



Our Vision, Our Future! **District Governor Brian Atkins** thanks the organising committee for this year's District Conference. Check out this month's edition for pictures of the Conference showing how the members of District 9670 came together to celebrate in true Rotary fashion...

Left: Putting on the greatest show of

2013/2014. Rotarians Laurie, John,

Madeleine, Ted, Lou-

ie and Brian revel in the celebrations of

this year's District

Conference.

Thank you to the organising committee and all participants at 'Our Vision, Our Future" Conference at the Hunter Stadium and Wests Club New Lambton, 28th to 30th March 2014.

"A picture is worth a thousand words!"

Warm Regards

Brian Atkins



Right: All ready to start the celebrations. District 9670 YEP students accompany District Governor Brian Atkins in the opening of the 2013/2014 District Conference.



New feet and a big smile...

District Chair for ROMAC, Lyn Thorpe OAM, updates District 9670 on the story of a brave little boy from Tanna Island, Vanuatu, Nurak Charley. Receiving great humanitarian support from ROMAC and the wider District 9670 community the smile can't be wiped off this young boy and his family's face in their quest for his new feet.

Eight-year old Charley came to Newcastle for treatment for bilateral tulips (club feet) in 2013.

He was found by Rotarian, Brian Coffey, two years ago whilst holidaying on Tanna Island, Vanuatu.

With the help of Rotary Oceania Medical Aid for Children (ROMAC) he was able to have 2 corrective surgeries at the John Hunter Children's Hospital, on humanitarian grounds.

Over a period of 5 months, Charley and his mum were cared for and hosted by Brian and Carol Coffey, Lyn Thorpe and the members of the Rotary Club of East Maitland.

On arrival in Australia, Charley had the mental age of 18 months. He was unable to walk, talk, turn a page in a book and he was also incontinent. Charley had lived most of his life in a hut as he was shunned by his family and village, thought to have brought shame upon them all. Mum, Veronic, had been bullied as a child and believed that this disabled child was her curse. Veronic had not bonded with Charley's in any way over his short life.

Following his arrival in Australia, Charley responded very quickly to the love and attention. It was an absolute delight to watch a child literally fast-forward five years of his life over five very short months.

On his return to Tanna, Charley walked off the plane into the arms of his family—talking, five kilos healthier and looking forward to a game of soccer with the children from his village (most of which he had only ever watched playing before).

IPod-junkie Charley became popular in his own right and his splints certainly didn't handicap or hold him back in anyway. Veronic has now completely bonded to her "new boy" on their return home.

We were all thrilled that Rotary

D9670 decided to bring Charley back to Australia to show how a dream can come true—if you work and dream hard enough.

Charley was accompanied by his parents, Veronic and Joseph; and also Lyn Thorpe (ROMAC Chair) in a helicopter into Hunter Stadium for the start of the D9670 Conference.

His big smile and engaging personality have captured the hearts of many.



Above: Successful transformation! Young Charley, his mother Veronic and the medical staff from John Hunter Children's Hospital check out his new feet.







Looping the lake for the foundation

Past District Governor and D9670 Rotary Foundation Committee Chair, Alex McHarg, gives us the wrap-up on his outstanding adventure of fundraising in the 2014 Loop the Lake. Alex also gives us an insight to the challenge he has set for all Club's, supporting not only the Rotary Foundation but one of the premier events on the 2015 calendar.



Above: All geared up and ready to ride. Alex McHarg (yellow) starts the 85km loop with son-in-law Colin (blue & white).



Above: Time for a break. Two hours into the journey, the Rotary Club of Morisset provide a well-earned morning-tea stop. Big thumbs up and a well-done to the team.



Above: And just like that, the adventure is over. After 5 1/4 hours, Alex and Colin complete the circuit. What a great day and so well organized by fellow Rotarians! Most of you will know by now about my ride in the 2014 'Loop The Lake' event—organised by the Rotary Club of Warners bay and assisted by other Rotary Clubs from around Lake Macquarie.

Firstly, I must congratulate the Rotarians involved in this event for a job well done.

Secondly, I must thank the Rotary Clubs and Rotarians who supported me in my quest to raise funds for The Rotary Foundation this year, by passing on their contribution through sponsorship.

The final tally for my sponsorship was \$16,799.50, all of which has been passed onto the Foundation in the names of the Rotary Club's or individual Rotarian's (*I know tax deductible receipts have been written for all of these*).

So...what's on for next year? Again, it will be to 'Loop The Lake', but this time, it will be as part of a Club Team Challenge. Loop The lake is on the 8th March 2015.

The challenge will be run as a sweepstake, with the stakes being split between the winning four clubs.

It is not a race—but a challenge for the club teams to complete the highest number of kilometres. There will be a levelling formula in use to make allowance for the differences in ages of the entrants.

There are also 3 different lengths of the ride—with 85kms for the full loop; 50kms for the loop from Morisset; and a 16km loop from South Belmont. These varying distances should make it achievable for anyone who is reasonably healthy and prepared to do a bit of training.

Teams are to be made up of any number of Rotarians from the same

club. Each member will be required to enter Loop the Lake separately to these challenge stakes, which is a fee of \$100 per team member.

The winnings from the challenge stakes will be paid into the Australian Rotary Foundation Trust in that Club's name so Paul Harris credits can be gained from the winnings.

Winners will be decided by totalling the kilometres completed and multiplying this by the average age of the team.

The sweepstake fees can come from anywhere; look for sponsorship for the team or even for individual team members.

Team members must complete one of the loops specified from start to finish.

Team members are to wear high visibility clothing. (Lycra optional)

Team members should consult their doctor before entering this event.

Team members to follow all the requirements of the Loop the Lake event. Check out all the details at www.loopthelake.com.au

Remember, you may be required to sign an insurance waiver (we are making checks to see if the waiver for entering the Loop The Lake will be acceptable).

We are currently seeking expressions of interest in this event and more information will be available during the year. Please contact a member of the Rotary Foundation Committee if your Club is interested in entering the Challenge.

This is a chance for you to increase your fitness level while doing something to better the world through Rotary!







Eastern Region Meeting.

3rd and 4th May 2014 Club Macquarie, Argenton

Eastern Region's May 2014 meeting will be hosted by clubs of D9670 at Club Macquarie, 458 Main Rd Argenton, Phone 0249588499. Saturday afternoon – Training session, focussed on providing assistance to new projects and project managers and to give experienced Project Managers a chance to pass on what they have learned. Saturday evening – Meeting with guest speaker. Sunday morning – General Meeting, including RAWCS Eastern Region AGM. All meetings will be in the same rooms. Elevators in both buildings for patrons' use.

Costs:

\$5 per head for light refreshments during daytime sessions.\$35 for Saturday evening.Complimentary Tea and Coffee will be available continuously.

Accommodation:

Macquarie Inn is on this site, with 36 apartments. NB. All Bronze rooms have already been booked by wedding parties.

The accommodation will certainly book out early, so reserve your room early.

Special Offer to Rotarians:

Inn Management have offered complimentary hot breakfast to Rotarian attendees.

\$16.50 value per head at NO CHARGE TO ATTENDEES,

but you must mention Rotary when you book.

Home hosting:

If there is demand, home hosting will be arranged for visitors from the western parts of D9670 and every other District in Eastern Region of RAWCS.

John Bennetts H: 0265 724 095 M: 0407 724 095 PO Box 480 SINGLETON NSW 2330 jben5797@bigpond.net.au





Making hay while the sun shines...

While the sun shines and drought affects so many of our Aussie farmers, **D9670 Rotaract Chair, Nicole Read-Shanks**, gives us an insight into how Rotary Clubs from around and outside of D9670 are offering their support with donations for hay to assist those out



Above: Loaded and ready to roll! The road train of hay ready to be farewelled and bound for drought-affected farmers in Coonamble.



Above: Under escort. The road train of hay is followed by those generous Rotarians who organized this kind donation.



Above: Donations coming in from far and wide. As the list shows the generous donations of Rotary Clubs in D9670 and outside of this circle pitching in to help Aussie farmers in their time of need. West. Why not see what you and your club can do to help out with this fantastic cause...

Rotary members from Dubbo West, Rylstone/Kandos and Toronto Sunrise, gathered at the truck stop on the fringes of Dubbo and farewelled a road train load of hay that was destined for the drought-affected farmers of Coonamble.

A few of these members also followed and made the trek up to Coonamble to witness the load of truck being unloaded for the farmers.

This project originated because of a call from a person out of our District, calling Stuart Astley, member of Rotary Club of Dubbo West, as their club were wanting to help those affected out west.

Stuart and PDG Don Stephens then got to work, contacting the President of Rotary Club of Coonamble, seeing what we could do, and then tried to source out the hay and transportation.

As word spread, monetary donations came flooding in, and soon enough, we had enough for a road train load.

The Rotary Club of Coonamble gathered around 30 farmers to come in and pick up around three large bales of hay each. The members had also arranged members to put on a barbecue for us and the community, as well as a tour of the town on a horse and wagon.

Two or three bales of hay may not

have seemed much for the farmers, and certainly won't end their heartache, but they did appreciate the donation, as people were thinking about them.

During the week leading up to the hay delivery, Coonamble had about 25 millimetres of rain (and may have had some since), but this amount of rain, will never break the drought – it will need much more than that!

It was great to be able to coordinate this project with another club from another District, as the Coonamble community would know who would benefit from the donation.

A huge thank you to hay merchants who donated the hay at cost, and to Frazer's Hay Transport, who delivered this hay for free.

We have been inundated with donations, that there is another road train load of hay being planned, destined for Lightning Ridge and Collarenebri, in the next few weeks.

There is no end-date for this project, as we will continue to deliver the hay if we can obtain it, and receive the monetary contribution to pay for it.

If you wish to donate towards this fund, please contact either PDG Don Stephens or Stuart Astley, at <u>secre-</u> tary@dubbowestrotary.org.au.



Left: Rotary in Action. Proud members of the Rotary Club of Dubbo West line-up to show the great work they have been doing in gathering generous donations for farmers out West.





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Check out some of the highlights from the 2013/2014 District Conference







Friends from afar need your help...

Have you ever wished you could provide assistance to Rotarians all over the world by hosting their visit in your country? **Rotary Friendship Exchange Facilitators Pat and Trish Moore**, put the call out for Rotarians in District 9670 to assist in an upcoming exchange prior to the Rotary International Convention. Are you interested and can you help out...

A group of twelve Nigerians are visiting District 9670 in the two weeks before the Rotary International Convention in Sydney (i.e. from Wednesday 14th May to Wednesday 28th May). Following this, our friends will depart for Sydney to attend the convention.

The group consists of seven male and three female Rotarians from various clubs in District 9140. As well, the group is accompanied by the teen-aged daughter of one of the male Rotarians and the young adult son of the District RFE Chair (who is not a Rotarian but is a Paul Harris Fellow).

All the Rotarians in the group seem to be dedicated Rotarians and a number have attended most conventions over the past few years.

The challenge facing District 9670 now is to provide hosting and accommodation for this period of two weeks.

So, we are asking fellow Rotarians in the district, especially those based in the Lower Hunter, to consider participating in this Rotary Friendship Exchange by hosting these visitors. If it also possible, we are also asking these volunteers to see their way clear to participate in a return visit

However, we are also interested in hearing from anyone who would consider hosting the visitors here without being particularly keen to undertake a return visit.



Can you help out? Or would you like to be involved? Why not drop Pat and Trish Moore an email at <u>patnpat1@bigpond.com</u> or phone 0417-407-130. In your response, please consider how long you would be prepared to host (one week or two and if you are able you would be to provide transport during our friend's stay with you.

They've made it safe and sound...

Our GSE team have safely arrived in District 7570 in the USA for their $e \times c + a + g = b + a \times i + g = a$ snow storm and slight weather changes between here and there.

The team have set up a Facebook page to enable us to follow their journey. You can check out their p r o g r e s s a t https://m.facebook.com/GSE9670?id =635822393151441& rdr

Please pass these details along to Rotarians in the district for their information/ reference. More details on the exchange program can be accessed via the District 9670 website under the "Rotary Foundation" tab at http://www.clubrunner.ca/Portal/Sit ePages/SitePage.aspx?accountid=50

229&pid=89147

The inbound (US) team will use a similar format to enable us to follow their journey.





Celebrating in western style

While it seems like an age ago that we were celebrating the annual foundation dinners, **D9670 Rotaract Chair, Nicole Read-Shanks**, updated D9670 on the celebrations west of the divide which saw honour and recognition given to many Rotarians.

Over 80 Rotarians from the four Dubbo Rotary Clubs, Warren, Narromine, as well as dignitaries including DGE Gerard McMillan and Yvonne Palmer, IPDG Peter and Margaret Raynor, PDG Janette and Steve Jackson, and PDG/District Foundation Chair Alex and Pam McHarg, all gathered to hear our special guest Mark Anderson speak about the Rotary Foundation at the annual Foundation Dinner on Friday 21st February.

The dinner was hosted by the Rotary Club of Dubbo Macquarie.

The club's Foundation Director Sylvia Dunn gave us an insight into what their club is doing in regards to Foundation activities, including installing bench seating at the Riverside playing fields, and the Emergency medical information booklets.

Gargi Ganguly informed the attendees of how the Rotary Club of Dubbo is progressing with their toilets in India campaign.

District Foundation Chair, Alex McHarg, reported to the members about how the District is shaping with the Foundation program.

IPDG Peter gave us an awareness of a new Rotary program, the Paul Harris Society. This recognises members or organisations who contribute US\$1000 annually, and they receive a prestigious medallion. To date, there had been 17 people in our District to obtain this high recognition.

People awarded this medallion during the evening included IPDG Peter Raynor, Judy Jakins, Geoff Smith, PDG Alex McHarg, OAS Computers (Singleton) and Singleton Diggers Club.

Then, it was time for the guest of honour, Mark Anderson, who is the Senior Co-ordinator of Fund Development for Rotary Foundation, in the South Pacific and Philippines.

Mark has been a Rotarian for 25 years and this included being involved with clubs in South Africa, Victoria, and NSW. However, he has long been associated with Rotary as he is a former Interactor, Rotaractor, RYLA participant, and GSE Team member.

Mark's main role in the Foundation office is to raise funds. He monitors "Every Rotarian, Every Year," distributes Paul Harris Fellow applications and awards, manages and administrator of the Paul Harris Society, manages the Major Donor administration and Bequest Society.

Anderson also educated the guests about the various levels of monetary donations made by members, which can start at \$99 and go on for thousands of dollars.

As it was a Foundation night, everyone wanted to know the current information with the End Polio Now campaign, which he kindly gave us.

Overall, it was a great night of fellowship, an opportunity to mingle with the members of other clubs, while learning all about the organisation.



Above: Guest Speaker and fellow Rotarian, Mark Anderson.

Right: PDG Peter Raynor & Marg







Above: Celebrating on style. Lorna, Marty, Judy & Peter smile for the camera.

Right: Smiles for the Foundation. Sylvia and Jon enjoy a night of great laughs and company.

Right: Grace Aubusson & Mark Anderson







to join the Rotary Club of Cessnock And friends in their fundraisin For RAWCS PROJECT - TEACHERS ASSIST KOKODA

Teachers Assist Kokoda provides free professional development

and classroom essentials for currently employed teachers in the Oro Province of Papua New Guinea.

> This program operates with the co-operation of PNG DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

WHERE: Glendale Cinema Complex, Glendale

INCLUSIONS: Movie viewing, 1 x raffle ticket, aperitifs. Contact : trish_davies@bigpond.com 0413 760 606

\$20 per person

6.00 for 6.30pm

WHEN: Friday 6th June, 2014

COST

NEWSFLASH

Please note that while renovations are being undertaken at the Maitland City Bowls Sports & Recreation Club, the Rotary Club of Rutherford-Telarah will be meeting at the Telarah Bowling Club, Clark Street, Telarah.

Time remains at 6.00 for 6.30pm

<u>ALLIANCE FOR SMILES</u> is a Rotary-based, not-for-profitorganisation that repairs cleft lips and cleft palates of disadvantaged children across the globe.

The mission in 2014 was to Myanmar and focused on providing smiles to 100 Burmese children by repairing their cleft lips, cleft palates and lips.

Alliance for Smiles—Myanmar, D9670, No. 63/2013-14

BRINGING SMILES TO THOSE WHO CAN

A team of 16 volunteers from Canada, Holland, China, United States and Australia travelled to Myanmar as a surgical team to repair cleft lips and cleft palates free of charge. Alliance for Smiles is a Rotary-based, not-for-profit-organisation that has treated over 3000 children in many disadvantaged countries.

Team member, Lyn Thorpe OAM went on her 8th mission this year, travelling to Myanmar, having been part of previous missions with the organisation to China (x4), Cameroon, Bangladesh and Ghana before. The team to Myanmar was made up of two surgeons, three anaesthetists, two surgical nurses, two recovery nurses and also one head nurse, paediatrician, sterilizer technician, ward coordinator and mission director.

The mission to Myanmar was expected to see a maximum of 75 cases. The first day of the clinic saw 118 cases with 100 children booked for surgery from these. All patients were under 12 years of age (and three of them were brothers who had travelled 12 hours to see the clinic). One patient also travelled 4 days after seeing an article in the newspaper.

While these numbers seemed impossible at the time, the team of well-trained, professional and coordinated staff made the impossible became a reality. After



nine days of dedicated work, the team certainly gave the ultimate gift using their experience and skills to change lives and put smiles on the faces of 100 beautiful Burmese children

Another team will return in October 2014 followed by more in March and October 2015, with so many more patients identified for surgery. Grateful donations are being received.

Project Manager is Lyn Thorpe OAM, Rotary Club of Adamstown New Lambton. Her email

An old friend returns to Oz...



WEBSITE COMMITTEE—POSITIONS VACANT



Committee (ECC) is seeking interested Rotarians to join the District The second role, is to generate stories Website committee (and the Electronic about individual rotary clubs in the Communications committee) to fill the district (i.e. progressively role of Journalist.

The first role, is to investigate and report on events occurring within the he Electronic Communications district (both prior to and after the events).

> writing stories about all clubs).

It is envisaged that two roles are For more information contact: equired and may be shared.

District Membership & Community Involvement

One-third of the way through 2014 already...Peter Sivyer, District Attendance, Participation and Contributions Chair reports on how District 9670 is and looks forward to receiving more information from each club this year.

CLUB STATISTICS - MARCH 2014

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.

	Dubbo west	49
↓ Interested in	East Maitland	41
🖰 what knowing		18
how your club is	Kurri Kurri Sunrise	27
participating? Why not head to our new	Maitland	35
District website to	Merriwa	19
check out what's	Morisset	18
been reported at	Muswellbrook	26
www.rotary9670.org.au	Myall Coast	27
	Narromine	12
	Nelson Bay	56
Can't see your club's	Newcastle Enterprise	24
stats here? Why not send an update to	Raymond Terrace	21
ppsivyer@bigpond.com and we will add them to our next edition.	Rutherford -Telarah	32
	^I Salamander Bay	26
	Singleton	40
	Singleton on Hunter	28
	Toronto Sunrise	32
	Wallsend-Maryland	18
	Waratah	20
	14/11/	22

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,	ROTARY CLUB	MEMBERS	HOURS	%	RANK	
	Adamstown New Lambton	26	40	88.75	1	
	Belmont	29		72	19	
	Cardiff	9	71.5	82	6	
	Cobar	15	28	72.31	18	
	Dubbo	21	50	77	11	
	Dubbo Macquarie	22		88.03	2	
	Dubbo South	44		81.67	7	
	Dubbo West	49		73.2	16	
า	East Maitland	41	63	84.39	4	
] s	Kurri Kurri	18	480	86.67	3	
	Kurri Kurri Sunrise	27	235	67	22	
y v	Maitland	35	152	72.7	17	
Š	Merriwa	19		75.5	14	
S	Morisset	18	603	70	21	
	Muswellbrook	26	16	78	10	
	Myall Coast	27	126	65	24	
	Narromine	12		62.5	25	
	Nelson Bay	56		79.54	8	
	Newcastle Enterprise	24	280	66	23	
	Raymond Terrace	21		60	26	
	Rutherford -Telarah	32	236	78.19	9	
	^I Salamander Bay	26		56	27	
	Singleton	40		77	11	
	Singleton on Hunter	28	272	73.5	15	
	Toronto Sunrise	32	350	71.1	20	
	Wallsend-Maryland	18	152	76	13	/
	Waratah	20		84.3	5	
	Williamtown	22	278	N/A	N/A	/

#### 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.



AUSTRALIA

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

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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!





All correspondence on District 9670 matters to be sent to: PO Box 357, New Lambton, NSW, 2305

### DISTRICT 9670 IN MAY 2014 Rotary Club of Salamander Bay 3rd 10th Anniversary Dinner Soldiers Point Bowling Club www.stickytickets.com.au/15902 3rd— **RAWCS Eastern Region Meeting** 4th Club Macquarie, Argenton John Bennetts 0407 724 095 or jben5797@bigpond.net.au 9th Rotary Club of Waratah Annual Trivia Night Memories Function Centre, Wallsend Madeleine Atkins Ph: 0447 523 221 or madeleineatkins@bigpond.com 24th **Rotary Community Markets** New Lambton South Public School St James Road, New Lambton 0422 136 277 or rotarymarkets1@hotmail.com 31st Rotary Club of Wallsend Maryland Fundraiser—Trivia Night Charlestown Bowling Club Karina Parkes 0432 656 862 of kcolburt@y7mail.com



