throughout District 9685. Social media, press and radio reports all enjoyed increased acceptance and coverage but, importantly, many Rotary clubs utilised 'big ticket' community events to create recognition and support for Rotary in their respective communities.

I would like to particularly acknowledge the work of Social Media 'guru' Evan Burrell.

PDG Bob Aitken,
Public Relations Chair 2015-16

POLIO

Rotary International District 9685 created history in 2015/16 with the successful organisation and staging of seven Post-Polio Clinical Practice Workshops throughout the Blue Mountains and North Western Sydney – between November 2015 and



Post Polio Syndrome Seminar

April 2016.

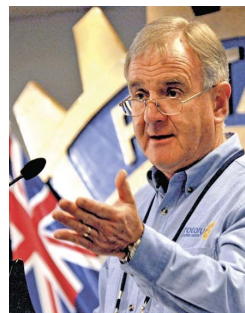
Our District partnered with Polio Australia to initiate this unique campaign and the end result was the education of 129 health professionals on proven treatment for the condition known as Late Effects of Polio (including Post Polio Syndrome). Medical authorities believe the condition will become prevalent over the next few years with the ageing process impacting people who contracted the polio virus in Australia in the 1950's and

1960's.

Health professionals to take part in the workshops included community health workers, physiotherapists, nurses, occupational therapists and a variety of other medical people from public and private sectors, students and private practice.

District 9685 Assistant Governors worked closely with Polio Australia team members to put the workshops in place and a program of similar workshops is now being considered for New Zealand and other parts of the world.

The workshops created widespread interest and, as this report goes to press, one further workshop has been requested by the Rotary Club of Richmond at Hawkesbury District Hospital from 9.30 am to 12.30 pm on Tuesday, June 28.



Finally, we are pleased to report that the incidence of Polio worldwide continues to fall.

At the time of writing, total number of wild poliovirus cases this year stands at just 16 – compared to 32 for the same period last year.

We are also pleased to report that the Trivalent to Bivalent Oral Polio Vaccine Switch went very smoothly between April 17 and May 1 – with 155 countries taking part.

The World Health Organisation has gone on record to state that our World may well see the last case of Poliomyelitis this calendar year!

PDG Bob Aitken and PP Bruce Nicolls
Co-Chairmen 2015-16



Cape to Cape Calendars raised money for End Polio

COMMUNITY SERVICE— TERRY DAVIES



The diversity of Community Projects in District 9685 is to be commended in DG Gina's Year 2015-16. The calibre of the year was set at the Community workshops including the Upper and Lower North Shore

(with AG Sivaraj Sagathaven), the Blue Mountains / Hawkesbury Zones (With AG Peter Agar) and Rod Chippendale (RC East Gosford) assisted with a briefing and update of Bowel Care at the Central Coast Cluster night for Community (with AG Russell Grove). Bowel Care continues to achieve its objectives by detecting cancers.

Projects and Community Activities included Taldumandi Homeless Project by RC Mosman and the Community Activity by RC North Sydney of the 'Jumping Castle' income stream. Plus Fun Runs, Meals on Wheels, Tree of Life, Diabetes Awareness, Fresh Tracks, Little Ray of Giving, Rotary Australia Benevolent Society, Graffiti Removal, Seniors Luncheon, Women's Shelter, Books in Homes, Plant Stall for Father's Day, Community Service Awards, Movie on the Oval, Fire Works, Food & Wine Festival, Room to Read, Markets, Community Pathways Scholarships, Lancer Classic Cars and more...

As the Community Director I assisted Mike Hallen (RC Castle Hill) to begin the journey to engage D9685 towards Violence Free Families. A number of Clubs participated in

the Graffiti Removal Day on Oct 18. D9685 was well represented in all Zones. Bob Aiken RC Lower Blue) had been liaising with the Community



Bobbin Head Cycle Classic—Rotary Clubs of Wahroonga, St Ives, Turramurra and Kur ring gai

Director and Roger Norman (RC Turramurra) to make sure the day was a success. Bunnings Hat Day has sparked a response with clubs. Graeme Davies (Kincumber) was hands on with Central

Coast and getting resources in place for clubs to utilise and raised Funds for Australian Rotary Health.



Dream Cricket

Probus continues to thrive with over 170

Probus Clubs in D9685 with February 2016 celebrating the 40th Anniversary of Probus in Australia. Rotary's commitment and financial investment in the formation of Probus clubs is vital to the continued success of another Rotary community service activity. There are 3.5 million retirees in Australia. *The Probus membership presents 3.6% of the overall number of retirees aged 65+.[* Based on 2015 census data].



Hat Day raising money for Australian Rotary Health

Books in Homes were introduced at District Level and Rotarians began dialogue with primary schools and community service organisations to find schools with families who need books and where children need encouragement to read. Literacy Week was a perfect

time for Community Directors in the clubs to raise the issue of sponsorship at their meetings and make the commitment! Books in Homes

have been an outstanding success.

Community activities in D9685 have been the 'heart beat' of Rotary in 2015-16.

Terry Davies
Community Services Chair 2015-16



RC Richmond's Beneficiaries & Benefactors Luncheon



Central Blue supporting the Queensland Drought Appeal

VOCATIONAL SERVICE— JADE CATHERALL



It has been another busy year in District 9685 Vocational Service, with clubs across the district engaged in a huge range of activities that encourage, inspire and promote Vocational in a variety of ways. From Police Officer of the Year Awards, Pride of Workmanship, Vocational Visits, Four Way Test speaking competitions and TAFE and Rotary Linksjust to touch the tip of the iceberg. Congratulations to all clubs who are involved in the promotion of high ethical standards and partnering with businesses in their local area for the advancement and promotion of Rotary.

As Rotarians we are a link between our trades and professions and the ideals of Rotary enabling us to promote high ethical standards in our workplaces and businesses. A number of Rotary Clubs have held debates or discussions - these have considered the decisions that we make and whether they are ethical or not.

Recognising local business people has been a feature of many clubs' Vocational programs.



Springwood President, Pat Ainslie with Emergency Services Awardees

Whether it has been through Pride of Workmanship Awards, Apprentice/ Trainee of the Year or Vocational Service Awards, clubs have acknowledged the hard work and dedication of a range of tradespeople and professionals.

The NSW Emergency Services Community Awards is in its second year in 2015/16. Originating as a District program in District 9675, it has been expanded across the state and continues to grow in momentum. Acknowledging the work of paid employees and volunteers in our Emergency Services goes a small way to say

thank you for the commitment and sacrifice for the benefit of others.

Our Rotary District again recognised three worthy recipients of a Vocational Excellence Award at our annual Conference in Canberra. Congratulations to all clubs who put forward such a wonderful calibre of candidate to be considered for this award.



Vocational Excellence Awardees and their nominating Clubs at the District Conference

Thank you to the District Vocational Service team for 2015/16. Their passion and interest in Vocational Service is appreciated and they have invested many hours to support Rotarians and Clubs across the District and to organise their programs/projects this year.

Jade Catherall
Vocational Director 2015-16



Terrigal Members enjoying a Vocational Visit to a local brewery

INTERNATIONAL– DAVID MYLAN



District 9685 Rotary Clubs' International Rotary Australia World Community Service (RWACS) projects undertaken in Rotary Year 2015-16 were about sixty eight in number, operating in twenty four developing countries and sponsored by thirty one clubs. It is noteworthy that a number of Rotarians were awarded 2016 Australia Day honours which recognized their overseas Rotary humanitarian service.

An International Seminar was held in August 2015 which was attended by approximately sixty Rotarians from approximately fifty clubs which was a club participation rate of over 65%. There were many highlights on the day including the Developing of an International Project exercise which proved to be a rich source of ideas and interaction.

International projects were promoted and funded by a range of fundraising and awareness raising events. A highlight of the year was the Rotary Club of Blackheath's Sentru Formasaun Ba Juventude - Centre of Learning for Youth, Dili, Timor-LesteT Project. Rotarian Libby Bleakley PHF, now a member of the Australian Federal Police, with her colleague, Teresa Beck, walked 357 kilometres from Martin Place, Sydney to Parliament House in Canberra to raise funds for a community and youth centre in East Timor.



Trek for Timor walkers Libby Blakely and Teresa Beck with the Timor Ambassador, DG Gina and DGE Bruce at the Convention Centre during the District Conference in March.

The District hosted the RAWCS Eastern Region General Meeting and project

showcase over the weekend

of 14th and 15th May 2016 at The Entrance on the Central Coast. The event was well attended, informative, with a number of grants from the Pink Umbrella Foundation announced and was enjoyed by all.

It has been long recognized that clubs in District 9685 hold a wealth of knowledge and expertise in initiating, developing, delivering and sustaining international projects. To encourage clubs to develop and implement International Service projects and provide advice on the benefits of RAWCS endorsement a District 9685 RAWCS Committee has been established. The committee's purpose is to provide information and advice on the opportunities available within the facilities of RAWCS and as a forum to meet and link enabling partnering of clubs to share of the load and activities.



Erina Club members rebuilding the birthing centre in Timor

David Mylan International Director 2015-16



Sewing project in Africa supported by the Rotary Club of Woy Woy

YOUTH—BRUCE DE GRAAF



The Youth Portfolio in 2015/ 16 has been admirably run by the chairs and the outstanding teams of the Youth Avenues. These are the committed people who get things done and facilitate the programs we love so much.

As I have found, the Youth portfolio dovetails nicely into Membership as the programs are of such high calibre; and the young people are immersed into the Rotary world with Rotarians and Rotaractors at the fore. There is tremendous opportunity to put ourselves and our clubs in such good light that the young people and their parents might want to get some of that passion for themselves by joining us.

To get a dose of exuberance and to get re-energised I encourage each and every club member to go and visit one of the youth programs when they are in full swing. Nothing invigorates Rotarians more than seeing young, timid people blossom with confidence at the end of the program. It is said that there are tears when they arrive and tears when they leave.

I think you get the point, but instead of just sponsoring a young person to attend a youth program, make a point of going to see them in action. It gives us the opportunity to see with real clarity that the young people are outstanding members of the community and as I have heard before, they are not the future, they are the now.



Youth Exchange Students at the District Conference

Let us grow the youth, get engaged, show our true colours and infect the parents and friends with our passion. This will refresh each and every one of us.

A stand out this year was the Rotary Club of Gosford North for the energy, effort and impact they have had this year on the youth in their community.

A big thank you to all of the Rotarians and Rotaractors for all of your continued support.



2016 MUNA

Bruce De Graaf
Youth Service Chair 2015-16



2016 RYLA

Cluster # 1

The Hills	Northern District	Northwestern	Riverside
Castle Hill Norwest Sunrise (Bella Vista) The Hills Kellyville West Pennant Hills & Cherrybrook AG: Jan Duffy (Glenhaven)	Beecroft Carlingford E-Club of Greater Sydney Epping North Rocks Pennant Hills AG: Trish Wetton (Carlingford)	Dural Galston Glenhaven Kenthurst AG: Penny Hill (Hills Kellyville)	Eastwood Gladesville Hunters Hill Macquarie Park North Ryde Ryde AG: Paul Wynn (Gladesville)

Cluster # 2

City North	North Shore	North Shore Central	Upper North Shore
North Sydney North Sydney Sunrise Northbridge Mosman AG: Noel Cislowski (Chatswood)	Chatswood Chatswood International Chatswood Sunrise Crows Nest Lane Cove AG: Swapna Prasad (Crows Nest)	Ku-ring-gai Lindfield Roseville Chase St Ives Turramurra AG: Theo Glockemann (Pennant Hills)	Berowra Hornsby Thornleigh Wahroonga Waitara AG: Sivaraj Sagathavan (Hornsby)

Cluster # 3

Blue Mountains	Hawkesbury	Nepean
Blackheath Central Blue Mountains E-Club of Southern Cross (Prov) Katoomba Upper Blue Mountains Sunrise AG: John Isbister (Blackheath)	Kurrajong - North Richmond Richmond Rouse Hill The Ponds Windsor AG: Bob Kay Smith (Ryde)	Lower Blue Mountains Nepean Penrith Penrith Valley Springwood AG: Peter Agar (Lower Blue Mts)

Cluster # 4

Central Coast	Lower Central Coast	Upper Central Coast
East Gosford Erina Kincumber Terrigal AG: Peter Ward (The Entrance)	Gosford City Gosford West Kariong Somersby Umina Beach Woy Woy AG: Bobby Redman (Woy Woy)	Gosford Gosford North Northlakes Toukley The Entrance Wyang Tuggerah AG: Russell Grove (Woy Woy)

Cluster # 5

Beaches	Peninsula
Balgowlah Brookvale Dee Why / Warringah Manly AG: Barry Starr (Mosman)	Belrose Frenchs Forest Upper Northern Beaches AG: Raylene Jarvis (Upper Northern Beaches)

ASSISTANT GOVERNORS' REPORTS



Beaches

Clubs: Manly, Balgowlah, Brookvale and Dee Why - Warringah

All clubs have had successful fund raising projects this year. Outstanding were Brookvale with their Pub To Pub run and Manly with their Fun Run. All the clubs struggled with membership although Manly did add several new younger members.

Balgowlah and Manly had difficulty in finding a President for 2016-2017 and Manly has again decided to have a Duel Presidency again.

All clubs have had good meetings with interesting speakers and have enjoyed Rotary fellowship.

All the clubs have supported many local charities and in some cases have been involved in hands on projects. Brookvale was the only club to have a Youth Exchange student and they have enjoyed this experience.

Barry Starr
AG Beaches 2015-16

Blue Mountains

Clubs: Blackheath, Upper Blue Mountains Sunrise, Central Blue Mountains, Katoomba.



Blackheath is an active and functional club which has continued to add a couple of members each year from their low point of 14 members 4-5 years ago. Most members are active and club morale is good. The incoming president is one of the younger, newer members so next year should be even better. Blackheath has embarked upon their first major overseas project, a youth club for unemployed teenagers in Timor Leste which has gained considerable momentum over the year and has been well supported by other clubs, from within and outside the district, Lower Blue Mountains and Cowra being particularly worthy of mention. Blackheath were recently the hosts for the upper mountains Pride of Workmanship evening which was a great success.

Central BM is the biggest club in the mountains and is active and functional in all regards. Membership has increased yet again this year. They celebrated their 40th birthday, the event being well attended by all local clubs this year and the club is as vibrant as ever. Meetings are well attended and entertaining. One of their main projects, Rams and Lambs was not only a major help for our rural cousins suffering in the drought but close to my heart personally – urban Rotary should be more conscious of the situation in rural Australia (sorry I didn't think of the idea myself!) CBM are always strong supporters of the other local club activities. The club is good support for their offshoot Southern Cross E-club. Amanda and Lucien are very enthusiastic about the future of the E-club and usually attend cluster meetings.

Katoomba has been dragged from the brink by the current president David Arnott but, not surprisingly, the club still battles to keep its head above water. Net membership has grown and those in the club are active and enthusiastic with assistance from neighbouring clubs. It's a long road but things are improving. Meetings are now monthly in an attempt to attract new members and, although more formal than most are well run and fun. They support other local clubs as well as they are able.

Upper Blue Mountains Sunrise is an active and enthusiastic club and has added a significant number of new members this year. They are active in the community and very willing to get involved in other clubs activities - UBMS and Blackheath held a particularly successful stage show in partnership with Blackheath during the year, something that is sure to become an annual event. Meetings are always well run and entertaining. Having a breakfast club in the area has created a good balance and allowed many people to be Rotarians who may not otherwise have been able.

CLUSTER MEETINGS have been generally well attended and informative for all. Having experienced central president's meetings in the past,

I'd go for the cluster format every time!! Not only is it less travelling when you live at the extreme perimeter of the district but the format encourages more involvement and the exchange of views is more positive (people who wouldn't normally say a word become active participants). Peter Agar, Bob Kaye-Smith and I were able to co-ordinate things well and I think most presidents were happy with the result.

John Isbister
Assistant Governor, Blue Mountains

Central Coast



Clubs: East Gosford, Erina, Kincumber, Terrigal

Thanks for a very enjoyable and interesting year. Standouts were the way all clubs in the cluster met, interacted and contributed to Rotary's profile on the Central Coast; and significant Coast events including strong youth programs, the unveiling of the Ship Builder's Memorial (Kincumber RC), the Centenary Challenge Cycle Event (Erina RC), annual book sale (Terrigal RC) and the Central Coast Comic Convention (East Gosford RC). These are all great fund raisers and they all have a high profile in the community.

There was also challenge and change including the handover of Terrigal's Rotary Hall to Gosford Council – tough decisions were made and the club moves on (a credit to all members).

Membership growth initiatives have included networking and interest evenings together with a high profile at the local Farmers Market – these events take work and the rewards are there.

Congratulations the Central Coast zone clubs – each different, each demonstrating a common desire to serve, each making a difference in our local community and in communities around the world.

Peter Ward
Assistant Governor, Central Coast

City North



Clubs: North Sydney, North Sydney Sunrise, Northbridge and Mosman

The Rotary Clubs of Mosman, North Sydney, North Sydney Sunrise and Northbridge form the City North Zone. There has been a strong focus on Membership in each Club, resulting in an overall increase from 138 to 148 members with new members in each Club. Although the total number of new members inducted was 19, each Club also lost at least one member and, with a total loss of nine members, the net gain was 10 members. Much of this success came from the very active membership committees in Mosman (gained 11 and lost 4) and Northbridge (gained 5 lost 1).

Each Club has held regular, well attended and well-organised meetings with a wide range of guest speakers speaking on local, national and international issues and projects as well as talks on aspects of Rotary – especially Rotary Foundation and Australian Rotary Health. Club Bulletins are regular and well produced, effectively keeping all members informed.

All Clubs have participated in District Youth Programs including RYLA, RYPEN, NYSF and MUNA. Mosman managed the January RYPEN program with 80 students in attendance. The Club provided Program Director, District Chairman (Rob Hamilton), two Camp Parents and Club members to help the running of the program. The Youth Exchange Program features strongly in the City North Zone with three of the four Clubs hosting students. North Sydney Club and Northbridge Club hosted one each and Mosman Club hosted two students who regularly attended and took an active part in weekly meetings.

Community, Vocational and International Programs were outstanding – for the scope, number and the very effective way that they were conducted. It is also very pleasing to see that the four Clubs in the Zone are now working together very effectively, also reaching out be-

yond the Zone to partner with other Clubs in the District, with Clubs in Districts beyond 9685 and with other partners in the business, NGO and government sectors. They have been successful in securing Global Grants which have generated both income and efficiency in implementing the projects internationally.

A few examples of the scope and variety of projects from the City North Clubs include – Nusa Tenggara Association providing community and education development, Indonesia (Matching Grant); Timor Leste, Pipeline; Nepal, Disaster Relief Kits; Fiji solar lights; Taldumande Youth Refuge (all four Clubs supporting); Clontarf Foundation (supporting Aboriginal boys' personal development and education).

Fundraising is approached with great enthusiasm, is innovative, very inclusive and this year has generated outstanding results, financially and in marketing the Rotary brand.

Noel Cislowski AM
Assistant Governor, City North

Hawkesbury



Clubs: Kurrajong North Richmond, Richmond, Rouse Hill, The Ponds, Windsor

It has been a privilege to serve as AG for the Hawkesbury Zone under the outstanding leadership of our District Governor Gina. This zone has an interesting mix of clubs, Windsor an all male club, Rouse Hill breakfast club, The Ponds Sunday afternoon coffee club, Richmond and Kurrajong North Richmond a dinner club. Each of these clubs have outstanding Presidents and it has been a pleasure to have supported them through the year. Between the five clubs they have raised over \$250,000.00.

Each of the Hawkesbury Zone Clubs have undertaken more than their fair share of projects across the four avenues of service giving me a sense of pride in having the opportunity to have work with them.

From each club the highlight in my mind is Windsor raising \$80,000.00 at one fundraising event. Rouse Hill recognising they had to change from a breakfast club to a dinner club to increase membership. The Ponds winning the District Award for the highest percentage gain in membership for the year, Richmond for raising over \$100,000.00 at one fundraising event and Kurrajong North Richmond holding the their special duck race at Penrith Rapids raising \$25,000.00. I found that our zone cluster meetings work well giving the Presidents the opportunity to share their experiences of projects and informing/inviting clubs to assist or attend future functions. Overall we had a great year well done to the Hawkesbury Zone Presidents

Bob Kaye Smith
Assistant Governor, Hawkesbury

Lower Central Coast

Clubs: Gosford City, Gosford West, Kariong Somersby, Umina Beach, Woy Woy



It has been an interesting year, with such variety amongst the five Clubs for which I have been responsible. Over the year a relatively strong relationship has been built with each. I attended Club Changeovers for each of the Clubs moving into the 2015-16 year and have been invited to attend again this year. In addition to these gatherings and attending each of the Clubs with DG Gina for her official visits, I have attended at least 4 meetings or events for each of the Clubs. Some of the Clubs, such as Gosford City and Kariong-Somersby have eagerly invited me to attend in an official capacity on a very regular basis, whereas I have needed to approach Gosford West and Umina Beach to invite myself along to special events. I have not been invited to any new member inductions by any of the Clubs. Woy Woy, being my own Club tends to ignore my District role and so attendance has been as a Club Member rather than as Assistant Governor.

There have been no major issues with any of the

Clubs in the zone, other than difficulties in finding President Elects to take over at the end of the year

Two Clubs, in the zone, Kariong-Somersby and Umina Beach have held Club Visioning this year, which could lead to innovation and some changes in their approach in the upcoming year.

Thank you, Gina, for the opportunity to participate as part of your Team. You have had a great year and your strong leadership and direction has made my task easier. I have thoroughly enjoyed the role and all it involves.

Bobby Redman

Assistant Governor, Lower Central Coast

Nepean

Clubs: Lower Blue Mountains, Nepean, Penrith, Penrith Valley, Springwood



Penrith

Celebrated its 70th anniversary last November. Oldest club in the District and has been instrumental in chartering most of the clubs that now exist in the area.

Very traditional club with a static and older membership.

Participates in a number of community projects, as well as projects in the Philippines.

Not a lot of energy in the club with only a small core of members actively participating in club activities, such as BBQ fundraising.

Has a weekly newsletter and is active on Facebook but doesn't yet have a web site.

Supports local Youth programs and also RAWCS. Very involved in running the Penrith region Police Officer of the Year awards.

Has had some issues with their club meeting venue at Panthers that they are in the process of resolving.

Summary: A club that is marking time, with only a few members participating in club events.

Penrith Valley

Medium sized, traditional club that is active in the local community with some very worthwhile

projects.

Fairly static membership – trying to rebuild but still struggling to some extent.

Has had a turbulent membership history and also had some issues this year when 2 members left.

Supports Rotary Youth programs, as well as international programs such as DIK.

Along with Penrith, they have also have issues with Panthers as a meeting venue that are in the process of being resolved.

Have a web site, Facebook page and newsletter.

Summary: Also a club that does good work but is struggling to grow.

Nepean

Small club that is struggling with membership, that is now down to around 20, following some recent losses.

Looking to change meeting venue soon to Penrith RSL.

President is standing for the second year due to a lack of members willing to take on leadership roles. There is still no Treasurer in place for 2016-17. During 2015-16, the President has taken on 3 directors' roles, which I think is unsustainable. I have spoken at some length with the President, looking for ways to recharge this club. I have also, in conjunction with Bob Aitken, suggested a doorknock of local businesses, plus a PR campaign to try and enlist local business people, plus those who work from home to join the club. This has yet to be developed and implemented.

Despite these limitations, the club does a lot of good work in the community, supports the Aussie Bangla Smiles program and is the driving force behind setting up an Interact club at Penrith High.

The club has a new web site and is active on Facebook but doesn't appear to have a weekly newsletter.

Summary: A club that is struggling with membership and lack of member involvement.

Springwood

Medium to large club that is very viable and active in the community.

Quite conservative but well run and the current President has created a relaxed and friendly atmosphere that has helped improve the club.

The club has been involved in ongoing community work, following the bush fires of 2013 and their latest project, which will be complete in May 2016, is an exercise park for the locals. Run monthly market at Faulconbridge.

Big fundraiser is the annual Antiques Fair, held at Winmalee High.

Membership has increased slightly and retention seems to be good.

They are very supportive of District Youth programs, having been involved with RYLA for many years, as well as the Youth Exchange program, to name just two.

Summary: Effective club that is doing good work in the local community. Growing slowly.

Lower Blue Mountains

Large and highly effective club with 2015-16 membership growth of approximately 15%.

Very active with excellent member participation in club and District programs.

Plans put in place 2-3 years ago reinvigorated the club and now all club members are involved in organising and running various aspects of the club programs. The club is definitely looking to the future and how to attract younger members. The current President has been very active in increasing member involvement and there is a lot of energy in the club.

Public relations and membership (growth and involvement) have been key priorities.

Club is highly visible in the community, running 2 markets/month, plus the major Australia Day/Gnome Convention event at Glenbrook, regional Police Officer of the Year, etc.

Lower Blue also introduced the Community Volunteers Award concept to the Blue Mountains that is helping build ties with more community organisations and clubs.

Club has been very active in youth programs (RYLA, RYPEN, MUNA, literacy, etc).

Leading the way in development of District Working With Children policy documentation.

Has the mass and member skills and experience to develop and run major events.

Active on Facebook, has a modern website and weekly e-newsletter keeps members well informed.

Summary: One of the most effective and proactive clubs in the District with a "can do" mentality.

Peter Agar

Assistant Governor, Nepean

Northern District

Clubs: Beecroft, Carlingford, E-Club of Greater Sydney, Epping, North Rocks and Pennant Hills



The 2015 District Assembly and PETS in April 2015 were ideal events to get to know each President and discuss Strategic plans for the six Clubs.

DG Gina Growden and I attended all District and all Changeover Dinners in the Northern Zone throughout 2015-16.

Official DG visits to each Club took place mainly in the first half of the 2015-16 Rotary year, preceded by a Board meeting where current projects and events were showcased. Information about Club roles and responsibilities was shared with compliance with Rotary International and Club rules and regulations were confirmed.

Up to five AG visits were made to four out of the six Clubs, with two meetings attended at two remaining Clubs.

In addition to Changeover and DG visits, Highlights for me as AG were the Vision Exercise, Pride of Workmanship, New Member inductions, Community Sharing, Mothers' Day Essays, Trivia Nights, Quiz nights and Special Guest Speakers were enjoyed with Presidents and their Club members.

Zone Cluster meetings were held in September, November and with themes of Membership, The Foundation and Vocational Services being presented at these informative and interactive meetings. Club Presidents and Club Directors shared information about upcoming events and promoted the 2016 District Conference.

Rotary District 9685 partnered with Polio Australia to deliver free Clinical Practice Workshop Series on 10 March 2016. Penny Hill coordinat-

ed this event with volunteers from the Zones within the Cluster.

Polio Plus Movie Night at Castle Towers to see Ernie the Eagle was coordinated by Jan Duffy was most successful raising \$1400 to be donated to The Rotary Foundation. Most importantly this moving was very enjoyable.

I can recommend the Social Media Workshop at Rotary Down Under in Parramatta for to Club members to increase their skills in promoting their Club using Social Media during 2016

I would like to congratulate District Governor Gina and each President from the Clubs in the Northern Zone for being very welcoming during my visits, responding to my emails. Thank you for supporting the Zone/Cluster meetings.

Trish Wetton OAM
Assistant Governor, Northern District

Northwestern

I have been fortunate to mentor the Rotary Clubs of Dural, Galston, Glenhaven and Kenhurst.



Each Club, their Presidents and members have performed very well during my time as their AG and have been very welcoming each time I have visited their club meetings and special events.

Two of my clubs Dural and Galston are considering a merger in the near future due to dwindling numbers. In the meantime they currently hold regular joint meetings for special events and to hear guest speakers.

Each club has well established local and international projects and support the Rotary Foundation.

Penny Hill
Assistant Governor, Northwestern

North Shore Central

The North Central Clubs – Turramurra, Kuringai, Lindfield, St Ives and Roseville Chase comprise some of our Districts best performing clubs. It has been my pleasure to be associated with them.



Each club has continued its past record of service in the best traditions of Rotary:

Fun Runs, Cycle Classics, Playgrounds, a \$50,000 Disaster Fund, Graffiti Removal, Markets, Jumbo Flights, Playgrounds, Sensory Gardens for handicapped kids were just some of the Community Projects. District Youth projects, RYLA, RYPEN, YEX, RYDA, MUNA, NYSF as well assorted club projects
Support for a variety of International Projects, Disaster Aid responses and Shelterbox, and Bo Hospital in Sierra Leone
Pride of Workmanship and recognition programs

Membership was a particular focus. Noteworthy that Turramurra inducted 12 new members, had two marriages, and a baby!

Each club has been well managed by motivated executives as shown by the results achieved. 2015-16 has been a stellar year for the North Central Zone clubs.

Theo Glockemann OAM
Assistant Governor North Shore Central

North Shore

Clubs: Chatswood, Chatswood International, Chatswood Sunrise, Crows Nest, Lane Cove



All Clubs in the North Shore Zone have had a successful year and have continued to serve the community, both locally and internationally.

Highlights include:

Chatswood has continued its support for Shelter box- a total of 12 boxes provided by the club. They have also had successful a Tree of Joy Project, Golf Day to support Lifeline, a club lunch at Woy Woy and Mystery Drive. They had a vocational visit to ACL and a ACL dinner at Parliament House. Award nights for POW and CS. They have also had a successful neurosurgical scholarship. There were several PHFs awarded to members and two members awarded with an AM

Chatswood International – held several fundraising events such as CNY dinner for Taiwanese earthquake, movie premiere for MND research, cake selling at Bunnings warehouse, Xmas party, and upcoming Korean festival to be held 1 June. The club raised \$13,888 at the CNY dinner, \$1000 from the cakes selling, and expecting \$3000-5000 from the movie premiere.

Chatswood Sunrise has had a successful year with their membership – 25% net increase, retention of members at 100% . They have had successful fundraising events with Chatswood Primary School Christmas Carols BBQ, Christmas pudding and entertainment book sales. The club has had successful youth programs with participation in MUNA, sponsorship of Euan Chaffey of Chatswood High School to a Musical Tour of Europe, sponsorship of Youth Parliament in Canberra. Installation of a bench at the Chatswood high School to commemorate 30th Anniversary of Club and to honour local identity Dr. Warwick Bateman AM, selecting a candidate for the National Youth Science Forum in Canberra, and the purchase books for Indigenous Children through the Indigenous Literacy Foundation.

They also completed some great International Service with sponsorship of 13 Hippo Rollers (\$2,600) to a village in South Africa, supplied 22,000 students in India with school desks, further education and training for 250 teachers in India, improving toilet facilities in 31 schools in India. These were all part of successful Rotary District and Global Grants applications.

Rotary club of Crows Nest had a change of venue. They continued with successful fundraising events with regular BBQ at Bunnings Artarmon and The Melbourne Cup Trifecta. They participated in the Crows Nest Fair, Tree of Joy, Salvation Army, Red Shield Appeal, Shelter Box Functions Supporting ROMAC, Bowel Care, Chronic Pain Seminar at RNS, M.U.N.A sponsorship of Shore school and four RYLA participants, assisted Phoenix House with supporting their teenagers with education, job search and accommodation.

The clubs are currently working through the process of Global Grants for projects in both East Timor involving agricultural sustainability, plus a stainable water harvesting and greenhouse installation in Kenya.

Lane Cove: The club held another successful Walk Around the World, its 4th year managed to log virtual steps of walking more than twice around the world. Walk Around the World is a community well-being project and aims to challenge everyone in the community, independent of their age or ability, to become more active and reduce their risk of lifestyle diseases such as type 2 diabetes and heart disease. The club introduced of Tom and Thelma Tait award to a musician in the Lane Cove Youth Orchestra. They continued to support of the Nusa Tenggara Timur Rotary Small Grants Project in Eastern Indonesia. They also continued to support of the Heartland Academy in Kathmandu. The club raised \$23,000.00 through the Lane Cove Rotary Village Fair.

Swapna Prasad
Assistant Governor, North Shore

Peninsula

Clubs: Belrose, Frenchs Forest. Upper Northern Beaches



Belrose: A small club, but one that 'punches above its weight' with projects across all avenues of service. They have a good presence in the local community through a variety of programs

including the Borghis Street Christmas lights

project—in conjunction with Frenchs Forest—and their community newsletter. This year they hosted Youth Exchange Student, Lucie Buyse from France.

Frenchs Forest:

Although small in size, a very active club, and very community oriented. Their Borgnis Street Christmas Lights project (in conjunction with Belrose) has been going for many years and is very successful. Recently introduced a project on Cyber Bullying which is gaining momentum. Ageing membership is a major concern.

Upper Northern Beaches:

The newest club in the District, RCUNB chartered in October as a result of the merger of Pittwater and Narrabeen Lakes (which merged with Terrey Hills 18 months previously). The merger resulted in a number of former Rotarians re-joining the new Club and RCUNB is now a strong, vibrant Club with a great future. Projects from all three 'founding' clubs have been continued and an active and varied service program has been developed.

Raylene Jarvis

Assistant Governor, Beaches

Riverside

Clubs: Eastwood, Gladesville, Hunters Hill, Macquarie Park, North Ryde, Ryde

It has been extremely pleasing to observe how the Riverside Zone Clubs have worked harmoniously

together during the past Rotary year. The Zone comprises mainly smaller clubs with the exception of Ryde Club and several of the clubs have worked cooperatively on projects or have assisted other clubs in conducting events. This has ensured that special club occasions and functions have been both effectively implemented and attended even for our smaller clubs. Membership retention and development remains a central focus for most clubs. Club highlights this year have included the following ex-



tremely successful club projects and events including the Surgical Skills Workshop in Apia, Samoa (sponsored by Ryde and the TRF), the 'Carols on the Common' (North Ryde and Macquarie Park Clubs), the donation of a community policing vehicle (Macquarie Park), the Schools' Leadership Night" (Eastwood Club), the High School Students 'Drug Education Day' (Hunters Hill) and the 'Fundraiser for Oecusse, East Timor' (Gladesville). As well, both Eastwood and Gladesville Clubs have entered a formal agreement to amalgamate their clubs with the view to finalising this merger within the first half of the upcoming Rotary year.

Paul Wynn

Assistant Governor, Riverside

The Hills

Clubs: Castle Hill, Norwest Sunrise Bella Vista, The Hills Kellyville, West Pennant Hills & Cherrybrook.



Castle Hill focused on local community projects, and support domestic violence sufferers in their area through the Lisa Harnum Foundation and supported white ribbon day. They also built a deck for a local youth suffering from muscular dystrophy.

The Hills Kellyville successfully amalgamated with Winston Hills and continued with both clubs projects throughout the year. Celebrated 40 years anniversary, and applied for a global grant for work in Vanuatu.

West Pennant Hills & Cherrybrook shared the presidency with three Rotarians, and it worked. They received their very first District grant to help Cyclone Winston victims in Fiji. Continued with the Youth Exchange program, by hosting the first ever student from Greenland.

Norwest Sunrise held a successful International Woman's Day breakfast in support of domestic violence, and aided the local community by participating in Relay for Life, Hills Winter Sleep out, Hills Community Aid and Dalmar Homes. Applied for two global grants, in Bolivia and PNG.

Jan Duffy OAM

Assistant Governor, The Hills

Upper Central Coast

The Upper Central Coast Zone comprises five Clubs being- Wyong/Tuggerah, The Entrance, Northlakes/Toukley, Gosford North and Gosford. The vary in membership from small, medium to large with individual ways of undertaking their activities and conducting their meetings. Membership development is more difficult for the smaller Clubs as is their capacity for fund raising and managing large projects however all Clubs have a good spirit for "Service Above Self" albeit in different ways. All the Clubs are willing to support nearby Clubs in their events and are active participants in District activities such as Zone Presidents Meetings, PETS and District Assembly.



The year has seen Gosford North winning two District awards for Youth and Community Avenues of Service through their SOKS program. Gosford again successfully conducted the Science and Engineering Challenge with other Central Coast Rotary Clubs supporting this activity. Northlakes/Toukley had a highly successful year with good sponsorship for Golf and Race Days and a well supported Community Raffle. The Entrance partnered well with local Real Estate firms for a well supported Tree of Joy program. Wyong/Tuggerah has been for a longtime a supporter of Wyong High School most recently sponsoring 225 students to attend the StandTall motivational event at Luna Park in Sydney.. The Zone has had a successful year. In the role

of Assistant Governor Clubs have made me most welcome on the numerous visits to Clubs and attendance at special events. The individual Official Visits by the District Governor were greatly appreciated and remarked upon by the Clubs in the Zone.

Russell Grove

Assistant Governor , Upper Central Coast

Upper North Shore

The Upper North Shore zone is made up of one big club that is Wahroonga and four small clubs namely Hornsby, Waitara, Berowra and Thornleigh. Although membership is a vital issue for the small clubs they have still continued with their social and fund raising activities without any significant loss of members. All five clubs have also supported District programmes.



Thornleigh's focus is on the Tree of Joy generating in excess of 400 gifts and Sausage Sizzles whereas Berowra does well in their Spring and Autumn Plant Sales, Christmas Night Markets and Fellowship Dinners. Hornsby conducts their Pride of Workmanship Awards evening in a grand scale and has a heavy involvement in the Foreign Coins project that has generated funds in excess of \$45,000 mainly for the Rotary Foundation, Rotarians Against Malaria (RAM) and numerous other projects of international benefit. Waitara has deep involvement in Youth activities and Studio Artes that provides opportunities for disadvantaged children and adults.

Wahroonga is a large vibrant club. It has a wide range of social and fund raising activities. It's a strong supporter of the Rotary Foundation and every member is a PHSM. The club is a strong supporter of district programmes. Its mega projects include the Novus Foundation Dinner and joint co-ordination of the Bobbin Head Cycling Classic (BHCC), that individually generated funds in excess of \$200,000. About half the proceeds of the BHCC was donated to Life Line. Together

with the Ku-ring-gai Council, Wahroonga was involved in the Syrian refugee Welcome Pack programme for which a total of \$98,000 was raised in kind and \$10,000 in cash. The club has also supported Indigenous projects including the Yala Indigenous programme. In addition, Wahroonga received a global grant of \$45,000 for the Nepal project.

Over the next 12 months the four small clubs of the Upper North Shore are considering merging into a single club.

Sivaraj Sagathavan
Assistant Governor, Upper North Shore



School for Life, Africa

SOME MEMORABLE MOMENTS!

My year as District Governor was full of wonderful experiences and events that I will never forget.

Here are just a few of the occasions which made the year special:

- ◇ Having the red carpet laid out (literally) for my official visit.
- ◇ Arriving at a Club changeover to learn that the chef had not turned up. Not to be put out, the outgoing president rang out for pizzas and then proceeded with the night's agenda until the delivery arrived. Everyone agreed it was a very enjoyable evening!
- ◇ Having ducks walk over my feet during an official visit which was held in the courtyard of the local hotel.
- ◇ Going to a formal dinner celebrating a Club's important anniversary with wet hair—due to a power blackout as I stepped out the shower.
- ◇ And then breaking a heel on my new stilettos at the dinner and having to spend the rest of the evening in bare feet!
- ◇ Attending a reception at Government House along with all the National Youth Science Forum candidates from around NSW.
- ◇ Having to deliver my 'serious' address to the Club at their special Anniversary dinner following the belly dancer's performance.
- ◇ Presenting PDG Tony Castley with his "Service Above Self" Award at the District Conference.
- ◇ Judging the best gnomes at Lower Blue Mountain's annual Gnome Convention. What pressure!

Being referred to as "The Governor General" by a politician during a Club's official Naturalisation Ceremony on Australia Day.

Cruising on Sydney Harbour with RI President Elect John Germ and his wife, Judy along with our RI Zone Director, Guiller Tamangan.

Holding the Meeting with the Board prior to my Official Visit in "The Bunker".

Attending a Mayoral Reception prior to a Club Visit.

Gina Growden
District Governor





Rotary District 9685 is grateful for the support of the following organisations during the 2015-16 Rotary Year

