

District Conference March 18 – Closing comments

David Rands

It is my pleasure to conclude the conference, and in doing this I wish to make some comments.

Firstly, our program. This has been put together to maximise the opportunity for lots of Rotary and lots of Club focus. We have had our Showcase which has proven to be a great success, and I thank all those clubs that took part in this part of the conference. I hope that all of you enjoyed circulating around the showcase and enjoyed talking to fellow Rotarians about their projects.

Weren't our Keynote speakers wonderful?

Detective Insp Charles Allen – our Peace Scholar,

Deborah Wallace and her personal story of success in a tough vocation.

Michael Kirkwood Smith and Kate Crocker, our World Skills Speakers

Ramesh Ferris and his dramatic story of surviving Polio.

Felice Jacka from our great Australian Rotary Health telling us of her leading research outcomes

Fred Watson, just a short while ago. .

And, of course, our RIPPR, PDG Manjit Sawhney who gave a very graphic picture of our success to date in conquering the scourge of Polio

Our avenue of service programmes were exciting too and I won't go through them all, but it was great to have Dan and Beth here from East Timor, and, as always, the Vocational excellence awards are a highlight.

I hope you all enjoyed the musical entertainment throughout, and the masked ball with the swing band. We certainly enjoyed ourselves.

I must thank several people – firstly the Beecroft club for supporting the whole process and my term as governor, and in hosting the conference. The members, and their partners, have all worked hard this weekend, and in the weeks prior to the conference to prepare the necessary materials. I must thank the hosts who have made sure that our speakers have felt welcome while among us. In particular Peter Holst who coordinated the club efforts.

The hard working Conference committee led by David Ellyard. This committee has worked for 3 years to put together the conference - - producing a conference of this standard is not a quick deal – a lot of work and planning goes into getting the smallest details correct. In particular, John Melville who sits behind he

curtain and works day and night to ensure the presentation from start to finish is professionally done, Angelo Raveane who looked after the venue arrangements, Les Walsh who set up and managed the registration process – also a full-time job over the last few weeks, and Tim Fenton who looked after our finances so efficiently. Others on the committee, who all made a great contribution, are Michael Schwarcz, Anne Rands, Tom Sweeney (our wonderful MC), Brian Banfield (showcase), Jim de Martin (Expo), Di Hammond, Peter Holst, and Bill Grant.

I warmly thank our Avenue of service Chairs for assembling the excellent presentations across the breadth of Rotary's service work, and of course all our guest speakers.

A particular thanks to PDG Manjit and Rita who have been such great companions over this weekend and have made such a great contribution to the conference. I hope you have all had a chance to meet and talk with them both. I'd like Manjit and Rita to come forward to accept a small token of our appreciation for having come all the way from D 3010 (covering Delhi and surrounding cities) to be with us this weekend. We hope you both return with some very positive feelings about us here down under, and that you have enjoyed our friendship and hospitality.

I would like to especially also acknowledge Anne, who, although diffident initially about the whole DG experience, has pitched in and made my job this year infinitely easier than it would have been without her support. And with regards to the conference, Anne was co-opted onto the committee and has made a big contribution there – not only on the committee, but also in the constant discussions and ideas we have thrown around between us on our morning walks and during the working day. It has been a full time commitment and for that I thank you Anne.

And finally, thank you all as delegates to the conference. It is not possible to have a conference without delegates and I hope that you have enjoyed the weekend and gained a great deal from it. I commend next year's conference in Nowra to you and ask for your wholehearted support for that. I wish DGE John and Bob and your committee every success in their next year of planning.

Over lunch we will have our inaugural "Speak Your Mind" session which promises to be challenging and exciting, and I thank PDG Barry Philips for organising the running of this, as well as being the aide for Manjit and Rita and looking after them for the weekend. Much appreciated, Barry.

I wish you safe travelling back to your homes and look forward to our next meeting.

I now declare this 50th Jubilee conference of District 9680 formally closed.