January is Rotary Awareness Month

Sandy’s Message

Happy New Year to all,

We are now in the second 6 months of the 2012-2013 Rotary year and trust we are all ready for the busy time ahead.

District Conference is only 11 weeks away, so get in early and register and book your accommodation at Royal Pines. The Committee are working very hard to give you a weekend to remember.

I am appealing to all in our District to support the Bushfire Appeal for Tasmania and New South Wales. I have been informed that the most important requirement is money at this stage and assure all that the donations will be sent from Rotary to Rotary.

The nomination forms will be sent out in the next week for the next District Governor Nominee, Presidents please, consider any possible candidates for this very rewarding role serving Rotary and our District. The qualifications are a minimum of 7 years in Rotary and have completed a full term as Club President.

Membership Chair Phil Fairweather is planning a Membership Seminar on the 24th February at the Lismore Workers Club.

I would like to include all Presidents and Public Relation Club representatives to hear the plans for the District from Harold Busch.

Please put in your diary and we will send more information.

This month is ROTARY AWARENESS MONTH so all Clubs please promote Rotary.

The more the Community know what we do in the local community and overseas will show the need for more members to keep up the good work.

Have a great Rotary month,

Warm regards,

Sandy

Keith Reinke (RC Beaudesert) – 25 years as Santa®
Bringing smiles to little faces.
Happy New Year to my fellow Rotarians of District 9640.

First of all I thank you for all for the emails, cards, phone calls and special visits I received since my recent heart surgery. Sandy and I certainly did not anticipate a second stay in hospital which proved to be a very testing time for us.

However on a positive note I am improving every day, while I will be careful, I am looking forward to the next 6 months and supporting Sandy.

I have been delighted with the support from our Clubs for the Operation Cleft Project – thank you all. We have just 3 Clubs to complete our visits and I will be able to report shortly.

Our prayers must be with our fellow Australians who are experiencing hardship as a result of the recent bush fires.

Yours in Rotary,
Sam Doumany

Urgent plea

Please support Gold Coast Benji in raising much needed donations to help our fellow Australians.

The devastation is in Tasmania with so many homes lost and on the mainland, big losses in our rural communities.

Cattle who survived are in desperate need of feed or will be destroyed.

The need is now and justifies quick decisions to support the District 9640 Bushfire Appeal – every dollar will be channelled from Rotary to Rotary.

Please send all donations to District Treasurer, Doug Lipp.

“DAI and Rotary is truly a serendipity ….”

Dear Friends of Disaster Aid Australia,

Later in Sandy’s Sentinel you will see an acknowledgement of the work we, together with our fellow Rotarians from around the world have undertaken to ease the suffering of those in the Philippines.

To you our donors, we sincerely thank you for your support and hope you will pass this communication to all concerned within your circles.

Stand tall and proud – we have made a difference again – together.
Towards Polio-free India

India is still on path to complete three years without an incidence of polio. It has been 22 months since the last victim of polio was reported on our shore. Going strong, we hope to complete two polio-free years on January 13, 2013.

We have done well so far to keep the score ‘nil.’ Rotarians along with our partners in the field, Governments, UNICEF and WHO fought for this success, en route to achieving regional polio-free certification in 2014.

While we are steadily approaching and edged past the half-way mark to certification, there however was a scare, when a case of AFP was suspected to be of P3 virus. A child in Darbhanga, Bihar was reported to be the new case after Rukhasar, the last reported in the country. The polio partnership in the country led by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, GOI issued directives and managed the situation — the lab investigation, media release, and emergency response — with amazing sensibility and promptness. Investigation and lab reports later confirmed the case as non-polio AFP and the same was immediately communicated.

The incident though literally shook us along with the agonising hours before the final confirmation, however taught us a valuable lesson that there can be a case on the road to three years completion and thereafter, if we slack in our efforts. The threat within and from outside will always remain and the only way to be sure is overcoming it with quality immunisation rounds and a robust Routine immunisation coverage of all children.

As you are aware, the NIDs (National immunisation Days) will be most likely held on January and February in 2013. Do ensure to make it a resounding success in your District. Further, Routine immunisation (R.I.) as mentioned in my earlier communications as well is extremely crucial to our goal of polio eradication. R.I. has been strongly stressed in the ‘Delhi Commitment’ released at the Polio Summit 2012, earlier this year.

Also, coming to one of the most pressing concerns of the current global campaign, funds, this is diminishing by the way. Money for the global campaign is becoming hard to come by and this has already affected polio campaigns in some countries, where rounds had to be held back due to lack of funds. The India campaign is still strongly supported by the Government of India and Rotary and other partners have ensured this through their strong and continuous advocacy. Rotary International itself is committed to India’s goal of eradication and we have every support to achieve in the immediate future.

But we however cannot be complacent and do our every bit possible to fill the coffers of the PolioPlus funds to ensure it never runs dry for us or anyone. Contributions from the DDF are accepted and could help in bridging this increasing fund gap.

As you are aware, General Secretary John Hewko along with other Rotarians from U.S. and Europe and few others embarked on an ambitious fundraising cycle marathon on 17th November. They need our support, every penny/INR that you donate to this fundraising will be used towards the numerous immunisation campaigns scheduled and planned in countries affected by polio including India. General Secretary has called on every Rotarian, Rotary District and Club to support the efforts by donating whatever they will and can.

In the days ahead, focus on India to successfully complete two years in 2013, strengthening of efforts in Pakistan and Nigeria and Afghanistan will be on the agenda. While India is steady, the news coming in from Pakistan, our immediate neighbour and hence threat for importation from is encouraging too. The political leadership and partners including Rotary has initiated strong efforts on implementation, advocacy and communication to reach one and all. The cases this year are on a decline compared to last year’s global count and we are hoping to keep it minimum by year end.

I am optimistic for the year ahead! Inshallah, we will be starting 2013 on a strong and hopeful note for the eventual eradication of polio in 2018.

Rtn. Ashok Mathur
Trustee, The Rotary Foundation
Director, Rotary International
2007–2009
Member, International PolioPlus Committee
Chairman, Rotary International Membership Committee, 2012–13
District 9640 Rotary Friendship Exchange (RFE) to Rotary District 9980
New Zealand South Island in November 2013.

District 9980 has 31 Rotary Clubs with 1,300 members and the District covers the southern half of the South Island of New Zealand. The District includes the population centres of Dunedin, Invercargill, Timaru and Queenstown. It is also known for the beautiful southern lakes of Manapouri, Te Anau, Wakatipu and Wanaka.

Has this breathtaking area got your interest? If so, Rotarians and their partners are invited to apply to be part of up to a 12 person outbound team from 16 November to 1 December 2013.

Applications are to be made by completing the Prospective Member Questionnaire and should be directed to District 9640 RFE Chairman, Reg Norvill by email to regn@ozemail.com.au by Friday 15 February 2013. Application forms can be obtained by emailing Reg. For enquiries please phone 07 5524 2297 or 0427 943 678.

Further information on Rotary Friendship Exchanges can be found in the RFE Handbook at: www.rotary.org/RIdocuments/en_pdf/rfe_handbook_en.pdf

Hot off the Press ...

New Rotary theme for 2013-2014

Engage Rotary – Change Lives

A wonderful example of the spirit of Rotary and what we strive to do
Cambodia Report

Dear Rotary Club of Beaudesert and lots of Rotary friends,

Over the past few weeks I have had lots of meetings with Elders and teachers, done lots of thinking and planning and made decisions to hopefully benefit Rotary Beaudesert (efficiency and money saving along with aiming towards eventual 100% sustainability), my friends in France, our village income projects and of course our 1000 children and their families.

FRANCE

The Beaudesert Rotary visitors have already given me money to buy paint for the two Chuur Ph'av Schools. France is buying the paint for Prey t'Baing.

Two weeks ago Rotary Beaudesert paid the six Chuur Ph'av teachers each $360 in wages. Frances (Antibes town) paid for the three Prey t'Baing teachers.

On December 20 2012 a school well and pump was completed at Prey t'Baing (see photo) for $600 of Antibes money. Some months ago two Antibes friends (Roland and Eva - see the website) gave out $1,000 in books equally to all three schools. Since the complete and sad withdrawal of all help from 'Captains Choice' we have been left with salaries, books and maintenance.

I have decided that since my childhood friends from Antibes have now taken on the complete financial support of the Prey t'Baing Elementary School, its nominal name is now "Antibes School".

So all under the heading of The Rotary Club of Beaudesert we now have The Rotary Club of Beaudesert School - Captains Choice School - and Antibes School. Yesterday I fixed a 40cm x 40cm plaque on the Prey t'Baing school wall. See the photos. These are 'names' only. They all remain 100% Cambodian schools and come under our Rotary matching grant number. As Corinne and Linda know, we have long wanted more or at least ONE major donor to replace Captains Choice. I was considering Antibes as soon as we lost Captains Choice.

CHICKENS

I have bought three hundred chicks and one hundred ducklings to start our 'meat' income project for the villages. I bought them as a bargain and therefore urgently. You'll recall we now have a large chicken house (donated by a Club member) and two smaller pens - one technically a pig sty!... so, that cost me $200 for the birds and $100 for the food.. Since the chicken house itself was so much bigger (plus pens) than planned, it cost more, the shortfall for which ($200) was picked up by France.

MEETINGS WITH TEACHERS

After daily meetings with teachers and elders - a part of the gift list from the Beaudesert Rotarians who will visit on the 12th, in addition to paint (see earlier) was to be 100 shirts and shorts/skirts. (You will recall that Ailsa and Don Hay only a week or so ago gave similarly). The teachers thought strongly that although the 100 uniforms were fabulous - over two schools we have 700 children (and Prey t'Baing 300).... it will be better to wait for a large or several combined donations to buy more clothes for all.
Meanwhile the teachers told me of NEEDS for the schools:-
They want all the windows to be secure (too many tempting things at night); they want a very LARGE cupboard to store stationery and some books; they need ten plastic chairs - So next week we will be buying these things, not uniforms....... From me in the villages, Happy New Year, John.

For more information: http://www.educatingcambodia.com

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**Australian Rotary Health Report**

Australian Rotary Health would like to thank all those who made generous donations in 2012. These funds have been used to award a number of Research Scholarships in 2013.

### Research Companion Scholarship: Helping Girls Feel Best about Their Bodies

Siân McLean has been awarded ‘The Lorraine and Bruce McKenzie Research Companion PhD Scholarship’ through Australian Rotary Health receiving $100,000 to complete her study. Funds for this Scholarship were donated by Past Chair PDG Bruce McKenzie from the Rotary Club of Box Hill, Vic. in memory of his late wife, Lorraine McKenzie who passed away in 1984.

Ms. Mclean’s study at La Trobe University will investigate ways to protect adolescent girls from developing body dissatisfaction and create more effective interventions to be run in high schools.

“This scholarship means I am able to commit a lot more time to the project and achieve research outcomes more quickly,” Ms. McLean said.

*Photos: Siân McLean (top) Chairman of Australian Rotary Health, PDG Terry Grant, presenting PDG Bruce McKenzie as a Research Diamond Companion for his generous donation (right).*

### Rotary Reduces the Impact of Mental Health through Ian Scott Scholarships

Donations from Rotary clubs around Australia will be supporting 8 new Ian Scott Scholarships in 2013 where PhD students researching various aspects of mental health will receive $29,000 per year for up to 3.5 years. Topics include the ways depression and anxiety affect the treatment of chronic pain, new treatments for schizophrenia and improving diet to treat mental health.

One Ian Scott Scholar, Edith Holloway, will be introducing and evaluating a therapy to manage depressive symptoms for people with vision impairment at Australia’s largest low vision rehabilitation setting, Vision Australia. She will begin her PhD research this year at the Centre for Eye Research Australia, Department of Ophthalmology, University of Melbourne.

“This research is really important because the incidence of depression is higher among people with vision impairment compared to the general population and can significantly affect their daily functioning and feelings of independence,” Ms Holloway says.

If this program is found to be effective in reducing depressive symptoms, it can be used in other chronic health areas as well like heart disease and diabetes.

In addition, Australian Rotary Health will be funding 6 continuing Ian Scott Scholars.
Rotary Clubs as Funding Partners for PhD Scholarships

A new study co-funded by the Rotary Club of Sutherland, NSW, Australian Rotary Health and The Children’s Hospital at Westmead, NSW seeks to halt the growth of neuroblastoma cancer cells. Ms Rebecca Dagg will explore the reasons why cancerous neuroblastoma cells, unlike normal cells, are able to grow indefinitely. She will investigate how the disease develops and, if successful, create a new target for drug development to treat neuroblastoma.

“If you want to treat a cancer, being able to stop it growing is going to be of enormous benefit,” she says.

Ms. Dagg was awarded the ‘Harry Banks Sutherland Rotary PhD Scholarship’ to complete her study at the Children’s Research Unit, The Children’s Hospital at Westmead, University of Sydney.

“This scholarship has given me the ability to take the next step in starting my own independent research, which is incredibly important.”

Giedre Milinkeviciute is the recipient of another Funding Partner PhD Scholarship co-funded by the Rotary Club of Dural, NSW, Garvan Institute of Medical Research, NSW and Australian Rotary Health. Ms. Milinkeviciute will be using fruit flies in her study to test particular genes, hoping to uncover a type of genetics which can modify the effects of Parkinson’s disease. This could reveal new potential drug targets for treatment.

Each of these scholars will receive $29,000 per year for up to 3.5 years.

For more information call 02 8837 1900 or visit our website www.australianrotaryhealth.org.au

Disaster Aid International: First and longest on the ground

DAI's immediate and super quick response to the Pablo (Bopha) disaster proves once again that physical distance is not insurmountable.

Ed and Team were already on ground zero barely a week after the disaster to accompany Balay Mindanaw. After a day, the community-based and community-focused strategy was formulated. After a few weeks, we now see the emergence of Barangay Ban-ao as a model of a community transforming itself from victims to resources.

Indeed, Balay Mindanaw’s partnership with Disaster Aid International and Rotary is truly a serendipity. First, they taught us how to be tent-builders, not just peace builders. Now, we partake of the same mission: helping rebuild resilient communities.

Again, please accept our most sincere THANKS!

Kaloy
Charlito "Kaloy" Manlupig
Balay Mindanaw
53A, 12th Street, Zone 2, Upper Bulua
Cagayan de Oro City, Mindanao
The Philippines
www.balaymindanaw.org
As we move rapidly into the second half of the 2012/2013 Rotary year, it is timely to reflect on our first half achievements and review our full year goals to ensure we are on track to achieve our objectives. Hopefully The Rotary Foundation will be centre of mind as all clubs have contribution goals, achievement of which is critical to the ongoing success of ‘Our Charity’ and our District’s ability to maximise our participation in projects three years hence.

Our contributions to the Annual Programs Fund year to date total US$34,868 which is well below the corresponding period last year. While it is early days and many clubs hold back their contributions until later in the year, it is worth noting that thirty four clubs at this stage have not made any contribution and a further eight clubs have only made nominal contributions (less than $10 per capita).

On the positive side seven clubs have already achieved the US$100 per capita goal and we extend congratulations to:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Club</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Per Capita</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Southport North</td>
<td>$7,320</td>
<td>$609.97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lismore Central</td>
<td>$2,062</td>
<td>$294.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grafton Midday</td>
<td>$2,656</td>
<td>$115.46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parkwood</td>
<td>$2,268</td>
<td>$113.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robina</td>
<td>$1,546</td>
<td>$110.46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alstonville</td>
<td>$2,268</td>
<td>$103.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Murwillumbah Central</td>
<td>$1,900</td>
<td>$100.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Polio Plus contributions year to date total US$9,969 boosted recently by $1,701 from the Gold Coast showing of “The Life of Pi”. Many thanks to those clubs which contributed to the success of this fundraiser. Contributions from country club film nights have yet to be credited and will provide a further boost to our total.

Leading contributors to date are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Club</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Surfers Sunrise</td>
<td>$3,115</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Murwillumbah Central</td>
<td>$1,031</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mermaid Beach</td>
<td>$  811</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

We urge all clubs to review their goals for donations both to the Annual Programs Fund and Polio Plus and take every step possible to maximise both individual member (Every Rotarian Every Year) and club contributions prior to year end.

Group Study Exchange – the committee has been working with host clubs to finalise the program and host details for our inbound GSE team from District 3450 Hong Kong, Macau and Mongolia. The team will arrive Friday 15 March and depart Monday 15 April.

Our outbound team will depart also depart on Monday 15 April and is well advanced in its preparation under Team Leader Terry Brown. The Team launch will be held at Lismore Workers Club on Sunday 24 March and all are welcome.

Matching Grants - Our initial budget of $9,500 has been fully allocated but we do have an opportunity to allocate additional funds (due to a less than budgeted cost for our GSE Team to Hong Kong) to support an appropriate international project.

Commitments have been made to:

- Student desks for India – Thirty four clubs are participating in this project (co-ordinated by PDG Margaret Hayes on behalf of Tweed Heads South Club) contributing US$7,938 to which the District added US$4,500. Indian Club and District contributions are US$10,525 making a total of US$22,963 attracting TRF matching grant funds of US$15,231. The total for this matching grant is therefore US$38,194 which enables the supply of 1250 sitting benches (each accommodating 3 students) for schools in India which currently lack such basic amenities.
- Water purification System in Xian, China – We have joined with District 3450 Hong Kong (our GSE partner district) in this project. Our contribution is US$2,500 District Dedicated Funds which attracts a 100% TRF matching grant. The total financing for this project is US$23,200.
- Zimbabwe Child Survival and Development project – we have committed US$2,500 of District Designated funds to this project currently being developed by Rotary Club of Gold Coast in partnership with Rotary Club of Harare. Total financing for this project, which will provide sporting and other equipment for orphaned children, will be in excess of US$30,000.

**District Simplified Grants** - We have recently approved the following grants:
- Coolangatta-Tweed Heads $2,500 to assist Tweed Valley Early Childhood Intervention Services with its Visual Aids Project for children with disabilities.
- Kirra-Currumbin $1,000 to assist the club in providing white goods and electrical kitchen appliances for the Blair Athol Accommodation and Support Association.
- Southport $1,500 to assist project to send to Tanzania a container of school furniture and other educational items in conjunction with the Rotary Club of Iringa.

This fully utilises our DSG budget for this Rotary year.

**Future Vision** – The combined Rotary Foundation and Grant Management Seminars conducted in October/November 2012 were attended by 134 Rotarians representing all but 9 of District 9640 clubs. Our thanks to all those who attended and in contributing to the success of the seminars, also met a major qualifying criteria for their club to participate in Rotary Foundation Grants under Future Vision in 2013/2014.

At this stage eight clubs (Ashmore, Boonah, Coolangatta-Tweed Heads, Coomera Valley, Fassifern Valley, Iluka-Woombah, Mullumbimby and Yamba) have completed the qualification by returning their signed Club Qualification Memorandum of Understanding forms.

Other eligible clubs should return their signed forms to District Rotary Foundation Committee Chair, Neil Jones.

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**RYDA News ...**

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**Program gives novices a reality check on driving**

**TX140 Student Reporter**

**Sam Burbury**

Year 11, Marymount College

GETTING your driver’s licence is one of the most exciting times in a teenager’s life, but getting behind the wheel also brings a number of risks. More than 20 per cent of 17–20 year old drivers are involved in at least one accident during their first year on the road, prompting Rotary to form its RYDA program to educate students about road safety.

Sponsored by RUQ and the Rotary Club, RYDA is aimed at offering the advice of police officers, professional driving instructors and crash survivors to students about to hit the road. Recently Year 11 students of Marymount College were given the opportunity to experience the program, spending a full day listening to a number of presentations and real-life demonstrations.

Students said they found the program informative and eye opening, and teachers hoped it would make students think twice before risking their lives on the road.

Similarly, Rotary hopes that by delivering this vital message in such an engaging, creative and powerful manner, students will take notice and make safer choices when they’re on the road.

“We were so fortunate to get to go to the RYDA program. It delivered some powerful insights, which will be very beneficial as we learn to drive,” student Dylan Durie said.
Happy New Year to you, our valued supporter of Disaster Aid Australia – may we continue to work together to ease the pain and suffering of families and especially their children following a disaster.

Whilst we celebrated the festive season with loved ones, our Disaster Aid volunteer Response teams (DARTs) and our partner, Balay Mindanaw were working diligently to rebuild communities in the Davao region of the Philippines following Typhoon Pablo. The focus of our assistance and guidance continues in the town of Barangay Banao which was the hardest hit village in Baganga town in Davao Oriental with 90 percent of all families homeless. Disaster Aid is the only NGO providing shelter and the vision to assist with the rebuilding of these communities.

Australian Rotarian and DART Dave Tuzewski (D9500) completed his second deployment to the Philippines in twelve months. “This deployment was much harder and challenging than the last as we spent days, with the help of hundreds of volunteers in clearing the debris before we could consider the rebuilding of a community” Dave said. “We engaged the services of heavy machinery to not only remove the debris but also to cut the thousands of coconut trees destroyed and then remove the stumps so we had even ground to commence the rebuild” he said.

From this ...

To this ...

And this ...

More ...
“The support afforded us by the hundreds of volunteers organised by our partner, Balay Mindanaw Foundation, government services (Army and Police) was humbling to say the least. We did and continue to make a difference for these survivors and that was shown by their gratitude and the smiles on faces” he said.

At the time of writing our DART team continues on the ground completing the delivery of new communities and also the delivery of Life Boxes from our partner, Disaster Aid UK & Ireland.

Disaster Aid Australia – delivering hope with dignity to those who have lost everything following a disaster.

Newest Partners join our family ...

As the need for our life-saving humanitarian aid rapidly grows, we have welcomed many Australian Rotary clubs to the Disaster Aid Australia family as partners and they now have ‘ownership’ of our organisation.

The newest partners of Disaster Aid Australia include the Rotary Clubs of Beaudesert (D9640), Belvoir Wodonga (D9790) and Dromana (D9820). Together we will continue to make a difference ensuring those displaced following a disaster are housed allowing dignity and safety – in true Australian Rotary spirit.

Please help us to continue to make a difference in the world

We urgently need to replenish our stocks now and ask for your assistance so we are ready for the next call.

Please accept my/our donation of $ .................. [cheques payable to Disaster Aid Australia]

Or charge credit card:  ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard  [expiry ..... / ..... ]  CRV: ........

Card number  ........  ........  ........  ........  Name on card..........................................................

☐ Please indicate here for a fully tax deductible donation receipt

Name: .................................................
Address: .................................................
Phone: ...........................................
Email: .................................................
Signature: ........................................

☐ Yes, I would like updates from Disaster Aid Australia

All donations are totally tax deductible
History does dictate ... an excerpt from Rotary Down Under magazine in November, 2012

As we again approach the ‘silly’ season, history reminds us that others in the world will not be celebrating; in fact they will be faced with a disaster and could lose their homes and loved ones in its aftermath.

We must be prepared to respond with the best possible humanitarian aid we can provide, delivered with skill and dignity.

Our warehouse is nearly depleted of stock so I implore you to support Disaster Aid Australia with a donation. It takes 45 days to turn our stock around and if our warehouse is empty, we simply cannot serve those who ask for our help.

We have shown the world the quality of our product and that we are not a ‘one product fixes all’ NGO. We are different to other organisations in that we rebuild communities, families and children through our suite of products.

Disaster Aid Australia not only offers shelter for those left homeless but importantly, clean drinking water and solar lighting for their overall wellbeing. In fact, our tents can be utilised as a school for 80 children to allow a return to normality.

So as you read this, my hope is that you too will appreciate the need to be prepared to assist those far less fortunate and stand tall as Australian Rotarians, continuing to serve and make a difference – together.

On behalf of my Board, our partner Clubs here in Australia and internationally, and our band of volunteers, I wish you and your family a safe and prosperous 2013 and look forward to your ongoing support.

Rtn Jenni Heenan PHF FRIA
CEO
Disaster Aid Australia

Please donate – we cannot continue to rebuild devastated communities without your support.
The need is now. Thank you.

Please send articles for the Newsletter to DG Sandy at srmd@bigpond.net.au
The deadline is the end of the month before publication.