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CELEBRATING 65 YEARS!

RYLSTONE KANDOS ROTARY CLUB
CELEBRATE THEIR MILESTONE BY
TREASURING THEIR ACHIEVEMENT.



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MEET YOUR LEADERS

INTRODUCING THE G-TRAIN AND
DISTRICT 9670 LEADERSHIP FOR
2014-2015



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GOOD WILL & PEACE AMONGST MEN

FOCUS ON INTERNATIONAL ISSUES
THROUGH THE OPPORTUNITIES THAT
THE MUNA 2014 CONFERENCE GAVE
TO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

○ No. 2

○ AUGUST

○ 2014—2015

District digest

COMMUNITY, STRENGTH AND VALUES



district9670
AUSTRALIA

Already off to a busy start...District Governor Gerard McMillan, thanks all those clubs that has hosted his annual DG visits and asks each club to focus on this month's theme—Membership in Rotary. While we are considering the facts why people stay and people leave, we are also asked to reflect on that special Rotary moment that makes us determined to make a positive impact on our communities locally, regionally and overseas...

It's been a busy month and by the time this report is printed I will have visited some **22 Rotary Clubs** around the district.

Each club has a **point of difference**, all are doing wonderful things within their communities and the most pleasing aspect of all is that each meeting has either introduced or inducted a new Rotarian within their ranks.

This is so important and I suppose timely when we consider the statistics on **membership**. While I could focus on the worrying and growing concern of statistics, I would prefer you to consider the positives.

The number of **female Rotarians** has a worldwide statistic of 18.97 per cent. Australia has a higher figure of 23.17 per cent on average—but here in our own district that figure is even better with 26.38 per cent of our membership consisting of women which indicates we are definitely doing something right!

In saying that, our **membership has decreased** by 27 members over the past 12 months and is something we simply must address.

Eighty per cent of our members are **60 years of age or older** and we need to have people to pass the baton on to.

Facing facts and looking at why people

leave Rotary and the top five reasons are: clubs **resistance to change** and inflexibility; personal conflicts; new members not included or mentored; feeling of not being engaged; and finally, affordability.

However, why do people stay? Many experience **a personal need to do something**. Others feel satisfaction in helping their communities. Many experience fellowship and enjoy meeting new people and having fun while others enjoy the sense of belonging. Many just join and stay because of the business networking opportunities.

I ask **how do these factors impact your club?** How well do you know and understand the spirit within your club and do you need to change?

I'm a firm believer that we can always be **doing better**, even when we are doing things well and maybe it is time to look a little more closely at the way we are doing things.

Can we engage with our communities better? Are our meeting times impacting opportunities for growth? And, is the cost a factor? These are just some things to think about...

I reflect on my own experience and you often hear us speak of our own, **personal Rotary moment**.

Mine came many years ago when a local family requested some support and this truly was a family in genuine need.

Their request was for some **financial assistance** to go on a holiday, an experience we all take for granted but this wasn't any ordinary holiday.

This family had a young child with quite a severe disability and one that would never have a happy outcome as the disability meant the child would not be on this world for any length of time.

The family wanted a **happy experience together** while having access to the medical care the little girl needed.

It was my role to take the **small donation** to the family and when I walked into this very humble home I was a little taken back by the very simple way they lived. There was no huge flat screen TV; none of the material possessions you see so often. In fact, the carpet was so thread bare in places I could see the bare floor boards underneath.

There on the floor lay this beautiful little girl, hooked up to machines to keep her alive but quite unaware of the sadness she lived with.

While my attention was focused on the little one on the floor, another little girl came into the room, smiling, happy but clutching a photograph that she was keen to show me.

(Continued on Page 2...)

(Continued from Page 1)...

I assumed it was of her little sister on the floor and made a comment to **acknowledge my thought** but was soon corrected by the girls' quietly spoken mother.

"No, that's a photograph of our other child who had the same condition. She died."

Suddenly, my thoughts went to this young, healthy, little girl who was living with the knowledge that not only had she lost a sister but she was **living with the fact** that she would lose another."

Passing on the money to allow them to have a holiday was **rewarding** and I know that without the support of Rotary, this holiday to Coffs Harbour wouldn't have happened.

It was not the **headline grabbing action** that other Rotary projects may receive—but just as important as anything we do.

That was many years ago but I often

reflect back on that moment through my work with Rotary and it makes me **determined to continue to look within my own community** on how we can have a **positive impact** to improve the lives of others, some of whom are far more closer than we think.

I am encouraged by our projects that **directly work with our youth** and again the success of these projects reflect the initiatives tailored to meet the local need.

I make mention of Geoffrey Smith at Narromine and his work under the Rotary Projects Banners: Rotary Youth in Cotton; Youth Rotary Crops, Agronomy, Grain and Seed that both engage young people in his district with the local agricultural industries.

It is about **identifying the need** within your community, and every community is different, and acting on those needs.

But back to membership and I would encourage every club to send at least two delegates to Laurie McGrath's semi-

nars on ways we can **attract new members**. You will get ideas and be inspired and given the statistics mentioned earlier, it is so imperative that every club takes this opportunity to hear from Laurie.

I challenge every club to **dare to be different but not to drift away** from our founder Paul Harris's mission statement that 'Rotary's foundation stone is friendship and that the element to keeping Rotary together is tolerance'.

To finish on another quote: "use your hand to help, use your head to make sure you are helping in the right place and use your heart to make it sincere. Without your heart, nothing else matters".

Yours in Rotary

Gerard McMillan

...AUGUST IS MEMBERSHIP MONTH...

Our founder Paul Harris said *"the foundation on which Rotary started was friendship and the element that keeps it together is tolerance"* How very true, even today.

The RI President Garry Huang is advocating flexibility when it comes to how we operate. If clubs are having fun, flexible and welcoming to new members, encouraging older or experienced Rotarians to share then we may grow.

Outgoing RI President Ron Burton said at the Convention in Sydney *"The bottom line is that Rotary's future is up to us. We can either, get up out of our chairs and really make things happen or we can sit there and become an endangered species and eventually die off"*

Last year we had membership workshops in our District and guess what the five top reasons were to stay in Rotary:

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

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

Learn more about what you can do to get involved.

Read www.rotary.org/myrotary/en/celebrate-membership-month

☆ **NAME:** Christine Walmsley

☆ **ROTARY CLUB & ZONE:** Maitland Sunrise, Zone 5

☆ **SO, WHEN DID YOU INITIALLY JOIN ROTARY & WHY?**

In 2003. To contribute to the community, through volunteering and supporting local and international projects.

☆ **WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR MOST MEMORABLE MOMENT IN ROTARY?**

There have been so many!! But I would have to say most of all, it is the wonderful people, Rotarians and community members that I have met and worked with when participating in Rotary programs that have inspired me. Their commitment to improving the lives of others and their selfless efforts encourage me to continue to try and uphold the Rotary theme of 'Service beyond Self'.

☆ **THE 2015/2016 ROTARY YEAR THEME IS TO "LIGHT UP ROTARY" - WHAT DOES THIS THEME MEAN TO YOU?**

To me it means, sharing the wonderful work that Rotarians do across the world. I am sure that there are many people in our communities who are unaware of the extensive projects that Rotary is involved in worldwide, that light up the lives of many less fortunate than ourselves. Perhaps if we all shared this 'good news', our membership numbers would increase.

☆ **WHAT ARE YOUR GOALS / FOCUSES AS AG OVER THE 2015/2016 ROTARY YEAR?**

- To learn more about the 5 clubs and their membership that I liaise with in my Zone, through regular club visits.
- To assist clubs with membership development and the benefit of participation in the Rotary Leadership Institute where requested.
- To promote the importance of the Rotary Foundation
- To have FUN!

☆ **IT'S DINNER TIME...WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE CUISINE?**

I can never go past a good roast dinner followed by dessert of course.

☆ **IF YOU WERE HIDING WHERE WOULD WE FIND YOU AND WHY?**

I just loved my last visit to the Cotswolds in the UK. The beautiful gardens, thatched cottages, history and the wonderful galleries were very special and I hope to return at some time in the future.

☆ **IF YOUR PERSONALITY COULD BE BOTTLED UP, WHAT WOULD THE LABEL READ?**

Positive, happy, organised, conscientious and a team player



☆ **NAME:** Nicole Shanks

☆ **ROTARY CLUB:** Rotary Club of Dubbo West

☆ **SO, WHEN DID YOU INITIALLY JOIN ROTARY & WHY?**

I originally joined Rotaract around 2002-2003, left in July 2012; and was then inducted into the Rotary Club of Dubbo West in September 2012. I initially joined to meet people; learn new skills; and help those less fortunate in the community, nationally and globally.

☆ **WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR MOST MEMORABLE MOMENT IN ROTARY?**

In the short space of time I have been in Rotary, there have been several moments:

- Travelling to Coonamble, seeing the dry lands and looking at the faces of farmers, who were very appreciative of receiving hay that was donated.
- Meeting Rotary International President Kalyan Banerjee and his wife Binota, when they came to Dubbo as I was the DRR (District Rotaract Representative).
- One year at a Dubbo Rotaract Changeover, we were fortunate enough to be able to donate \$9,000 towards St John's Ambulance. We had previously given them \$1000 and this extra amount, enabled the organisation to purchase a much-needed defibrillator. When we announced the amount, the St John's representative nearly needed the defibrillator for himself. The shocked reaction and the look on his face just made it all worthwhile - you can tell that you have just helped another organisation to save the lives of others.
- Helping out with Dream Cricket activities at my Rotary club. I enjoy watching disabled, primary school children play cricket in a modified manner. The smiles on their faces say it all.

☆ **THE 2015/2015 ROTARY YEAR THEME IS TO "LIGHT UP ROTARY" - WHAT DOES THIS THEME MEAN TO YOU?**

I think "Light Up Rotary" means to ensure that Rotary is always in the spotlight of the media and to be recognised for what we are doing and have done for the local, national and international community.

☆ **WHAT ARE YOUR GOALS / FOCUSES AS A YOUTH IN ROTARY OVER THE 2014/2015 ROTARY YEAR?**

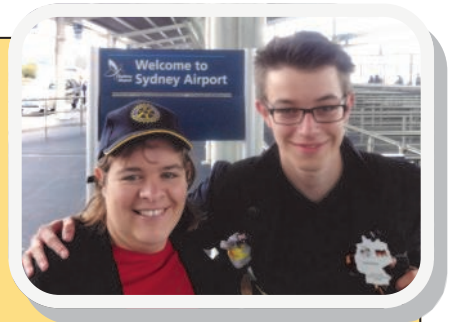
- As I am the club's youth Director, I would like to see our club be involved in as many youth programs as I can.
- Make most Rotarians aware, that even though we are young, have different ideas on how things could be done, energy and can do things that older members can do as well (such as organise events), if only given a chance.
- Pass on my knowledge and experience of my past roles, in both Club and District Executive positions.
- Encourage clubs to accept young members.

☆ **WHAT DO YOU THINK IS THE BEST QUALITY THAT YOU BRING TO ROTARY AS A YOUNG PERSON?**

We have different ideas; enthusiasm; energy and different skill levels.

☆ **IF YOUR PERSONALITY COULD BE BOTTLED UP, WHAT WOULD THE LABEL READ?**

A sweet, passionate, caring person, with a kind heart and a strong personality, who strives for perfection at every opportunity, but unable to delegate.



WHAT IS MY ROTARY MOMENT?

65 and still going strong...

*Celebrating our 65th birthday would be considered a great milestone for each and every one of us...and that's how one of our smaller Club's west of the divide felt when they celebrated their Changeover late last Rotary year. **Elizabeth McKay, member of the Rylstone Kandos Rotary Club** fills us all in on the huge milestone for the club...a big well done from D9670!*

The 65th Changeover Dinner in May 2014 was a significant milestone for the Rylstone Kandos Rotary Club. Helping to mark the occasion, along with local Rotary members and family, was the Member for Parkes Mark Coulton, who read a message from the Prime Minister, Mr Tony Abbott congratulating the Club, and the Member for Hunter, Joel Fitzgibbon.

The Changeover was well represented by other Rotarians including Past District Governor Brian Atkins, District Governor Gerard McMillan and past DG's Greg Bevan, Janette Jackson and Peter Raynor.

The Rylstone Kandos Club welcomed nine (9) members from the Mudgee Club which was the sponsor club when Rylstone Kandos was Chartered in 1949. "This show of support and recognition from Mudgee, Rotary and politicians is really appreciated." incoming President Klaus Keck said.

Humer Matthias, International Exchange student from Austria also attended and was a "stand-out" in his blazer literally covered in badges and... guess what! Tim Tams.

Messages of congratulations were also sent from Rotary's International President for the 2013-2014 year Ron D Burton...all the way from Oklahoma, USA.

PDG Janette Jackson gave an overview of the history of the Club, putting the achievements into an interesting social history.

Certificates of achievement were presented to the Club from Rotary International. "These are valuable treasures for the Club" said Incoming President Keck.

Since the Changeover Dinner, the Club is grateful to the Rylstone Club who have allowed the use a wall in the Club to

hang these significant certificates. These will be a reminder of the recognition of the Club's achievements and a motivator for future progress.

★ Would you like more information on the Rylstone-Kandos 65th anniversary celebrations? If so, contact Elizabeth McKay on (02) 5307-3222

Below: : Presentation of certificates at the Rylstone Kandos 65th Changeover Dinner From L to R:PDG Greg Bevan, PDG Janette Jackson, PDG Peter Raynor, PDG Brian Atkins, DG Gerard McMillan, P Klaus Keck, DGE Adrian Roach, DGN Steve Jackson PP Amanda Roach PP Gary Oakes.



⇒ CULTURE ⇒ DIVERSITY ⇒ FELLOWSHIP

Thinking of attending the 2015 RI Convention—the *San Paulo 2015 Carnival*?

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!



Interested in seeing some of the highlights of **South America**?

Did you know that District 9670 are organising a special escorted group tour to coincide with the **2015 RI Convention**?

Contact Escape Travel Charlestown on 1300-765-128 for more details

DISTRICT GOVERNOR

Name: Gerard McMillan

Partner: Yvonne Palmer

Rotary Club: Singleton

Joined Rotary in: 1987

Goal for 2014—2015: The merit of a person is not judged by the number of servants he has but the number of people he serves; Gerard looks forward to serving Rotary International and District 9670.



DISTRICT GOVERNOR ELECT

Name: Adrian Roach

Partner: Christine Roach

Rotary Club: Greenhills Maitland

Joined Rotary In: 1994

Goal for 2014—2015: Adrian is looking forward to serving Rotary International and working with Clubs in the District. While following some of the great traditions, Adrian is eager to set the District up for the future.

DISTRICT GOVERNOR NOMINEE

Name: Stephen Jackson

Partner: PDG Janette Jackson

Rotary Club: Cessnock

Joined Rotary In: 1981

Goal for 2014— 2015: Steve is a great supporter of youth in Rotary having hosted many exchange students; supporting RYPEN, RYLA, RYCAGS, RELAYID and MUNA; and is also an avid supporter of the Rotary Health programs on his agenda.

DISTRICT 9670 LEADERSHIP TEAM

ASSISTANT GOVERNORS

Zone 1	Stuart Astley Dubbo West
Zone 2	Lyn McDonald Dubbo West
Zone 3	Peter Croft Dubbo Macquarie
Zone 4	Danny Thompson Singleton-on-Hunter
Zone 5	Christine Walmsley Maitland Sunrise
Zone 6	Terry New Rutherford-Telarah
Zone 7	Howard Bridgman Newcastle Enterprise
Zone 8	Keith Harcombe Charlestown
Zone 9	Denis Hyland Newcastle Sunrise
Zone 10	Earl Heckman Maitland
Zone 11	Laurie McGrath Charlestown

District Secretary	Graeme O'Brien Singleton-on-Hunter
District Treasurer	Bob Wood Singleton-on-Hunter
District Insurance Officer	Stephen Jackson Cessnock
Legal Committee	Scott Lewis Adamstown-New Lambton)
District Attendance, Participation and Contributions	PDG Peter Sivy Myall Coast

Chair— The Rotary Foundation	PDG Alex McHarg Singleton-on-Hunter
Chair— Learning & Development Committee	Wilma Simmons Wallsend-Maryland
Chair— Membership & Development Committee	Laurie McGrath Charlestown
Chair— Public Relations Committee	PDG Brian Atkins Waratah

Chair - Electronic Communication Committee	Colin Shanks Dubbo West
Chair— Governance Committee	Alex McHarg Singleton-on-Hunter
Chair— District Youth Exchange	Denise Parkes Charlestown
Chair— Child Protection Committee	Trevor Lynch East Maitland
Chair— Probus Clubs	Ray Davies Raymond Terrace
Chair— Rotaract Clubs	Nicole Shanks Dubbo West
Chair— Rotary Fellowships	Pat Moore Newcastle Enterprise

Club Vision Facilitation	Pam Wellham Wallsend-Maryland
Club & Community Service	PDG Janette Jackson Cessnock
Youth Services Administrator	PDG Don Whatham Nelson Bay
Vocational Service Director	Ted Lewis Newcastle
District Conference Committee Chair	Wendy Mason-Jones Singleton-on-Hunter
Chair— Rotary Australia World Community Service Committee	Brian Coffey East Maitland
RDU Liaison	Pam Wellham Wallsend-Maryland



☆ **NAME:** Rotary Youth Crops, Agronomy, Grain and Seed Camp (RYCAGS)

☆ **CHAIR OF COMMITTEE:** Geoff Smith

☆ **HOW MANY MEMBERS ARE ON THE COMMITTEE & WHERE ARE THEY FROM?**

Our committee has 4 members– one member from Narromine and one from Dubbo West and also two non-Rotarians.

☆ **WHAT DOES YOUR COMMITTEE FOCUS ON?**

Educating Year 9/10 agriculture students on the finer points of cropping and agriculture. None of the material we teach is material that is taught in schools.

☆ **THE 2015/2016 ROTARY YEAR THEME IS TO “LIGHT UP ROTARY” – WHAT IS YOUR COMMITTEE’S GOALS AND FOCUSES TO ACHIEVE THIS?**

To run a successful RYCAG camp by promoting agriculture to the students in the hope they will pursue a career in some form of agriculture.

☆ **WHAT IS ONE MAJOR HIGHLIGHT / ACHIEVEMENT THAT YOUR COMMITTEE HAS HAD OVER THE LAST 5 YEARS ?**

Educating over 120 students through the RYCAGS Camp and receiving the many positive testimonials from students, parents and teachers. We have also received great support from our sponsors and agri-businesses.

☆ **DO YOU WANT TO KNOW MORE? WHERE CAN WE FIND MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE GREAT THINGS YOUR COMMITTEE DOES ?**

First step is to check out our website on the D9670 website at RYCAGS. Further enquiries can then be directed to the coordinator Geoff Smith on 6889 5447 or rycags@rotary9670.org.au.



...COMMITTEE'S OF D9670...

Goodwill amongst D9670 youth...

*MUNA is a United Nations initiative to encourage young people to learn about other nations and to understand and appreciate the workings of the United Nations while they develop debating skills and gain self confidence in public speaking. **Emergency***

***Chair for MUNA, Megan Valentine** updates D9670 on the 2014 assembly held in Muswellbrook...*

Model United Nations Assembly (MUNA) promotes international understanding and goodwill – one of the objects of Rotary International, and was again held in Muswellbrook Council Chambers in May 2014.

MUNA has been held annually since 2002 in D9670 and gives high school students from Years 10 to 12 the opportunity to enhance debating skills, appreciate another culture, improve higher order thinking skills and enjoy the company of other students in the district.

Each team of two (2) students and one (1) teacher/counsellor, sponsored by a local Rotary club at a cost of \$470, represents a country of the United Nations. Having researched the country and its culture, the students discuss and debate the resolutions at the MUNA from the point of view of the country they represent. The resolutions are based on real international issues debated at the UN.

MUNA is organised by a committee of 11 from Rotary Clubs around the District;

with Steve Jackson as president of the MUNA assembly for the past 2 years, taking over from Wilma Simmons. We are looking for a new assembly president for MUNA for May 2015, as Steve will now have DGN duties. We are also looking for new committee members, including the chair's position.

There was a dinner on the Friday night at the John Hunter Motel, which was also attended by Muswellbrook Rotary Club, who host us at the debate on Saturday. We were honoured that the whole DG train were able to attend.

The event would not be possible without the generous support of the Muswellbrook RSL, Muswellbrook Nissan and Coal and Allied.

After some last minute withdrawals, this year there were 18 teams from 14 different schools. Hunter School of Performing Arts, representing China was the winning team and they will now compete in National MUNA held in Canberra during August 2014.



A Peace Prize was also awarded to the team who made the best contribution towards peace and positive negotiation.

The MUNA blog, created by Wilma Simmons and updated by Phil Warren is at <http://muna9670.blogspot.com.au/>.

The MUNA committee has a PowerPoint presentation and would welcome the opportunity to speak at your Rotary Club meeting to promote MUNA and committee membership

Below: : Learning goodwill and understanding; students and committee of MUNA 2014



This year District 9670 is looking for Peace Scholar applicants...something we've never done before.

Why not check out Peace fellow Ali Reza Eshraghi on today's Iran that was published in "The Rotarian" Magazine (April 2014).

His story of change and worldwide peace is inspiring and a great read...

(click on the peace dove for more info)

CELEBRATING THE ROTARY FOUNDATION



Commitment to Rotary Grants

As has been previously reported, in 2013-2014 the District Foundation Committee authorised the use of \$33,353 dollars to District Clubs to use on their Humanitarian projects. We also authorised the use of \$35,000 from the District Designated Fund (DDF) in Global Grants, and these grants attracted the same amount \$35,000 from the World Fund for international projects. Also \$25,000 from DDF was authorised to be transferred to the End Polio Now Campaign – this will attract \$50,000 from the Gates Foundation to the End Polio now campaign. We should all feel a bit of pride in this funding as we are doing some good in the world.

In the coming year, 2014-15 we have had registrations from Clubs of their intention to apply for District Grants totaling \$53,780 and from DDF, Global Grants totaling \$29,300. The amount of funding we can give to these applications depends on the amount of giving to the Annual Programs Fund 3 years ago. This was not sufficient to cover all these applications with only \$29,317 being available for District Grants. We do have sufficient DDF available for the Global Grants that have been indicated to use.

You may have noticed that the Giving from District Clubs has been falling during the last couple of years as more pressure comes on us for our charity dollar. I would ask you to consider: "Which other charity you support gives you a chance to use those dollars for your own charitable work?"

If you wish to find out more about the Rotary Foundation please contact a member of the District Rotary Foundation Committee, or your Assistant Governor. Invite them to come along to talk at your Club meeting!

The Rotary Foundation Committee:

- ☆ Alex McHarg RC Singleton on Hunter – Committee Chair
- ☆ Denis Hyland RC Newcastle Sunrise – Committee Secretary
- ☆ Trevor Lynch RC East Maitland – Committee Treasurer
- ☆ Alan Moir RC East Maitland – Scholarships
- ☆ Dennis Trigg RC Toronto – PolioPlus
- ☆ Frank Climaco RC Kurri Kurri – PolioPlus
- ☆ Gargi Ganguly RC Dubbo – Annual Giving
- ☆ Janette Jackson RC Cessnock – Rotary Grants
- ☆ Joe Canalese RC Dubbo South – VTT/GSE
- ☆ Peter Goodwin RC Newcastle – Annual Giving / Raffle
- ☆ Peter Raynor RC Warners Bay – Annual Giving / Paul Harris Society
- ☆ Jennifer Richards RC Newcastle Sunrise – Annual Giving
- ☆ Shari Tanzer RC Wallsend Maryland Satellite E.Club – GSE / VTT
- ☆ Tony Mackenzie RC Newcastle – Rotary Grants
- ☆ Pam Wellham RC Wallsend Maryland – Publicity/ Scholarships

NOTE: The DG, IPDG, DGE, DGN, and all AGs are ex-officio members of the committee

Studies nearing the end...

After nearly 12 months abroad. D9670's own **Global Grant Scholar, Annelise Bisset** updates us on her progress in the UK both in the classroom, with her host Rotary Club and the extracurricular activities she has been involved in. With her research project and dissertation underway, it looks like Annelise's time abroad is coming to an end...

Studies

My studies are nearing an end!

On the 21st, 22nd and 23rd of May I sat for my exams, which were quite challenging. Each day consisted of a three hour exam, and each exam was made up of three essays. The essays could be from any course content, so you had to remember a lot of information! Despite this, sitting exams was a really interesting experience, as you sit them in a huge, ornate hall called 'Exam Schools' that was built in the 1800's especially for Oxford students sitting exams. We also had to wear full sub fusc (which consists of a suit, a gown, ribbon and hat) to every exam, and follow a few traditions such as wearing a different coloured carnation on your jacket for each exam. A very challenging and surreal experience!

Now that exams are over, I am focused on finishing my research project and dissertation. I am really enjoying my project – which is trying to quantify the environmental benefit of the Oxford Food Bank.

The food bank is a charity that salvages surplus, good quality fresh fruit, vegetables and bread from retailers and wholesalers and redistributes to over 50 local

community groups that use the food in various ways. I am calculating an environmental footprint of the saved waste (which involved weighing everything that came through the food bank in a week – over a tonne of food a day!), as well as interviewing the local community groups that use the food, to investigate how the provision of fresh food from the food bank influences purchasing and dietary behaviour (from an environmental perspective).

Hopefully my data will come in use to the food bank, as well as contribute some evidence to the current UK parliamentary inquiry into food banks, food poverty and hunger.

Rotary

In June, we had the final District Rotary Scholars get-together (as some of the students have already finished their courses). This was at a BBQ hosted in Abingdon and it was a good was to thank the local clubs for all their support, and to come together as a cohort one last time.

My host club is continuing to host events over the summer, and I will still be involved in this. Last month, Abingdon Vesper hosted an outdoor food and drink

festival which raised £3,500. I helped out on the day by collecting money for parking.

The students organised charity concert for shelter box was also a great success, raising over 700 pounds for the charity. Later in the summer I will be talking at a few more Rotary clubs in the district about my dissertation project.

Extracurricular Activities

Shortly after exams, I competed in the major rowing event of the Oxford calendar, known as Summer Eights. The competition is a four-day long event and is based on 'bumps' style racing, where you need to overtake another crew before being overtaken yourself in order to progress through the rankings. The main goal of the competition is to 'bump' in every race and win what is called 'blades' (a hand painted rowing blade is the trophy). My crew was able to bump every day and therefore we won blades, which was very exciting!

Other than rowing I have been volunteering at the Oxford Food Bank and generally enjoying Oxford summer pastimes such as punting and croquet on the GTC college lawns.



THE ROTARY CLUB OF NEWCASTLE SUNRISE INVITES

MEMBERS, PARTNERS AND FRIENDS

TO JOIN US FOR A FUND RAISING DINNER IN SUPPORT OF

THE WEEMA CHILD SACRIFICE PROJECT IN UGANDA

WWW.WEEMAPROJECTS.ORG

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17TH

CHAT CHAI THAI CUISINE

88 DARBY STREET COOKS HILL

EVENT BEGINS AT 6:00PM

MUSIC ENTERTAINMENT PROVIDED BY

Singer/Songwriter Elisa Kate

WWW.ELISAKATE.COM

RAFFLE ITEMS SPONSORED BY LOCAL BUSINESSES

DINNER TICKETS \$50.00 PP/BYO WINE ONLY

PLEASE CONTACT LINDA EVANS AT

LINDA.J.EVANS@BIGPOND.COM OR

0408 245 390

FULLY LICENSED



Have you introduced a new member to Rotary?

Rotary International now has an exciting new initiative to honour members who strengthen Rotary membership by introducing new members.

Specially designed membership pins are now available for those members who introduce new members to recognise their commitment to growing our organisation.

Got any questions about this program? Why not drop a line to membershipawards@rotary.org for some more information.

Rotary Club of Murrurundi Hydroponics Project



Welcome to the world of Hydroponics where plants are grown in water as opposed to soil. This increasingly popular and exciting way of growing flowers and vegetables has many benefits for the young and old.

The Rotary Club of Murrurundi invites your Club to purchase a

ready-made Hydroponic Kit that can be donated to a school, aged-care facility or organisation in your community.

The kit can be made up for you ready for transportation.

HOW IT WORKS:

Hydroponics work on a recycling system with a small amount of water and nutrients. Water is contained in a small tank and continuously circulates around the root system with the nutrients.

BENEFITS:

- Less physical work and time
- Less water usage and wastage
- Less Chemicals, expense and space
- Healthy fresh food available daily

HOW MUCH IS THE KIT:

\$500 for the entire kit.

You only need to make arrangements for transportation and purchase the seedlings.



Hydroponic Kit ready for delivery



MORE INFORMATION:

To discuss collection or delivery please contact President Robin Terry or Secretary Col Stanford from the Rotary Club of Murrurundi on Mobile: 0438 078 563 or Email: colinstanford8@gmail.com

More details are available on the District Website www.rotary9670.org.au

District Membership & Community Involvement

And we are off and racing...the Rotary 2014/2015 has started with a bang...**Peter Sivyver, District Attendance, Participation and Contributions Chair** reports on how District 9670 has kicked off the new Rotary year and looks forward to receiving more information from each club each month next year.

CLUB STATISTICS - JULY 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.

★ 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
Adamstown New Lambton	26	65	87	4
Belmont	31		88.2	2
Cessnock	23	44.5	79.9	11
Charlestown	47		85.5	6
Cobar	14	17	79.17	12
Dubbo	25	60	77.27	13
Dubbo Macquarie	24	38	86.96	5
Dubbo South	49	192	97.27	1
Dubbo West	47		73.2	17
Dungog	14	45	73	18
East Maitland	42	64	82.77	9
Kurri Kurri	21		82.99	8
Kurri Kurri Sunrise	24	20	60	27
Maitland	35	209	64.1	24
Merriwa	19		72.13	16
Myall Coast	28	60	72.82	19
Nelson Bay	53		76.94	14
Newcastle Enterprise	25		65	21
Newcastle Harbour	14		84	7
Newcastle Sunrise	21	146	88	3
Raymond Terrace	23		76.25	15
Rutherford -Telarah	38	108	62.2	26
Salamander Bay	33		57	28
Singleton	40		65	21
Singleton-on-Hunter	29	587	62.9	25
Toronto Sunrise	33	37	64.2	23
Waratah	20	84	82.4	10
Williamtown	21	347	72.38	20

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!





THE BARREL ROOM



- 14th RLI Training
Part 1—Western Region (Dubbo)
Helen Ryan
heryan@iprimus.com.au
0409-842-455
-
- 17th Fundraising Dinner—The Weema Child Sacrifice Project in Uganda
Chat Chai Thai Cuisine, Cooks Hill
Newcastle Sunrise Rotary Club
Linda Evans
Linda.j.evans@bigpond.com
0408-245-390
-
- 20th The Melon Ball
The Barrel Room @ Tempus Two
Rotaract Club of the Hunter
eventopia.co/event/The-Melon-Ball/258823
-
- 28th Day for the Girls High Tea
Marina Views Function Centre, Wickham
Adamstown-New Lambton Rotary Club
www.stickytickets.com.au
- All correspondence on
District 9670 matters to be sent to:
PO Box 357, New Lambton, NSW, 2305**



district9670
community strength and values

