Reach Within to Embrace Humanity



Rotary District 9700
Newsletter

April 2012

Wow! - What a conference!

Over 400 Rotarians and partners from 37 Clubs attended the 2012 District Conference in Young.

The numbers attending sessions were around 300 Saturday and 250 Sunday – a wonderful turnout.

RI President Kalyan Banerjee's representative was PDG Bob Richards and Jill from District 9810 in Melbourne.

Bob made the observation that distance travelled between Clubs was one of the major differences between his and our District with most D9700 towns with a Rotary presence being around 75-100km apart where as the entire D9810 was a mere 125km from top to bottom.

Conference speakers focused on the theme of Embracing Humanity and the presentations were combinations of Interesting, Intriguing, Compassionate, Challenging and above all Memorable.

Feedback received from individuals and Clubs indicates that the speakers and program showed the depth of work undertaken by Rotarians and non-Rotarians both locally and overseas and the outstanding results being achieved.

A Special Feature of the Conference was a Gnome Convention on the Saturday arranged by Jean Simpson to support her partners Program for Street Swags and Water Filters.

The partners of the 2011-12 Board, Assistant Governors and Presidents created Gnomes to reflect interests, hobbies and in some cases professions.

Overall, the Conference was a very fruitful and enjoyable weekend and certainly celebrated Rotary - Embracing Humanity, our theme for this year.

On the following pages are a few photographs from the district conference. Our thanks to those who contributed these images.







The Australian flag proudly presented by YEP team member, Denisse Paz from Peru.
The Phat Boyz kept the Saturday evening dinner dance a lively affair;
Chair Clive Edwards and DG Ian assist Jill Richards light the Memorial Candle.



















From the top: The opening flag ceremony - Aboriginal flag bearer Eugenie Coche; USA flag presented by Linn Kruckeberg; The official party at the opening ceremony; The YoungTown hall was an excellent venue for the conference; DG Ian and Jennifer Warren from the Oklahoma GSE team; DG Ian & Jean at the opening ceremony; 'Chairman' (in more ways than one!) Clive Edwards; Introducing the District Leadership Team for 2012-13 and 2013-14; Old school mates Jeff McMullen and Dennis Bishop.



Photo left: Jeff Hort, who was nominated by Orange Daybreak Rotary for service to the Australian and International mining industry addressing the Conference with David Hopkins & Peter Gissing supported by the Presidents of Orange Daybreak, Cowra and Wagga Sunrise.
Below Left: Ian Tooke with Youth Exchange Committee for 2012 and inbound students.
Below right: Fred Loneragan & John Glassford.













Middle left: The Scottish GSE team shows how to celebrate a great exchange.
Middle right: RI Pres Rep, Bob Richards delivers greetings from RI President Kalyan Banerjee.

Bottom left: Bernie Rodgers talks about polio
Bottom right: Glenys McDonald gave an enthralling speech about the successful search for the HMAS Sydney.

And then the party rolled on ....








.... and in another room, the Gnomes waited patiently.....
















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The partners of the 2011-12 Board, Assistant Governors and Presidents created Gnomes to reflect interests, hobbies and in some cases professions.

Here are a few Gnomes who attended the Conference.

Our Thanks to the Rotary Club of Young for a wonderful conference.



Reach Within to Embrace Humanity

Ian Simpson
Rotary District 9700
Governor 2011-12

1st April 2012

President Sue Gordon
Rotary Club of Young

Dear Sue,

On behalf of the District, I would like to thank and congratulate you, the magnificent Conference Committee led by Cliff Sheridan and the many contributing members of Young Rotary for the outstanding District Conference that you conducted over the weekend of 23rd-25th March 2012.

The Conference was exceptional in every aspect. It ran to Program; had excellent speakers and presenters and were kept to time; and, the catering was a credit to the thought, planning and organisation that the various teams put into their tasks.

To cap off a fantastic Conference, the two social functions were outstanding in their presentation and the opportunity provided to Rotarians and partners across the District to socialise and have fun.

The accolades have come from all levels of the District and these have included:

- ✓ What a fantastic weekend!!!
- ✓ The District Conference was an outstanding success and all who were involved need to be congratulated
- ✓ Highest rate of congratulations to you and the committee for what was a fantastic District Conference
- ✓ The Program was interesting, informative and provided some challenges to our members, clubs and District
- ✓ Thoroughly enjoyed every aspect of the activities and social times available
- ✓ An exchange student reported on her experience by saying she was apprehensive about going as she feared it would be boring but to her surprise and delight, she really enjoyed it - so much so that she was inspired by some of the speakers and keen to do something for others as a result.
- ✓ Your hard work resulted in a great roll up, especially from many Rotarians and Clubs that have not been traditional attendees.

Please pass on our personal thanks to everyone involved.

Regards and Best Wishes

Ian & Jean

2012 Conference Awards

District Vocational Service Excellence Awards

These Awards have become one of the highlights of the District Conference presentations and this year there were three worthy recipients.

■ Peter Gissing nominated by Wagga Wagga Sunrise Rotary for services to Pharmacy.

■ David Hopkins nominated by Cowra Rotary for services to the meat industry in Australia.

■ Jeff Hort nominated by Orange Daybreak Rotary for service to the Australian and International mining industry. *(See picture page 3)*

District Awards at Conference

1. Nevin Hughes Outstanding New Project Award

Awarded to the club that has initiated an outstanding new project at either local, national or international level.

Winner: Griffith Rotary - Refurbishment of the Dethridge Wheel Monument located in the main street of Griffith.

Joint venture project with Griffith City Council as part of the Centenary of Irrigation in the Murrumbidgee Area.

Photo below: Refurbished Dethridge Wheel Monument, Griffith

Highly Commended

■ Cowra Rotary - Public Toilet Facility at Europa Park, at the Entrance to Cowra

■ Wagga Wagga Rotary - LOOKING AHEAD Activity Day as part of Darkness to Light Riverina Project

■ Wollundry Wagga Rotary - Annual Food & Wine Festival

2. Alf Gillespie Community Service Award

Awarded to the club that has made a substantial contribution to the local community and significantly enhanced the relationship between Rotary and the local community.

Winner: Wagga Sunrise - 2012 Sunrise Rotary Calendar

Production and sale of a 2012 Sunrise calendar featuring historical photographs. The calendar promotes Rotary by demonstrating a range of activities and provides information on the Sunrise Rotary. Proceeds support a scholarship at Charles Sturt University.

Highly Commended

■ West Wyalong Rotary - supply of a cardiograph for the West Wyalong Hospital

■ Forbes Rotary - Planned extension to Rotary Park shelter and barbecue area

3.International Service Award

Awarded to the club that during the Rotary year has made an outstanding contribution to one or more international projects.

Winner: Bathurst Daybreak & Orange Daybreak Rotary – Nepal Friendship Project

There are three main aspects to the project:

1. Renovation of the Bal Mandir Childrens home in Kathmandu for 250 children up to the ages of 18.

2. Enhance the skills of Nepalese teachers through running week long workshops for 80 teachers, in 2012, including 20 teachers from remote areas of Nepal.

3. Health professionals are also involved so that the children and their house mothers have access to the latest Dental and First Aid care.

Highly Commended

■ Forbes Rotary – Ongoing support for 'Pink Bus' at School of St Jude, Tanzania

4. Graham Barber Vocational Service Award

Awarded to the club that has significantly encouraged and fostered high ethical standards in business and profession in a practical and observable way and involved the local community.

Winner: Wagga Wagga Rotary – Rotary Shine Awards

The 2012 Awards recognised:

1. An outstanding employee with a disability.
2. A small business that has employed an employee with a disability.
3. A large corporation that has a policy of employing & supporting people with a disability.

Highly Commended

■ Wagga Sunrise Rotary - Vocational Excellence Award to a Wagga Paramedic

■ Forbes Rotary - Pride of Workmanship & Community Courtesy Awards



5. Alan Josey Youth Service Award

Awarded to the club that has provided outstanding support to local youth through established Rotary programs and those initiated by the club.

Winner: Young Rotary - Outstanding support to local youth through District Youth Programs and other initiatives of the New Generations portfolio.

Young Rotary supports youth through:

- ❑ Annual Schools Careers Expo held for 600 students
- ❑ Conducted the Science & Engineering Challenge across 8 schools (250 students) and conducted 2 days of Regional finals for southern NSW including Sydney
- ❑ Support the local PCYC Club financially to help them with disadvantaged youth
- ❑ Scholarships to years 11 & 12 students at both local secondary schools
- ❑ $50 cash prize for the most consistent student at each of 9 local Primary schools
- ❑ Partly sponsors local students to the National Youth Science Forum last 4 years
- ❑ Fully sponsored the "Young Employee of the Year Awardee" to attend RYLA
- ❑ Donated $500 for two awards for outstanding final year apprentices
- ❑ Pioneered Dream Cricket clinics for primary school children with disabilities
- ❑ Hosted Gerson Moncardo, an inbound Exchange student from Peru
- ❑ Discussions for possible formation of an Interact Club at Young High School

Highly Commended

- ■ Bathurst East Rotary - Conducting the Annual Group 6 RYDA Program
- ■ Cowra Rotary - Headspace Fundraiser in support of Australia's National Youth Mental Health Foundation
- ■ Forbes Rotary - Support for District and Community Youth Programs
- ■ Molong Rotary - Support for District and Community Youth Programs
- ■ Parkes Rotary - Hosting and support for District Youth Programs and support for local Schools and community youth groups ie Scouts & Girl Guides
- ■ Wagga Wagga Rotary - "Read to Me" Project to address preschool literacy problems in some kindergarten children.
- ■ West Wyalong Rotary - Support for District Youth Programs and providing work experience opportunities

6. District Conference Attendance Award

Awarded to the club with the highest attendance at Conference, (average for both Saturday and Sunday), as a proportion of the number of members x the distance to Young.

Winner: RC of Henty

7. Best Club Bulletin

Awarded to the club that has produced a weekly bulletin that consistently met the criteria.

Winner: RC of Henty

Weekly Bulletin that is: Concise, Easy to read, Informative & Quality photos

Highly Commended:

- ■ Boorowa
- ■ Coolamon
- ■ Junee
- ■ Parkes
- ■ Wagga Sunrise
- ■ Wollundry-Wagga

8. District Peace Communities Award

Awarded to the Club that has made a difference in the lives of individuals and groups and so has contributed to peace in their community.

Winner: RC of Forbes

The 2012 awardees are all locals from Forbes who have served in Peace Keeping in Timor Leste, PNG, Fiji and Afghanistan

All seniors in the Forbes High School prepared an essay on Peace and then the class voted to select the one to be read at the ceremony by School Captain.

Highly Commended

- ■ Wagga Sunrise for hosting the 2012 Peace Ceremony on behalf of the Combined Rotary Clubs of Wagga Wagga

Rotary Foundation District Service Award

Dennis Bishop of Wagga Wagga Kooringal, for "Commitment to Group Study Exchange"

2012 Partners Program – Jean Simmo says..

THANKS!

A sincere thanks for the wonderful team effort from everyone in support for the 2012 Rotary Partners Program.

The final tally of $$$ raised for Street Swags for the Homeless in our District and for the simple Water Filters for households in the Luro Region of Timor Leste to have safe, drinking water is currently around $7000.



55 Street Swags have just been delivered and will be distributed according to the donors instructions.

They will keep the homeless people (mainly males) in our district a little warmer this winter.

In talking with welfare agencies, we have been told that they try to place women and children into safe shelters.

There will be around 300 households in the Luro region of Timor Leste, that will have clean, safe drinking water as a result of the water filters.

Without your support, the above humanitarian assistance would not be possible.

Would you please pass this information and my thanks to all Rotary members.

April is magazine Month

Membership and public relations / public image are the topics that dominate most Rotary forums today.

Rotarians generally realise that maintaining membership is the greatest challenge confronting our organisation.

Successfully meeting this challenge is closely aligned with creating a favourable "image" of Rotary within the minds of average citizens and the corporate world.

Rotary regional magazines are acknowledged as the best education and resource "tool" available to Rotarians and the general public.

If we are to promote Rotary to others then we need to be well informed and that is the role of Rotary Down Under (RDU).

Rotary Down Under is 47 years old this month – a grand achievement!

All Rotarians are invited to make a special effort to recognise and promote Rotary regional magazines – especially Rotary Down Under – during Magazine Month in April each year.

Brief History of RDU

Although not the first Rotary regional magazine published, Rotary Down Under was 'born' in April, 1965, and was the FIRST regional magazine officially approved as an alternative to Rotary's world magazine, The Rotarian.

Rotary Down Under is the complete information guide to Rotary in the region.



Rotarians who read Rotary Down Under are well informed and can share this knowledge with their business associates, friends and neighbours.

Effective communication is knowing your product, your programs, your projects.

You can communicate with potential members and those who just want to know what goes on in Rotary.

Ownership

Rotary Down Under is the prescribed official publication and is wholly owned by its readers, the Rotarians who subscribe to it.

During Magazine Month of April, consider how you can best "share" your Rotary Down Under magazine and knowledge – and thereby contribute to our common goal of growing Rotary's public image.

Our regional magazine is very important and we are so fortunate to have it as a quality resource.

Ian Simpson
District Governor, 2011-12

They're Racing! – That's Camels at Forbes

It has a reputation as one of the major Easter holiday family events, attracting patrons from all corners of New South Wales and beyond.

Camel Racing is a fun filled day at Forbes watching these unlikely, unpredictable and obstinate 'Ships of the Desert' race each other up the straight at the Forbes race track.

Over 5000 people, including many family groups, attended the 10th annual Forbes Camel Races on Good Friday 2012.





It was a great family day out with the 24 trained 'racing' camels coming from Queensland, New South Wales Victoria and South Australia.

Rotary in Forbes has played a big part in staging this annual event since 2000.

Invitation

Forbes Rotary President, Chris Finkel invites all Rotarians to 'Make it a Day Out' in Forbes for the 2013 Camel Races.

Let's make it a Multi-Club outing over the 2013 Easter weekend.

Photo above: A clear Winner!
Photo left: Camels aren't easy to ride or steer!

Taking the Mystery out of Rotary Acronyms

with Nannette Stevenson

RWMP – Rotary World Magazine Press

The first official magazine The National Rotarian, predecessor to The Rotarian, was started in January 1911 and has been published continuously ever since.

The first regional magazine was issued 1915 in Great Britain and Ireland. There is another official magazine of the Rotary Clubs for Great Britain and Ireland called Rotary Today. This is a bi-monthly publication distributed to each of the 60,000 Rotarians in Great Britain and Ireland at the members' meetings.

The official and regional magazines are circulated to Rotarian and non-Rotarian subscribers. The combined circulation is more than 700,000 copies.

In keeping with April being Magazine month there are at least two publications with which most Rotarians in our part of the world are familiar – The Rotarian and Rotary Down Under.

Rotary International's unique communications media are the official monthly magazine named The Rotarian published in English language by the headquarters, and 30 other regional Rotary World Magazine Press periodicals that are independently produced in more than 20 different major languages and distributed in 130 countries.

RDU – Rotary Down Under

The Rotary World Magazine Press, of which your official regional magazine Rotary Down Under is a part, is celebrating over 100 years of service to Rotary.

Rotary Down Under is 47 years old this month – a grand achievement!

Rotary Down Under is the ONLY direct link between you as a Rotarian and the RI Board of Directors!

Rotary Down Under is the best resource and educational tool available to you and your Rotary club.

An informed Rotarian is a better Rotarian. Rotary World Press publications are a vital communications link between Rotary International and Rotarians in your District.

So, take some time out this week to peruse and hopefully read through your copy of RDU magazine- it's quite inspiring to see what Rotarians have achieved and continue to do so through Service to others both here in our own towns/states and overseas.

GSE Team to D5690 Kansas



A team of five young people have been selected to represent our District in a Group Study Exchange with District 5690 Kansas later this year.

Group Study Exchange is a cultural, vocational and educational program of The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International. It also has considerable personal development benefits.

Group study Exchange is funded paid from our Annual Donations to the Rotary Foundation.

Photo From Left: Tim Watts, PYCY Club Manager (RC Parkes), Chantelle Montgomery, Agribusiness banker (RC Wagga Wagga), Kym Crawford, Owner kitchen and cabinet making business (RC Wagga Wagga Kooringal), Angela Maynard, Community and Youth Coordinator for Central West Headspace (RC Bathurst Daybreak), Josh Devitt, Project Engineer Forbes Shire Council (RC Forbes), & Paul Cox, Team Leader, Real estate (RC Orange Calare).

Rotary Rovin' in D9700 -
'Boorowa to Blayney via Balranald'



Join the Rotarian crew spending a week travelling to visit new and interesting places around our District and enjoying each other's friendship and company.

■ Starts in Boorowa on Monday morning 21st May 2012

■ Finishes in Blayney on Sunday morning 27th May.

'Rotary Rovin' is open to anyone who enters a motor vehicle (car, car & camper trailer, car & caravan, motor home or even a motor bike).

■ Entry is a donation of $250 per vehicle towards a District Australian Rotary Health Indigenous Health Scholarship

■ Participants will need to book and pay for all other expenses, including accommodation

We will overnight in Junee (Monday 21st), Wagga (Tuesday 22nd), Hay (Wednesday & Thursday nights), Condobolin (Friday, 25th) and Blayney (Saturday 26th)

While in Wagga we will have the opportunity to attend RI President Kalyan's Welcome Function.

Participants will make their own choice of the route between stopover towns.

Rotarians are able to join & depart the tour at any stage providing they pay the full Entry Fee.

Further information

Tour Leaders Michael and Mandy Tindale Mob 0408 677 222

Email <the tindales@bigpond.com>

Hat Day for Mental Health

Hat Day is Australian Rotary Health's newest event and the first community action and awareness day for Mental Health Research.

This year Hat Day will be celebrated on Friday 18th May and Rotarians are invited to "have some fun" by participating throughout the week commencing Monday, 14th May.

The inaugural Hat Day celebration was held on 20th May 2011 and many Clubs in our District actively supported this focus on mental health in our society.

In 2011, our District was the highest fundraising District in Australia and this year we will defend our 'Title'.



Help make Hat Day 2012 a HUGE success by encouraging everyone – Rotarians and non-Rotarians – to become Hat Day supporters and champion the cause of mental health research.

Griffith Avanti has already started when Ros Ceddia recently opened her home and held a Hat's 'n' High Tea Party.

They got in early for a bit of fun and frivolity and it was a chance to highlight this important issue that impacts on families and communities.



Photo: Griffith Avanti got into the swing of Hat Day in 2011 with a Hat's 'n' High Tea Party. Join them this year for a fun fund raiser.

Welcome to Our New Members

We hope you enjoy Rotary as much as we enjoy having you!

Richard Pottie – Wagga Kooringal
Kevin Pascall – Wagga Kooringal
Neil McKenzie – Junee
Terry Shannon – Forbes
Eleanor Lewis - Forbes
Wal Paton – Wollundry Wagga
Mitchell Killham - Wagga Wagga Murrumbidgee
Eilagh Rurenga – Wagga Wagga Murrumbidgee
Jim McWilliam - Griffith

Congratulations Graeme Guelfi of Junee

30 years a Rotarian on 23rd March 2012
Our congratulations for years of service to the local community and the world of Rotary.



Paul Harris Fellow Presentations

Congratulations to Rotary for recognising hard working members of clubs and communities with the award of a Paul Harris Fellow.

And a special Congratulations to George and Kay Thomas – Service to the Youth Exchange Program

Photo: George and Kay Thomas each receive a Paul Harris Fellow from DG Ian Simpson for their tireless work with Youth Exchange.

Vale ...

Terry Cleary
Orange North

Terry had spirit, compassion and commitment for everything he undertook. His memory of being a kind, hard working, and valuable member will remain with us.

Dates for your Diary

- District Assembly, Grenfell – Sunday, 29th April 2012
- RI Convention, Bangkok - 6-9 May 2012 (join the District 9700 party)
- RI President Kalyan Banerjee visit to Parkes & Wagga on 22nd May 2012
- D9700 Rotary Rovin – Boorowa to Blayney via Balranald – 21st to 27th May 2012
- District Change Over Dinner, Leeton, 30th June 2012