



Rotary International District 9670



Annual Report 2015-2016

District Governor Adrian Roach (Christine Roach)

Rotary Club of Greenhills Maitland

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District Governor's Report 2015-2016

Adrian Roach (Rotary Club of Greenhills-Maitland)

As I sit down to compose this report I am inundated with many great memories of the magnificent District Committees, Rotary Clubs and Rotarians in the district of 9670.

As you read the reports from the District Committees you will get an insight into what the District has achieved this past year. The variety and diversity in these projects is remarkable. So many good things are achieved by so many people, making the world a better place.

The Rotary International President for 2015-2016 was Ravi Ravindran from Sri Lanka. He hails from the Rotary Club of Colombo in Sri Lanka and I knew instantly that I would enjoy his Presidency (especially as my Favourite TV detective show was Colombo)

Ravindran said his top priority for Rotary was to increase membership, which he called the bedrock of any organization. This he did.

“The emphasis on membership has to continue with focus on the younger generation,” Ravindran said. “Additionally, we must seek to attract the just retired and experienced people into Rotary.”

Ravindran said it's important for Rotarians to share their stories, especially through social media, so others can see the impact Rotary has had in their lives. He said it's also important for the organization to speak with a consistent voice. “Our identity must remain simple and be based on our core values. It must be clear and straightforward to both our internal and external audience.”

He was truly an inspirational Leader whom I got to spend some very valuable time with in Sydney, San Diego and Seoul South Korea.

The Rotary year began at the District Changeover at Club Maitland with the Rotary Club of Greenhills–Maitland putting on a top night. The necessary traditions were upheld while the not so necessary traditions were left out of the program. It was a great night of fun and fellowship.

My focus points for the District for 2015-2016 were:

- * The Rotary Foundation - increase awareness and support
- * Membership - Acquisition, Retention, and starting New Clubs
- * Public Relations – Branding, Communication, Social Media

The Rotary Foundation: With the help of the Rotary Foundation Chair and committee, as well as Christine spruiking the benefits of the foundation I believe we increased awareness of the foundation as well as financial support.

Public relations: Further progress was made within the district to implement the new Rotary branding and to tell the stories of Rotary through social media

Membership: A new Sunrise club in Singleton was chartered along with clubs applying for and obtaining grants for the specific purpose of increasing membership. Many clubs who made the effort to increase membership were able to finish the club with a net positive gain. Membership is an area which needs an enormous focus on in the coming years, to ensure we have enough Rotarians to continue to do the good work in the world that is so needed.

I was saddened to learn as I travelled that several great clubs were reviewing handing in their charter as they just could get new people to join their clubs, and were having trouble engaging members to take on leadership roles. I think it's important to see who is attracted to our clubs and then focus on asking those people to join our ranks, while at the same time ensuring current members are active and engaged. We had two clubs hand back their charter this year while we had one new club receive their charter. That was the Rotary Club of Singleton Sunrise.

A massive thank you goes out to IPDG Gerard McMillian for the many hours he invested in getting the new club started, I am sure that this new club will be a wonderful thing for the people of Singleton.

I want to say thank to the District Governor Nomination Committee for selecting me and placing their trust in me as the District Governor for 2015-2016. I feel I had an effective year and accomplished my goals. I believe we continued to move the district forward. We maintained the theme of good governance and transparency. I had brilliant support with the Gtrain DGE Steve Jackson, DGN Helen Ryan and DGND Brian Coffey. A special thank you to my Assistant Governors and my District Chairs and Committees. They all did an amazing job supporting the clubs and district.

The 2015-16 Club Presidents were also a great team of dedicated Rotarians who led their clubs with enthusiasm and passion.

Many thanks to my wife Christine for supporting me while still working full time. I did appreciate the sacrifices she made and the help she provided to me.

I owe much gratitude to my "3 wise men". District Secretary Wilma Simmons, District Treasurer Bob Wood and District Governors Support John Bennetts. Together they worked perfectly well to support me and the District, and I thank them sincerely for that.

Thank you also to IPDG Gerard McMillian for his support and guidance during the last few years. This support was very much appreciated.

The Conference Chair Trevor Lynch and his committee were nothing short of sensational. What a great conference they put on for the district - great venue, great food, great speakers and at an affordable cost. The conference was certainly tailored to include the younger generations, while aiming not to exclude the senior Rotarians. This is always a fine balance.

We had many positive comments and many young Rotarians looking forward to the next Conference in Dubbo. We managed to gain corporate sponsorship to keep the ticket price affordable and despite not budgeting for a profit, made \$7,000 after all the bills were paid.

Thanks to PDG Peter Raynor for his efforts in helping our district with a Rotary Foundation Global Grant for the Paul Tunn Memorial Dental Project in PNG.

I take this opportunity to wish DG Steve Jackson, DGE Helen Ryan and DGE Brian Coffey all the best for their term as Governor and I know they will all do everting in their power to ensure that the district keeps moving forward.

Please take the time to read the following District Committee Chairs reports which will give you a greater understanding of the dedication we have in our district and what has been achieved in the past year.

Thank you, one and all, for the help and support you have shown Christine and me over this last year.

DG 2015-16 Adrian Roach

District Governor's Partner's Project: The Rotary Foundation

Christine Roach (Rotary Club of Greenhills-Maitland)

I must admit that before the year started I really struggled to identify a 'project' for the year. It was Adrian who encouraged me to look at The Rotary Foundation more closely, and for me it made perfect sense to promote our very own Charity and help Rotarians in our District understand just a little bit more about what it does and the importance it has for all of us.

I had one main goal in mind for the year, and that was not based on raising funds, but on improving understanding of the importance of the Foundation to us all in our District, in supporting our own projects and contributing to our colleagues around the Nation and the World for today and to secure our future work.

It is very difficult to measure the success of this goal, however I am encouraged that I have met this in several ways:

- The number of people who approached me to have a conversation about The Rotary Foundation,
- The number of people who told me that they had learnt something new, or could see the work of the foundation in a new light,
- The number of people who expressed an intention to 'invest' their own personal charity dollars into the Foundation, and
- The contributions that have been made to the Annual programs fund from our District.

While I admit that these are only indicators, they are positive ones and only time will tell if my 'project' shows success over the coming years.

I'd like to remind us all that The Rotary Foundation in OUR Charity that allows US to achieve our goals of 'doing good in the world'

We all work so hard in our Rotary work, so I encourage you all to continue to invest in ourselves. Support the work that we and our Rotarian colleagues in this District and across the globe all do. We know the great work we do, so let's continue to put our Charity dollars into it as well as our time and expertise.

In the words of famous Anthropologist Margaret Mead: *'Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.'*

Christine Roach
Rotarian & DG Partner 2015-2016



Assistant Governors District 9670 2015-2016

Zone 1 - Stuart Astley (Donna) - Dubbo West

Clubs: Bourke Cobar, Narromine, Nyngan, Warren

Zone 2 -Lyn MacDonald (Peter) - Dubbo West

Clubs: Dubbo, Dubbo Macquarie, Dubbo South, Rylstone-Kandos

Zone 3 - David Roach (Amanda) - Rylstone -Kando

Clubs: Dubbo West, Mudgee, Mudgee Sunrise, Wellington

Zone 4 - John Vandine (Robyn) - Muswellbrook

Clubs: Denman, Merriwa, Murrurundi, Scone

Zone 5 - Christine Walmsley - Maitland Sunrise

Clubs: Cessnock, Cessnock-Wine Country, Kurri Kurri Sunrise, Singleton, Singleton on Hunter

Zone 6 - Terry New (Terese) - Rutherford-Telarah

Clubs: Dungog, Greenhills-Maitland, Maitland, Muswellbrook, Paterson

Zone 7 - Howard Bridgman (Diana) - Newcastle Enterprise

Clubs: Myall Coast, Newcastle Sunrise, Raymond Terrace, Salamander Bay, Williamtown

Zone 8 - Philip Gorton (Ruth) - Wallsend-Maryland

Clubs: Cardiff, Newcastle Enterprise, Toronto, Waratah

Zone 9 - Denis Hyland (Judith) - Newcastle Sunrise

Clubs: Adamstown-New Lambton, Charlestown, Newcastle, Newcastle Harbour, Wallsend-Maryland

Zone 10 - Earl Heckman (Barbara) - Maitland

Clubs: East Maitland, Kurri Kurri, Maitland Sunrise, Nelson Bay, Rutherford-Telarah

Zone 11 - Laurie McGrath (Lorraine) - Wallsend-Maryland

Clubs: Belmont, Lake Macquarie, Morisset, Toronto Sunrise, Warners Bay

District 9670 Executive Reports

District Governor's Support

John Bennetts (Rotary Club of Singleton on Hunter)

The past two years, 2014-2016, have seen the trial of a new position, that of District Governor's Support. Consequently, I have been afforded the luxury of defining my own position description. This was balanced by a complete lack of any history or tradition, thus enabling DG Adrian to hand me any task at all. My role was mainly to reduce the clutter of tasks that demanded the attention of the DG, through research, report writing, assisting the District Secretary or the District Treasurer and occasionally attending meetings at the DG's side. Perhaps the role is that of a gap-filler. A few examples follow.

Research. Some of the 20 or more small and not-so-small items included:

- Extraction of information from Clubrunner for various purposes,
- Assisting in review of district committees which are struggling, for example, the RELAYID Committee,
- Verifying the currency of all certificates of incorporation and of Authorities to Fundraise so that clubs and committees can be offered coordinated and consistent support in these areas when necessary,
- Review and recording of the banking and incorporation status of each of the district committees, and
- Liaising with the Philippines and South Pacific Office of RI on behalf of the DG when requested.

In both years I stayed abreast of regulatory changes regarding the Associations Incorporation Act and the Charitable Fundraising Act. Both are still under active review with further substantial changes due to take effect from 1 September 2016.

Gap-filler: On occasion, District Secretary Wilma and District Treasurer Bob wanted me to check some facts or to accept sub-tasks, to suggest a path of action or to otherwise lighten their loads. In the previous year, I was able to fill in for the District Secretary when he was unavailable due to illness or travel commitments. I assisted DG Adrian to finalise the 2016-19 D9670 Strategic Plan.

Following a successful trial at the 2015 District Conference, all trophies are now retained, spruced up in advance of the next District Conference and displayed during the conference.

Working as part of Adrian's team was a pleasure and a privilege. I met many Rotarians and came to look forward to the almost daily phone calls from DG Adrian. Reading back through this report, I realise that I was assisted by many Rotarians as I tried to support the district team. It was very educational. Much of it is either personal or of little lasting consequence, but that is the nature of a support role. I recommend that future DG's consider appointing a District Governor's Support Officer.

Being able to harvest my wife, Ilga's knowledge, skills and time was essential. Without Ilga, much that was done would have remained not done.

Yours in Rotary service, John Bennetts

District Secretary

Wilma Simmons (Rotary Club of Wallsend-Maryland)

There are many highlights I would like to include in this report, but I think the most noteworthy is email communication. As soon as it was announced that I would be the District Secretary in 2015-2016, many Rotarians within the district gave me advice and tips mostly about what not to do. It was really good to get feedback before I started officially - the main complaint was “too many emails - hence the birth of the “Friday Funnies” (christened by District Governor elect, Steve). The weekly email has changed the style of communication between district and clubs. Each week, one message with attachments and links was sent to the G-train (District Governor, District Governor Elect and Nominee), the assistant governors, district executive, district committee chairs and club presidents and secretaries. Although it is more work for the secretary, club feedback throughout the year suggested that this was a more acceptable way of receiving correspondence from various levels of Rotary International. There were of course teething problems - too many large attachments, inability to open zip files, expectations that the Friday email would replace all need for clubs to advertise their own events and my own procrastination of Friday’s task! Hopefully, this method of “culling” emails and noting what required action before communicating to all clubs has proven helpful particularly for club secretaries. District Governor elect Steve has indicated that he will continue this approach in 2016-2017.

During the year, I learnt a lot more about how the district and Clubrunner works and hopefully, I was helpful to District Governor Adrian and to clubs. My sincere gratitude to Colin and Nicole Shanks from the Electronic Communication Committee who helped me so much with technology. A lot of the really tough jobs in the district were completed by John Bennetts, District Governor’s Support with whom I had many long phone discussions and I thank John for his skill in not missing any detail and persistence in following inquiries though. Thanks also to District Treasurer, Bob Wood for his invaluable advice and his complete knowledge of everything financial. I would also like to make special mention of District Governor’s Monthly Digest Editor, Kellie Hunt who did a great job compiling the monthly newsletter to support the weekly communications.

More importantly, I would like to thank the club secretaries and presidents for their support and cooperation, their honest feedback and encouragement and their commitment to Rotary - this made my job very easy.

Wilma Simmons, District Secretary 2015-2016

DISTRICT TREASURER 2015-2016

Bob Wood (Rotary Club of Singleton-on-Hunter and Rotary Club of Singleton Sunrise)

My year as District Treasurer was a great one. Working with Adrian, Wilma & Patrick was a pleasure. I again, learnt a great deal more about Rotary & I made sure that I became involved as much as I could, during the 12 months.

Once again, the most important experiences were meeting and working with a large number of enthusiastic Rotarians. It still is a great learning curve for me.

Whilst being the District Treasurer is a time consuming job, I was able to help, several Club Treasurers understand the legal requirements of being a Treasurer, of an entity which must adhere to the requirements of the NSW Fundraising Act & to particular requirements of the Australian Taxation Law.

In presenting the financial reports, I tried to make them as open & transparent as I could. I believe that I was successful in doing this.

The District Financial Accounts now include, all bar one, District Committees. This has got to be a plus for the District. The one that is missing will be included in 2016-2017 year.

Being District Treasurer for the year 2015 to 2016 was a challenge, but it was an enjoyable challenge, made that way by the clear & concise direction from District Governor Adrian. His leadership has certainly helped me to carry out the duties, as District Treasurer, again, this year. The working relationship with Adrian, Wilma & Patrick, could not have been better.

Bob Wood

District Treasurer 2015-2016

District 9670 Committee Reports (alphabetically)

AUSTRALIAN ROTARY HEALTH REPORT 2015-16

Chris Bartlett (Rotary Club of Nelson Bay)

Another busy year for ARH in our District. Despite a drop in donations, \$34,000 had been received at the end of May, every endeavour was made to keep Clubs informed of the wonderful of Australia Rotary Health.

- Some of the highlights include Denman Club winning the ARH Trophy at the District Conference for their donations to ARH
- Dr Tonelle Handley, a keynote speaker at Saturday's breakfast at the Mudgee Conference. Thank you to DG Adrian and Christine for the exposure
- An ARH Cocktail evening held in Newcastle with the ARH Board in attendance.
- Another successful Hat Day, although donations were down this year, in our District.
- Excellent support from ARH to all Clubs in the District through regular reports from CEO Joy Gillett
- ARH Scholars attending Newcastle University progressing well in their specific projects.
- Planning underway for Indigenous Scholarship workshop to be held at Williamstown in July.

Plans to increase awareness to some non- participating Clubs are currently being prepared.

Chris Bartlett, District 9670 Chair 2015/16

Child Protection Report

Trevor Lynch (Rotary Club of East Maitland)

This report could be quite short because it is so pleasing to advise that D9670 has managed to maintain its good record of ensuring the safety of children and youth involved in Rotary programs during 2015-16. However it's also important to record some information regarding the measures that Clubs and District Committees should put in place to satisfy the regulations regarding working with children; these measures are designed to give them the best possible protection.

Clubs have been advised about Working With Children Check (WWCC) requirements and, if they have taken the advice of this Committee, they will have registered their members who are involved in youth programs, and will have a database of their WWCC numbers recorded and available on request. Clubs and District Committees should also be registered as "employers" and have documented their members WWCC numbers on the Office of Children's Guardian website.

The WWCC implementation phase is complete for volunteer organisations such as Rotary and it has now moved to the audit phase where any volunteer organisation working with children could be asked to show that they comply with requirements.

This year, at The District Assembly, we ran Child Protection seminars and used Skype to get the message over the range to those Rotarians who attended the Dubbo session. A special thank-you goes to Maryka Gibson who, in my absence, ran the seminar for those who attended the Singleton session.

Thank you also to those people across the District who gave advice regarding the new procedures to be followed to satisfy NSW government requirements.

Looking forward to another year where the children involved in Rotary programs continue to feel safe, our D9670 volunteers feel they have done their best to satisfy the regulations, and can be confident that the children will achieve the best possible outcomes from the activities planned.

Trevor Lynch

Chair Child Protection Committee

District Conference Report 2016

Trevor Lynch (Rotary Club of East Maitland)

This year's Conference was held at Parklands Resort and Conference Centre Mudgee on 4, 5 & 6 March, with just under 400 delegates in attendance at the plenary sessions and almost 450 at the District Governor's Gala Dinner on the Saturday night.

The Rotary International President's Personal Representative, Rangith Samerasinghe and his wife Kusum from Sri Lanka were delightful, friendly guests who entered into the spirit of the Conference, and, in summing up the weekend Rangith praised the work that Rotarians are doing in D9670.

Five Keynote Speakers used the conference theme of "People Passion and Purpose" to highlight key features of their presentations. They were all well received, and during the breaks the House of Friendship was abuzz with discussion about the quality of the presentations. Keynote presenters were Michael McQueen (The Battle for Relevance), Mark Hughes (Mark Hughes Foundation), Richard Go (Passion through Flowers), Evan Burrell from RDU (Having Fun in Rotary) and Andrew Hughes (Harnessing our Passion & Purpose). As well as a focus on the theme and learning more about Rotary, the underlying aim of the weekend was to have some fun. Many indicated that it was a most enjoyable experience and that they did have a great time despite the above normal temperatures.

Tonelle Handley and Merril De Fiddes were the two breakfast guest speakers. Tonelle is from Australian Rotary Health and spoke about the assistance available online for people with mental health issues. Merril gave advice on the use of Social Media to promote, strengthen and reinvigorate Rotary Clubs. Both women showed their ability to hold a crowd early in the day.

Six “freedom of choice” breakout sessions were all well attended; these sessions had an emphasis on ‘Being a Gift to the World’ by involvement in Rotary projects. The sessions were conducted by:

- Brian Coffey – Rotary Australia Benevolent Society (RABS)
- Peter Raynor and the Rotary Foundation team – Rotary Grants & VTT
- Laurie McGrath - Membership promotion
- Lance Murphy – Hay to Longreach
- Birgit Smith and Chris Bartlett , Case Studies of successful Mudgee & Nelson Bay projects
- Mike Weatherall and Gabby Brand - Rotaract and Interact

The House of Friendship was a very busy place during breaks in organised activities, one of the highlights being the display of the renovated Iron Lung once used to treat polio victims.

At different times throughout the Conference trophy presentations were made to the following Clubs:

1. **Arnold Forsyth Trophy:** Awarded for the best monthly attendance, participation and contribution for a twelve month period from the month of the District Conference by a Club more than 32 kilometres from its neighbouring Club – **Merriwa**
2. **Australian Rotary Health Research Fund Perpetual Trophy:** Awarded to the Club which makes the most significant contribution to the fund since the last District Conference – **Denman**
3. **Charles May Trophy:** Awarded to the Club with the greatest number of members at the District Conference divided by its total membership and multiplied by the distance from the conference centre – **Morisset**
4. **Harold Chadwick Trophy:** Awarded to the Club with the highest percentage of partners attending the District Conference (the host Club is excluded) - **Myall Coast**
5. **District Club WEB Page Award:** Awarded to the Club that shows the most creative design and current information on their WEB page – **Wallsend-Maryland**
6. **District Governor's Furthering the Object of Rotary Award**
Awarded by the District Governor to the Club considered to have done more than any other in the district to further the object of Rotary - **Kurri Kurri**
7. **Jim Henderson Trophy:** Awarded to the Club with the highest standard and/or improvement in its weekly bulletin - **Denman**
8. **John & Pat Glass Award:** Awarded to both the Rotary Club and Rotaract Club for their positive contribution and service to their Community and Rotary - **Newcastle and Hunter Rotaract**

9. **Ted and Ann Lewis Award:** Awarded to both the Rotary Club and Interact Club for their positive contribution and service to their Community and Rotary – **Rotary Club of Rutherford-Telarah & The Interact Club of Rutherford Technology High School**
10. **Junius Price Trophy:** Awarded for the best monthly attendance, participation and contribution for a twelve month period from the month of the Conference - **Dubbo Macquarie**
11. **Preserve Planet Earth Award:** Awarded to the Club with the best environment project or program - **Narromine**
12. **Reg Drayton Memorial Trophy:** Awarded to the Club best demonstrating internal and external fellowship - **Dubbo South**
13. **Shirley Stanley Memorial Award:** Awarded to the Club most involved in youth and young adult programs, such as RYLA, RYPEN, RYAG, RELAYID, National Science School, Youth in Citizenship and Youth Exchange short and long term - **Greenhills-Maitland**
14. **Rotary District 9670 DG's Golf Trophy:** Awarded to the outstanding golfer at the District Conference golf challenge - **Carol Cockerill-Wright, Rotary Club of Mudgee Sunrise**
15. **District 9670 District Recognition for Exemplary Service – Michael Weatherall**
16. **The Doug Mathew's Trophy:** Awarded to the Club which makes an outstanding effort to enhance the image of Rotary, specifically in the area of Public Relations and/or membership - **Newcastle Enterprise**

Much to the surprise of the individuals concerned, seven Rotarians received Paul Harris recognitions for their service to the District. Those recognised were:

- John Bennetts - PHF + 6 (Ruby)
- Michael Weatherall + PHF + 1
- Scott Lewis - PHF + 1
- Trevor Lynch - PHF +2
- David Roach - PHF + 1
- Amanda Roach - PHF + 1

Congratulations to the members of the Rotary Club of Green Hills Maitland who supplied the ideas and the professional expertise to run a well organised and fun event. Special thanks to the Mudgee Clubs who worked to ensure we had not only a successful conference but also a wonderful Mudgee experience.

Trevor Lynch (Rotary Club of East Maitland, 2016 Conference Chair)

District Insurance Annual Report 2015 – 2016

Margaret Raynor (Rotary Club of Warners Bay)

At the end of the 2015-2016 year it is pleasing to report that all routine enquiries and claims have been dealt with successfully. The level of claims received was not excessive or major and all claims were paid in full by the underwriters.

Additionally, our insurances are in place for the new year with minimal price adjustment.

I have enjoyed the opportunity to speak at several training sessions throughout the year and thank all those who attended for their warm welcome, commitment and serious approach to this important subject. The ultimate aim is for all Clubs and Rotarians to become acquainted with their responsibilities and it is pleasing to see an increase in Clubs reporting their activities well in advance to allow for any doubtful areas to be clarified before the event takes place. I thank all concerned for their notifications as well as the timeliness of them.

I have enjoyed the opportunity several times throughout the year to meet and speak with the District Inbound and Outbound students on their Insurance coverage and responsibilities and I thank Youth Exchange Chair Denise Parkes for her invitations to be involved at this level.

As we go forward into the new year there are murmurings regarding more stringent requirements by the Insurers regarding our Child Molestation coverage. It will be vitally important we ensure our compliance so we are able to retain our coverage for this area of risk.

In conclusion, I thank my predecessor DGE Steve Jackson for his encouragement and confidence. I have found the year most enjoyable and look forward to another in a similar vein.

Margaret Raynor
District Insurance Officer

Interact

Michael Weatherall (Rotary Club of Rutherford-Telarah)

The Interact Clubs in the District that have received their 'Certificate of Organisation' - (Charter in Rotary terms) are:- Interact Club of Rutherford Technology High School, Interact Club of Cardiff High School, Interact Club of Warren Central, Interact Club of Kurri Kurri High School, Interact Club of Lake Macquarie High School. These are the District Interact Clubs that have completed their District registrations and either will or have received their money donated upon their Organisation. There are another group of eighty schools and two community groups that will organise either this term four or first thing first term 2017. Additionally, an Interact Club at Callaghan College, Waratah Campus is in formation.

Some highlights of the year:

- Interactors attended Camp INTERACTiOn
- Interactors worked towards and received their Certificate II in Active Volunteering
- Interactors had lots of fun at the Interact Conference
- Interactors had lots of fun
- Interact Clubs received their Charter bonus of \$200 as seed funding

The District Facebook page is also available to share any activities – it will become more active as we start many more Interact Clubs. We are starting Interact Clubs in schools and soon some community based Interact clubs too.

Facebook - Interact Rotary District 9670.

Michael Weatherall
Interact Committee Chair

Learning and Development Committee Report 2015-16

Christine Walmsley (Rotary Club of Maitland Sunrise)

This is my first year as Chairperson of the District Learning and Development Committee for District 9670 and it was my pleasure to work with committee members Kay Pritchard [Rotary Club of Maitland Sunrise], Maryka Gibson [Rotary Club of Maitland Sunrise], Pam Wellham [Rotary Club of Wallsend/Maryland], Danny Thompson [Rotary Club of Singleton on Hunter] and PDG Alex McHarg [Rotary Club of Singleton on Hunter].

After a series of planning meetings with DGE Steve Jackson, during November and February, the team worked together in preparing the training weekend for Assistant Governors and District Chairs. A new initiative for this Rotary year has been to include Rotary Leadership Initiative training for Assistant Governors. Day one to be incorporated into the February training weekend and day two to be held in April. The committee and DGE Steve were very keen to further support our Assistant Governors in their new roles and the evaluation feedback from AG's was very appreciative of this further training. Overall the training weekend evaluation feedback was very positive however, the committee need to address how to encourage more District Chairs attendance.

Planning then began in earnest for District PETS and District Assembly training both in Dubbo and Singleton. After considering evaluation feedback from the previous Rotary year, we knew that President Elects and their Board members appreciated interactive learning sessions and small group workshop sessions particularly. Taking this feedback into consideration, the committee endeavoured to deliver an informative, interesting and relevant training program over 2 days in 2 locations. In Dubbo due to smaller participant numbers we were able to deliver additional workshop seminars and this was very highly appreciated. Next year my challenge in Dubbo is to encourage higher club participant numbers and I intend to begin addressing this issue with early training registration and program information shared with club leaders and Assistant Governors.

PDG Keith Roffey attended both weekends and delivered a Membership Development presentation which received excellent reviews from participants in both locations, many requesting a copy of his power point presentation to share with their club members.

Evaluation feedback from Dubbo and Singleton participants was very positive with constructive comments on future planning. This information has been shared with committee members, DGE Steve and DGN Helen as we have met to formulate a draft plan for the learning and development of District leaders in the 2016-17 Rotary year.

Chris Walmsley, District Chair Learning and Development

Membership

At the Convention in Sydney then RI President Ron Burton said *“The bottom line is that Rotary’s future is up to us. We can either, get up out of our chairs and really make things happen or we can sit there and become an endangered species and eventually die off”*. RI President K.R. “Ravi” Ravindran spoke in a similar vein, encouraging us to get people to join.

Membership Committee

The committee worked well across the District. The committee comprises:

Laurie McGrath	Charlestown (Chair)
Adrian Roach	Greenhills
Christine Walmsley	Maitland Sunrise
Toni Gemmell	Warners Bay
Sharon Chambers	Williamtown
Todd Paterson	Greenhills

In addition to the workshops the committee members ensured representation at all District meetings and gave presentations at PETS and the District Conference at Mudgee.

Membership Workshops

During the year we held 3 membership workshops in our District in August 2015 at Newcastle, Singleton and Dubbo and again the five top reasons to stay in Rotary were:

- ✓ Personal need to do something or a chance to do something;
- ✓ Satisfaction in helping the community;
- ✓ Fellowship, meet new people, have fun;
- ✓ Sense of belonging; and
- ✓ Business networking.

Membership fluctuated through the year, but District 9670 continued to remain a viable area of Rotary. Unfortunately 2 clubs, Nyngan and Adamstown-New Lambton decided to return their charter and as a result there was a downturn in District membership.

Retention of members is a key area. This year we gained 471 new members, but 125 of those left within the year whilst at the same time 368 existing members left. **It is clear we can attract new members but we have to work harder to retain members.**

Women in Rotary : The percentage of women members in the District is continuing to grow and we as a District are well above the International average. We need to continue and increase the number of women in clubs across the District.

New Clubs: The year saw the chartering of another club to the District, the Rotary Club of Singleton Sunrise sponsored by the Singleton club. The new club is a morning club and was chartered in June 2016, and will be holding its Charter lunch in October 2016.

Rotary and Age : The coming years will be challenging for membership as age starts to impact. To illustrate this point consider the following: 10% of Rotarians are under 40, 70% are over 50 and 41% of them are over 60. In 1983 the average Rotarian age was 47 in 2014 the average age is 62.

When was the last time you invited someone to come and have a look at Rotary?

National Youth Science Forum 2016

Iain Blackadder

The National Youth Science Forum (NYSF) is a 12 day residential program for students entering year 12 who are passionate about science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM). Two summer schools in January each year are run in Canberra. Each school is attended by high school students who have completed year 11. This year district 9670 sent 16 students to the forum. They were:

Sharik Burgess-Stride Dubbo Macquarie
Natalie McMahon Dubbo West
Samuel Vail Dubbo
Chloe Zell Dubbo South
Mikaela Bell Toronto Sunrise
Montana Coombes Belmont
Andrea Elliott Charlestown
Livana Hamad Newcastle Enterprise

Adrienne Harvey Newcastle Sunrise
Amelia McMurray Warners Bay
Emily Reed Newcastle Enterprise
Hannah-Rose Rietveld Myall Coast
Ebony Shaw-Prisk Wallsend-Maryland
Maya St-Jean East Maitland
Andrew Trout Nelson Bay
Jocelyn Ware Rutherford Telarah

Isaac Limley has been selected as a staff member for NYSF 2016. Shoshana Rapley, who attended NYSF 2014, was a staff member for NYSF 2015 and has been selected to again be a staff member for NYSF 2016.

The committee (John and Ilga Bennetts, Pam Welham, Peter Tarlinton, Howard Bridgeman, Bob Aus, Bruce King) and a number of ex-NYSF students worked very hard at district interviews in July and August. I thank them very much for their efforts.

The successful students, parents and Rotarians then attended a NYSF briefing session at the University of Newcastle in September which was sponsored by the CSIRO Energy Centre. I'd like to thank the CSIRO for their continued support of the program and Fred Menk from the University of Newcastle for his address. The students based in the western part of the district attended an orientation at Orange with students from district 9700, also in September. Many students from the district attended a function with the Governor of NSW at Government House.

The recent innovation to involve ex-NYSF students in the interviews has proved to be a positive experience for all concerned. This year I am planning to make better links to NYSF alumni to hopefully use their talents for the benefit of Rotary.

None of this would be possible without the support District 9670 clubs over the years. So I would like to thank clubs and their officers as well as the district's John H Algie Trust for their generous sponsorship of NYSF students.

As the work of for NYSF spans two Rotary years, I would like to thank the both District Governors for their support and for a most enjoyable experience.

Iain Blackadder, Chair, District 9670 Summer Schools Committee

New Generations Service Exchange

Brian Oakley (Rotary Club of Myall Coast)

The 2015 – 2016 year has been successful for the NGSE Team. There has been 3 Incoming young adults two from the UK and one from Denmark. Unfortunately no outgoing Candidates. I believe this is because of the lack of promotion given to the program. As the program has been sanctioned by the district there may be more interest shown by the clubs.

I have given presentations of the program to the Rotary Clubs of Dubbo South, Dubbo Macquarie, Warren, Charlestown, Morisset, and the Presidents meeting in May. I have also given a talk at the University of Newcastle and from this I have achieved one outgoing young adult for early 2017 leaving in January. I have also have one interested person but have advised her to wait until she had completed her degree. I have also another candidate from Merriwa which I hope to have her carrying out her vocational experience in Germany later this year.

The plan for the 2016-17 year is to visit most clubs in the district to try and influence members to become host families and also sponsor an outgoing young adult.

The program now has a sponsor being 'Palm Lake Resort Tea Gardens' who has give a small sponsorship to cover costs of promotional material and incidental costs.

Brian Oakley

Chair NGSE District 9670

PROBUS

Ray Davies (Rotary Club of Raymond Terrace)

The Probus Committee 2015 – 2016 consisted of:
Chairman: Raymond Davies Raymond Terrace, Member Eastern section: Grahame Moy
Raymond Terrace and Member Western section: Raymond Nolan Dubbo

During 2015/16, Probus in Rotary District 9670 followed the decline noticed in all Districts of the Asia Pacific Zone. In District 9670, membership dropped from 5,414 at the beginning of the period to 5,260 at the end. The total number of Probus Clubs in the District now stands at 72 with the addition of a Probus Club in Wellington and it is good to note that there have been no Club closures during the last 12 months.

Apart from The Rotary Club of Wellington sponsoring a new Probus Club in that town, there has been little action from Clubs accepting the challenge of forming new Probus Clubs elsewhere. This matter will be pursued more rigorously next year when the matter will be followed up with Rotary Clubs in areas where there is seen to be potential for chartering new Clubs.

Three information days for Probus Club Committee Members were held, two in July 2015 and one in

February 2016. The first two were hosted by Dubbo Macquarie Combined Probus Club and

Rutherford Telarah Combined Probus Club while the third was hosted by Rathmines/ Wangi Combined Probus Club at Wangi Wangi. The first two were rather late starts for the 2015/16 committees but circumstances prevented their being held any earlier.

The Information Days provide similar opportunities to the PETS and District Assemblies in Rotary and are specifically set up for incoming Presidents and Secretaries although others are invited to attend also. The program is arranged by the RDPC with the aid of one of the PSPL Directors to assist with the presentations.

With the first event, held in Dubbo, it was going to be difficult to attract sufficient numbers from the Western Clubs of D9670 to merit running an Information Day so permission was obtained to canvas Clubs in neighbouring Rotary District 9700. This proved to be a very successful ploy.

A stand promoting Probus was set up in The House of Friendship at the D9670 District Conference in Mudgee. The opportunity was taken to discuss Probus ideals with many of the Club Delegates attending the Conference and it created sufficient interest to justify doing the same at the District Conference in Dubbo next year.

The thirty second TV commercial produced at NBN3 TV Studios promoting the ideals of Probus continues to be aired Australia wide by TV stations as part of their free Community Service Announcements offering. Feedback has indicated a good response is being achieved. PSPL have a 1300 contact number in the ad and feed details of enquiries to relevant Probus Clubs with a high degree of success. The promotion will be continued in Australia next year as well.

In closing I would like to state that I have enjoyed my year as Rotary District Probus Chairman for District 9670 and will continue in the role for at least another year. My aim in future is to regenerate interest in Probus as a Community Service Project for Rotary Clubs and, at the same time, strengthen the ties between Probus Clubs and the Rotary Clubs that sponsored them, some as long ago as 35 years.

Ray Davies RDPC District 9670

Rotaract

Gabby Brand (Hunter Rotaract)

2015-2016 was a busy year for the two Rotaract club in District 9670. Both clubs organised multiple fundraising events, such as trivia and movie nights, as well as Dubbo Rotaract's annual Antiques Fair. Both clubs also participated in volunteering activities, both in conjunction with Rotary clubs and of their own accord. Examples of this included the LUNAR Walk, Dubbo Show and planting trees with Newcastle City Council.

Unfortunately, the 2015-2016 year saw the number of clubs in the district decrease to one active club, as the Dubbo club continued to struggle with an ageing membership. It is hoped that future years will see an increase in the number of Rotaract Clubs in District 9670, especially with the introduction of Interact clubs across the district.

Gabby Brand

District 9670 Rotaract Representative

ROTARY AUSTRALIA NEW ZEALAND STUDENT EXCHANGE - RANZE Gillian Weatherall (Rotary Club of Rutherford-Telarah)

The Rotary Australia New Zealand Student Exchange provides a unique opportunity for young Australians to experience at first hand the varied cultures of New Zealand. Students participating in the Exchange are preferably in Year 9. The exchange is a two way exchange where Australian students are “matched” with a student from New Zealand.

In both the 2015 and 2016 years, we have had seven Australian students participate in the exchange. In 2016, the students are from Bolwarra, Branxton, Dubbo, Muswellbrook and three students from Mudgee. The exchange involves spending six months with a matched New Zealand student – three months here at school in Australia and three months for both students in New Zealand. The exchange takes place from April to September each year but the Committee (currently three Rotarians and one partner) are working all year with promotion, presentations at schools, sourcing applications, vetting applications, conducting interviews, matching students and families, conducting briefing and debriefings, organising and running the Bunya weekend with all the students

A sponsor club in the student's local area provides a mentor/counsellor. Host families are all police checked & interviewed by a Rotary committee. Rotary Clubs are not required to host the participating students, but to welcome the student and their matched student to become involved in the life of the Club during the exchange.

Applicants, parents and counsellors are invited to an information day in October where they get an opportunity to meet with students (and their families) who have just completed the exchange. Matching then occurs and the details of student matches are advised 1st of December. There is then a more detailed training day in February prior to the exchange taking place where areas such as personal safety, communication skills, public speaking, conflict management, travel wisdom, and cultural awareness are covered.

Gillian Weatherall

District 9670 RANZSE Chair

Rotary Australia World Community Service

Brian Coffey (Rotary Club of East Maitland)

D9670 RAWCS encompasses Alliance For Smiles, Days For Girls, DIK (Donations in Kind), Interplast, RABS (Rotary Australia Benevolent Society), RAM (Rotarians Against Malaria) and ROMAC (Rotary Oceanic Medical Aid For Children).

Another year of successes in D9670 with all our projects being active, driven by Project managers and supported by their respective clubs. Some Projects have finalised in the year, others consolidated, new projects commenced and Foundations grants have been achieved. We have been able to showcase our projects on several fronts including RDU – featuring stories on RABS ‘Put a Smile on Williams Dial’, ‘Tahlia's Turn for the Better’, DIK – ‘Shoes for the Kimberley's’ and Days For Girls. Locally on the promotions front 20 clubs learned of RAWCS, RAM and ROAMC, while RAWCS was presented at both District PETS training sessions and RABS was well received at a District Conference breakout session in Mudgee. The Eastern Region RAWCS Chair declared D9670 as the benchmark of RABS in Australia in a recent RAWCS publication.

The committee continue to meet quarterly at Hexham Bowling Club, while the District has growing representation at Eastern Region Conferences after our own high achieving D9670 RAWCS Conference held at Hillsborough. All Rotarians and partners are invited and encouraged to attend these meetings and see the great work being done within D9670.

Project Summaries

- *Alliance For Smiles 63/ 2013-14 (PP Lyn Thorpe – Adamstown / New Lambton)*

Lyn Thorpe and her daughter Anne Partridge were part of surgical teams that went to Gazipur /Bangladesh (Feb 2016) and repaired 80 Cleft Lips and Palates. They followed this up with a trip to South West China in May; treating 72 children with the same condition.

- *Days for Girls 9/2014-15(PP Lyn Thorpe – Adamstown / New Lambton)*

This ongoing program has the support of numerous sewing groups that make and distribute sanitary hygiene kits to girls in the developing world. Sewing machines are also purchased to allow these communities to make their own kits with supervision. Kits have been sent to Uganda PNG Vanuatu Congo Fiji and East Timor. Carly Stewart (RC East Maitland) held a very successful fundraiser at Marina Views raising \$20,000, while a movie night boosted the funds enabling the purchase of materials and sewing machines.

- *Donations in Kind (DIK)*

In an attempt to reduce our overheads, decrease risk for our members as well as time management and travelling costs risk, operation of this District project have changed in the past years. Materials are now collected and advertised to Rotary Clubs and Districts for collection. Eastern Region has warned us of the risk of becoming dumping grounds for organisations – thus a balance is needed as to what we can take and if it can be reused. Recent success stories include assisting in loading a container with medical and educational items for Vanuatu for another organisation, while St Johns Ambulance first aid kits were sent the Fiji after the Cyclone. Nationally, 500 pair of shoes to a very remote aboriginal community in Western Australia. Another project sending warm clothing to an Aboriginal mission in remote South Australia is currently being coordinated.

Interplast – President Judy Hicks has keenly taken on the role to develop this with D9670.

RABS (Rotary Australia Benevolent Society)

- *87/2014-15 Tahlia's Turn for the Better- Chris Dorn - East Maitland*

A high profile project assisting a 21 year old Tenambit girl and her family in the fight against her chronic illness caused by the controversial Lymes Disease. Gross donations in the financial year were \$64,908 – with similar medical expenses. Tahlia's health has improved greatly since undergoing radical treatment in Europe.

- *66/2015-16 Paul's PAN Awareness Ball - PP Merrill DeFiddes – Greenhills-Maitland*

Paul Reading suffers from Polyarteritis Nodosa that causes aneurisms, thrombosis and organ failure. With no treatment available in Australia, funds are need to allow Paul to travel to Ohio, USA for treatment.

RAM (Rotarians Against Malaria)

- *44/2014-15 Rotary Ride Around Australia Against Malaria (RRAAAM) - Worldwide (Steve Carroll - RC Williamtown*

After their epic ride around Australia fundraiser, Steve and Doreen have set off to remote Pacific Islands to further investigate (at their own expense) the most worthwhile avenues for distribution of their fundraising to assist in eradicating malaria.

ROMAC (Rotary Oceanic Medical Aid For Children)

Since Charlies departure some years back Lyn Thorpe has hosted several young people considered for surgical processes to change their life. For various personal and surgical reasons these have not been realised. At the moment we are waiting for permission to treat Esperanca Dos Santo (18) from East Timor at Newcastle Private Hospital as an adult patient. She requires treatment for severe scoliosis and requires a 2 stage operation.

RAWCS Projects

We end the 2015-16 year with 6 other specific RAWCS Projects. PP Wendy Stein was able to finalise the Salamander Bay Clubs Light House Project in PNG - funding, donations in kind & human resources, eye care, family planning and Paediatrics to health facilities in PNG. Rotarian Jacqueline Wood was also able to successfully complete her goal of installing water supplies, building a library, classrooms and health clinic while assisting with vocational training and health education to people of Gouno in the Eastern Highlands Province of PNG. This was another project of Williamtown RC.

East Maitland RC obtained financial support from Singleton on Hunter RC and RAWCS Cyclone Pam Appeal to network with Lower Blue Mountains Sunrise RC and have solar panels installed in Charlies village on Tanna Island after the recent cyclone.

With the unfortunate demise of Adamstown/New Lambton RC, Lyn Thorpe has found support forthcoming from Warners Bay RC to enable her work to continue.

We enter 2016-17 with 6 other projects.

- *51/2015-16 Paul Tunn Memorial Dental Project - Rtn Barbara Wolff - Greenhills-Maitland*

A Vocational Training Team of dentists has been established and visited the Minj, Jiwaka Province of PNG to service about 40,000 children who currently have no access to dental care. The Club was successful in obtaining District 9670's first Rotary Foundation Global Grant to sustain this project.

- 58/2013-14 Lathie School Project, Espiritu Santo, Vanuatu - PP Kathryn Bennett - Maitland Sunrise

Maitland Sunrise have expanded the scope of the project to include a neighbouring school in Natawa. They have a project team departing in early July to support the health and education of primary school children in Lathie village, Espiritu Santo, Vanuatu through provision of improved sanitation, solar power, teacher housing and medical support. Once again Rotary Club of Lower Blue Mountains Sunrise have been called upon for their solar power installation expertise.

- 43/2012-13 Project Dignity, West Bengal, India - Rtn Gargi Ganguly - Dubbo

This project has enabled 278 toilets to be built in rural areas of West Bengal since 2014, with a corresponding demand for more and an awareness of sanitation. A Matching Grant application is currently before the Rotary Foundation.

- 6/2010-11 Nondugl Jiwaka Province PNG Project, Western Highlands, Papua New Guinea - DG Adrian Roach - Greenhills-Maitland

This project continues with its goal of improving the education, providing staff houses, classrooms and educational equipment to schools and hospital equipment to the people located in Nondugl Jiwaka Province, Western Highlands, PNG. The success story of the project compounds with the formation of a Rotary Club and vocational visits by members to D9670.

- 18/2009-10 Save the Kula Babies (Spacim Pikinini) Papua New Guinea - PP Wendy Stein - Salamander Bay

To maintain and expand this massive family planning project of preventing unwanted births, the crowning glory of Salamander Bay's project was the commissioning, departure and safe passage of MV Kula Spirit arriving in PNG on 18th December by Wendy Stein and crew. The vessel has allowed for medical outreach to remote islands. The team can now treat patients with a diverse range of options from eye test to treating boils, rashes, or broken bones. The vessel is also used to transport sick patients or babies needing hospital treatment.

- 6/2006-07 Mando Community Project, (Funding Only) Eastern Highlands Province, Papua New Guinea - PP Wendy Stein - Salamander Bay

This project to provide maintenance and build school classrooms and staff housing for Mando School is moving slowly due to lack of funds. It is reported that the project is waiting for written quotes to enable assessment and progression.



Brian Coffey
D9670 RAWCS Chairperson

Rotary Club Vision Facilitation

Pam Wellham (Rotary Club of Wallsend-Maryland)

In District 967 Rotary Club Vision Facilitation (RCVF) is an ongoing program with the team assisting Clubs across the District to investigate ideas and issues from their members. The members get to prioritise these ideas and this information is then used to develop a strategic plan for the Club. It helps to set a direction for the Club Board and the members.

In 2015-2016 the RCVF team has undertaken a number of facilitation events and has continued to assist Clubs with a re-visioning. Vision events are advantageous as:

- All clubs members are encouraged to be involved.
- Each idea is important – whether it comes from an experienced Rotarian or a new Rotary member – and each idea is considered by all members.
- All ideas are written down and even if an idea is not a high priority at the end of the session, it still is there to be considered at a later date.
- The strategic plan is developed by the Club – not by the Facilitation team, although they are on hand to offer assistance should it be needed.

The major hurdles to extending the RCVF program to clubs are:

- Gaining the commitment from the executive of the Club to find out more about the process. An invitation to be a guest speaker at an ordinary club meeting would dispel any myths about the process.
- This a process that will assist presidents in developing their plans for the year ahead so the best time to undertake the process would be in the first part of the calendar year – so the new Board will know what projects are important to members and where the club aims to go.
- The RCVF committee knows that it needs to get new facilitators but attracting new people to the committee is difficult. All Rotarians are encouraged to consider whether they have the skills – and if so approach the Committee to offer their services. Training can be organised.

The Committee anxiously awaits approaches from Clubs to be involved in this exciting program – it does really work. You only need to desire for it work!!!!

Pam Wellham

Rotary Club Vision Facilitation Chair

Rotary Leadership Institute

PDG Janette Jackson (Rotary Club of Cessnock)

District Chairman Bob Main, from the RC of Waratah, submitted his resignation from the role to DG Adrian early in 2016, and the role was taken up by Janette Jackson for the remainder of the term. The work done by Bob in settling the program into a functioning outfit was recognised by the committee, and thanks were expressed to Bob for his leadership. Janette saw fit to continue the course put in place by Bob.

The uptake of participation has been mainly from the eastern part of the District, despite the offer of presentations being made in Dubbo. Some 16 people took part in the RLI program, as well as each of the 11 Assistant Governors.

Through the generosity of IPDG Gerard McMillan, scholarships were made available for participation in the program for Clubs with limited finances. These scholarships are in the name of Wilma Simmons and Pam Wellham. Four scholarships were awarded during the year.

The planned revitalising day for facilitators was conducted in February, with PDG Jennifer Scott (D9675) spending time undertaking a course of further development. This was greatly appreciated by those facilitators who could attend.

The committee of facilitators continues to work to bring greater understanding of Rotary to Rotarians through the use of this program, and looks forward to continuing into the future. DG Adrian is thanked for his support.



Janette Jackson

RLI Chair/Facilitator

Rotary Youth Exchange Program : Long Term Exchange

Denise Parkes (Rotary Club of Charlestown)

2015/2016

Outbounds: 16

Inbounds: 16

July and August saw the arrival of 16 new inbound exchange students from Europe, Scandanavia, Japan and USA. These student were welcomed to the district by their host Rotary Clubs and host families. In February 2016 the YEP Committee accepted a one-way inbound student from Brazil. This has allowed an additional student to enjoy the involvement in Rotary D9670 and the Australian culture.

All inbound students met for the first time at our annual Inbound Orientation weekend held at Glenrock Scout Camp in Kahibah. They were able to experience the Tree Top Adventure Park, Ten Pin Bowling and had a visit from the Reptile Man. This was a very good bonding weekend for the new inbound students and a great way to introduce them to the Australian culture. The district YEP Committee combine this weekend with a training day for Rotary Club members, Club Counsellors and host families to become familiar with the program requirements and Child Protection Policy.

The YEP Committee held the first briefing weekend at Tocal College for both inbound and outbound students. Student briefings and training weekends are mandatory for all exchange students to prepare them for their adjustment into their host countries. These are always fun weekends with students finding bonds and friendships from 17 countries around the world.

Our second briefing weekend at Tocal College is focused on ensuring the next group of outbound students are well prepared to leave their family and friends for the ensuing 12 months. In January 2016 the YEP Committee waved goodbye to the departing 16 outbound exchange students who would spend their 12 months living in their host countries overseas. Monthly Reports received from these students have enlightened the YEP Committee with their activities and involvement with their host Rotary Clubs.

The year 2015/2016 saw 26 Rotary Clubs involved and supportive of the long term exchange program. These Rotary Clubs included: Rutherford/Telarah, Scone, Greenhills Maitland, Narromine, Newcastle Enterprise, Lake Macquarie, Mudgee, Mudgee Sunrise, East Maitland, Merriwa, Singleton, Charlestown, Belmont, Warners Bay, Kurri Kurri, Dubbo South, Muswellbrook, Dubbo West, Wallsend/Maryland, Newcastle Harbour, Morisset, Newcastle, Maitland Sunrise, Dungog and Warren.

The YEP Committee are indebted to these Clubs who are willing to sponsor and host students and support this great program in our district. The YEP program allows the youth of our area to enhance and change their lives.

11 of the 16 inbound students participated in the Light Up Newcastle Rotary sponsored event held at the Newcastle Foreshore in February 2016. These students were very proud to carry their national flag as part of the opening ceremony.

The 16 inbound exchange students also participated in the District Conference held in Mudgee. The students entertained the conference audience with a dance performance and a rendition of 'I still call Australia Home' which meant so much to these students as they expressed their gratitude of being hosted in this wonderful country.

District 9670 YEP Committee

The continued work, involvement and commitment from the YEP Committee members is outstanding and these inspiring Rotarians are to be commended. The YEP program involves a huge commitment of time and energy and these dedicated Rotarians give freely to enhance the lives of our younger generation.

Promotion

Information sessions were held in Newcastle, Dubbo and Mudgee early in the year for potential 2016 outbound student applicants. These information sessions are promoted directly to local schools and Rotary Clubs with information brochures for the availability of the YEP program. As a result of the NSW Department of Education eligibility criteria, the YEP Committee continue to be amazed by the maturity level of the younger outbound students as they share their stories with us. These Government regulations will be of benefit to our program with returning students going back to school in January and hopefully they will spread the word about Rotary Youth Exchange and the wonderful opportunities available to eligible secondary school students.

Working With Children Check

The Working With Children Check register is kept up to date by the YEP Secretary. These checks are valid for 5 years. A WWCC can be obtained free of charge on-line and available to host families, Club Counsellors and Rotarians as volunteers. Website details:

www.kidsguardian.nsw.gov.au/check

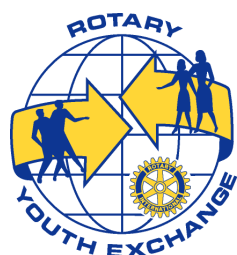
Student financial assistance

The Lotte Thorkilgaard Trust is administered by the District Governor and has continued to assist students in financial hardship for many years. One student has been assisted this year with part payment of their return airfares. This student may not have had the opportunity to participate in the exchange program due to the financial situation of their family.

Thank You

The YEP Committee continues to have the support of **District Governor Adrian Roach** and appreciates all the time that he gives to promoting and supporting our program in this district.

The YEP Committee are a very dedicated team of Rotarians and I am very proud to be part of this great team who assist the students of our district, to make their dreams a reality.



Denise Parkes
YEP Chair, 2014 – 2017

The Rotary Foundation

Committee Chair: PDG Peter Raynor (Rotary Club of Warners Bay)

This Year District 9670 entered a new era in the world of The Rotary Foundation. Never before has our District been engaged in so many “first ever” which set new precedents and new challenges for our District Committee, who dealt admirably every step of the way

Before moving on to the great achievements of this Rotary Year I must express my true appreciation for our District Foundation Team. Each Committee Member, a team player and coming together in a way that made my role as District Chair pleasurable and extremely rewarding – Thank you Team D 9670

A very special thank you to DG Partner Christine Roach, for choosing The Rotary Foundation as her Partner’s Project. A difficult project to quantify a result however in an Australia where our Dollar fell sharply against the \$US our District effectively out performed our other Aussie Districts outstandingly on pro rata basis. I believe this to be a direct result of Christine’s professional and well delivered presentations to our Clubs during the DG’s Visit

The largest of the Projects taken on by our District this year was the Paul Tunn Memorial Dental Project by Rotary Club of Greenhills / Maitland. This Project will provide a Vocational Training Team (VTT) of Australian Dentists training local PNG Dental Therapists in the remote highlands area of PNG. In a Partnership with the PNG Jiwaka Provincial Government, the local Rotary Club of Nondugl and The Rotary Foundation this project will deliver sustainable Dental Services to over 40,000 children. Having a budget of around \$200,000 over 3 years I was pleased to travel with DG Adrian and our Team on a self-funded visit to visit this area prior to final sign off. I am delighted to report that this Project will deliver all the outcomes we expect of our Rotary Foundation to do good in the world

Our District was also involved in another major Global Grant initiated by Calcutta Mahanagar District 3291 in association with Dubbo Rotary Club and The India Humanity Foundation. Project Dignity will establish 1,000 community toilets in Calcutta India – providing not only the ablution facilities but an opportunity to house and provide an income to an impoverished family.

With all Global Grants funding relied on a contribution from our own D 9670 as well as contributions from many other Australian and worldwide Rotary Districts – all contributions were matched \$ for \$ from The Rotary Foundation World Fund.

District Grants are of smaller dollar value and are usually used by Clubs for local but not always District Projects

I am pleased to advise our Committee approved the partial funding of our GSE Team to Taiwan as well as District Grants to the value of over \$24,000. This year saw a most successful Group Study Exchange to Taiwan. The inbound Team saw much of our District out as far as Bourke as well as most of the east and enjoyed warm hospitality at our Mudgee District Conference

Our Outbound Team of 3 led by Rotarian Pam Wellham found the Taiwan experience much to behold, Having a number of relevant Vocational tours enhanced by the Cultural exchange enjoyed by our Team created a Rotary life changing moment that will be long remembered and valued.

A GSE fund raising Dinner was held in September to minimize the effect of the shortfall in direct funding for this program from The Rotary Foundation.

More than 80 people enjoyed a wonderful evening and entertainment from The Singing Waiters Our special thanks to our Sponsors and Guest Speaker Rotarian Bob Cameron formerly of Centennial Coal – Bob, a philanthropist in his own right, gave us a most interesting insight in to his working life in the coal industry.

The GSE Dinner was deemed to be so successful it is planned to make this an annual event to ensure this valuable former program of The Foundation can continue.

Another first for 2016 for our District is the Application from Peace Scholar Shannon Longhurst, put forward by the Rotary Club of Nelson Bay

Shannon's interview was conducted in accordance with the rules of RI in June 2016 and subsequently moved forward for consideration by Rotary International.

If successful, Shannon will study Peace and Conflict Resolution techniques in Sweden or USA and will receive a PHD and the opportunity to bring equality and justice to the lives of many who suffer in a difficult world. Our best wishes to Shannon and special thanks to the Rotary Club of Nelson Bay for their efforts in supporting this outstanding program of The Rotary Foundation



Our fight against the eradication of Polio is coming to an end – and we are told “This Close” – but not quite there – meaning we are approximately \$US5 billion away and up to 3 years – It is a fight we will not give up on and a special thanks to all who attended the pre-screening of “Eddie the Eagle” raising much need funds for the End Polio Now Program.

Our District also had another first with the opportunity to take The Rotary Foundation public at The Light up Newcastle foreshore walk celebrating Chinese New Year. With the assistance of our Youth Exchange Students fresh single red roses were offered for sale together with the story of our Foundation – Doing good in the world.

Thank you to the Rotary Club of Warners Bay for purchasing all unsold roses to be given to the new Mum's at John Hunter Hospital for Valentine's Day

Again our District Raffle was a huge success – raising almost \$25,000 for The Annual Programs Fund. Paul Harris Credits were achieved by participating Clubs – a big thank you to our supporters – Escape Travel Toronto, Good Guys Warners Bay and WHO Print

I look forward to sharing another wonderful year as Chair of our District 9670 Foundation and welcome your participation in the wonderful work of The Rotary Foundation

PDG Peter Raynor
DRFC 2015-18