December: Disease Prevention and Treatment month

Malaria prevention and eradication

Eradicating malaria is in Dr Danielle Stanisic’s blood – literally, so it’s no wonder she chose a career in malaria research.

Danielle, a member of Southport Rotary Satellite Club Griffith University, contracted malaria while in Papua New Guinea doing malaria research, but the disease wasn’t diagnosed until she fell ill six months later.

“I’ve never felt so ill in my whole life. I remember waking up and shaking so much that the whole bed was shaking. Thankfully, I was in New York and so had the best possible treatment, but I was still hospitalised for a week,” she says.

Danielle is a Research Fellow at the Institute for Glycomics Research at Griffith University and works at the cutting edge of malaria research.

Find out more about malaria and her work HERE. Details about how to donate to our District supported Malaria Vaccine Project are HERE.

Seasons greetings

Roz and I would like to wish the Rotary family of District 9640 a Happy Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

We have greatly appreciated the warm welcome when we have visited Rotarians and Rotaractors throughout our District, and we have enjoyed wonderful fellowship with you.

Our club visits have demonstrated that Rotary is thriving in our District with many exciting and innovative initiatives enhancing the Rotary experience.

Enjoy quality time with family and friends during this festive season and we look forward to continuing Rotary’s great work in 2017.

DG Michael and Roz

*Documents referred to above are following…
MALARIA PREVENTION AND ERADICATION
By Dr Danielle Stanisic

Malaria is a blood-borne disease caused by *Plasmodium* parasites and is transmitted by mosquitoes in tropical and sub-tropical regions of the world. *Plasmodium falciparum* and *Plasmodium vivax* are the most common of the malaria parasites that infect humans, with *Plasmodium falciparum* being the most deadly.

There are approximately 3.2 billion people (nearly half of the world’s population) at risk of malaria. In 2015, there were approximately 214 million cases of malaria and 438,000 malaria-attributable deaths, mostly in young children living in sub-Saharan Africa. Malaria is also an issue for travellers, defence personnel and workers who are temporarily visiting/residing in malarious areas.

Common symptoms of uncomplicated malaria include shaking chills, high fever, sweating, headache, nausea and anemia. Individuals with little or no immunity to the malaria parasite (eg young children and travellers) can also develop severe malaria, which is characterised by coma, severe breathing difficulties, low blood sugar or severe anemia. If pregnant women contract malaria, they are also at considerable risk of abortion, stillbirth and delivering low birthweight offspring.

Current methods for the control and treatment of malaria include the use of bed nets, insecticides and administration of anti-malarial drugs. Increasing resistance to insecticides and anti-malarial drugs by the mosquito and malaria parasite respectively is of great concern and highlights the critical need for alternative control strategies eg an effective vaccine.

The majority of malaria vaccine candidates tested to date have consisted of single proteins or “sub-units” of the malaria parasite. These sub-units often vary between the many different malaria parasites that are found in malarious areas and are therefore unlikely to offer broad spectrum, long-term protection. Indeed, these sub-unit malaria vaccine candidates have shown limited effectiveness when tested in malarious areas, with limited or no protection observed.

The malaria vaccine candidate, PlasProtecT, developed at the Institute for Glycomics at Griffith University, is a novel approach to a malaria vaccine. It consists of whole blood-stage malaria parasites that are treated with a chemical so that they can no longer replicate or cause infection. When administered, these treated parasites can raise an immune response without causing disease. Because it contains the whole parasite, it includes hundreds of proteins or “sub-units” some of which are the same between the many different strains and species of malaria parasite that are found in malarious areas.

This overcomes the limitations observed with sub-unit vaccine approaches and broad-spectrum protection against multiple strains and species of the malaria parasite has been observed in animal studies. Pilot studies in human volunteers have shown that this vaccine approach is safe and can induce an immune response.

The next step in the development of this malaria vaccine is a clinical trial to determine whether it can also protect humans from developing malaria. An initial study is planned to be conducted at Griffith University Gold Coast Campus over a 12 month period and will examine the protective efficacy of this vaccine in malaria-naive volunteers. Following this, the vaccine will be tested in malarious regions in Africa, SE Asia and South America.
Fighting Diseases of Global Impact

There are approximately 3.2 billion people currently living in malaria endemic areas worldwide, many of which are in Commonwealth nations. In 2015, there were approximately 214 million cases of malaria and 438,000 deaths, mostly children under 5 years. Vaccination is the key to shifting the fight against malaria from sustained control to eradication. Despite global efforts there is no effective malaria vaccine available.

PlasProtecT®

Developed at the Institute for Glycomics Griffith University, PlasProtecT® is a novel malaria vaccine candidate. PlasProtecT® consists of whole malaria parasites that are grown in the laboratory under strictly controlled conditions. We then treat these parasites so that they can no longer replicate or cause infection. When we administer these treated parasites as a vaccine, an immune response is raised without causing disease. The immune system is then primed to fight malaria parasites that may enter the body in the future, preventing malaria infection.

PlasProtecT® uses whole malaria parasites, so it overcomes the limitations of sub-unit vaccine approaches and we have already shown broad spectrum protection in animal studies. A pilot clinical study in healthy human volunteers demonstrated that the PlasProtecT® approach is safe and able to induce an immune response. We are now seeking funding to allow us to demonstrate that PlasProtecT® is safe and effective in a larger number of human volunteers and prove that we can protect people from malaria infection.

Rotary Partnership

The Rotary Clubs of Southport and Broadbeach assisted by the Rotary Club of Hope Island and the Rotary Satellite Club of Southport–Griffith University have initiated a fund-raising project to support further development of a promising Malaria vaccine that has been created by Professor Michael Good and his team at the Institute of Glycomics, Griffith University. This fund-raising project, supported by District 9640 Governor Michael Irving and in partnership with Griffith University, has recently been registered by Rotary Australia Benevolent Society (RABS) and endorsed by the National Committee of Rotarians Against Malaria (RAM).

Development of PlasProtecT®

The vaccine has already been created and is able to be manufactured (2011–12)

The vaccine has been produced for animal studies (2011–12)

The vaccine has been shown to have broad spectrum protection in animal studies (2012–14)

The vaccine has been produced for pilot clinical studies in human volunteers (2014–16)

A pilot evaluation in a small sample of malaria naïve human volunteers has shown that the vaccine is safe and able to induce an immune response (2014–16)

The next stage that Rotary are planning to fund, involves clinical trial evaluation using a larger sample of malaria naïve human volunteers to show that the vaccine actually works; that is, that PlasProtecT® can protect people from malaria infection (2017–18)

Partners

Rotary Partners

Griffith University

Institute for Glycomics

Fighting Diseases of Global Impact
HOW TO DONATE

DEVELOPMENT OF A MALARIA VACCINE RABS PROJECT No.16 (Year registered 2016-17)

Every donation helps, small or large donations of any amount can be made as a one-off donation or fortnightly, monthly, annually or biannually. A tax-deductible receipt will be sent to you!

For Online Donation:

1. rawcs.com.au
2. Click on -Click to Donate
3. In Project No: 16
4. In Year Registered. From drop down box – Select 2016-17
5. Click – Donate
6. Fill in form.

By Cheque Payable to:

Development of a Malaria Vaccine
PO Box 84
Southport QLD 4215.

(For Receipting purpose please include name, address and post code.)

For more information about the project please contact:

Mr Graham Jones (e): graham.a.g.jones@gmail.com (m): 0406040038
Mr Mervyn Powell (e): mervynpowell@bigpond.com (m): 0417788540
PRE EVENT MEDIA RELEASE: event 7 December 2016

Dick Smith donates $1 million for Rotary to continue their work in Australia

Well-known philanthropist Dick Smith has announced his donation of $1 million towards alleviating the suffering of Australians in need.

Dick joins the likes of world-renowned philanthropist Bill Gates as a major supporter of Rotary and its various programs worldwide. Dick highlighted the fact he considers Rotary one of the most trusted and respected charities in the world, and thus his choice to assist him in providing support for Australians suffering personal hardship due to accident, illness or misadventure.

The funds will be distributed via a specific Rotary program developed for the cause, administered by the Rotary Australia Benevolent Society (RABS), with eligibility criteria determined by Dick and Pip Smith. RABS has previously assisted Wayne Greenhalgh, Sharon Chan and numerous other Australians victimised by domestic violence, disease and poverty.

Rotary Clubs will be responsible for identifying those recognised by their local community who need support, and be willing to match the requested grant on a 50/50 basis.

Mr Bob Cleland from the Rotary Club of Port Macquarie is pleased he was able to facilitate bringing this program to reality.

The Chairman of the Rotary Australia Benevolent Society, Mr Michael Perkins, is grateful to Dick and Pip Smith for their generous donation. He looks forward to seeing Rotary volunteers throughout Australia turn their project visions into reality. “For more than 100 years Rotary has worked with communities, corporates and philanthropists to make a difference throughout the world. We now have an extra $1 million to help those in need in our own backyard and with the famous Australian ingenuity I can’t wait to see how far we can make it reach,” said Michael.

Mr Neil McWhannell, the President of the Rotary Club of Wahroonga is delighted they will make the formal announcement at the club’s breakfast meeting on Wednesday 7th December 2016 at Warrawee Bowling Club, 1479 Pacific Highway, Warrawee NSW commencing at 7am.

The program will be launched in February 2017 and full details will be made available then. In the meantime, for other enquiries please contact rotaryaustraliacommunitycompassionprogram@rawcs.org.au

Media Contact: Michael Perkins, Chairman, Rotary Australia Benevolent Society
Phone: 0418 391 932 Email: info@rawcs.org.au
TONY HEADING FOR TOP JOBS

PDG Tony Heading has been honoured with two prestigious Rotary appointments.

Firstly, he was chosen to be Rotary District 9640 Ltd representative for the 2019 Council on Legislation. This Council meets every three years to debate changes in Rotary legislation which will best benefit Rotary.

Secondly, Rotary International President John Germ has asked Tony and Dianne to represent him and Judy at District 3830 Conference, at Pasay City, Manilla 23–24 March 2017. The district has 90 clubs and 3192 members, covering the cities of Makati, Taguig, Pateros, Paranaque, Muntinlupa and Las Palmas and the province of Palawan.

Current District Governor is Edna Sutter of RC Fort Bonifacio Global District. One of her district goals in this Centennial Year is to raise $US1 million for The Rotary Foundation. PRID Guiller Tumangan, a member of RC Makati West, is also in this district.

Tony and Dianne are truly humbled and excited to be given this incredible honour.
INAUGURAL PIGNIC RACE DAY

ILUKA WOOMBAH ROTARY is holding it’s annual Pignic Race Day at Iluka at 10am on Saturday 8 January, with the first race around 11.30am.

This is a great example of a Club holding a fun family event that will capture the public’s interest.

The Club held it’s inaugural event last year and had a committee to get race sponsors and piglet sponsors throughout their local and surrounding community and secured a major sponsor for the event.

The Club runs a Calcutta and raffle before every race and the ‘pig race caller’ runs the Calcutta. Last year patrons spent an amazing amount of money that will all be put to good use. They even made 36 little pig racing jackets but future events will see the piglet owners bringing their own jackets to dress the pigs.

To add to the fun of the day, the Club produced a race program with races named, complete with the piggy names and their racing form. Sponsors will be involved in names for next year’s event. Admission last year was free but patrons paid $2 for the program. Lunch was available.

The Pignic Race Day is a great fun day that everyone will enjoy ...even though it’s a lot of work for the Club.

But everyone agrees it was worth it!
APP-LAUNE FOR ASHMORE ROTARY

Ashmore Rotary is leading the new-tech charge in our District by creating their own phone app.

Their app allows the Club to send messages and people can to ask questions. As well, the Club can share info such as events, newsletter, links to RI and District web site, photos and videos. It can also list member profiles and provide a direct link to the Club Facebook Page. There’s even a facility to send messages.

Impressive stuff.

The Club’s app is created using Team App, which is available from the App Store.

Social media is the communications tool of the future and it’s great to see Ashmore embracing the technology to spread the Rotary word.
ROTARY INVOLVED IN ESTABLISHING NIPPERS PROGRAM

Many of us will have kids or grandkids involved in Nippers, where kids learn new skills, gain confidence and have fun in a safe beach environment. The first Nippers program was established at Nambucca Heads, with the assistance of Rotary.

RC Surfers Paradise’s Damien Murphy explains…

A few months after the Pill went on sale in Australia and the last tram ran in Sydney, a bunch of blokes from Nambucca Heads met to consider how to teach local kids to survive in the dangerous surf that breaks around the mouth of the wide river that gives the NSW mid-north coast town its name.

Noel Crocker is 94yo and was the president of the Nambucca Heads Surf Life Saving Club in 1961. “We’d had a few problems with rips the previous summer,” Noel says. He remembers the 16 October annual general meeting that year as if it was yesterday.

"A few young ones had been swept out around Christmas 1960, and there was discussion in Rotary about what could be done. So we got together – the doctor, the barrister and other town leading lights, everybody was in the club in those days – and organised a public meeting that heard our idea of forming a branch of the surf life saving club for local youngsters.

It was Cyril Bannister, a delightful chap, who came up with the name. Nambucca Nippers. It rhymed and ran off the tongue like a little poem.

"The real coup was to give the kids’ accreditation. Nobody likes being called Nipper, big brothers have called their little brothers that since time immemorial, but we decided to make them a part of the club from the start … the aim was to save their lives and recruit them so they became involved and stayed with the club as they got older. The name certainly stuck. First Nambucca, then the world."
NEW ZEALAND EARTHQUAKE APPEAL

Australian District Governors have agreed to establish a national RAWCS appeal for those affected by the New Zealand earthquakes.

The District 9640 Finance Committee approved a donation of $3000 to this appeal from the District Disaster Fund. Funds donated to this appeal will be forwarded to Rotary’s New Zealand World Community Service fund.

In discussion with our New Zealand colleagues, funds donated will be used by New Zealand Rotary to provide long-term support for families affected by the earthquake.

Tax deductible donations can be made via RAWCS HERE
David Lee is a proud, seventh-generation printer. He grew up in Stanthorpe and eventually took over the family company building it into a forward and outward looking international business, appropriately called *International Colour Productions (ICP)*.

ICP installed the first commercial colour printer in Queensland, with the young printer in the business, David, appointed from Sydney to train on the machine in the early days. ICP in Stanthorpe quickly became the go-to location for Queensland printers wanting to learn how to bring their practices into the twentieth century. David is a keen photographer who has been able to combine his interest with his profession, especially in the production of colour postcards for many cities, towns and venues around Australia and across the Pacific.

David has been to Fiji more than 45 times in 45 years. Initially it was for business but that has extended into having many lifetime friends there. An early church and Rotary connection was a club project supporting an orphan sponsored at a small orphanage.

In 1972, David and Judy home-hosted one of the young police officers from the Fijian Police Band who came to Stanthorpe as honoured guests at the Apple and Grape Festival that year. David & Judy and Sireli & Litia became lifelong friends ever since. Sadly, Sireli passed away last year.

When David planned his District Conference as Governor in 1996 he was especially honoured to secure the Prime Minister of Fiji as Keynote speaker. It is considered one of the few conferences of any type, anywhere, where a foreign head of state flew into and out of the country for the purpose of a conference alone. David continues to plan and lead RAWCS work parties to Fiji to this day and organises shipping containers of donated goods for schools there and, currently, a hospital.

Judy commenced working as a Home Economics teacher at St Joseph’s, Stanthorpe, and retired from there after a lifetime career in the one school. She is still called upon for casual work at the school to this day. She was awarded a RI Rotary Spouse of the Year Award just last year.

David and Judy live in the same house they built together in Stanthorpe where they married over 50 years ago. David’s mother still lives in Stanthorpe. Remarkably, she turned 109 years old on 3 November this year. Their daughter, Cassandra Moriarty, is a writer and mother of six children. Their son, Clayton, is an accountant and father to three boys. They both live in Brisbane with their families.