Darrell’s Discourse: June is Fellowship Month

What would happen if political correctness or rather gender correctness caught up with the word fellowship? June would no longer be Rotary Fellowship Month. It could be Camaraderie Month, Companionship Month, Friendship Month, Mutual Liking Month, Mutual Support Month, Mutual Respect Month….all synonyms for fellowship. From the original concept of Rotary of fellowship and vocation envisaged by our founder Paul Harris, has grown a myriad of fellowships - caravanning, recreation vehicles, yachting, singles (the mind boggles) to name a few. These are all based on the word fellowship.

The other meaning of fellowship is the status of a fellow of a college or society. And Rotary has catered for that too. We have our own Rotary Peace Fellowships. Our district was fortunate to have two successful candidates this year. With nominations having just closed let’s hope we continue with our success rate of Peace Fellowship awardees.

Without the word fellowship our Objects of Rotary would be in strife too. The first and fourth objects mean fellowship.

To a District Governor, the month of June means the ending of a year, the ending of a year’s theme Rotary: Making a difference and the preparation for a new team taking over the administration of the district. It also means a month of some very big thanks to all the committees and individual Rotarians who have made a difference this year. But we haven’t finished with one month to go.

What have we achieved collectively?

I started off the year saying ‘Always expect the unexpected’. I certainly didn’t expect the proposal of the mega district...

DG Goals #1 and 2

These were aimed at increasing and retaining membership. This has been a rocky road of ups and downs. Some clubs have increased magnificently, two new clubs are being formed and a couple of satellite clubs are in the wings. I started off the year saying ‘Always expect the unexpected’. I certainly didn’t expect the proposal of the mega district, its acceptance and...
approval within the year and nor did I expect the exit of Glen Innes to D9650. But I did expect a stronger district. We are heading towards that on 1 July, 2021.

### DG Goal #3

In essence it was aimed at supporting Rotary initiatives. With the success of the Rotary conference and the housekeeping duties we performed at the Commonwealth Games, I am confident that with the support of clubs and district profits realised, we will increase our contributions to Australian Rotary Health and gain the PhD Scholarship in Mental Illness that was proposed ($33,000). We will add to the coffers of the Malaria Vaccine Project at Griffith University also. It is a win, win for Rotary.

### DG Goal #4

Support for the Rotary Foundation is being achieved by clubs and district as well.

### DG Goal #5

The partner’s project - to save the life of a child by ROMAC. Thank you for your magnificent support for this project. We will reach our goal of $25,000 by the end of the Rotary year.

Besides goals, we have achieved much more. I would like you to tell me or my representative at your changeovers what you have achieved in your toast to Rotary International. I am sure that we have made a difference.

Darrell Brown,
Governor, District 9640

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**Did we follow RI President Ian Riseley and plant trees or what?!?**

Rotary International President Ian Riseley, at the beginning of this year, set us a goal to plant at least one tree per member. Over the year, reports have been received from a number of clubs who indeed followed his lead. The largest event was held in October 2017, when DG Darrell Brown rolled up with a team of some 53 Rotary and Rotaract volunteers (see November edition) to plant 2,450 trees (two for every member). Other reports came from the Rotary Clubs of Southport, e-club of NextGen just to name a few. And without doubt, some clubs did not have “official” planting events - for example, your Editor planted about 20 trees about 3 months ago.

The latest report comes from the **Rotary club of Fassifern Valley**: On Saturday 14th April members of the Rotary Club of Fassifern Valley planted a Jacaranda tree for each member at the Harrisville Cemetery. They were grown in pots by Rotarian Graham Porter, to be put in along the front fence of the local cemetery. They even brought their own water along!

**Well done all!**

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**CCT brushing shoulders with Bike Racer**

Where else could you brush shoulders with an international athlete from Mozambique of all places? OK, admit it: did you even know that Mozambique was part of the Commonwealth! 😃 Well, the team from Currumbin - Coolangatta - Tweed made the most of it! Here they are, with Miguel Duarte taking a selfie with (from left) Sue Aishford, Karen Curtis, Diana Traversi and Michelle Mitchell.

[Post Scriptum: Regrettably, Miguel did not finish the Men’s Road Race. Could it be that he didn’t realize that, even though being ‘down-under’, still... one does not wear sunglasses upside down...? ☺ Ed.]
How often can a Rotary Club say they have increased their membership by 25% in one night? Well in Casino, that is exactly what happened on Monday, 14 May when no less than FIVE new members were inducted in the one evening! Well that may be stretching the truth slightly, as one ‘new’ member had transferred from the Rotary Club of Wauchope. But these are not the only new members, with Tony Mota and Izaak Du Plooy being inducted earlier in the Rotary year!

Now what is the recipe for this membership increase I hear you ask? Well, quite simply, it is the very real spirit of friendship and fun, while proudly upholding the traditions of Rotary in a Club that turns 80 in August! Activity is what it is all about!

We have a Breakfast Club at Casino West Public School each Wednesday morning. Students from St Mary’s Catholic College assist Rotarians in preparing breakfast for students. Richmond Valley Council sponsor the programme. We have also sponsored a similar project at St Joseph’s Primary School, Coraki.

Another 'donation in kind' is about to begin with the Casino VRA (Volunteer Rescue Association) where Rotarians will assist with the weekly Bingo game (their major fundraiser). We are also organising our third annual 'Craft Beer Festival'. So as you can see, the days of ‘barbeques only’ are well and truly over!

Recently, our national carrier offered to donate some 2000 blankets for distribution to worthwhile recipients. Rotary accepted with pleasure!

**Recipients are:-**

- Wesley Mission, Robina (STARH project) 1,000
- Evacuation Centre, Murwillumbah 200
- Murwillumbah Community Centre 100
- You Have a Friend at Tweed Heads 100
- Ballina Anglican Church Homeless 550
- Lismore Homeless 50

**Qantas donates 2000 blankets**

From left: President Ian Leven, Nella Pinkerton, Leanne Teyla, Narelle Oomen, John Oomen and John Edwards (ex RC Wauchope)

Thank you!
Meet Taylor, the youngest member of a “young” club

My name is Taylor Birtchnell. I’m 20 years old and am very proud to be the youngest member of Burleigh Heads Rotary in its 60+ year history. While I always knew of the various service clubs, my first real involvement with Rotary was in high school, where I was organising a major mental health awareness event. Looking for volunteers, I approached the local Rotary club and ended up with several volunteers as well as a generous donation (which I hadn't asked for!).

Today, I am very honoured to have received a Vice Chancellor’s elite scholarship to Bond University and am the President of Debating and Public Speaking at Bond. I have worked for a State Member of Parliament, and am currently an assistant policy advisor. I’ve participated in competitions such as the National ANIMAL Law Moot, AAT NOOT (1), and am a Gold Coast Mayor’s Student Ambassador, among other things. I’m also a Student Leader at the Bond University Student Business Centre. I’ve always believed in the importance of giving back and was honoured to be named the inaugural winner of Volunteering Queensland’s ‘Youth Volunteering Award’. I’ve volunteered since 2012 with the Historic Ormiston House and currently volunteer at the Bond Immigration Law Clinic and the Robina Community Legal Centre. I’ve also recently started helping at The Sanctuary, a domestic violence shelter run by another Rotarian (Simone). I’ve recently been approached to join the Rotary District 9640 PR team, and look forward to continuing to help in any way I can.

Read another article written by Taylor on the Study Gold Coast organization: Click on this link. (1) Administrative Appeals Tribunal - Negotiating Outcomes on Time competition. Ed.

Good Manners in Rotary - by John Thorne

Several months ago your Director, Noel Trevaskis asked me (quite strongly) to make a former booklet entitled "Good Manners in Rotary" available again.

With a friend, I did that (via Kindle) and now there's a further updated version available as a PDF file.

With the PDF you could have a copy on your smart phone, your tablet and your computer.

Why would you get this booklet? What is it about?

The main thing it addresses is "respect" in Rotary. Respect for other people, respect for Rotary itself and also our other institutions, such as the flag. Or even making a toast to an institution such as our Nation or the flag or Rotary.

There are hints for some officers within Rotary and their tasks and more.

If you would like a copy, it is $3.00 (NZ or Aust.) and could be paid via PayPal or bank transfer. PayPal extract a small fee.

All income from this booklet goes direct to The Rotary Foundation.

The PayPal address to send the $3 to is: rotary.tas@gmail.com and the BSB details are:

BSB = 017 324
Account No. = 4544 44 271
Bank = ANZ .... however you might send the money (bank or PayPal), please also send me an email telling me. Thank you.

There is no hard copy - only digital.

If you do purchase a copy of "Good Manners in Rotary", we will send you a password to open it.

All the best - - - In Rotary Service - - - - I hope to see you in Hobart in September.

John G Thome AM
(Past Director of RI)
Did you know you can now donate to The Rotary Foundation via our secure District Website?

There are separate buttons for individuals and for Multiple Members and Club Contributions. Go to the District Website www.rotary9640.org and select the Rotary Foundation Tab at the top. All goes via the Australian Rotary Foundation Trust and an Australian Tax Receipt is issued.

The GOYA principle explained.

- “But, as an individual, just what can I do about membership?”
- “Isn’t that the job of the club’s Membership Chair?”
- “They ought to do more advertising!” Nobody knows Rotary exists!”

I recall when, some 50 years ago (groan, I am getting old!) I came across a book by famous Sales Trainer Tom Hopkins. I will never forget the one quote which is ever so relevant, regardless of whether you have a “slow month” in business or lack new members in Rotary. He said “When you find yourself in a slump, there is just one way out: apply the GOYA principle.”

GOYA? Yes. “Get off your - ah...backside!” Train yourself. Click here, then select Membership.
At the recent District Conference, the **Rotary Club of Parkwood**, in conjunction with Phil Rosenberg and ROMAC, ran a raffle for the “ROMAC” pillow crafted by DG Darrell Brown’s better half Kerrie, as well as for a bike donated by the Surfers Sunrise Wheelchair Trust. The raffle was drawn at the recent GC100 Charity Bike ride. Well, the lucky winner of the bike is 9 years old Ethan Cantos - he might just have to grow a bit before he can reach the pedals! 😊 Here he is pictured at the hand-over, together with PP Hilli Reaburn. The cushion was won by Tony Lines, a local Rotarian from the Coomera Valley Rotary Club. **Congratulations, well done!** By the way: Has your club forwarded the ROMAC donation yet? Ed.

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**A butcher, a baker and an astronaut...? By Sue Lea, Chair GCE**

Well, not quite, but it starts with a group of young professionals from a range of industry areas, and it ends with a collection of experiences that imprint the heart, the head and the soul. Of course, I am talking about Group Cultural Exchange (GCE)! Our team has just arrived back from Florida and have so much to share with you, as Rotarians, with their employers and with their families.

Don’t be fooled by the photos that depict amazing opportunities and present the fun and excitement of an Exchange, as they should. We are after all a visually dependent species and we need these images to pique our curiosity, but our intellect demands that we dig so much deeper. What are our young travelers richer for? Sitting with a CEO and hearing about their vision and strategy for business development; walking alongside the child protectionists as they impose legislative change; hearing the challenges of the “beat” in a civilian armed environment or hearing the initiatives that turned around youth destruction.

Do you know a young professional who deserves to increase their leadership potential? Please talk to them, recommend and/or refer them, and let our District build more amazing talent.

This year it is the Philippines, with its mystery and mayhem.....and huge depth of global business transaction. Call me, Sue Lea GCE Chair, leasuekev@bigpond.com, and watch the newsletter for the continuing journey of opportunity.

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The 2018 GCE Team to the USA.
Clockwise from the top: Brooke Saxby, Jacinta Maddigan, Melissa Bordin, Karen Wibberley (Team Leader), Sarah McGuinness.
The Rotary Club of Surfers Paradise, in conjunction with its twin club Rotary Bangkok South, Rotary Isesaki (Japan) and Rotary Singburi (Thailand) recently donated a Samsung Diagnostic Fetal Monitor plus 2 x Ultrasound machines to the Singburi Hospital in rural Thailand.

Alan Guignon was on hand at the Presentation Ceremony to represent Surfers Paradise. The project was co-financed by a District 9640 grant of $40,000 as well as a global grant of $27,000 from The Rotary Foundation. The total project cost, including training expenses, was $AUS 80,000.

The hospital in the smallest province of Thailand was amazed that the needed equipment was provided to them from Rotary. Also present at the ceremony were the Deputy Governor of Singburi province and members of Bangkok South and Singburi Rotary clubs.

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Rotary Friendship Exchange - Wisconsin, USA - July 2019

Would you like to enjoy the hospitality of Rotarians in District 6250 in Wisconsin? You can be part of a team of up to twelve, to participate in this great Rotary experience of culture, friendship and hospitality from 8th – 22nd July 2019 in District 6250 Wisconsin. (Dates to be confirmed)

Wisconsin is known for its breweries, cheese, cranberries and beautiful natural areas. Major towns within this district include Madison, La Crosse and Wisconsin Dells.

This exchange could provide a great opportunity to visit other parts of USA either before or after the exchange – perhaps a few days in Chicago? Rotary travel insurance will cover the exchange plus up to 60 days private travel.

The incoming visit to our District by Rotarians from District 6250 is planned to occur in 18th February to 4th March 2019 and clubs of outbound team members are expected to host the inbound team, during their 14 - 15 days experience within District 9640.

Requests for a Team Membership Application:

Until 30 June 2018: RFE Committee Chair Neil Baldwin 0408 869 687 nandcbaldwin@gmail.com
From 1 July 2018: Incoming RFE Chair Wendy Scarlett on 07 5524 4368 or 0407 130449 or email wendy.scarlett51@gmail.com (Note: Wendy is overseas until 30 June so please contact Neil as above prior to 30 June 2018).

Completed Applications are to be submitted for consideration by the District Rotary Friendship Committee by Tuesday 31st July 2018

Wendy Scarlett,
RFE Chair 2018-19
So Del Cole was inducted into The Rotary Club of Runaway Bay only about 18 months ago... but her activities of ‘Making a Difference’ go much further back than 18 months. Del has been totally committed to working for the disadvantaged people of the PNG villages and other Pacific Island groups.\(^{(1)}\) She spends the best portion of her time organising and collecting goods from many sources.

She drives her Utility to places like Toowoomba Hospital to pick up beds and other equipment. She makes up birthing kits in her own garage here at Paradise Point. She stores all the goods she accumulates in her storage shed at Underwood. She purchases shipping containers. She organizes our club members to load the containers. Then at this time she has personally paid for the containers to be delivered to the port and in most cases goes to the destination herself to ensure safe arrival and distribution.

Del is an amazing woman who has a history of being a self made and determined person. In her early twenties, against all odds she instigated and built the Mt Gravatt Bus Services in 1974, which services the areas around the Underwood / Mt Gravatt localities. She purchased and drove a bus to collect the local school children to and from their schools, and as she wrote:

"my new baby in a bassinette beside my driver’s seat"... Today she still is the chairperson of the Board of Directors of a company with some 50 vehicles and meets every Tuesday morning to keep a handle on it. She says all of her employees are like family, her son is her best friend who constantly helps her with her Rotary activities. She also is our club’s (Runaway Bay) International Director. Tireless in her efforts to “Make a Difference”.

\(^{(1)}\) Note: and not just PNG and Pacific Islands! Very much worth a mention: at the recent District Conference, Del’s company, Mt Gravatt Coach & Travel provided the bus travel to/from the Outback Spectacular. Thank you! Ed.

A 'Birth Report' sent from PNG. “… At last, the dead baby was born. I was sorry, but anyway I helped the mother to get the placenta out and then I took the baby and gave the baby mouth to mouth… suddenly the baby cried out loud…”

Maternal health remains a staggering challenge, particularly in the developing world. Globally, a woman dies from complications in childbirth every minute.

Jessica Capshaw, American Actress
Rotarians, with the imminent requirement for RAWCS DIK to vacate the premises we currently occupy at Durack by the end of June – we must ask you all NOT TO SEND further goods to Brisbane until further notice.

The only exception to this is books, which are used as packing and space fillers in containers. Birthing kits also can continue to come in. Definitely no school furniture, or hospital beds or other equipment until further notice.

If your Club or individual Rotarians can come to Packing Days on May 5, or June 2 – many hands will be needed. Extra packing days may be announced as the date for moving gets closer.

If you have any ideas or political connections that may lead to new premises for us, please pick up the phone: Col Laurenson 0412 142 895.

Stanthorpe stages 26th ‘Opera at the Vineyard’

How many Rotary Clubs can showcase a young President, wearing a stunning gown with a fine, filigree style mask, playing Beethoven’s Romance in F Major violin concerto, accompanied by her local Chamber Orchestra? Morwenna Harslett, self-deprecatingly, called it “Presidential Busking”… Busking? Morwenna’s performance resulted in some $1,800 being contributed to DG Darrell Brown’s aim to raise $33,000 for the ARH (Australian Rotary Health) Scholarship. ARH, for decades, has been closely involved in Mental Health Research. Did you know that Beethoven is thought to be one of the world’s most prominent sufferers of Bi-Polar Disorder? What better proof that Mental Health doesn’t preclude achievement or brilliance.
No! They are NOT dancing! They are practicing team work. This year’s RYPEN (Rotary Youth Program for Enrichment) camp at Bornhoffen was again a huge success.

RYPEN is a weekend residential experience for youth aged 14-16 years designed to develop skills that will assist them in the transition to adulthood.

Participants are involved in a variety of workshops and activities, which provide an opportunity for them to personally develop, gain self confidence, communication skills, challenge themselves, build friendships, and develop life skills. You can read more about our District’s program by clicking on this link.

The camp is run by District RYPEN Chair Kathy Smith (right), together with Camp Coordinator Jarrad Cartmill of the Rotary Club of Fassifern Valley (far left) and Kate Woodham of the Rotary e-club of NextGen Queensland (left) and a number of helpers, all distinctly recognizable by their purple shirts. (Photos by DG Darrell Brown)

How are we progressing with Kerrie Brown’s ROMAC appeal?

OK, it has slightly gone up since last month, but still only 30 clubs have contributed! So what happened to that beautiful pillow Kerrie handcrafted, one of which was donated to every club!

At the nominal value of $500 per pillow, after all the clubs have made their contribution, we’ll easily exceed the target! The result? A seriously disfigured child can look forward to leading a normal life!

And what about DG Darrell’s goal to raise funds for an Australian Rotary Health Scholarship? Regrettably, it has only slightly gone up: Only $15,425 of $33,000 so far.

C’mon, Rotarians!
Fast Forward to April 2021!

Why? What’s happening in 3 years that I already need to know about now? Well, it will be 100 years since the foundation of the first Rotary Clubs in Australia: 2 Rotarians from the RC of Halifax and Calgary led to the chartering of Melbourne, Wellington, Auckland and Sydney. Much is being planned to create a legacy and events that will truly reflect what we represent. Here are some of the highlights:

Here are some highlights:

- An ambitious $30 million youth vaccination program across 9 Pacific nations under the banner “Give Every Child a Future” has been launched. Initiated by the 4 centenary clubs, RC Melbourne, Wellington, Auckland and Sydney, our partners are the Asian Development Bank and UNICEF. Soon we will invite Rotarians plus communities across many nations to participate, create scale and make a long lasting difference in the Pacific region.

- The Canadians are coming! New and convivial links have been created with our charter clubs, Calgary and Halifax. Books have been exchanged and an invitation to send representatives has been warmly received. In addition to a re-enactment and celebration, they are also keen to participate in the inaugural Ralston-Davidson Golf Challenge Cup honouring the 2 Rotarians that got the ball rolling for us.

- Schedules are being put in place for a Commemorative Stamp and Coin to be issued in 2021 by Australia Post and the Royal Mint. Imagine this; stamps and coins with related merchandise that present the Rotary message across the nation during the centenary year.

- End Trachoma is a project being adopted across Australian Districts that will lead into the centenary year. Supported strongly by RI President Ian Riseley and District Governors for several years ahead, this project has a clear focus on indigenous health. A unique malaise to Australia, it is treatable and beatable by the time we achieve 100 years of Service. How good will that legacy be?

Save The Date! Wednesday 21st April 2021 is the anniversary of the first Rotary meeting in Australia and NZ and we aim to attract 1000+ Rotarians, Friends of Rotary and community leaders to a celebration. They will meet the dignitaries and vice regal representatives that are already “pencilled in” for a Grand Event at a world class venue. Technology will also enable participation from anywhere across the 2 nations in addition to a rolling program of face-to-face events in multiple locations.

Only a few days to the social event of the year: The Rotary Clubs of Gold Coast and Burleigh Heads

‘A Masquerade Gala Ball’
For full details, click here
To book, click here

District 9640
Changeover Luncheon

District 9640 DG Darrell Brown and DGE Terry Brown cordially invite Rotarians and Partners

Saturday 30th June 2018
11:30 am for 12:15 start

Windara Function Centre
253 Sextonville Road
Casino, N.S.W. 2470

$35.00 per person, plus Cash Bar
Dress: Smart Casual

Secure online booking: click here

Or RSVP: Sue Randel
D9640Sec@westnet.com.au
or 0448 484 410

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