



District Governor's Newsletter

D9670

www.rotary9670.org.au



April, 2012

Message from the DG



A big "hello" to all,

It's great to be able to write about some terrific efforts that have been undertaken around the District: much fund-raising is going on so that others benefit, Clubs are inducting new members, people are undertaking projects to assist those who are less well-off than we are. Congratulations all round – there are far too many for me to single out individual Clubs and personnel for recognition, but I sense a feeling of great achievement, and this is very rewarding to all who have contributed so much.

Now this view of mine comes from all the Club newsletters that come my way, and as I've said before, I really love the information flow. Newsletters need not be "flashy", as long as they have useful information, which is primarily for the Club members.

Now, I have a question for each Club – why don't some of those wonderful reports make their way into RDU? I often wonder why our District has a low profile in RDU. I think I know the answer – everybody is too busy getting on with things! I have been asked by the mighty Bob Aitkin and now Mark Wallace: where are those D9670 stories and photos? May I suggest – no, not just suggest – I URGE each Club to send in an article and some photos – what a buzz it would be to see such things as the Denman skate park mentioned, or the Toronto big push to have the whole population of Toronto register for organ donation, or for Newcastle Club write of the long-time program of reading at one of the local schools, or the Dubbo Clubs writing about their tree planting – and I could mention heaps more! The RDU is our magazine – let's make it more of OURS!

While on reports, I'd like to mention that I really had fun at our District Conference in Wonderful Warren! What a show the whole town put on, and there have been so many good reports about others having fun as well. That storm on the Friday made me very worried, but not for long, because it acted as the best ice-breaker one could have! As we huddled against the rain being hurled in by the seemingly hurricane-force wind, we had to talk to the folk we were sharing some warmth with, and so we made new friends straight off!

Many reports have appeared in the various Club newsletters, and many had some photos of the events, particularly the GREEN that was the flavour of the Saturday evening. It was all a bit of a hoot! The music was good, everybody joined in, with the exchange students, guest speakers and all!

So Conference went well, and I'm really glad we ventured into the country, with all the hospitality that goes with these smaller communities. It was a rewarding experience for all!

So, now that we are in that Magazine Month, let's make an effort to have D9670 have a higher profile in the RDU!

Cheers,

Janette.





ROTARY DISTRICT 9670
LEADERSHIP
2011-12

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Conference Fever!



World Convention – BANGKOK

Our District has some 30 plus people participating in the annual event. It would appear that over 20,000 Rotarians and partners will join in for 4 days of undoubtedly interesting presentations, discussions and entertainment.

Thailand is an interesting place, and this Convention will give a good excuse for those visiting to gain a greater insight into one of our close neighbours.

<http://www.whrotary.com/Bangkok2012.cfm>

Next year, the Convention will be in Lisbon, and then it will be Sydney's turn in 2014. What an experience that will be for us all!



District Conference – Some Reflections!

Apart from the mosquitoes, and our very special Rotary International President's Personal Representative – PDG John Lamb and Claire catching with all their old District 9670 mates, and all the fabulous and varied food, and the all the best hospitality in the world, I would like to mention a few other things.

Firstly, our participation levels – one of the fun things was all the various table decorations – it was a treat, and how inventive so many of our members (or partners?) can be! And participation went across all the weekend – truly in the best of the Rotary spirit of enjoying each other's company.

Secondly, the awarding of the trophies. These are given out each year, and over the time some of the actual ones have been lost. Some new versions have now been made, but of course, our lists of past awardees may well be totally lost. So, in the big clean-ups that can take place, if any of these missing trophies are found, please let the Secretary Elect, PDG Greg Bevan know! I was most impressed with the calibre of the involvements when I viewed the judge's recommendations. So, in the forthcoming year, may all Clubs have another shot!

Cheers,

Janette.





April, 2012

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Kurri Rotary's Back o' Bourke Project

The Rotary Club of Kurri Kurri entertained a number of school students from Bourke in their area for 12 days in October, 2011.

Four members from Kurri Rotary drove to Bourke to pick up the students, taking a day to do so. Early on the second day the group arrived at the High School and met with Bruce Buxton, school the principal and President of the Rotary Club of Bourke and with Olga Collins the aboriginal coordinator.

The 4 students who were to take part in the visit were introduced to the group, and all set off for Kurri Kurri. With morning tea, lunch and fuel stops, they arrived in Kurri Kurri late in the afternoon and were introduced to their hosts, aboriginal families arranged through Mindaribba Lands Council. Next day the students went to the Maitland Shopping Mall to buy swimmers and thongs and then went to the movies.

During the next several days, there was a visit to Nelson Bay to go dolphin watching and the students travelled to Newcastle to attend the Australia v New Zealand Rugby League game for which tickets had been arranged by members of the Rotary Club of Newcastle Harbour. There was a tour through the Kurri Kurri High School and the Kurri Kurri College of TAFE - the largest in Australia - and following those tours the students had a tour of the decorative Murals in Kurri Kurri township. They then went with students from Maitland High School to a careers day for Aboriginal students at the Newcastle Jockey Club at Broadmeadow before attending a meeting of the Rotary Club of Kurri Kurri. Everyone celebrated Rodney's birthday with the first birthday cake he had ever received.

On following days the 4 students from Bourke, Kurri Kurri's exchange student Anna and six members from Kurri Kurri club travelled to Lake Macquarie for a cruise before attending a meeting of the Rotary Club of Newcastle Harbour where the students met the District Governor, Janette Jackson. They also attended the Waratooka Institute at Newcastle University having a tour around the Callaghan campus and the opportunity of talking to different students about what university has to offer students from outback Australia! That part of the visit concluded with the students going to Charlestown Shopping Square for some "Retail Therapy" - a real eye opener!

After all this activity, there was a lay-day with the students relaxing by going Tin Pin Bowling. On the final day of their visit to the East, the student were taken to Bob's Farm to the Shark & Ray Feeding Centre and following that, had the opportunity of driving over the sand dunes on Stockton Beach in a 4WD vehicle.

Eleven days after leaving Bourke, the long return journey commenced. The only problem encountered was that the students were arguing over who was going to be dropped off first as they didn't want to go! Eventually all arrived safe and sound!

On the final day of the adventure the Rotarians from Kurri Kurri attended the Bourke High School where a report was made to the principal concerning everything that the students experienced. The Rotarians then had the long trip home arriving late that evening tired and worn out but happy with what the Rotary Club had been able to achieve.

- Contributed by Paul Hughes, Rotary Club of Kurri Kurri.

L to R – Tyra, Jamie, Rodney, Anna (Austrian Exchange Student) and Corey on the boat on Lake Macquarie.





April, 2012

MERV Provides Life to Western NSW Men.

For the third time in four years, the mobile health caravan, MERV (Men's Educational Rural Van), took three weeks to travel in the western sector of New South Wales during September 2011 and provide an opportunity for the men who reside in that part of Australia to have their health checked. Most people know that men are very reluctant to have a nagging health problem checked, because "it will go away soon".

The caravan used for MERV is owned by the Greater Western Area Health Service (GWAHS) and based in Mudgee. It was loaned to Rotary District 9670 Rotarians and PDG Tony Mackenzie towed the caravan to 11 towns to provide this free service to the men of these towns and district. GWAHS staff arranged with health professionals in each town to be in attendance to assess each patient's health and provide sound advice. PP Peter English arranged venues with Rotary Clubs and Council staff to locate MERV at a prominent location to attract patients. Banners and posters were displayed throughout each location, local press was provided with editorial material and ABC radio, based in Dubbo, broadcast to the travelled regions giving a daily update and a reminder of the trip.

PDG Greg Bevan's wife, Lorraine, established a fund for the continuation of MERV as her Partner's Project during Greg's year of governorship. Funds contributed then supported the costs associated with the project and several clubs in D 9670 have contributed to the fund during the past twelve months.

Over 300 men attended MERV to seek advice and the numbers have steadily increased over the past three visits. The common problems were high blood pressure, diabetes, hypertension, bowel cancer, mental health, sexual health, obesity, prostate, poor diet and lung disease. Twelve patients were advised to go straight to hospital as a result of preliminary tests.

The feedback from the health workers was very positive and very supportive. Comments include:



Good successful day. Many visitors.

Well worth the effort, hope it continues.

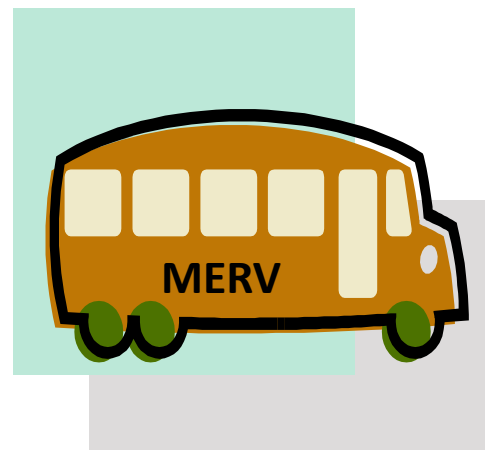
A younger clientele compared to last year.

The MERV van has passed its "use by date" and it will be disposed by GWAHS. Our District wishes to keep the project going as the response from the men, health professionals and Rotarians has been overwhelmingly positive. PDG Tony Mackenzie advises:

"We are planning to have made a purpose built caravan specifically for men's health, and to have it built in time for the next September run out west".

With positive determination, the project will be a reality during 2012 and District 9670 Rotarians will continue the service to men's health in western NSW with a smart new MERV. It is envisaged that the van will be domiciled in the central west for regular use in the many towns in that area.

- Contributed by Geoff Smith, Rotary Club of Narromine.





April, 2012

END POLIO NOW!

The Wild Polio Virus has been almost eliminated from the World!

With the advent of the Sabine Vaccine in the 1950s and positive results shown in Cuba and the Americas in reducing the spread of polio through immunisation, The Rotary Foundation took up the challenge in 1985 to raise \$120 million dollars. With the backing of UNICEF and WHO, Rotary began the massive task of eliminating polio from the World and especially Third World countries which did not have knowledge of or access to the vaccine.

Immunisation by vaccine was seen as the best way to eradicate the disease and the scheme evolved throughout the World with thousands of Rotarians assisting in mass campaigns in the worst affected Third World countries with Africa and the Indian sub-continent being prime targets.

With the aid of countless health organisations and governments, over a billion dollars raised by Rotary and massive donations from the Gates Foundation and others, the dream of stamping out polio is becoming a reality. The polio virus spread has been reduced to under 1% Worldwide since 1988 and the "last mile" is in sight. The last mile is the hardest and still more support is needed to bridge the final obstacle. Rotary International continues to support the effort to realise the successful conclusion of the campaign. Rotarians in District 9670, which includes Warren, have dug very deeply into their pockets over many years and will continue to do so until the project is finished and the World is pronounced free of the polio virus.

--Contributed by Dennis Trigg. Rotary Club of Toronto.

STOP PRESS! POLIO SUCCESS IN INDIA

The World Health Organization has officially removed India from the list of polio-endemic countries. India's minister of Health and Family Welfare made the announcement at the Polio Summit 2012 in New Delhi on 25 February. The Minister said that he had been informed of the World Health Organisation's action by its Director-General.

"It is a matter of satisfaction that we have completed one year without any single new case of polio being reported from anywhere in the country," said the Indian Prime Minister at the summit, which was organized by the government of India and Rotary International. "This gives us hope that we can finally eradicate polio not only from India but from the face of the entire mother earth. The success of our efforts shows that teamwork pays."

India's last reported case was a two-year-old girl in West Bengal State on 13 January 2011. Before polio eradication can be certified in India, it must go two more years without another case of the disease. Polio now remains endemic in only three countries – Afghanistan, Nigeria, and Pakistan.





2012 Pink Frangipani Ball

The 4th Pink Frangipani Ball in April 2012 is being held so that we can continue to raise much needed funds for the battle against breast cancer.

We expect to have over 400 guests at the 2012 Ball, each contributing to the fundraising through ticket purchases and various raffles and auctions on the night. We sincerely hope you can join us for a night of fine food, wine & dance.

There's every chance that you'll know someone who unfortunately falls victim to this terrible illness – and I trust that the money raised from this ball might go towards helping those in our community that are in need.

DATE: Saturday 21 April 2012

VENUE: Western Suburbs Leagues Club, 88 Hobart Road, New Lambton

THEME: Black Tie, Masquerade

TIME: 6.00pm for 6.45pm

TICKETS: \$150 per person - Includes 3 Course Meal, Wine & Beer, Live Band & Entertainment

For ticket sales & or any further details please contact Andrea Rufo on 0407 062 223 or Email:
andrea.rufo@greater.com.au

Thank you
Andrea Rufo





April, 2012



the travel professionals

2012 Rotary Convention Bangkok

<http://rotaryconvention2012.com>

BASE PACKAGE OPTION (price is based on 4th to 11th May)

Return Economy class airfare with Thai Airways including all international taxes

Departing: Sydney at 11:00 am Arriving: Bangkok at 4:30pm

Departing: Bangkok at 7:15 pm Arriving: Sydney at 8:20am on the 12th May

7 nights accommodation staying at the Century Park Hotel in a Superior room including breakfast daily

Return coach transfers to and from your hotel

Package price based on twin share: \$1,338.00 per person

Strictly limited availability: Book now to receive a free upgrade to Junior Suite

NB: Subject to the group numbers we can add return transfers from Newcastle to Sydney airport.

This would bring your package price to approximately \$1,388.00 per person

OPTIONAL TOURS

- Bridge over River Kwai & Tiger Temple tour (duration 9 hours) – Cost per person: \$144.00
- Grand Palace tour (duration 3 hours) – Cost per person: \$45.00
- Bai Pai Thai Cooking class (duration 4 hours) – Cost per person: \$81.00
- Floating Markets & River Kwai (duration 9 hours) – Cost per person: \$95.00
- Temples & City tour (duration 3 hours) – Cost per person: \$39.00
- Floating Markets & Rose Gardens (duration 9 hours) – Cost per person: \$77.00

OPTIONAL SIDE TRIP - PHUKET

Return Economy class airfare with Thai Airways including all domestic taxes

Bangkok – Phuket – Bangkok

5 nights accommodation (as listed below) including breakfast daily and late check-out

Return coach transfers to and from your hotel

- Merlin Beach Resort – rates not available yet
- Moevenpick Resort & Spa – Cost per person based on twin share: \$923.00
- Holiday Inn Busakorn Wing – Cost per person based on twin share: \$937.00
- Phuket Graceland Resort & Spa – Cost per person based on twin share: \$646.00

OPTION SIDE TRIP – KOH SAMUI

Return Economy class airfare with Bangkok Airways including all domestic taxes

Bangkok – Koh Samui – Bangkok

5 nights accommodation (as listed below) including breakfast daily and late check-out

Return coach transfers to and from your hotel

- Chaweng Regent Beach Resort – Cost per person based on twin share: \$799.00

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Rotary Club of Morisset



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2011 Verdelho	\$20	\$16.00		
2010 Chardonnay	\$20	\$16.00		
2010 Late Harvest Riesling	\$20	\$16.00		
2011 Petite Fleur Rose	\$20	\$16.00		
2008 Merlot	\$22	\$16.00		
2010 Shiraz	\$22	\$16.00		
2010 Cabernet Sauvignon	\$22	\$16.00		
2009 Noble Botrytis Chardonnay	\$25	\$25.00		
Framboise Raspberry Liqueur	\$29	\$25.00		
Aged Muscat Liqueur	\$29	\$25.00		
Order 2 Dozen for Free Freight			Freight	\$
Freight Per Dozen: Hunter \$8 Sydney/NSW \$10 Interstate \$15			Total	\$

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Attendance: March

CLUB	Current M/ship	MAR %	MAR Rank	CLUB	Current M/ship	MAR %	MAR Rank
ADAMSTOWN/NEW LAMBTON	27	72.65	15	MYALL COAST	25	70.25	18
BELMONT	0	0	#N/A	NARROMINE	13	77	13
BENNETTS GREEN	0	0	#N/A	NELSON BAY	56	84.95	6
BOURKE	0	0	#N/A	NEWCASTLE	0	0	#N/A
CARDIFF	15	73.33	14	NEWCASTLE ENTERPRISE	31	68	20
CESSNOCK	29	69	19	NEWCASTLE SUNRISE	0	0	#N/A
CESSNOCK WINE COUNTRY	0	0	#N/A	NEWCASTLE HARBOUR	0	0	#N/A
CHARLESTOWN	40	74.26	17	NYNGAN	0	0	#N/A
COBAR	14	88.9	3	PATERSON	0	0	#N/A
DENMAN	0	0	#N/A	RAYMOND TERRACE	0	0	#N/A
DUBBO	22	79.55	10	RUTHERFORD / TELARAH	30	79.03	11
DUBBO MACQUARIE	22	88	4	RYLSTONE / KANDOS	0	0	#N/A
DUBBO SOUTH	46	81.52	8	SALAMANDER BAY	0	0	#N/A
DUBBO WEST	45	100	1	SCONE	9	83	7
DUNGOG	0	0	#N/A	SINGLETON	0	0	#N/A
EAST MAITLAND	0	0	#N/A	SINGLETON ON HUNTER	22	77.27	12
KURRI KURRI	13	98.08	2	TORONTO	0	0	#N/A
MAITLAND	36	87	5	TORONTO SUNRISE	32	76	16
MAITLAND SUNRISE	0	0	#N/A	WALLSEND / MARYLAND	0	0	#N/A
MERRIWA	0	0	#N/A	WARATAH	19	81.25	9
MORISSET	0	0	#N/A	WARNERS BAY	0	0	#N/A
MUDGEE	0	0	#N/A	WARREN	0	0	#N/A
MUDGEE SUNRISE	0	0	#N/A	WELLINGTON	0	0	#N/A
MURRURUNDI	0	0	#N/A	WILLIAMTOWN	15	71.6	16
MUSWELLBROOK	0	0	#N/A				

From the Editor,

I hope that you enjoyed reading the April edition of the DG's newsletter. I would like to thank everyone who contributed articles and information to it.

Please note that the submission deadline for the next newsletter is the 10th May.

Please put **DG Newsletter** and the **relevant month** in the subject line, otherwise it may get lost in the ether. I kindly ask that you submit in (simply formatted) Word or PDFs that are mainly images. PDFs that are complicated with text do not translate very well into the newsletter document. Captioned photos are very welcome. Thank you.

Nora Jones
nora.jones@y7mail.com

