



District Governor's Newsletter

D9670

www.rotary9670.org.au



June, 2012

**ROTARY
INTERNATIONAL
DISTRICT 9670
INCORPORATED**

**District Governor
2011-12**

**Janette Jackson
AFSM**

**P.O. Box 674
Cessnock NSW
2325**

Phone: 0419421154

Fax: 02-49914949

E: jj4211@bigpond.com

Message from the DG



Greetings to all!

This last message is one where I would like to express my appreciation to everyone in the District for the warmth that Steve and I have enjoyed as we've had the opportunity of meeting up with you. It is with pleasure that I find a sense of enthusiasm and positive outlook for the future of Rotary in all the Clubs. There is such a wealth of camaraderie that Rotarians enjoy. Just look back to the atmosphere at District Conference. New members were welcomed and included by people who have been to a lifetime of Conferences, and there was a sense of sharing everywhere.

When we met at the civic welcome to World President Kalyan Banerjee, it was interesting to hear the mayor, Mathew Dickerson, reflect that the occasion must have been connected with Rotary – the hubbub of voices indicated that everybody was talking together, as he always finds when he visits Rotary Clubs. And Steve and I have noted the same – people are glad to see each other again!

I am delighted to report that our District numbers have climbed to over 1200, that magic figure that RI sets as the minimum for a "well-functioning" District. I know that many Clubs have worked hard on membership this year. For some time I've been telling how wonderful the efforts of Bourke have been, and now I'd like to include some other rural towns – Nyngan Club and Murrurundi Club have both increased their numbers by about 300%! Now, sure that was from a pretty low base, but the members did the leg-work and achieved great results.

Still on leg-work, new Clubs have been chartered in the Maitland and Kurri Kurri communities. Greenhills- Maitland did their leg-work more electronically than most, and they have been chartered with 36 members, and still growing I'm informed. Kurri Kurri Sunrise has been chartered with 33 members, and both groups deserve hearty congratulations for these efforts. Twenty-five is now the minimum to start a new Club, so their work in gathering together the required number is to be applauded.

I am anxious that the good work on growing Club membership is not lost. Our District needs to continue to grow, and we need to engage people of younger years, so I look forward to the efforts of today being furthered into the coming Rotary year, with DGE Peter Raynor at the helm. I'm sure that our Clubs will afford him and Margaret the same welcoming spirit that Steve and I have so much been privileged to receive, and will continue with our Rotary work to bring about peace.

Cheers for the 2011-12 year!

Janette.

Since our last newsletter, we've had a District first with the visit of the World President to Dubbo. This was a "fleeting visit, but it gave him an insight to Rotary outside the large metro areas. There were nigh on 300 at the dinner, which was greatly enjoyed by all, and most were amazed at the speech that President Kalyan delivered. Several people were inducted as new Rotarians by the President, and some were awarded PHF's – another memorable experience for those.

Rotarians had come from the coast – 5 hours for some, and it was great to see many of our small rural areas represented there as well. Some made almost ecstatic reports to their Clubs about Kalyan's impressive address. The visit to the rural centre of Dubbo was not in vain, and there is word of several people interested in becoming members – good spin-off!

The success of the arrangements for the visit was in no small part due to the efforts of PDG Don Stephens and Marjorie – it was a major logistical exercise – and the fine support of the committee which worked with Don. Thank you, Dubbo Rotarians!





ROTARY DISTRICT 9670
LEADERSHIP
2011-12

*All home and business phone
numbers require prefix 02 if
dialling from outside New
South Wales*

**District Governor : Janette
Jackson and Steve – RC of
Cessnock Inc.**

Ph. 0419 421 154

jj4211@bigpond.com

**District Governor Elect :
Peter Raynor and
Margaret – RC of Warners
Bay Inc.**

Ph. 0416 082270

pmraynor@bigpond.com.au

**District Governor
Nominee: Brian Atkins**

**Immediate Past District
Governor:**

**Don Stephens and
Marjorie – RC of Dubbo
West Inc.**

Ph. 0418 219 185

donjstephens@bigpond.com

**District Secretary: John
Retallick and Rudite –
RC of Cessnock Inc.**

Ph . 4998 7049

jretallick@draget.com.au

**District Treasurer:
Anita White and Neil –
RC of Singleton Inc.**

Ph. 0417 284 960

anita.white@etms.com.au

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June, 2012

D9670 District Conference

The mood was set with the report from a Rotarian on hearing that the Conference in 2012 would be in WARREN – he remarked loudly: “DGE Janette must be totally crazy”! Only partially – a gamble always involves an element of being “crazy”! The gamble paid off. There was such a wealth of local support from the whole community, the Conference was dubbed as being the best for fellowship and friendship.

WARREN – is a pretty country town, with a large rural community on the Macquarie River. After years where drought brought people almost to their knees, to be followed by a destructive flood, WARREN seemed to be a place where everyone could enjoy country hospitality – and did they ever!

This year the only flood was the arrival of people from the coast (Newcastle and other nearby centres), the middle parts of the District (Upper Hunter), from Dubbo and places to the west. There was also a “flood” of hungry mosquitoes – some vowed they were almost large enough to carry a person away! One wag noted that a new fragrance could be called “Eau de Repellent” – effective even on the most persistent mozzie!

After a rather abrupt storm (where instant fellowship was enforced by the need to shelter, at close quarters behind the bar! And people sharing coats, and rain-coats on the opening night – the Fellowship Dinner with Camp Oven cooking, did go ahead. The weather then co-operated beautifully. The venue was indeed suitable with outdoor facilities for meals and breaks, the food came from many community groups (the high school students, the ladies’ tennis club, the United Services Club, the local cricket club), accommodation entailed a lot of Home-Hosting by wonderful local people, the caravaners took up every available space, and the other accommodation places bulged – what a great contribution the people of WARREN made.

As it was a Conference, there were indeed speakers – of course many with a rural emphasis: cotton production, rural suicide issues, dealing with quadriplegia, employment for rural youth, a fun look at the “way we were some 50 years back”. Of course, Rotary contributions: the RIPPR (“Ripper” PDG John Lamb!), ARH, RYPEN, ARH, ROTARACT, ROMAC, TRF – all had a place. The DG Partner’s Project – Royal Institute for Deaf and Blind Children featured prominently, and the GSE Team from D1460 (Denmark and Lithuania) was a real hit. The internationality of Rotary was so well supported by a great “bunch” of exchangees, and the D9670 Team heading to D1460 in May.

The piece de resistance – nothing could top the Saturday DG’s Dinner: prepared and served by the high school hospitality students, toe-tapping music by some very talented local “musos” – and the theme colour was GREEN! After all, it was St. Patrick’s Day, and the wigs, hats, leprechaun outfits, and spray- painted hair and beards made for an unimaginable spectacle!

Conclusion – DG Janette may be a bit crazy, but what fun for all! District 9670 Conference was certainly different in 2012.



Exchange students with
the final parade of flags



A sea of green at
the dinner



The GSE team from D1460
with DG Janette.

Two exchange students doing publicity for the Conference



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June, 2012

Mental Health: the attention it deserves

Contacts:

AG Joy Adams:
0428 656 603.

AG Rod Sandell:
6847 4461

Pat Moore, Secretary,
RC of Newcastle
Enterprise:
patnpat1@bigpond.com.



The World Health Organisation states that by 2020 depression will be the leading cause of disability worldwide. Bringing mental health issues into the spotlight is helping, but more needs to be done to prevent and effectively manage a wide range of mental disorders and illnesses.

Australian Rotary Health has long been an ambassador for mental health. We've directed close to \$27 million towards health research since 1981.

The burden of mental illness costs Australians \$3.3million a year. To reduce this burden, Australian Rotary Health is now focusing on the mental health of young people. You can make a difference by donating today to help improve the mental health of Australia's young people. It's devastating to know that today, more than one in four people aged between 12 and 25 will be affected by a mental problem in any given year. In fact, it is estimated that approximately 750,000 young people's mental health needs are not currently being met. These young people are our future and deserve the support that research can provide.

To find out more about our research or to donate, please visit www.australianrotaryhealth.org.au or call 02 8837 1900.

Jacqueline Mercieca
Media and Communications Officer
Australian Rotary Health
+61 2 8833 8331
www.australianrotaryhealth.org.au
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GROUP STUDY EXCHANGE for 2013 Important Notice for GSE interest

As mentioned in last month's District Governor's newsletter, the Group Study Exchange for 2012/2013 is well in train and now is the time for the clubs to encourage participants for both team leader and team member.

Applications for team leader close on August 10, 2012. Applications for the team member and hosting close on August 31, 2012. Team leader interviews will be held August 18, 2012. Team members interviews will be held on September 8, 2012 and the final selection weekend will be held on September 14, 15 and 16, 2012. All interviews are held at Total.

The District will be exchanging with D1090 in England, an area incorporating Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Herefordshire and part of Berkshire. The outgoing exchange takes place between February 10, 2013 and March 15, 2013 and the incoming team's exchange starts on March 10, 2013 and finishes on April 13, 2013.

Please contact your nearest Rotary Club or District Chair, Helen Ryan for further details
Mobile 0409 842 455

Helen Ryan
GSE Chair D9670
Phone: 0409 842 455
P.O. Box 121
Nelson Bay 2315
Email: heryan@iprimus.com.au



Current D9670
team in
Denmark at the
Rotary Club of
Aabenraa and
Rødekro





June, 2012



DISTRICT GOVERNOR'S PARTNER'S PROJECT

The District Governor's Partner's Project for 2011-12 is support for the Royal Institute for Deaf and Blind Children.

At this time of the Rotary year, most Clubs are considering the ways in which funds they have accumulated through various projects might be spent. I would urge Clubs to consider making a donation to the District Governor's Partner's Project. Some Clubs have already made a substantial contribution – the Rotary Club of Denman contributed the whole of the proceeds of their golf day - \$5,000 – to the project! Others have made contributions of up to \$1,000 each. Clubs which have not yet made a donation might seriously consider doing so. It is intended that a cheque representing donations made be handed to RIDBC at the District Changeover on 30th June next.

RIDBC has assured me that any funds donated will be used within the area serviced by the Newcastle branch of RIDBC, so the benefits will essentially be local across District 9670. Hereunder are some examples of the ways in which RIDBC assists families, and the costs involved.

Equipment - While iPads and iPhones are desirable to most people, they are an immensely powerful tool for a child with a vision or hearing impairment. Their text-to-speech, speech-to-text, large font and magnification abilities, SMS and screen reverse imagery provide essential access for hearing and/or vision impaired children. Special purpose applications are a powerful resource for hearing and/or vision impaired children, families and the professionals who work with them. \$1,000 is required to provide one child with an iPad.

Teleschool Program - It costs RIDBC on average \$7,500 to set up a remote family on the Teleschool program. This service provides specialist support using videoconferencing technology. Whilst this program is currently utilised by over 160 families, RIDBC now needs to provide this service to more children across Australia. Three families in Singleton were added during the present Rotary year.

Early-intervention Program - Early intervention in the first years of a child's life is critical to ensuring they can go on to overcome the challenges associated with vision or hearing loss. RIDBC works closely with parents to determine the future needs of their child and teaches strategies to assist their child's development. One-on-one sessions provide parents with individual support, whilst playgroups are a way for families to socialise and learn from each other. It costs \$15,000 to support one child aged 0-3 years and the family for one year.

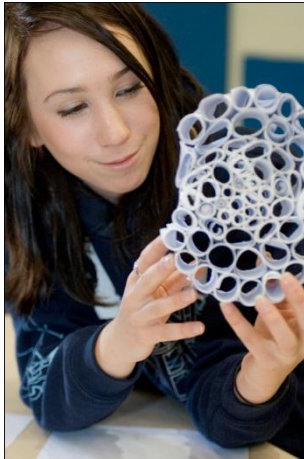
Clubs wishing to make a donation are urged to do so urgently, and to send their funds to Anita White, the District Treasurer, at P.O. Box 3055, Singleton NSW 2330, or via direct deposit to the Rotary International District 9670 General Account with St. George Bank, BSB 112 879 Account No. 002 367 869. A short email noting the amount, the name of the contributing Club, and that it is for the Partner's Project should be sent to Anita at whitehouse@bigpond.com

Steve Jackson, D.G.'s Partner



The Challenge

**2012 Ausgrid Newcastle Science and Engineering Challenge
CALLING FOR ROTARY ACTIVITY ASSISTANTS**



Challenging students to build a future in Science and Engineering
www.newcastle.edu.au/challenge

We invite you and your partner to be part of the 2012 Ausgrid Newcastle Challenge as a daily Activity Assistant from Monday 30 July to Friday 3 August from 8:00am-3:00pm. The Challenge will be held at the Newcastle Basketball Stadium, Corner Young and Curly Roads, Broadmeadow.



The 2012 Newcastle Challenge Program has the largest student participation in Australia.

- A Newcastle-based national community program
- A community partnership with The University of Newcastle and Rotary Clubs of the greater Newcastle area in District 9670
- 45 high schools competing over 5 days – a record number!
- Students from Newcastle, Lake Macquarie, Lower Hunter and Port Stephens areas
- Support your local school and their students in experiencing “The Challenge”
- No cost to your Rotary Club! No cost to you!
- We even supply morning tea and a hot lunch!



Become part of the solution!
Become part of the solution!



2012 NORTHERN NSW SUPER CHALLENGE SERIES

**Twenty four of the highest scoring high schools competing from 28 to 30 August
at the Newcastle Basketball Stadium, Broadmeadow.
Daily Activity Assistants are welcome and would be appreciated.**



For further information please contact:
District Governor Nominee, District 9670 for 2013-2014 Brian Atkins
Newcastle Regional Chair of the Science and Engineering Challenge
Coordinating Committee, and Rotary Club of Waratah
Email: briankatkins@bigpond.com
Phone: 02 4952 3220, Mobile: 0447 523 220, PO Box 357, New Lambton NSW 2305



2012 NEWCASTLE SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING CHALLENGE DINNER INVITATION

The 2012 Newcastle Science & Engineering Challenge Dinner will again be hosted by the **Rotary Club of Belmont** on **Monday 23 July** at Belmont 16 Foot Sailing Club at 6:00pm for 6:30pm.

The Newcastle Challenge Coordinating Committee and the Rotary Club of Belmont warmly invite all Rotarians, partners, guests and sponsors to the dinner as an **introduction to this amazing Challenge program** and the **announcement of the 2012 Naming Rights Sponsor**. This will be a night of fellowship, fun and combined with a challenging table experiment!



A great night of Rotary in action.

The guest speaker for the evening will be **Professor Bill Hogarth, Pro Vice-Chancellor**, Faculty of Science and Information Technology from The University of Newcastle.

Special Guests for the evening **Rotary District 9670 Governor for 2012-2013 Peter Raynor and Margaret.**

Invitations to the Rotary Clubs in Newcastle, Lake Macquarie, Lower Hunter and Port Stephens areas will be forwarded by email from the Rotary Club of Belmont shortly. For more information on the Challenge Dinner please contact Newcastle Challenge Team Member Penny Black from Belmont Rotary on email g.j.black@bigpond.com or phone 02 4972 2143

Further information is available from Brian Atkins



Newcastle Regional Chair Science and Challenge Coordinating Committee
District Governor Nominee, District 9670 for 2013-2014
Email: briankatkins@bigpond.com
Telephone: 02 4952 3220
Mobile: 0447 523 220
Post: PO Box 357, New Lambton NSW 2305

**Join in the fun of competition and assist
at the Newcastle Science and Engineering
Challenge Newcastle and Maitland Discovery Days 2012**

Newcastle Science and Engineering Challenge Discovery Days 2012 for Year 6 Students
Newcastle: Monday 3 to Friday 7 September at Kahibah Public School Hall, Kahibah
40 Primary Schools invited
Maitland: Monday 17 to Wednesday 19 September at ASC St. Peter's Campus,
St. John's Parish Hall, Cathedral Street Maitland
24 Primary Schools invited

For further information: newcastlediscovery@gmail.com





Royal Institute for Deaf and Blind Children

MEDIA RELEASE

14 June 2012

Denman Rotary presents \$5000 cheque to RIDBC

The Rotary Club of Denman presented a cheque for \$5000 to the Royal Institute for Deaf and Blind Children (RIDBC) at their monthly meeting last night, Wednesday 2 November.

The money was raised at a charity golf day held on Sunday 23 October, forming part of the Denman Rotary Club's district governor's partners project, which has joined with RIDBC Teleschool for this financial year.

RIDBC Fundraising Manager – Hunter and Central Coast, Grace McLean, came along to the meeting to receive the cheque and to give the Club a presentation on the education and services RIDBC provides to children who have a hearing or vision impairment.

"We're so thrilled to receive this cheque," said Ms McLean. "This generous donation will go towards providing education and services to children living with the challenge of a hearing or vision impairment in the local area."

Grace was also joined by Jarred Shackleton, a Year 7 student from Denman who has been deaf since birth who spoke to the Club about the way in which he uses technology to help with his schooling. He also fielded questions from the Club about his experience of being a young person who is deaf.

District 9670 Governor Janette Jackson, and partner Steve, also took time out of their busy schedule to attend the meeting. Steve Jackson's partner project was the original inspiration for the Denman Rotary Club's charity golf day.

The golf day on Sunday 23 October saw fifty players join in to enjoy an 18-hole, four-person team Ambrose course format. Fifteen members of the local Denman Rotary Club put on drinks and a BBQ for the players.

"The Sunday golf event was a beautiful day, with lots of sunshine and high spirits from the players," said Denman Rotary Club president, Rod Hirst. "We added lots of quirks to the course to keep it interesting; with players having to donate \$1 to RIDBC every time they hit a tree or the water."

"The event was also a true community effort; with Rotary Club members, the local golfing community, and local businesses all donating their time and energy to make it such a success."

The money raised will help support RIDBC, which offers services to children in the Denman area through RIDBC Teleschool. RIDBC Teleschool Director, Melissa McCarthy, says her service is just one of the many ways that RIDBC tries to innovate in order to deliver support to children with a sensory impairment living in remote or regional Australia.

"Families access RIDBC Teleschool via special videoconferencing equipment which is installed in the family home, allowing parents and children to receive regular lessons with a specialist RIDBC Teacher/Consultant based in Sydney," said Ms McCarthy.

"This allows families to receive the critical early intervention that will give their child the best possible start in life."

RIDBC relies heavily on fundraising and community support to be able to continue to make a difference in children's lives. In order to maintain its intensive educational and research programs, the organisation needs to raise approximately \$2.5 million every month.

The Royal Institute for Deaf and Blind Children is Australia's largest independent special educator, supporting almost 1000 children with significant hearing and/or vision impairment and their families across Australia. RIDBC provides hearing or vision screening for thousands more each year.





Royal Institute for Deaf and Blind Children

For media enquiries, please contact:

Tess Cosgrove, RIDBC Media & Communications Manager on 9872 0304 or 0409 409 962

Zoë Myers, RIDBC Communications Officer on 9872 0334 or 0413 118 609

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The Royal Institute for Deaf and Blind Children (RIDBC) is at the forefront of educating children who are deaf or blind.

RIDBC provides much-needed support services and education Australia-wide to children and families. This support enables children, from newborns through to their late teenage years, to overcome the many challenges associated with deafness and blindness, so that they too can reach their full potential in life.

RIDBC's services are conducted through its main campus at North Rocks, at additional centres in Sydney, Newcastle and Penrith, and now Australia wide through the RIDBC Teleschool – Approximately one in every six children enrolled in RIDBC services lives in rural or regional Australia.

The RIDBC Renwick Centre, in affiliation with the University of Newcastle, conducts world-leading research and offers postgraduate courses in a range of fields relating to the development and education of children with hearing or vision impairment. For more information about RIDBC, visit www.ridbc.org.au.



Left to right Steve Jackson DG partner, Grace McLean RIDBC Community Relationships manager for Upper Hunter and Rod Hirst President Denman Rotary



Left to right Rod Hirst President Denman Rotary, Jarred Shackleton, Grace McLean RIDBC Community Relationships manager for Upper Hunter, District Governor 9670 Janette Jackson and Husband Steve Jackson





June, 2012

Rotary Australian World Community Service Eastern Region

Alliance for Smiles 46/2011-12

Cameroon Yaounde 14th April-28th April 201

Team members

The team was made up of 17 Medical and non-Medical volunteers from United States of America, Canada, Germany and Australia.

Sponsorship for this Mission was Pascaud Foundation, Clinton Global Initiative, Rotary Club of Monroe JJNC and The Smile Train.

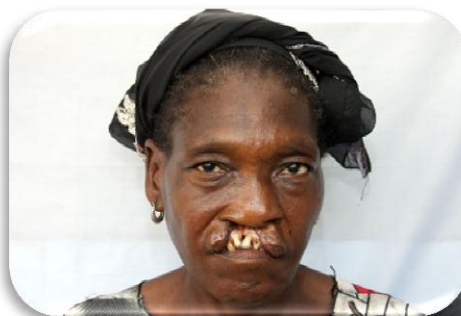
Rotary volunteers were from districts 6910 5170 and 9670 (Lyn Thorpe R/C Newcastle Sunrise)

Yaounde, the capital of Cameroon, was very challenging...hot and humid and a very crowded city where just crossing the road was a nightmare. The hospital was the usual 3rd world country institution where patients paid up front or just died. We provided a free service but lacked patients on the first day as the Rotary club had withdrawn from the project because they had their district conference to attend in a different province. The Rotaract club came to our aid and provided the much needed interpreters as we only had 1 French speaking volunteer on the team. There were many problems such as stolen backpacks, water shortages and power failures.

We finally had an influx of adult patients with cleft lips and palates. Children born with a deformity are usually destroyed at birth as there is a high infant mortality due to malnutrition and malaria. We did manage to operate on 50 patients, changing their lives and making them acceptable in their community. Patients had travelled 18 hours to see us and unfortunately some of these patients deformities were too extensive for a one off procedure and were declined intervention. Very sad but we are obliged not to leave any problems behind as there are no qualified surgeons to give free on-going treatment. The team worked well with their local counterparts. Hopefully, the next mission will be more constructive, as a framework has been set up and local contact established with the hospital and medical school. Our accommodation was at the Parliamentary Hotel. Parliament was in recess allowing us great accommodation and good security.

Although the mission was challenging the team formed a wonderful bond and friendship among strangers from different walks of life who ventured out of their comfort zone for a common cause making a difference and reaching within to embrace humanity.

Lyn Thorpe OAM
Rotary Club of Newcastle Sunrise
District 9670



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June, 2012

Attendance: May

CLUB	Current	MAY		CLUB	Current	MAY	
	M'ship	%	RANK		M'ship	%	RANK
ADAMSTOWN/NEW LAMBTON	26	80	9	MYALL COAST	24	50.95	22
BELMONT	24	75.3	14	NARROMINE	13	61.5	21
BENNETTS GREEN	0	0	#N/A	NELSON BAY	47	77.29	13
BOURKE	0	0	#N/A	NEWCASTLE	0	0	#N/A
CARDIFF	15	0	#N/A	NEWCASTLE ENTERPRISE	31	72	16
CESSNOCK	27	69	18	NEWCASTLE SUNRISE	0	0	#N/A
CESSNOCK WINE COUNTRY	0	0	#N/A	NEWCASTLE HARBOUR	0	0	#N/A
CHARLESTOWN	0	0	#N/A	NYNGAN	0	0	#N/A
COBAR	19	82.62	8	PATERSON	0	0	#N/A
DENMAN	0	0	#N/A	RAYMOND TERRACE	0	0	#N/A
DUBBO	22	83.33	6	RUTHERFORD / TELARAH	30	79.98	11
DUBBO MACQUARIE	24	94.45	1	RYLSTONE / KANDOS	0	0	#N/A
DUBBO SOUTH	47	88.79	4	SALAMANDER BAY	0	0	#N/A
DUBBO WEST	46	90	2	SCONE	0	0	#N/A
DUNGOG	0	0	#N/A	SINGLETON	42	72	16
EAST MAITLAND	0	0	#N/A	SINGLETON ON HUNTER	23	68.5	20
KURRI KURRI	13	90	2	TORONTO	0	0	#N/A
MAITLAND	36	82.8	7	TORONTO SUNRISE	33	69	18
MAITLAND SUNRISE	0	0	#N/A	WALLSEND / MARYLAND	24	74	15
MERRIWA	0	0	#N/A	WARATAH	22	85.1	5
MORISSET	0	0	#N/A	WARNERS BAY	0	0	#N/A
MUDGEES	0	0	#N/A	WARREN	0	0	#N/A
MUDGEES SUNRISE	25	78	12	WELLINGTON	0	0	#N/A
MURRURUNDI	0	0	#N/A	WILLIAMTOWN	0	0	#N/A
MUSWELLBROOK	17	80	9				

Please note that from July 2012 PDG, Peter Sivy, will be the new District Attendance Officer. All those involved with the DG's newsletter would like to thank Tim Holmes for all his efforts in recording attendance numbers throughout the years. Tim will be in contact with all Clubs to inform them of new contact details for future attendance reports.

From the Editor,

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

Nora Jones
nora.jones@y7mail.com

