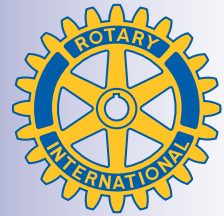




Rotary District 9700 Newsletter



DECEMBER 2011

THE FAMILY OF ROTARY THRIVES ON THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT

There is something 'magical' about Christmas with the participation of our families and friends in decorating the tree, the giving of gifts and sharing time together, enjoyed by young and old.

Traditionally Christmas brings us a focus on the family and often extended family gatherings and celebratory connections (re-connections) around the world.

We should take the same approach within our Rotary Clubs – take the time to reflect on the 'Family of Rotary' and what it means to us as individuals and Rotarians.



Like most families, the Rotary Family provides a haven where collectively we can gather our strength and support (Reach Within) to tackle the challenges of our world (Embrace Humanity).

Individually and collectively let's celebrate Rotary's commitment to family in December.

The family is where everything begins - all our community service and everything that we wish to achieve in our world.

Specifically the Family of Rotary embraces the immediate Club Family of:

- Members & Honorary Members
- Spouses and partners
- Family members
- Widows & Widowers.

Acknowledge the importance of Rotarians families and their

contribution to our Clubs' success in the past, the present and future.

The extended Family of Rotary includes:

- Friends and supporters of Rotary
- Former Foundation program alumni
- Participants in youth programs
- Recipients of Vocational, Paul Harris Awards.

Reconnect with people who have benefited from Rotary and its programs in the past.

Create a greater sense of family atmosphere within our Clubs to support the work we do for communities outside our Clubs.

Welcome and include all family members in the service and fellowship activities of the Family of Rotary.

The concept of family is critical to ensuring the well-being, vigour and future growth of our Clubs.

Jean and I trust that some of the 'magic' of Christmas and the celebration of a New Year touches all the Family of Rotary across our District.

Ian Simpson
District Governor, 2011-12



*A message from RI President
Kalyan Banerjee*

FAMILY IS THE STARTING POINT

"I had the privilege to know and work with Mother Teresa for many years.

"She was a great and wonderful woman who truly had love for everyone, especially the poorest of the poor.

"She had more than enough love for the entire world, and she herself said, "Love begins by taking care of the closest ones: the ones at home."



RI President Kalyan & Binota Banerjee

"Our first emphasis in this Rotary year is on the family, because the family, quite simply, is where everything begins.

"It is the family - not the individual, that is the building block of the community.

"And I see the family - not the individual as being the building block of Rotary.

"We have to keep this in mind when we look outward, in our service, and when we look inward, at our own families and our own clubs."



THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF ROTARY

ROTARY 'ANGELS'

Wagga based Geoff Hamilton of Wollundry Rotary is one of the Angel Flight Team around NSW.

Typical of the work of Angel Flight was a recent flight taking a patient and her husband from Sydney back to Hay following treatment.

The patient Michelle has a thyroid gland problem that requires surgery as it is restricting her airway.



Specialist medical attention is required and the family with four young children was deemed eligible for an Angel Flight by local medical staff saving them a 7-8 hour drive each way to Sydney.

Angel Flight is a charity that co-ordinates non-emergency flights for financially and medically needy people

and Wagga Wollundry Rotary are one of the many supporting organisations.

Angel flights are free and pilots donate their time and aircraft with fuel being reimbursed by Angel Flight.

Above - (From left) Patient Michelle with husband Shayne and Wollundry Rotarian Dick Smith

Left - Angel Flight pilot Geoff Hamilton

DISTRICT 9700 BRINGS LIGHT TO INDIA

The name of the project says it all – 'Turning Darkness into Light'.

Out of human darkness caused by cataracts and other optical problems, Wagga Rotarian and ophthalmic surgeon Alok Sharma has brought light and sight to thousands of people in India.

Sponsored by Leeton Central Rotary, over one hundred Group 3 Rotarians and their wives attended a meeting in the historic Hydro Hotel in Leeton to hear about this volunteer overseas aid work.

New friends were made and old friendships renewed at a social evening organised by District Rotary Australia



World Community Service (RAWCS) committee chair Alan Chesworth with the support of AG Bob Campbell.

The Team of Doctors undertakes cataract operations, new glasses are provided to the poor and children are screened for dental and eye problems.

More than \$130,000.00 has been raised locally to date in support of this humanitarian work - a remarkable achievement.



Top - Patients queue waiting for eye clinic to open

Above - The recovery room – scores of patients have been treated

DREAM CRICKET CLINIC 'BOWLS EM OVER'

The first dream cricket clinic days held outside the Bowral district were staged at Young and Cootamundra recently.

Young had 32 and Cootamundra 22 kids participating.

According to District Coordinator John Hamblin of Young Rotary, participating in the clinics was a very humbling and rewarding experience.

We take junior cricket as a right of passage for local youngsters, with dozens of kids joining their peers and parents on Saturdays for a morning of batting, bowling, fielding and great fun.

But for children with a physical disability, signing up for the local squad is not always an option, despite the fact these children would gain the same benefits as their more physically able peers, and that's where Rotary stepped in.

Further clinics are being organised for Forbes, Orange and Wagga for early in 2012 and the aim is for a Gala Days across the District in the spring next year.

If your club would like to be a part of this great initiative, give John Hamblin a ring at Young.



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Photo 1. Young Clinic Dream Cricket team photo

Photo 2. Practice makes Perfect

Photo 3. Hit-out 20-20 style

Photo 4. Perfect concentration

Photo 5. Howzat! – You're on my Team!

MOUNTAINS OF THE MOON 2011



World AIDS Day on 1st December 2011, was celebrated by District 9700 Rotarians Fred Loneragan (Wagga Sunrise), Mark Janetzki (Henty) and John Glassford (Coolamon) climbing the 'Mountains of the Moon' in Uganda /East Africa.

Six started the climb and ONE, Fred Madden a teacher from Bathurst High, made it to the summit of Mount Margherita (5109 metres) with the RFFA Banner.

The toughest part was 13 hours trekking through bog and jumping tussocks to avoid falling into the bog that is like quicksand. The rocks were very steep and slippery, and all at altitude.

This unique fundraiser will provide for the ongoing care, support and education of the vulnerable children of AIDS.

The Rotary Action Group 'Rotarians for Fighting AIDS' (RFFA) led by Marion Bunch who addressed the 2010 District Conference in Bathurst is supporting the Climb.

*Left - . Guide Moses Kashumba & Fred Madden reach the 5109m summit of Mt Margherita the highest point in Uganda
Right - Founder of Rotarians for Fighting Aids (RFFA) Marion Bunch, with AIDS orphan children of Africa*

HATHAWAY COTTAGE RESIDENTS VISIT MAYFIELD GARDENS, OBERON

The residents of Hathaway Cottage, Oberon along with staff, Rotarians and other community volunteers, spent a great day out as guests at Mayfield Gardens this spring.

Ideal weather and a delicious lunch combined to make the visit to this great local tourist attraction an unforgettable experience for these senior citizens.

Oberon Rotary thanks Mayfield Gardens for hosting the Hathaway residents for the day.

Others who made this function a success were celebrity bus driver Councillor Kerry Gibbons, Helen Ivers and Sue Arnison.



Hathaway residents enjoyed their day at iconic Mayfield Garden

MOVEMBER SHAVE-OFF IN CONDO

After a 35 year relationship with a much loved Mo. Condobolin Rotary member Bob Gill decided to celebrate Movember 2012 with a shave-off to raise funds for Prostate Cancer, Men's Health Check and Beyond Blue.

Condobolin Rotary sponsored Bob \$ for \$ up to \$500 and a member of the club committed to \$35 being \$1

per year of this special relationship. The total raised for men's health was \$1605.

The MO was finally removed on December 5th in full view of the Condobolin High School community who have supported the shave-off and were looking forward to seeing Bob 'unmasked'.



If you look closely at the photo there are elements of the TV character Norman Gunston in the shaved Bob Gill.



WORLD OF ROTARY



SHAKEN, NOT STIRRED FROM 9700 TO NEW ZEALAND

There's always something positive comes out of a meeting with New Zealanders, (test cricket matches aside), and District Governors and their partners from New Zealand and Australia share a special bond each year.

They share their training, aspirations and dreams at several meetings along the way – and many unique friendships evolve.

Such was the case with Governor David and his wife Margaret Drake of Christchurch, NZ (District 9970) met with Governor Ian Simpson and Jean at a Briefing Weekend in Parramatta in July, 2010.

After the first Christchurch earthquake last year, the Simpsons contacted the Drakes to enquire about their safety and possible damage to property.

David told Ian their home had escaped major damage with the only

damage being loss of a few bottles of wine.

Ian reassured their Kiwi mates that he and Jean would make it up to them by way of a couple of bottles of quality Aussie reds when they met in Brisbane in November.

True to their word, Ian and Jean presented David and Margaret with bottles of quality cool climate wine – “North Vine Shiraz”.

The wine was the product of a project by Orange North Rotary in 2010.

Rotarian Ian Davison donated a block of Shiraz grapes from his vineyard on the slopes of Mount Canobolas as a fund raising project.



Rivalry between Australia and New Zealand is subject of much fun in Rotary but this simple act of friendship provides a wonderful symbol of care and concern in life - when it really matters!

DG Ian and Jean present DG David and Margaret Drake of Christchurch NZ with a gift of 2010 vintage 'North Vine Shiraz'

WAGGA SUNRISE CELEBRATES 20 YEARS OF ROTARY



Wagga Sunrise Rotary celebrated the 20th anniversary of the club receiving its charter in November 1991 with a dinner for past and present members at the Wagga R.S.L Club.

The Club was sponsored by Wagga Koorringal Rotary and was the first breakfast club in Rotary District 9700. It began on 29th November with 47 members and with Brian Andrews as first president, and pioneered female Rotary membership in Wagga Wagga.

There are seven charter members who have maintained their membership over the twenty years of the Club's existence: Bernie Benson, Yvonne Braid, Peter Brown, Peter Gissing, Bill O'Rourke, Val Samuelson, and John Wood.

Sunrise Rotary currently has 47 members and 50% are women.

The Club has strongly supported local causes in Wagga Wagga while contributing to national health initiatives and supporting humanitarian

projects across the world.

Club President, Alan Sharp, considers the club has had a productive past twenty years and that the members will ensure that the future is one of service to our community, Australia and developing nations in our world.

Left - President Alan Sharp and Foundation President Brian Andrews cut Sunrise 20th Anniversary cake



IF YOUR CLUB HAS NEWS ABOUT EVENTS, FUNCTIONS, PROJECTS, OR JUST SOME GOOD NEWS YOU WOULD LIKE TO LET OTHER ROTARIANS KNOW ABOUT, CONTACT THE EDITOR AND WE WILL TELL THE WORLD.

EMAIL: IAN DAVISON:

CAA@CIRRUSCOMMS.COM.AU



WORLD OF ROTARY



GRENFELL ROTARIAN IS BURRINJUCK WOMAN OF THE YEAR

Roma Sinclair was named the Burrinjuck 'Woman of the Year' as part of the International Women's Day celebrations in the NSW Parliament House.

The honour was recognition for a lifetime of service to the community of Grenfell including participation in many local community groups, including Rotary.

State MP for Burrinjuck Katrina Hodgkinson said "Roma Sinclair is an excellent role model for women and girls in Grenfell, having worked as a professional pharmacist full time until

the age of 71, and is now, almost a decade later still helping out at the local pharmacy as a locum."

"Roma was also the first female member of the Grenfell Rotary Club and as well as holding the positions of President, Secretary and board member she has also served as a member of the Australian Rotary Health District Committee."

International Women's Day, which is held on 8 March every year, recognises the massive contribution made by women in all societies, in all walks of life, right across the globe.

Grenfell Rotarian & Burrinjuck Woman of the Year Roma Sinclair with State MP Katrina Hodgkinson



PDG BERNIE HUXTABLE REPRESENTS AT STATE POLICE AWARDS



Sydney Rotary hosted the annual 'Rotary NSW Police Officer of the Year Awards' with around 400 people attending the function.

PDG Bernie and Colina Huxtable represented D9700 on the night and presented the Rotary Community Award.

Our nominee in this Award was Senior Constable Judith Crawford of Trundle nominated by Parkes Rotary.

Judith, from Junee, joined the NSW Police Force in 2002 and was one of the three State finalists receiving a Certificate from PDG Bernie. Her first posting was to Miranda in Sydney, then to Parramatta, Lightning Ridge and now Trundle for the past three years.

Features of all finalists were pride in their jobs, being conscious of the honour bestowed and the ability to express themselves eloquently and modestly when referring to loyal team members and commanding officers.

This was matched by the pride and pleasure of their colleagues, including Senior Police Officers present on the night.

This Awards project is very worthwhile and deserves widespread Rotary support because police do a tough job in our communities and recognition is rare.

OPENING OF PARKES ADVENTURE PLAYGROUND

This adventure playground was developed by Parkes Council with a \$100,000 Grant and is situated in the Rotary Arboretum area developed through a District Simplified Grant in 2010-11.

People at the opening (see photo) included: Parkes Mayor Ken Keith, new Rotarian Denise Sinclair, Katrina Hall, Child & Family Health Nurse from Parkes Community Health who was one of the proponents of an adventure playground for children with special needs, Rotary President David Hughes, and Rotarians Lew Laing & Colin Offner.

Parkes Rotary recently planted hundreds of shrubs to beautify the surrounds of the playground and the Arboretum.



Design of childrens playgrounds has changed considerably over the years

GARDEN PARTY SUPPORTS STREET SWAGS FOR THE HOMELESS

Coolamon Rotary President Marg Perkin conducted a novel fundraiser in support of homeless people in our District.

22 women came together in the Perkin's extensive country garden to enjoy a glass of wine and afternoon tea on a perfect spring day.

Those in attendance inspected a 'swag' and two visitors shared their individual career stories under the shade of the Kurrajong trees.

Marg's husband Garth supported as the drinks waiter on the day.

The afternoon raised \$200 for the Swags with Coolamon Rotary contributing the balance of a \$500 donation to Jean Simpsons 2011-12 Partners Program.

Stories were shared and drinks served to benefit the homeless in D9700



AUSTRALIAN ROTARY HEALTH DISTRICT BOARD MEMBER

PDG John Egan has been elected to the Board of Australian Rotary Health for the next three years.

The election took place at the AGM held at the Rotary Institute in Brisbane.

John first became interested in the work of Australian

Rotary Health when the organisation was working on research into Sudden Infant Death Syndrome.

In recent years the recent upsurge in need for Mental Health awareness, especially in our farming based District, has focused attention on the important research being undertaken by the organisation.

Being involved with Mental Health Seminars held during the drought, and seeing how people really responded created a desire to become more involved.

Congratulations to John on behalf of the District.



New Australian Rotary Health Board member PDG John Egan

FIRST DISTRICT ROYCE ABBAY AWARD

Wagga Sunrise Rotary has contributed \$1000 to bestow a Royce Abbey Award on Timothy Stait a relatively new Rotary club member to recognise his participation in club activities. This is the first Award presented by Wagga Sunrise.



Photo - Royce Abbey Award recipient Timothy Stait with AG Gary Roberts & D9700 Service Dir Noelene Hogan

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Santa visits 25th December 2011
- Special Pre-release film screening of 'THE BEST EXOTIC MARI-GOLD HOTEL' to raise funds for the \$200 Million Polio Challenge – week of 23rd February 2012
- President Elect Training Seminar (PETS), Young – 25 & 26 February 2012
- District 9700 Conference, Young - Friday 23rd to Sunday 25th March 2012 Registrations NOW OPEN See the District website for 'Conference in Young, and BOOK EARLY, BOOK OFTEN!!!
- RI Convention, Bangkok - 6-9 May 2012 (join the District 9700 party)
- D9700 Rotary Rovin – Boorowa to Blayney via Balranald – 20th to 27th May 2012
- District ChangeOver Dinner, Leeton, 30th June 2012

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

PAUL HARRIS FELLOW PRESENTATIONS

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

Greg Watterson – Bathurst
Geoff Burton – Bathurst
Vici Murdoch – Wagga Wagga
Mathew Ratray – Oberon
Terry Kennedy - Junee

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

Colin Lamrock – Parkes
Graeme Dean - Parkes
Val Samuelson – Wagga Wagga Sunrise (Charter member)
Bernard Benson – Wagga Wagga Sunrise
Peter Gissing – Wagga Wagga Sunrise
[Sapphire Pin](#)
Ken Engsmyr - Parkes

VALE

John Braid

John joined South Wagga Rotary in 1972 and he was the second longest serving member.

He was always an active participant in Club service activities and gave freely of his time to the club and community through his very successful company, Wagga Motors.

DESTINATION BANGKOK RI CONVENTION 2012

There are two timeless images of Bangkok, Thailand – the City of Angels in the Land of a Thousand Smiles.

One is the temples and the other the canals and floating markets.

Join the D9700 crew attending the RI Convention in Bangkok, Thailand, from 6-9 May 2012.



Bookings can be made on-line and Marilyn Roberts (AG Gary Roberts wife) has put together an easy to follow 'How to Register for the Bangkok Rotary Convention 2012 for 1st Timers'.

Further information is available in the October edition of Rotary Down Under – out now.

