As you know, every month is dedicated to one of the major themes of our Rotary lives and this month is Vocational Service month. During January, Rotarians are encouraged to focus on this important avenue of Rotary service. Discussions on vocational service can lead to projects that not only develop the ethical consciousness and vocational skills of Rotarians but also the talents within their communities. Vocational Service Month is an opportunity to begin year-long vocational service activities, ranging from Rotary discussions to awards to community projects. Following are some suggested activities to undertake during Vocational Service Month:

- Devote a meeting in January to examine the second Avenue of Service, including The Four-Way Test and The Declaration of Rotarians in Business and Professions. After expanding members’ awareness, solicit their input in planning projects for the remainder of the year.
- Introduce a “mini-classifications talk” series in which each member gives a five-minute talk on his or her vocation. Schedule one speaker for the beginning of each meeting until everyone has made a presentation. The purpose of these talks is to promote vocational awareness among Rotarians and help them recognise the worthiness of all useful occupations.
- Present a vocational award to someone in the community who has exemplified outstanding professional achievement while maintaining very high ethical standards. Promote the presentation within the community and consider making it an annual October event.
- Invite experts to give a presentation on the vocational needs of the community and develop a project in response to those needs. Possible projects could focus on developing character, providing career information to youth, mentoring small businesses, or organising workshops that provide employees with new skills.
- Encourage club members to put their vocational skills to work as a Rotary Volunteer.

Welcome to 2020 and what a year 2019 was! I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our clubs and members for the incredible amount of work that you all achieved in supporting efforts to assist communities affected by drought and bushfire, at the same time retaining focus on the many projects that you all do at club level. Of course, 2019 had a very sad ending for my family with the unexpected loss of my brother and on behalf of Shauna and myself I thank all of you for your kind thoughts and messages during this difficult period.

As I write this newsletter the fires in NSW and Victoria are relentless with devastating impacts that will last for many years to come. Unfortunately for many people the mental impact of this event may never be overcome, so as we look toward 2020, we do so, knowing that there is much work for our district and Rotary in Australia to achieve.
Conference 2020 looms large with registrations open. For those who have missed the early bird registrations (like Shauna and myself), you will find that the registration fee is still very reasonable and offers value for money. Final planning stages are in place and I remind all members that registration and accommodation needs to be a priority if you are attending.

Any club or Rotary individual wishing to promote their Rotary projects are welcome to apply to have a booth at the House of Friendship during the District Conference 2020. Please make application to Skye Stapleton – Booth Co-Ordinator by email at skye.stapleton1@bigpond.com or telephone Mobile 0409 072 772. Closing date 21 February 2020.

As we have discussed during my club visits the conference theme is “Rotary Connects Communities”. The theme was developed in conjunction with Rotary International President, Mark Maloney’s theme of Rotary Connects the World. During this year’s conference we will focus on all the community engagement work and partnerships that have been created during this past 12 months of extreme events.

To assist in preparing for conference and our first guest speaker of conference, Jo Taranto from “Good for the Hood”, I request that you all complete this online survey that was sent out by District Secretary Brian in 2019. Please Click HERE to fill in the survey.

The month that was

December was another busy month for our district with continued distribution of water and fodder and other assistance to drought and bushfire affected communities. Following is a report from PDG David Lee discussing the contribution being made by the Tenterfield Granite Belt Satellite Club.

“Through the initiative of and phenomenal support of friends and Rotary Clubs on the Gold Coast “WATER FOR THE WEST” began.

Water is donated by Gold Coast Rotary Clubs, Rotary friends and businesses which is given to any people in need - with no questions asked. Monetary donations have come from as far as Vienna - money being used to purchase bulk water for people in desperate need. Drinking water in bottles and 5 litre and 10 litre containers is delivered regularly to our Rotary Club from the Gold Coast - this is distributed by members of our club to schools and families on farms that have no access to the town water. Drinking water in 1,000 litre pods is delivered to many homes in desperate need as their tanks have become completely dry. Since September our Rotary Club members have travelled more than 16500 km delivering almost 482487 litres of drinking water totalling 426 deliveries to families in desperate need.” Contributed by PDG David Lee

The Tenterfield Rotary Club has also contributed significantly by distributing in excess of $24,000 of bulk potable water to rural families in their area. This water is delivered by our local water carriers (we only have 3 registered water carriers) and each family receives 6000lt per delivery. To date the Tenterfield Rotary Club has delivered approximately 164 loads of water with some families requiring a second or third load.

Fodder for the West (Hope Island Rotary)

This project coordinated between the Hope Island Rotary Club and Tenterfield Rotary Club is a Rotary Club of Hope Island project founded by Fran Ward Emmerson to provide fodder to farming families to preserve their breeding stocks. The project has hit the ground running and in the first fortnight of operation delivered some much-needed Christmas cheer to 20 farming families within District 9640. Following is a breakdown of what has been delivered in few short weeks. The program will continue to run during 2020.

- 488 tonnes of Hay
- 100 tonnes of Soya Pellets
- 22 tonnes of Cattle Nuts
- 43 tonnes of Barley Grain

Feeding:
- 10,000 Sheep
- 6,608 Cows
- 146 Bulls
- 1813 Weaners and calves

And assisted:
- 20 farming families
- Distributing $250,000 so far

Contributed by Rotarian Fran Ward-Emmerson
Casino Rotary Club and Rappville Bushfire

The Casino Rotary Club were quick to respond to assist residents who were impacted by the devastating Rappville fire. As soon as the area was declared safe, Casino Rotarians visited the community assisting with a community BBQ and get together and offering a friendly ear. Since the fires went through our district Casino Rotary has been busy distributing funds that have been generously given by many of our District 9640 Rotary Clubs and private donations. Casino Rotary have also been working with many other groups, including Lismore and Goonellabah Rotary Clubs and charitable organisations aiding areas such as Whiporie, Tabulam and Drake. Funds have been also distributed to Blaze Aid ($20,000) to assist with fence line clearing and repair. Currently members from the Casino Rotary Club have a program where they go out each week visiting local farmers to check on their wellbeing and offering any assistance they may need.

What great examples of Rotary connecting with communities! Well done to all.

ROTARACT Conference 2020

A reminder that the 2020 National Rotaract conference will be held over the weekend 8-9 February 2020 at Griffith University on the Gold Coast. This conference will be a great opportunity for your club to sponsor younger people who have been identified within your community that may be interested in joining or assisting to develop a ROTARACT Club in your community. Further details can be viewed at: www.conference.rotaract.org.au

District Governor Elect

I am pleased to announce that I have received two excellent nominations for the position of District Governor Elect for 2020-21 and that the selection process will be finalised over the coming weeks.

Water for the West DG Appeal

Unfortunately the need for water for the west has not reduced in any of our key areas and with the 2020 weather outlook not looking positive, the provision of water to our rural families will continue to be a focus for our clubs on the New England, Granite Belt and Southern Downs. I am also aware that there will be an even greater need to assist our southern cousins who are currently experiencing atrocious conditions and to this end I will discuss with my G train to develop an appropriate response to this terrible situation.

Contributions can be made to the District 9640 Drought Appeal Fund 2019/20.

NAB Account: RI District 9640 Ltd BSB: 084 462 Account Number: 79 639 5692 Reference: WTD

MEMBERSHIP

I would like to congratulate all clubs that have made an obvious effort to focus on membership and the work done has seen an excellent result for our district so far. Today our membership is 1255 and has eclipsed my personal target of 1250 by the end of my year. Of course, the work does not stop here as we have also lost a further 35 members during the same period. As we work our way through the remainder of this Rotary year, I encourage you all to again, review your operations, assess the health of your club and hold open and genuine discussions with all club members to ensure that your club is; friendly, productive, engaging, diverse and most of all relevant to all members and community.

AWARDS

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT 9640 AWARDS 2019-20

A reminder to all clubs that nominations for District awards is now open and all clubs should be working on their nominations (a list of awards can be viewed on the Conference website). Closing Date: 12noon, Friday 28th Feb 2020.

Please forward all entries (preferably in electronic format) to:
District Awards Committee Chairman, Alan Weston (M) 0418 664 712 or Email bigal@westnet.com.au
Postal Address: 54 Stanley Street, Maclean NSW 2463
MALARIA VACCINE PROJECT (Partner’s Project)

Thank you to the clubs that have already donated to the Malaria Vaccine Project. Please consider a donation if you have not already done so, the team at Griffith University Gold Coast Campus will make good use of your contribution. District Governor Elect Andy Rajapaske made the announcement in December 2019 of the 1st corporate partner of the Rotary D9640 Malaria Vaccine Research Project, MBA Lawyers on the Gold Coast. Congratulations.

Contributions can be made to:
NAB Account: RI District 9640 Ltd  BSB: 084 462  Account Number: 79 639 5692  Reference: MVP

Have a great month everyone. Enjoy the rest of this newsletter. **DG Harry Bolton**

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It has been a special year for the Malaria Vaccine Project. The Gold Coast Clinical Trials to test the efficacy of Professor Good’s promising vaccine with humans have gone very well and thanks to your help and a matching grant of $500,000 from the Australian Government we have raised AUD $1.12 million. This is even more incredible given the challenges of drought, fire and water that ravage our rural and even coastal communities.

The 2020 trials will be with a larger sample of volunteers in Australia but these trials are expected to be the forerunner for 2021 clinical trials in overseas countries where the vaccine is sorely needed. This will be very expensive (our target is now about $2 million) but critical in reaching our goal to eliminate Malaria worldwide.

A BIG THANK YOU for your ongoing and extremely generous support of our project. Please continue your support to help us reach a Malaria-free world where children are safe from this terrible killer disease.

**Professor Emeritus Graham Jones AM | PDG & Chair of the Malaria Vaccine Committee**

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Guilty as charged, your Honour!

OK, first the good news: I’ve just read of the appointment of Dr Jesse Harman of the Rotary Club of Wendouree, near Ballarat VIC, as “our” Zone Director to the Rotary International Board. *(Yes, Henrietta, I just found out that DGE Andy had published this on his Facebook Page ages ago, but you insisted that I tidy up the garage.)* And yes, I now know she is not just a pretty face: Jesse holds a Doctor’s Degree (in Social Entrepreneurship, so don’t ask her about your ingrown toenail! 😊) and is Pro Vice Chancellor of Federation University Australia. And I’ve just learned that she was introduced to Rotary as a RYLA participant in 1987, and that she is a Past District Governor and Past just about every other high office that can be attained in Rotary.

So why do I sound a bit grumpy? After all, Jesse will make a refreshing addition to a Rotary International Board overwhelmingly male (18 to 2 in the current board, actually), and it wouldn’t even surprise me if she ended up to be the first female RI President sometimes down the track. Again, why do I feel grumpy? Well, if I was to know of a person of her qualifications, of her calibre and high profile in society, I would not even have considered asking her to join my club. “Holding down her job, with a family and three kids, she wouldn’t have time to scratch herself!” would have been my excuse. Anyway, she certainly wouldn’t want to join a Breakfast Club... Yes, your Honour, guilty as charged.

So, this being the period of the year when our New Year’s Resolutions start to conveniently fade into distant memory, perhaps now is the time to firmly commit to just the one: **By the end of 2020, I will have witnessed the induction of a new member into my Rotary Club who was introduced by me.** Doesn’t make a difference whether male or female though, but yes, a high profile lady like Dr Jesse would be great! So now, start thinking about who you could contact, then... Just Do It!

**Franz Huber | Rotary Club of Surfers Sunrise Inc**
The International Fellowship of Motorcycling Rotarians was started in 1992 in Australia and has grown to have chapters across the globe. In Australia we have about 100 members spread across the states who share a love of all things motorcycling. Apart from the regular newsletter and other communications, we have local get togethers, short and long member organised rides and even opportunities to ride internationally with other chapter members only too happy to help us with on the ground details and share the comradery that comes from riding together in different places. In Australia, around October-November, we have our AGM meeting held in different places each year. Members, partners, and friends travel (ride or drive) from their various hometowns to a central location chosen both for convenience and great riding experiences. Over a few days together we enjoy group rides and sample the local area attractions, the inevitable drinks, dinners and the frivolity that comes with all of that.

Every few years we plan a very special ride and invite IFMR members from Australia and other global chapters to join us. We last did this in 2017: AIR17 saw 25 bikes and 40 people travel 4800kms over 14 days from Sydney to Port Augusta/Adelaide and back to Sydney via the coastal road. 15 of the travellers were from 6 different countries. Most did the whole ride, some did different parts only.

Our next International invitation ride (AIR2020) is in the 4th quarter of this year. We leave Sydney Sat 17th October, heading north to Tweed Heads/Gold Coast before heading south to Canberra and Melbourne. We will avoid the highways preferring motorcycle friendly roads by crisscrossing the Great Divide on some iconic roads many times. Our AGM will coincide with the AIR2020 group in Canberra on Wed 28th October. Many will then ride south via Phillip Island arriving Melbourne on Sun 3rd November. Others will head to Sydney from Canberra. The group ride will be led by local members and supported with an excess luggage vehicle and motorcycling carrying trailer to assist breakdowns. The AIR2020 organising committee have contacts that can arrange motorcycle hire and have made arrangements with recommended hotel/motel accommodation providers. There will be some organised events along the way and if convenient we catch up with local Rotary club members.

The AIR2020 entourage will be in our District 9640 during October for 4 nights staying at Lismore on Tue 20th, Tweed Heads Wed/Thu 21st/22nd and Tenterfield Fri 23rd. Local Rotary clubs along the way will be contacted directly and well in advance and we look forward to our group enjoying this lovely part of Australia and sharing local experiences together with Rotary friends.

IFMR is not focused on typical avenues of Rotary service, but unashamedly a social group for Rotarians, partners and the general alumni of Rotary (past and present) to share a common love of motorcycling. Membership costs are minimal, and we keep administration overheads low. Having said that, after AIR17 we donated over $5,400 to the Royal Flying Doctor Service.

Does any of this interest you? Want to know more about the IFMR and AIR2020? Website: www.ifmraustralia.org District 9640 IFMR and AIR2020 contact: Lionel Cansdale (Mt Warning AM -Murwillumbah) Ph 0419 664 392 Email: lionelcansdale@bigpond.com
Due to recent events we have received queries from various Rotary Districts and Clubs in relation to the insurance coverage for Volunteers that are offering their assistance to help manage the bushfire relief through these difficult times.

To help clarify the current National Insurance Program will cover any Rotarians who are working as volunteers with local authorities or any non-Rotarian organisations, for example Salvation Army.

This is also the case if the activity or event is organised by a Rotary Club in your District. In these circumstances we assume that an Insurance Proforma will be forwarded to the DIO, and the appropriate risk management process will take place as has been done in the past. Due care should always be taken within what is reasonably able to be done to ensure the health and safety of Volunteers, which take into account some of the following:

- the type of work undertaken – the level of skill and qualification required
- the nature of the risks associated with that work and the likelihood of injury or illness occurring
- what can be done to eliminate or minimise those risks, and
- the location or environment where the work is carried out.
- observe and follow local and state legislation and any other statutory requirements

The Insurance Program will also extend to cover those Volunteers who are not Rotarians but will be assisting in connection with a “Rotary organised activity”, in other words if it is not a Rotary event there is no cover for the non Rotarian Volunteer. Volunteers who are working and have no connection with Rotary should seek insurance cover through their own organisations.

As a reminder, all medical claims should be made to Medicare in the first instance, with non-Medicare items being claimable under the Rotary PA policy to a limit of $5,000.

Olivia Bazzoni | Client Manager - Global and Corporate | Aon

JUST FOR FUN - SPIN, THE AUSTRALIAN WAY

No matter what side of the political fence you’re on, THIS is FUNNY and VERY telling! It just all depends on how you look at the same things.

Judy Rudd, an amateur genealogy researcher in south east Queensland, was doing some personal work on her own family tree. She discovered that ex-Prime Minister Kevin Rudd’s great-great uncle, Remus Rudd, was hanged for horse stealing and train robbery in Melbourne in 1889. Both Judy and Kevin Rudd share this common ancestor.

The only known photograph of Remus shows him standing on the gallows at the Melbourne Jail.

On the back of the picture Judy obtained during her research is this inscription:

'Remus Rudd horse thief, sent to Melbourne Jail 1885, escaped 1887, robbed the Melbourne-Geelong train six times. Caught by Victoria Police Force, convicted and hanged in 1889.'

So Judy recently e-mailed ex-Prime Minister Rudd for information about their great-great uncle, Remus Rudd.

Believe it or not, Kevin Rudd’s staff sent back the following for her genealogy research:

"Remus Rudd was famous in Victoria during the mid to late 1800s.
His business empire grew to include acquisition of valuable equestrian assets and intimate dealings with the Melbourne-Geelong Railroad.
Beginning in 1883, he devoted several years of his life to government service, finally taking leave to resume his dealings with the railroad.
In 1887, he was a key player in a vital investigation run by the Victoria Police Force.
In 1889, Remus passed away during an important civic function held in his honour when the platform upon which he was standing collapsed."

NOW That's how it's done, Folks!
PROJECT VISION
‘To prevent cervical cancer and save the lives of children in the Pacific’

More women die from cervical cancer in Pacific Island countries than in New Zealand or Australia and, in parts of the Pacific, nearly 1 in 16 children die before their 5th birthday from vaccine preventable diseases. We’re going to stop that!

To celebrate 100 years of Rotary in Australia and New Zealand, we’ve teamed up with UNICEF to give life-saving vaccines to 100,000 children across the Pacific. Rotary, Give Every Child A Future is a sustainable project that will ensure generations of children and women are protected against cervical cancer, rotavirus and pneumococcal disease.

THE CHALLENGE
Despite improvements in vaccines programs, the poorest and hardest to reach children are still being left behind. Diseases such as pneumonia and diarrhoea remain leading killers of children under five years and high rates of life-threatening cervical cancer continue to devastate Pacific Island families. Poor health systems, limited government resources, environmental challenges and families living in difficult to reach areas mean children are missing out on life-saving vaccines.

OUR GOALS
To protect 100,000 children from rotavirus, pneumococcal disease and cervical cancer, across nine Pacific Island Countries: Nauru, Tuvalu, Samoa, Vanuatu, Tonga, Niue, Cook Islands, Kiribati and Tokelau over three years:

- HPV vaccine for girls to prevent cervical cancer in later life
- Rotavirus and pneumococcal vaccines for all children to reduce illness and deaths from gastroenteritis, pneumonias, meningitis and bacteraemia
- To strengthen the immunisation programs in each country so that these vaccines continue to be delivered to future generations of children.

HOW WILL WE DO THIS?
In partnership with UNICEF, Rotary will develop and implement immunisation programs that will deliver three vaccines to children across nine Pacific Island countries. Working with these countries, governments we will ensure the programs are sustainable, protecting families for generations to come.

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) announced in November 2018 that it would provide financing to the governments of Samoa, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu to introduce these three vaccines. Independently Rotary will fund some regional and other supporting activities in those four countries. It will also fully fund a similar program in the other five countries independently of ADB.

WHY NOW?
In 2021 Rotary International in Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific will be 100 years old following the establishment in 1921 of Rotary Clubs in Melbourne, Sydney, Auckland and Wellington. The Rotary Give Every Child A Future project will celebrate 100 years of service to communities across Australasia and demonstrate that Rotary remains relevant in today’s world.

While there are several centenary projects this is the one project that covers all of Australasia and every Rotary club is encouraged to participate. Read the full story HERE.