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ROAD TRIP FOR RELIEF

A HAND-UP RATHER THAN A HANDOUT:
SHELTERBOX PROVIDING RELIEF FOR
FAMILIES IN DISASTER REGIONS



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CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS YEP-
AUSSIE STYLE

MEET ANOTHER THREE OF DIS-
TRICT 9670'S YOUTH EXCHANGE
STUDENTS AND FIND OUT WHAT
THEY ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO
THIS FESTIVE SEASON



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7

DEVELOPING OUR FUTURE

FIND OUT HOW THE ROTARY LEADER-
SHIP INSTITUTE CAN IMPROVE YOUR
KNOWLEDGE & LEADERSHIP SKILLS

○ No. 6

○ DECEMBER

○ 2013—2014

District *digest*

COMMUNITY, STRENGTH AND VALUES



Wrapping up for 2013, **District Governor Brian Atkins** wishes each and every Rotarian from District 9670, their families and friends a safe and happy festive season. Most importantly, DG Brian reminds us to reflect on what each of us as Rotarians has achieved for 2013 through our strong commitment to our communities, district, State and Nation.

My Fellow Rotarians,

The past six months have gone very quickly amidst an **amazing adventure** travelling throughout the District.

Madeleine and I wish to thank each and every Club for their **warm welcome** when we shared your Rotary meeting with you. We hope to visit as many of you again if possible in the New Year.

We must reflect on the **service above self** by our dedicated Rotarians in 2013 with a strong commitment to their local communities, our district, our state and our nation.

This year we have also been called on to support our neighbours internationally.

Once again Australia is so well described in the poem by Dorothea Mackellar:

*I love a sunburnt country,
A land of sweeping plains,
Of ragged mountain ranges,
Of droughts and flooding rains.
I love her far horizons,
I love her jewel-sea,
Her beauty and her terror -
The wide brown land for me!*

We have endured the flames, the floods and droughts but we are **still strong** against the elements. Keep up the great work.

I look forward to continuing to work with you in Rotary service in 2014.

We now turn our attention to our **family and friends** over the Christmas season.

Madeleine and I send you warm wishes for a memorable time with your loved ones.

For those travelling over the holidays, we trust you will **travel safely**.

As always, yours in Rotary service

Brian Atkins



Scholarly fun in the UK...

*We had the great pleasure of hearing from **Rotary Global Grants Scholar Annelise Bissett** in last month's edition of the District Digest. This month, she continues to fill us in on how she is getting practically involved in her studies at Oxford University and her continuing Rotary adventures in the UK...*

I have now completed my first term (Michaelmas) of classes. It was a very intensive 8 weeks and I have greatly broadened my knowledge base about environmental management.

Since my last update there have been a number of notable events as part of my course. The first was an open discussion session with the United Kingdom Minister of State for Climate Change, the RT Hon Gregory Barker MP. The second was a panel discussion with various attendees of the United Nations Climate Conference that was held in Warsaw in November.

In addition to these special events, I had my usual lectures and a number of fantastic workshops including workshops on policy document writing and incorporating community cultural models / indigenous knowledge into grass roots environmental management.

The highlight of the workshops was undertaking a climate change stakeholder role-playing game called The CAULDRON Game. The game was designed by Pablo Suarez of the Red Cross Climate Centre and has been used to help people understand the issues and needs of different stakeholders in relation to climate change (for example, farmers and policy makers). The game has been demonstrated at the Africa Climate Conference in Arusha and at the UN-

FCCC negotiations in Warsaw.

I continue to be involved in Rotary events. In November, the Abingdon Vesper Rotary club was able to set up a collection at Abingdon Waitrose for the Philippines Disaster Emergency Response Fund. I helped out with the collections and together the club managed to raise over 2000 pounds (which was an incredible outcome).

In addition to this, I attended a Polio fundraising event (trivia night) at the local Rotary Club of Haddenham.

Preparations for the rotary-scholar organised fundraising event are underway, with plans for a variety concert to be held in May 2014. We are planning to get a number of choirs and other musicians involved in this event (including some Rotary Scholars!), and have decided to raise money for the Shelter Box charity (<http://www.shelterbox.org/>).

I have also been recently involved with the Abingdon Vesper Rotary Club in collecting funds for their annual Christmas fundraising drive.

Throughout term I have also been training with the Green Templeton College senior women's rowing crew.

On the 30th November we raced in the Fours Head regatta in London. The course we raced is the same course that the Oxford-Cambridge Boat Race occurs on. It was a 7 km time trial event and our crew went well, coming in the middle of our di-

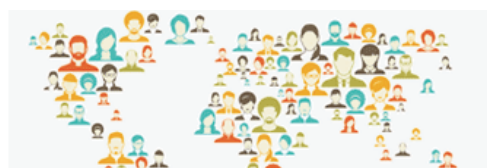


Above: Formally admitted. Rotary Global Grants Scholar Annelise Bissett at her matriculation ceremony to Oxford University earlier this year.

vision and only 20 seconds behind a Green Templeton College crew with three Oxford Blues rowers.

On the 8th of December we also raced another time trial event (5 kms) at a nearby town called Wallingford. Our crew was able to come third, which was a great outcome.

Now we are enjoying a slightly relaxed training schedule over the winter, before we start training hard for the regatta season in May 2014.



Be a *scholar* for *development*!



Relief work: A life mission...

*Raising money to support victims of Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines has been a recent focus of many clubs within District 9670. Peter Clough, **President of the Rotary Club of Nelson Bay**, gives us a brief update on how their club has been contributing to the cause, assisted in particular by a young and emerging leader.*

Following the Typhoon Haiyan disaster in the Philippines, the Rotary Club of Nelson Bay raised \$8,000.00, enough money to fund eight [8] Shelter Boxes to be sent to the Philippines. Each of these Shelter Boxes will provide shelter and support to many victims of the Typhoon. This was achieved through Club fundraising and member contributions.

Our local Rotary Club has therefore, become part of the huge International humanitarian aid effort to assist the Philippines where Typhoon Haiyan was the strongest storm ever recorded to make landfall.

The Rotary Club of Nelson Bay has also been fortunate enough to have developed a relationship with a young 25 year old lady, Lara Marks-Nash.

Last year, Lara decided to travel from Canberra to Darwin raising money for Shelter Boxes. At this point in time, Lara resided in Canberra and commenced her fundraising efforts by calling in at the Rotary Club of Nelson Bay, which subsequently committed \$1,100 towards her fundraising campaign.

After travelling a number of weeks, she arrived in Darwin having accumulated \$5,700 for Shelter Boxes.

Lara subsequently returned to Nelson Bay, where she met her now partner during her visit to Nelson Bay. Both are now employed locally and assist the Rotary Club of Nelson Bay in supporting the Community. Lara and her partner also still strive towards raising additional funds for Shelter Boxes.

The Rotary Club of Nelson Bay has identified Lara as a potential leader. Lara was subsequently nominated and selected to attend RYLA in October 2013, where she honed her leadership skills even more.



Above: An emerging Leader. Rotary Club of Nelson Bay member Lara Marks-Nash has a soft spot for relief work and supporting the Shelter Box cause

Right: Member of the Rotary Club of Nelson Bay display the contents of a Shelter Box at their Australia Day celebrations earlier this year



URGENT SPECIAL MEETING

It is with great regret that the board announces the likelihood that the **Rotaract Club of Cessnock** may soon be forced to fold. We are very proud of our efforts as a club over the past 3 years. We have raised over \$15,000 for local charities and organisations as well as assisted at many events within the local community.

Over recent months, our efforts to encourage more members to attend our meetings, particularly through inviting special guests, have seemed to fail. With little participation from our members it has become very difficult for our club to function with the few members in regular attendance. The Board understands that it may be difficult for some members to attend meetings due to their employment or relocation; the past participation of these members has been and is very much appreciated.

The final decision regarding the Club's future will be made at the meeting scheduled **6:30pm Thursday January 16th 2014**. Should you wish to join the discussion please attend the general assembly in the Shiraz Room at Cessnock Supporters Club. Look forward to seeing you all there.



rotaractclub
of cessnock

2013—2014

ROTARY YOUTH EXCHANGE PROGRAM



In 2013-2014, District 9670 has become the “temporary” home for over 15 international students.

We have a brief catch up here with a few of our Youth Exchange Program Inbound Students on their experiences so far while in District 9670 and what they are looking forward to this festive season while they are away from their home-lands...

- ☆ NAME: Jakob Hannerz
- ☆ HOMETOWN: Kalmar, Sweden
- ☆ HOST CLUB: Rotary Club of Nelson Bay
- ☆ SO, YOU’VE BEEN IN AUSTRALIA FOR A FEW MONTHS NOW, TELL US WHAT YOUR MOST MEMORABLE MOMENT HAS BEEN SO FAR...

Probably when I started with lifesaving. I now have pool lifeguard certificate and beach bronze certificate. I had it as a dream for a long time to become an Australian lifeguard and now it's true! I like to spend a lot of time at the beach and never get tired of doing pool and beach patrols.

- ☆ WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FORWARD TOO THE MOST THIS FESTIVE SEASON IN AUSTRALIA?

What I'm looking forward to most in this Christmas is probably just the fact of having a long holiday. Plenty of time to experience new things and enjoying the sunny days at the beach.



☆ **NAME:** Sixtine Jadoul

☆ **HOMETOWN:** Gingelom, Belgium

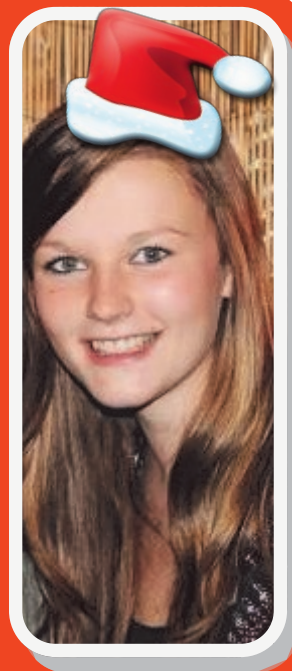
☆ **HOST CLUB:** Rotary Club of Dubbo Macquarie

☆ **SO, YOU'VE BEEN IN AUSTRALIA FOR A FEW MONTHS NOW, TELL US WHAT YOUR MOST MEMORABLE MOMENT HAS BEEN SO FAR...**

I don't really have a most memorable moment. I have been living in a pretty little town for 4 months now and accept the fact that the beginning was quite hard, I can already say that I have been living the most amazing months I have never lived. All the people here are so nice, friendly and welcoming. I have seen and visited a few cities and did some great activities including Water skiing, surfing, going in a helicopter, bush walking, learning netball and going to a footy match.

☆ **WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FORWARD TOO THE MOST THIS FESTIVE SEASON IN AUSTRALIA?**

In Belgium we have a white Christmas but here it is like 40 degrees. So I really want to see how it is different and how an Aussie Christmas is exactly.



☆ **NAME:** Matthias (Matt) Humer

☆ **HOMETOWN:** Wallern an der Trattnach, Austria

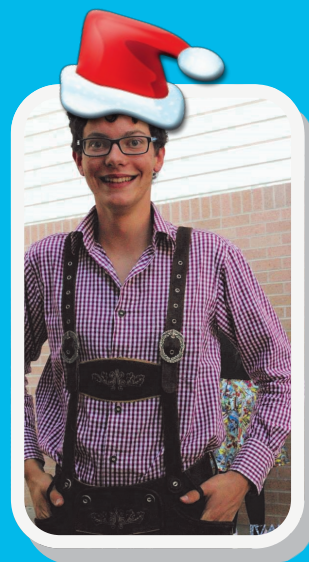
☆ **HOST CLUB:** Rotary Club of Cessnock

☆ **SO, YOU'VE BEEN IN AUSTRALIA FOR A FEW MONTHS NOW, TELL US WHAT YOUR MOST MEMORABLE MOMENT HAS BEEN SO FAR...**

In my time in Australia, I have experienced a completely new culture and I have realised how fast time can be. My 4 1/2 months here seem less than two weeks for me. I will never forget my first days at my new school - Mount View HS. I made a lot of new friends for life there. I love travelling around, so I'll always remember the trips with my host families. I was in Dubbo, Port Macquarie, Sydney, the Blue Mountains,... And a really memorable moment is when I went waterskiing. Of course, I had my ups and downs but all in all I wish this year would never end.

☆ **WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FORWARD TOO THE MOST THIS FESTIVE SEASON IN AUSTRALIA?**

Technically I am not in a Christmas mood at all (it is bloody hot), but it is a great experience - sweating, swimming, eating ice cream - that's what I want to do on Christmas. Chilled lemonade instead of hot tea.



Strong ties to return to Oz

*Ever sat back and thought it's such a small world? **Bob Nelson, District 9670 Secretary**, gives us an insight into the Youth Exchange Program (YEP) and how one of our special inbound YEP students was destined to visit our shores .*

In 1987 a young Danish exchange student called Tina had a memorable and rewarding year with the Rotary Club of Mclean in District 9640.

Over the years she lost contact with her host families and counsellor but still fondly recalled her time in Australia recounting experiences that fascinated her own children as they grew. These stories became a significant motivator for Tina's daughter, Maya, to become a Rotary Exchange student.

In July this year the Rotary Club of Belmont was pleased to welcome Maya as our exchange student for 2013/14.

When we heard about her mum, we decided that we would take Maya up to where her mum spent her year in Australia.

On the off chance that someone at the Rotary Club of Mclean may remember Tina, we decided to contact the club.

After some time and effort contact was finally made with the Secretary of Mclean and he was given some

names, translated from Danish. Within a few days he was back to us indicating that two of Tina's host families were still in the Club and they were tracking down the other.

The long and the short of it is that on November 7 we set off to visit the Rotary Club of Mclean and Maya's mothers host parents and so started one of the most inspiring experiences of my Rotary life.

We arrived in Mclean at Ferry Park and there to meet us was all of Tina's host families. It is not possible for me to adequately describe the excitement and sheer joy these folks had on meeting Maya. This was just the start of a great three-day program organised by Bob Horwood, a long standing member of Mclean and one of Tina's host dads.

It is simply impossible to recount all the experiences of the visit but there were a few standouts...

At the Mclean Club meeting Maya read a letter from her mother, she had been practicing on the way up in the car and did a great job she had the whole club spellbound.

After she finished a PDG from a Sydney district who was visiting spoke and commented to the club that Maya was an absolutely outstanding and inspiring exchange student.

On Saturday Maya visited the farm on which her mother had spent six months during her exchange experience. Maya saw the tree her mother had planted in 1987 and visited the other houses where her mother stayed. Maya also went through Mclean high school, saw where her mum road a bike to school every day and met some of her mother's friends. This was very emotional time for Maya.

On the day we left we were thanked for bringing Maya to Mclean and it was so obvious how much it meant to Tina's host parents to see and be involved with Maya.

Julie and I have been privileged to meet a number of very special people and make some genuine friends.

What a great experience and absolute delight it was and really makes one feel humble to be part of Rotary.



Above: The magic of Rotary Friends across the ages. Maya reunited with all of Tina's host Mum and Dad's from the Rotary Club of Mclean.

Right: Sowing the seed. Tina (kneeling) with host Dad Stuart McLeod and host brothers planting a tree in 1987 during her time on exchange with the Rotary Club of Mclean



Below Right: How strong roots have grown. Maya with Tina's host Mum Anne McLeod with the tree Tina planted in 1987 in the background.



Developing our Future

The **ROTARY LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE** was founded to assist in improving the Rotary knowledge and leadership skills of the future leaders of our Rotary Clubs.

Mission Statement

The Rotary Leadership Institute is a grassroots, multi district leadership development program whose mission is to strengthen Rotary clubs through quality leadership education.

Who Should Attend RLI?

Rotary Clubs are encouraged to select at least two candidates for RLI annually. Participants return to their Club with enthusiasm, new contacts, fresh ideas, an increased understanding of their potential as Rotarians, and valuable skills impacting their potential leadership in the Club

In particular, new Rotarians and Presidents Elect are encouraged to attend.

The Program

The Rotary leadership Institute is a three part series of fast-paced, interactive, one day courses offered to refine a Rotarian's leadership skills and increase their knowledge of Rotary.

Topics Include:

- ☆ Creative Service,
- ☆ Healthy Rotary Clubs,
- ☆ Leadership and Team Building,
- ☆ Membership,
- ☆ The Rotary Foundation
- ☆ Effective Committees,
- ☆ Changing Rotary,
- ☆ Public Relations and Public Speaking,
- ☆ Leadership and Goal setting,
- ☆ Vocational Service and Ethics,
- ☆ International Service,
- ☆ Rotary beyond the Club and many more.

"I have been fortunate to have completed the Rotary Leadership Institute course and to say it was inspiring is an understatement! I was most impressed with the interaction of the Facilitator and the participants and the honesty in sharing knowledge and ideas as a learning tool was excellent. No matter our Rotary years, I found it valuable to listen to the participants and share with them the Rotary knowledge that we all so willingly wanted to glean."

- District 9670 RLI Participant



For more detailed information about the Rotary Leadership Institute please go to:

www.rotaryleadershipinstitute.org

or contact Helen Ryan, RLI Committee Member, District 9670 Learning and Development Committee 2013-2014.

Scheduled training dates:

- ☆ Part 1—Sunday 2nd February 2014
- ☆ Part 2—Saturday 5th April 2014
- ☆ Part 3—Sunday 15th June 2014

This year, District 9670 has been included in the Rotary Leadership Institute so as to enhance the knowledge of Rotarians and help promote future leaders in the district. We have 16 qualified trainers who are keen to work with the Rotarians to advance their knowledge by conducting the Leadership courses.

Consequently the District is conducting the 3 parts in 2014 in Dubbo and Singleton.

District Membership & Community Involvement

Creeping closer to 2014...and look at our progress for November! **Peter Sivyver, District Attendance, Participation and Contributions Chair** reports on how District 9670 is progressing and thanks each and every club for their continued support.

CLUB STATISTICS - NOVEMBER 2013

Every month, Rotary Clubs all over our District catch up at meetings, participate in community projects and donate their time, money and resources to causes far and wide.

★ Interested in what knowing how your club is participating? Why not head to our new District website to check out what's been reported at

www.rotary9670.org.au

Can't see your club's stats here? Why not send an update to ppsivyver@bigpond.com and we will add them to our next edition.

ROTARY CLUB	MEMBERS	HOURS	%	RANK	FUNDS DONATED
Adamstown New Lambton	27	25	71.3	21	\$630
Belmont	29		71.7	20	
Cardiff	9	87	85.2	5	
Cessnock	21	326	74.9	16	
Cobar	19	69	84.31	7	\$2,126.40
Dubbo	24		61.46	24	
Dubbo Macquarie	24		84.77	6	
Dubbo South	47		79.26	12	
Dubbo West	51		80.95	11	
East Maitland	37	660	86.24	4	\$6,000
Kurri Kurri	18		88.99	1	
Maitland	35	113	78	14	
Merriwa	19		82.25	8	
Morisset	20	294	58	27	
Muswellbrook	27	48	81	10	\$500
Myall Coast	27	137	74	17	\$1,000
Narromine	12	35	54.4	28	\$1,000
Nelson Bay	56		73.88	19	
Newcastle Enterprise	26	133	59	26	\$600
Newcastle Sunrise	21	112	88	3	
Raymond Terrace	19	95	81.58	9	\$1,100
Rutherford -Telarah	30	197	79.22	13	\$900
Salamander Bay	33		60	25	
Singleton	40		78	14	
Singleton On Hunter	27	47	64.8	22	
Toronto Sunrise	34		64.7	23	\$32,786.15*
Wallsend-Maryland	17	632	74	17	
Waratah	20		88.2	2	\$100

* NOTE: These figures have been submitted for July 2013 to December 2013

Do you have something to add to the District Digest?

Got an exciting event coming up? How about an outstanding project you would like some publicity for?

Well why not drop us a line at districtnewsletter@rotary9670.org.au and let us know what your up to.

All submissions need to be received by the **15th of each month** to ensure our editor has enough time to include them in the upcoming publication.

So hop to it...and drop us a line!



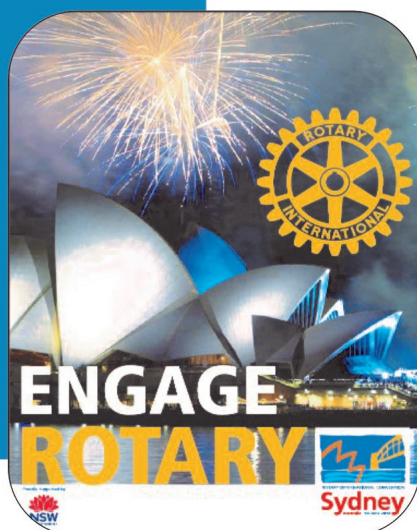
⇒ **EXCHANGE**
⇒ **ENGAGE**
⇒ **ENCOUNTER**

Thinking of attending the 2014 RI Convention—the *Sydney 2014 Corroboree*?

Why not check out the official website for the convention to get all the information.

Head to www.riconvention.org

for all the latest information and don't miss out on the great events!



1st **HAPPY 2014!!**

11th - Youth Exchange Program

12th

16th Urgent Special Meeting—Club Future
Rotaract Club of Cessnock
Shiraz Room, Cessnock Supporters Club

18th Social Media Training
Social Media Training School
Wilma Simmons

18th Youth Exchange Program

26th Australia Day

28th District Conference Committee Meeting

All correspondence on District 9670 matters to be sent to:

PO Box 357, New Lambton, NSW, 2305

Like Us On **facebook**

Social Media Training for Rotary Clubs District 9670

It's time for Rotary clubs to take advantage of the potential of social media. There are now 1,110,000,000 monthly active Facebook users!

This workshop will focus on Facebook pages for Rotary Clubs

This workshop is for your club's PR (Public Relations) or electronic communication contact.

Dates - Saturday 12 October 2013,

repeated 18 January 2014 Times- 9am to 3.30pm

Venue- The Social Media Training School, upstairs Westpac Bank, Maitland Facilitator- Rotarian Merrill DeFiddes, The Social Media Training School

<https://www.facebook.com/socialmediatrainingschool>

Only 10 places per workshop.

One participant from each Rotary Club unless 10 places are not filled.

Special note: Each participant needs to supply his/her own laptop (not iPad) with WiFi capacity and an email address as well as the log in details for their participating rotary club.

Cost \$50 per club. Morning/afternoon tea provided.

BYO lunch or purchase from a nearby outlet.

Register: wilmasimmons@hotmail.com Subject: Rotary FB workshop.

Please indicate which date – 12 October 2013 or 18 January 2014 you wish to attend.

Your place will be confirmed via email and you will receive an invoice for payment.



district9670
community strength and values

