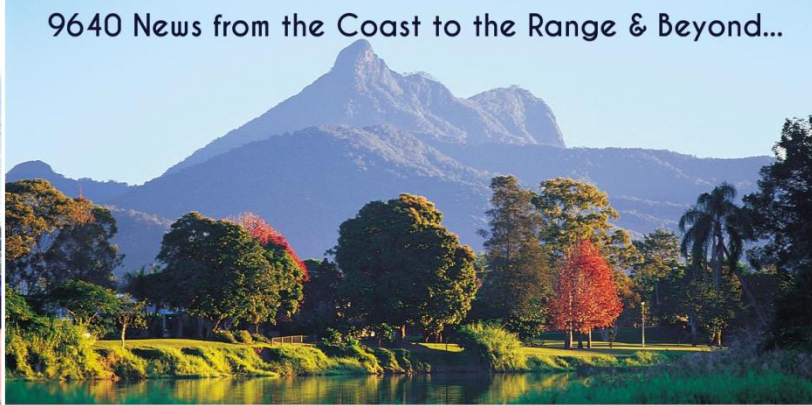




DG JEFF EGAN
& KAILEEN

9640 News from the Coast to the Range & Beyond...



DISTRICT GOVERNOR'S NEWSLETTER

Edition 8
February 2022

Jeff's Journal

FEBRUARY IS Peace and Conflict Prevention/Resolution Month



Rotary has been actively involved in Peace and Conflict Resolution almost from its inception. In 1914 the Rotary Convention in Houston, amid gathering tensions in Europe, adopted a resolution calling for international peace and for all Rotarians to support the international peace movement. Alas it did not prevent the outbreak of World War I but Rotary did not give up on its aim. At its Convention in Edinburgh in 1921 Rotary adopted the Advancement of International Peace and Goodwill as an object of Rotary.

But Rotarians did more than merely pass resolutions regarding peace. In 1934 nine Rotarians (3 from Bolivia, 3 from Paraguay, 2 from Argentina and 1 from Uruguay) were largely responsible for bringing an end to the Chaco War between Bolivia and Paraguay by their peace keeping efforts in the repatriation of prisoners of war, the facilitation of the exchange of mail between prisoners of war and their families and the distribution of clothing, food and medical aid to both sides.

During World War II Rotarians in Britain convened a conference for world peace attended by 21 nations, the outcome of which was a world body serving as a forum for the exchange of ideas in culture, education and science which later led to the establishment of UNESCO (the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation). Rotarians were prominent in the establishment of the United Nations in 1945 where 23 Rotarians guided agendas, provided translations, worded resolutions and resolved disputes between delegates at the UN Charter Conference. Rotarians were amongst the members of 27 of the 50 nations who sent delegations to the initial UN Assembly. Rotary has a permanent seat in the General Assembly of the United Nations in recognition of the work of its members in fostering goodwill and peace across national boundaries.

In 1947 Rotarians from the Bombay Club took to their city's streets as peacemakers amid riots between Hindus and Muslims in order to reduce tensions. In the same year when war threatened between Peru and Colombia the friendship of two Rotarians who understood the value of peace quelled tensions and helped to prevent conflict.

In 1980 Rotary International President James L. Bomar of the United States intervened in a border dispute between Argentina and Chile and convened a goodwill conference of 45 couples from each country the upshot of which was that the delegates found common ground and the dispute was resolved.

In 1994 the Rotary Club of Oslo-Skaven in Norway launched the Shalom-Salaam Peace Project holding an all-expenses paid study program for groups of university students, one half Israeli, the other half Palestinian, each summer in Oslo with a view to each side developing a different perspective and different understanding of other side. Of course, there is still conflict in the Middle East but it would have been worse without this project.

So, what is Rotary doing now in the area of Peace and Conflict Resolution? Through funding from the Rotary Foundation, Rotary since 2002 has annually awarded Rotary Peace Fellow Scholarships to suitable applicants to study at a Rotary Peace Centres at one of 7 universities throughout the world including the University of Queensland. The courses offered are a Master's Degree or Post Graduate Certificate in Peace and Development Studies. Courses are of up to 24 months in duration and about 130 are awarded each year throughout the world. This year two candidates applied to our District for endorsement as suitable candidates, with one of whom being granted an alternative position i.e. his place is dependent upon another not taking up the scholarship. My thanks to the District's Peace Fellowship Chair, Mokhtar Singh from the Rotary Club of Varsity Lakes, who co-ordinated the application process.

Other Rotary Program's such as Youth Exchange, Group Study Exchange, Rotary Friendship Exchange and various Rotary Action Groups also contribute to Rotary's object of Peace and Conflict Resolution as

they forge friendships and promote the understanding of other's points of view across the globe.

Many of Rotary's humanitarian projects also indirectly promote Peace and Conflict Resolution as they lessen the chance that the seeds of conflict such as hunger,

sickness, illiteracy and economic disaster will germinate.

Rotary's work in the field of Peace and Conflict Resolution should make as all proud to be Rotarians.



EXCITING NEWS REGARDING DISTRICT EXPO

I am pleased to announce that Lady Elliot Island have kindly donated the following prize which will be drawn at the District Expo: Two Nights' Accommodation on Lady Elliot Island in a Reef Unit with flights from Hervey Bay or Bundaberg for 2 Adults Valued at \$2,146. Includes: Breakfast & Dinner daily, Combined Glass Bottom Boat/Snorkel Tour, and Range of Guided Activities/Tours.

All you need to be eligible is to register for District Expo. **Register [HERE](#)**

To find out more about this fantastic prize and Lady Elliot Island Eco Resort, please visit ladyelliottisland.com.au and seairpacific.com.au

END POLIO CAMPAIGN UPDATE

January 27 was a red letter day for Pakistan – Polio free for the last 12 months. At January 11, the number of wild polio virus cases in the world were unchanged from last year - five - one in Pakistan and four in Afghanistan. Of the four cases in Afghanistan in 2021, three emanated from a single area in Pakistan. There were 410 positive environmental samples in Pakistan in 2020 but, in the last six months of 2021, there were only six.

Further good news from this vital campaign area is that organisers now have access to sufficient volunteers/paid workers to maintain the impetus.



It is vital that our fundraising continues so as to build on these positive results. How can you or your Club help?

✓ All Rotarians committing to the challenge of personal giving to Polio – no matter how large or small the amount of the donation. Forming a Clem Renouf Polio Club within your Rotary Club at just \$10 per year is a great way to start or perhaps requesting individual \$100 Centurion membership donations to be dropped into the TRF Polio fund?

✓ All Clubs to commit to RI President Shekhar Mehta's request for a US\$1,500 donation to END POLIO NOW.

www.endpolio.org

AUSTRALIA DAY HONOURS



Congratulations to Sam Doumany (Member of the Rotary Club of Hope Island), Roger Emmerson (Honorary Member of the Rotary Club of Hope Island) and Des Harvey (Member of the Rotary Club of Grafton Middy) on their Australia Day Honours.



Sam was appointed a Member (AM) in the General Division of the Order of Australia for significant service to parliament and politics in Queensland, and to the community.

Roger received the Medal (OAM) of the Order of Australia in the General Division for service to the community through a range of organisations.

Des also received the Medal (OAM) of the Order of Australia in the General Division for service to the community of the Clarence Valley.

District Governor Jeff Egan

And whaddya want me to do about it?

February is Peace and Conflict Prevention Month.

The media is running hot: Russia musters tanks and ballistic missiles on the border of Ukraine. China is determined to bring Taiwan “back into the fold”, and.. and... Yup. **And whaddya want me to do about it?**

That is the obvious question the average ‘Mr & Ms Average’ ask themselves. *[Is there such a thing as a Mr & Ms Average? After all, we are all individuals, aren't we? Like everybody else.]* One gets a feeling of helplessness and irrelevance; if one has relatives “over there”, even anxiety. Whenever the subject of Peace and Conflict Prevention is brought up, the first thing that pops into your mind is international conflict. We visualise war, in whatever form, from economic coercion all the way to... (shudder).

Our club has in recent years proudly sponsored multiple International Peace Fellowships. But Peace and Conflict is not limited to international, political boundaries. It is as much an issue in the work place and at home. Just ask your local police officer how

many Domestic Violence incidents they respond to every day. In Australia, the statistics are stark: according to the Federal Government's Australian Institute of Health and Welfare ([AIHW](#)), one in six women have experienced physical and/or sexual violence by a current or former partner, but men are not entirely safe: there, the ratio is 1 in 16. But it's not just the immediate violence that concerns us. DV is one of the leading causes of homelessness. And, by the way, DV is not just happening in the so-called ‘lower socioeconomic classes’.

So where do we come in as Rotarians? Well, if it is that pervasive as one in six, perhaps it occurs right in your neighbourhood. Perhaps you could take an active role, at least advise the authorities, if not “give an ear” to a person whom you know (or suspect) is affected. If you don't want to be directly involved, you can volunteer or donate. Pick your favourite charity, from Mission Australia, the Salvation Army, Lifeline, Vinnies; they are all battling this insidious disease.

Franz Huber | Rotary Club of Surfers Sunrise Inc

ROTARY PEACE FELLOWSHIPS

APPLY TODAY
Find more information and start an application at rotary.org/peace-fellowships.
[Facebook.com/rotarycenters](https://facebook.com/rotarycenters)

Rotary  



ROTARY PEACE FELLOWSHIPS

The 2023-24 Rotary Peace Fellowship application will be available in February, 2022. Every year, districts must submit endorsed applications to The Rotary Foundation by 1 July.

There are 2 programs:

- Masters Degree
- Professional Development Certificate Program

For more information on District endorsement and eligibility: my.rotary.org/en/take-action/empower-leaders/support-peace-centers

Mokhtiar Singh | Peace Fellowship Chair | Varsity Lakes Rotary

GRAFTON MIDDAY ROTARY NAMES SARAH RIGBY-PIERSE AS 2022 FRANK GLASSON SCHOLAR



Sarah Rigby-Pierse (right) with (L to R) Grafton Midday Rotary scholarship committee representatives Richard Nichols, Leila Thompson and Judy Glasson.

Sarah Rigby-Pierse was presented with the Frank Glasson scholarship at a recent club meeting.

Leila Thompson, Midday Rotary Youth Director, welcomed Sarah as a worthy recipient of the \$3500 scholarship which was inspired by the dedication of one of our club's foundation members, Frank Glasson, who was professionally concerned with finding work for unemployed members of our community and was

particularly dedicated to assisting young people in their endeavours to establish futures.

Leila Thompson congratulated Sarah for her outstanding qualities which included involvement with Girl Guides, Grafton City Soccer Club, Grafton High Student Representative Council, her role as Prefect and participant in their Peer Support Program.

Sarah thanked Grafton Midday Rotary members at a recent club meeting explaining that the scholarship will assist her to undertake a Bachelor of Education at the Charles Sturt University campus in Port Macquarie. Sarah outlined her aim to give back to the community, particularly to encourage students to learn about the opportunities that may be provided by Visual Arts, one of her personal interests. Furthermore, as an individual from a regional area, she hopes to teach children regionally.

Brian Lane | Grafton Midday Rotary - Publicity

HONOURING MARION AND GRAHAM JONES

Griffith Gold Coast Rotary recently joined forces with Griffith University and the Glycomic Institute to celebrate and honour the tremendous contributions Marion and Graham Jones they have made to Rotary, the Malaria Vaccine Project and our wider community. Guest speakers told of the dynamic couple's untiring work on multiple projects, as well as the mentorship and friendship they give to us all. Organisers were able to keep the event a complete surprise from the couple.

Marion and Graham were each presented with a book containing tributes from Rotarians, including PRIP Ian Risely, and others who admire their dedication and work. A seat was also dedicated to them both and will be installed on the Griffith University campus.

Rhonda Whitton | Griffith Gold Coast



PARTNERS PROJECT - SOLARBUBBLY

We wanted to share these images we received of the beautiful students at Sao Jose Operaria Primary School with their newly gifted SolarBuddy lights! This was our first distribution in Timor-Leste since 2019 and was conducted by our new partner, [WithOneSeed!](#) With approximately 40% of the students at this school being female, the lights were also gifted with reusable sanitary packs from [Days for Girls International](#).

250 lights were gifted, resulting in the following impact:

- 💡 1250 Lives have been impacted
- 💡 547,500 study hours created over 3 years
- 💡 38,750 tonnes of CO2 emissions offset
- 💡 80% reduction in kerosene expenditure
- 💡 Equivalent to planting 650 trees in 10 years

A special thank you to all the rotary members who played a significant role in the logistics and customs coordination!



SEWING FOR TONGA

Rotarians are joining forces to send much needed items to Tonga following the recent volcanic eruption and tsunami. In particular, kids clothing is needed.



A couple of industrious Rotarians from our District are sewing simple dresses (adjustable for growing girls) and shorts that can either be worn under the dresses as the girl grows, or as school shorts for both boys and girls.



If you are interested in helping us sew these items, please email sew4rotary@gmail.com and we can give you more info and provide the patterns - which are simple to construct.

There is also a need for school items such as pens, pencils, exercise/colouring books, pencil sharpeners, coloured pencils, etc.

Rhonda Whitton | Griffith Gold Coast

Australia Day Beach Clean Up - Gold Coast Passport Rotary

Our Passport Club organised another successful Australia Day Beach Clean Up to honour and pay respect to the beaches and landowners of our beautiful Kombumerri families of the Yugambeh Language region by gathering together to protect them!

We continue our commitment to environment and sustainability with our annual Australia Day Clean Up Day. We met at Mermaid Beach Surf Club at 9am for a mega beach clean up to celebrate how blessed we are!

This fundraising page has also been set up if you would like to help: [Donate](#)

Kasia Brzezicka | Club President | Gold Coast Passport Rotary



THE ROTARY CLUBS OF NSW POLICE OFFICER OF THE YEAR AWARDS 2021



FRIDAY 29 APRIL 2022

HYATT REGENCY, SYDNEY 6:30pm to 11:30pm

The awards provide statewide community recognition to sworn and unsworn officers for excellence in police service.

Tom Steinfort will host the evening of entertainment and a wide range of food and beverages will also be served.

Visit www.sydneypolice.com for tickets

Cost: \$100 per person or
\$2000 per Corporate Table

BOOK NOW AND DON'T MISS OUT



Grafton Midday Rotary's - We're all part of the story - Australia Day Event 2022



Grafton Midday Rotary we're fortunate enough to be awarded a \$28,000 grant from the National Australia Day Council to host an inclusive event in Market Square, Grafton on Australia Day with 3 weeks' notice to organise it. The event was an incredible success.

A small organising committee from the club was formed and certainly recognised that Australia Day held many different meanings for a lot of people and that it was classified as invasion day by the First Nations people. A meeting was held with leaders from the local Aboriginal community and a respectful plan for the event was developed to include all people from the local Bundgalung, Gumbaynggirr and Yaegel nations. An event to educate the community and teach them to reflect and respect on the date each year.

It was a free community event and included, a sausage sizzle, lamingtons, fruit and samples of traditional bush tucker including marinated kangaroo, bush salted macadamia nuts, fry bread, damper and traditional bush spreads supplied by Bakarindi, a local Aboriginal condiments business.

An abundance of free activities and workshops were on offer at the event with the majority led by the local Aboriginal community. These included: Arts & Crafts, Boomerang Painting, Basket Weaving, Story Sharing, Face Painting, Games & Competitions and Jumping Castles



The live stage entertainment was phenomenal lead by the Master of Ceremonies, Desan Padayachee. The entertainment included: Guest of Honour, Poppy Harry Walker with a very memorable and educational Welcome to Country, Didgeridoo performance by Manduway, Aboriginal & TI Performer Dion Drummond, Maanyung & Manduway, Ryan Martin Trio, Shottibar - Dave Ferguson & Carl Daley and Gary Brown.

A big thank you is extended to everyone that came out and shared their stories and contributed to this amazing event. Grafton Midday Rotary Club and The Rotary Club of Grafton members were an amazing help on the day along with Assistant District Governor, Anne Farrell. The local Girl Guides, Scouts and Army Cadets groups were also amazing volunteers with a donation going to each group.

The advantage of the grant meant that the event could be free for the community, with brilliant activities and entertainment. It also meant that over \$10,000 could be put back into our local Aboriginal community and \$18,000 back into small local businesses and services. So the event benefited the entire community and certainly put Grafton Midday Rotary on the map as an inclusive local club and will hopefully encourage new membership.

Mark Blackadder | Grafton Midday Rotary

