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CAN YOU HELP?

YEP STUDENT PUTS OUT THE CALL FOR SUPPORT FROM FELLOW ROTARIANS IN HIS SHAVE FOR A CURE CAUSE



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MAKE A LASTING FRIENDSHIP

HAVE YOU EVER CONSIDERED AN OPPORTUNITY TO HOST AND VISIT ROTARIANS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD? CHECK OUT AN UPCOMING OPPORTUNITY HERE.



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ENJOYING AUSTRALIA

FIND OUT HOW THE YEP STUDENTS IN OUR DISTRICT ARE ENJOYING THEIR TIME IN AUSTRALIA AND THE PLANS THEY HAVE FOR 2014.

○ No. 8

○ FEBRUARY

○ 2013—2014

# District *digest*

COMMUNITY, STRENGTH AND VALUES



**district9670**  
**AUSTRALIA**

*It's fast approaching and looking like a blast, **District Governor Brian Atkins** extends an invitation to every Rotarian from District 9670, their families and friends to this year's "Our Vision, Our Future Rotary District Conference. In this edition, catch up on all the activities the committee has planned to entertain and enlighten our Rotary family for this year's District Conference...*

My Fellow Rotarians,

Madeleine and I wish to extend a personal invitation to you to attend the **2014 'Our Vision Our Future' Rotary District Conference** on 28-30 March. It is a conference for the entire family.

Conference Chair PDG Ted Atchison and his Committee have a well-balanced program that will **embrace** the interest of all Rotarians and members of the community.

We have tried to make it **affordable** at only \$179 for the full registration which includes two breakfasts, the Friday night Spectacular and Saturday night Celebration Dinner with the 14-piece big band Ultra Swing Lounge.

We sincerely hope you will take time out from your busy lives to share the **family of Rotary** with us.

Our RI President's Representative is PDG Merv Huxford and Bronwyn from Orewa New Zealand. PDG Merv has generously provided **six \$1,000 prizes** to be awarded to the winning clubs from District 9670

at the conference. Contact us for more details.

We have a golf competition and bowls tournament on offer as well as tours around the harbour, the city, the Fort and the Lighthouse.

You are more than welcome to enjoy these **activities**. This is a great opportunity for the family to have a mini holiday.

We have the amazing **Marching Band and Entertainment Spectacular** as never seen before at a Rotary conference in our District on Friday 28th March. This is our opportunity to promote Rotary to the community. It is important to note that **you will need to register** before the Conference. The Registration Desk will be open on Friday from 10am -3pm at Wests.

You must have your **Conference Pack** to gain entry to the corporate boxes for dinner before the show.

The official opening on Friday night will lead in to an excellent conference weekend for all Rotarians and friends of Rotary.

All other conference sessions and meals will be held at **Wests Club New Lambton**.

Don't miss humorous and inspirational speaker Alan Hannaford on Saturday, or Country Singer Catherine Britt and Professor Michael Nilsson on Sunday together with so many other **exceptional presenters**.

Please register early so that we can be well prepared to **welcome you and your family**.

Warm Regards

***Brian Atkins***

**OUR VISION**

**OUR FUTURE**



# DG's Partners Project: Good News

The **District Governor's Partner Madeleine Atkins**, celebrates the success of fellow Rotarian **Michelle Davis** from the **Rotary Club of Green Hills Maitland** in her award as the Maitland 2014 Woman of the Year. We recognise Michelle in this edition for her significant contribution to road safety in the local community through ROADwhyz.

## "Personal Loss Drives Road Campaigner"

By Eliza Edwards

Newcastle Herald—Thursday 20th February 2014

"A road safety advocate was revealed yesterday as the Maitland 2014 Local Women of the Year. Michelle Davis said it was an honour to receive the award for her contribution to road safety campaigns. Her two sons died in a car accident at Morpeth in 2005.

"After losing my children, I felt compelled to create awareness and educate young people on safe driving", Mrs Davis said.

Maitland MP Robyn Parker praised Mrs Davis for her work in coordinating the ROADWhyz young driver program and representing the NSW Centre for Road Safety. "Michelle is both an inspiration and made a significant contribution to the Maitland

and Hunter Region communities" she said.

Mrs Davis also co-founded the Helping Other Parents Exist (or HOPE) support group in Maitland, which offers comfort to those who are trying to cope with the loss of a child.

"The recognition of this award reminds me that the work I do is making a difference" she said.

Mrs Davis has been invited to attend the NSW Women of the Year awards ceremony on March 7 at Parliament House, on the eve of International Women's Day."

★ Congratulations to Michelle and her team, and a huge thank you to the Maitland community for recognising Michelle in such a tangible way. Michelle will be a guest speaker on Sunday morning at the District Conference. Please join us in celebrating the work she is doing in District 9670.



Below: Making a difference through the education of young drivers in the Maitland local area—Michelle Davis, Rotary Club of Green Hills Maitland with her fellow ROADWhyz team.



Hello!

My name is Tobias Flitz and I am a YEP student for 2013-2014 currently hosted by the Rotary Club of Rutherford Telarah. I'm writing to you all to ask you if you could help me...

The wife of my old school Principal has been diagnosed with cancer. As a YEP student, my Principal has organised most of the parts of my exchange, so in return I have decided to support the Leukaemia Foundation in this year's World's Greatest Shave. Between the 13th—16th of March, I am planning on shaving off my hair to show my support.

**I have set myself a goal to raise 1000 euro/\$AUS.**

Please help me raise my goal and help the thousands of people affected by blood cancer each year. Every donation, small or big counts.

You can donate directly on my site: <https://secure.leukaemiafoundation.org.au/registrant/mobile/mobilePersonalPage.aspx?RegistrationID=516695&Referrer=https%3a%2f%2fm.facebook.com%2f>

**You have until the 12th March to make a donation!**

Leukaemia Foundation

**WORLD'S  
GREATEST  
SHAVE**





ROTARY DISTRICT 9670 PRESENTS  
**THE MARCHING BAND  
& ENTERTAINMENT**

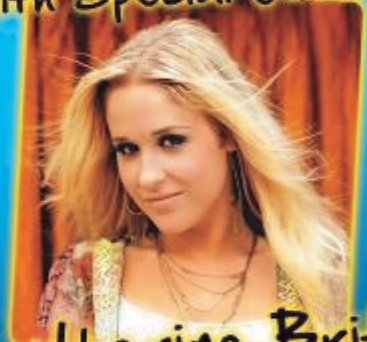
# Spectacular

**7.30PM FRIDAY 28 MARCH 2014  
HUNTER STADIUM**

A great night of family entertainment featuring:  
Millennium Band (Sydney) **Marching Koalas** Hunter  
School of Performing Arts **Massed Piped Bands &**  
**Scottish Dancers** School Spectacular Puppets **The**  
**Hunter Singers** Star Struck Singers **PCYC Gymnasts**



With Special Guest



Catherine Britt

**Family Ticket - \$40**

(2 Adults & 2 Children - Additional Children \$5)

**Adults - \$15    Child - \$10**

**Tickets available at Hunter Stadium,  
[proticket.com.au](http://proticket.com.au) or [ticketmaster.com.au](http://ticketmaster.com.au)**

**PRO**ticket

ticketmaster®

Presented by



All proceeds to be donated to:



Sponsored by:





# 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).

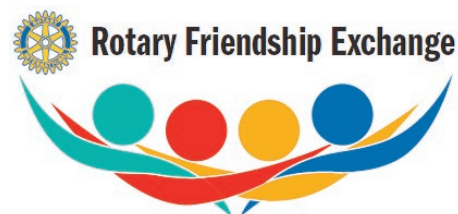
All the Rotarians in the group seem to be dedicated Rotarians and a number have attended most con-

ventions 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 [patnpat1@bigpond.com](mailto:patnpat1@bigpond.com) 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.



Rotary Club of Salamander Bay  
NEW - MEMBER CLUB  
Australia  
Having fun and changing the world

International Women's Day

The Rotary Club of Salamander Bay invites you to join us in celebrating

### International Women's Day 2014


**Theme -** Empower Women - Change the World

**Venue -** Wests Nelson Bay Diggers, 88 Shoal Bay Rd, Nelson Bay

**Date -** Saturday 8th March 2014

**Time -** 6.30pm - 11.30pm

**Guest Speaker -** Detective Superintendent Deborah Wallace, APM, Commander Middle Eastern Organised Crime Squad.



Deborah will be sharing her "life of crime", a presentation that will inspire listeners as they laugh, cry and gasp in awe with her, as she shares her experiences of over 30 years as a woman in the NSW Police Force.

**Live Entertainment**

Major Beneficiary of funds raised from the evening - Yaccaba Centre, Port Stephens

**Ticket Prices -**

\$60.00 Per Guest (Includes 2 course meal)  
or  
\$880.00 For Corporate Table of 8 (Includes 2 Course Meal + All Drinks)  
or  
\$1100.00 For Corporate Table of 10 (Includes 2 Course Meal + All Drinks)

**BOOK TICKETS NOW at**  
**WESTS DIGGERS CLUB**  
Via Reception Desk or Phone West's Booking Line 49 811344



# Jazz on the Lines

Enjoy an afternoon of **Jazz, Wine & Fine Food** on the  
of the Toronto Heritage Railway Station.

Relax and 'swing' away the afternoon listening to  
**Jazz by 'Half Nelson'**  
while enjoying delicious foods and fine wines overlooking the Lake.

**DATE:** Sunday 13th April 2014.

**VENUE:** Toronto Railway Station  
Victory Parade,  
Toronto.

**TIME:** 1p.m. - 5p.m.

**COST:** \$75 per person  
(Includes food, wine and music)

**CONTACT:** Anne Anderson  
Ph: 0401-208-503  
Email: [cyberannie2283@yahoo.com.au](mailto:cyberannie2283@yahoo.com.au)

**Limited numbers so book early.**



SERVICE Above Self

The Rotary Club of Toronto Sunrise  
supporting the local community.

# A shining star at the Bay...

*Embracing the true values of a Rotarian, newly-inducted member to the Rotary Club of Nelson Bay, Lara Marks-Nash truly understands the concept of "Service Before Self". **Peter Clough, President of the Rotary Club of Nelson Bay**, gives us an update on how Lara has received a prestigious award and continues to be a great asset to the Port Stephens Community.*



Below: Star of the airwaves—Lara Marks Nash shows us her showbiz side as she volunteers for a local community station. This girl is a true example of youth in Rotary!



On Australia Day, Lara Marks-Nash, who is to be inducted as a Member of the Rotary Club of Nelson Bay on 27th February 2014, was selected as **Port Stephens Young Citizen of the Year** at the recent Port Stephens Australia Day Awards.

An outstanding achievement, particularly for someone who has only resided in Port Stephens for approximately 12 months—so this shows that Lara has really made her mark in the Port Stephens community in such a short time.

Her success particularly relates to fundraising for community projects such as the Rotary Nelson Bay Children in Need Christmas party last year at Fly Point Nelson Bay; and also for the huge effort in rais-

ing almost \$6,000 for "Shelter Box" by travelling from Canberra to Darwin—achieving an outstanding result.

Lara is also a volunteer Presenter on local community radio station PSFM 100.9.

Lara was selected to attend RYLA last year and made an outstanding impression at Tocal.

Lara is a very special young lady who will be a great asset to Rotary and her community in the years to come.

Lara was nominated by the Rotary Club of Nelson Bay for this award.

## WEBSITE CHALLENGE—MARCH



**district9670**  
community strength and values



arch is Website Login Month!

The Electronic Communications Committee is challenging all the clubs in District 9670 with its Website Login Challenge.

The club with the highest percentage of members that login in the month of March will be announced at the end of the District Conference.

Committee members will be on hand at the conference with computers to assist anyone who has been unable to login.

The challenge is now set – so which club will win?

[www.rotary9670.org.au](http://www.rotary9670.org.au)

☆ **NAME:** Abby Truitt

☆ **HOMETOWN:** Lebanon, Indiana, USA

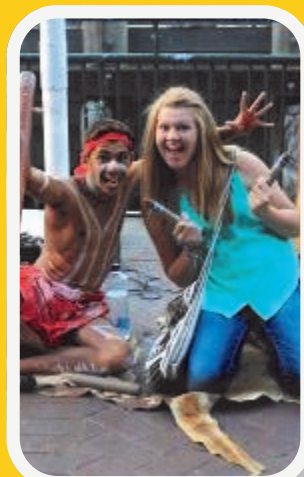
☆ **HOST CLUBS:** Rotary Club of Muswellbrook and Rotary Club of Williamtown

☆ **SO, ITS BACK TO SCHOOL FOR 2014, WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FORWARD TO MOST THIS YEAR...**

This school year I'm excited about hanging out with all of my new friends at my new school, and I'm also excited about going on the Capricorn Rumble Safari with the rest of the exchange students!

☆ **WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE AUSTRALIAN ANIMAL AND WHY?**

Definitely the kangaroo, because they are so different than anything we have back home in Indiana! They're also very cute!



**2013—2014**

## **ROTARY YOUTH EXCHANGE PROGRAM**

☆ **NAME:** Rosza Voss

☆ **HOMETOWN:** Hungary

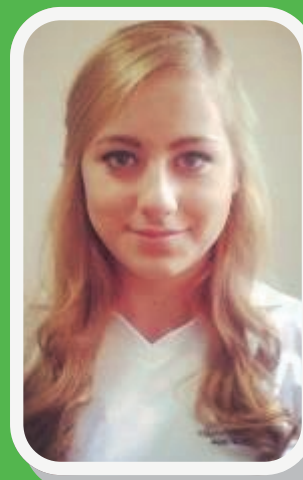
☆ **HOST CLUB:** Rotary Club of Toronto

☆ **SO, ITS BACK TO SCHOOL FOR 2014, WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FORWARD TO MOST THIS YEAR...**

I'm looking forward to the whole year! Because I have really good friends, and I just like to be in school. But we will have a school camp in March and the big Rotary camp in April. Both of them sound really exciting. I can't wait to see my exchange friends again and spent 3 beautiful weeks together.

☆ **WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE AUSTRALIAN ANIMAL AND WHY?**

Koala. It's not a question. He's the cutest thing what I have ever seen. I always just want to give a little cuddle. And they are so soft! I don't know what's going to happen with me in Hungary if I can't see any.





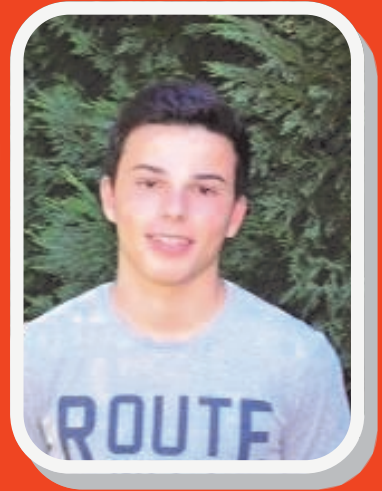
☆ NAME: Ivo Schoch

☆ HOMETOWN: St Gallen, Switzerland

☆ HOST CLUB: Rotary Club of Singleton

☆ SO, ITS BACK TO SCHOOL FOR 2014, WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FORWARD TO MOST THIS YEAR...

I am looking to forward to a visit from my family when they come over. I think it is good to see them again after nearly a year. I am excited for the Capricorn Ramble Safari too - of course.



☆ WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE AUSTRALIAN ANIMAL AND WHY?

I think it is the kangaroo. It is an animal you can just see here in Australia and is completely different to animals you see in Europe.

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 for 2014.

While we all won't get to meet each of these wonderful people, I encourage you to make some time for them...they are a very interesting and diverse bunch...

☆ NAME: Clara Girrbach

☆ HOMETOWN: Germany

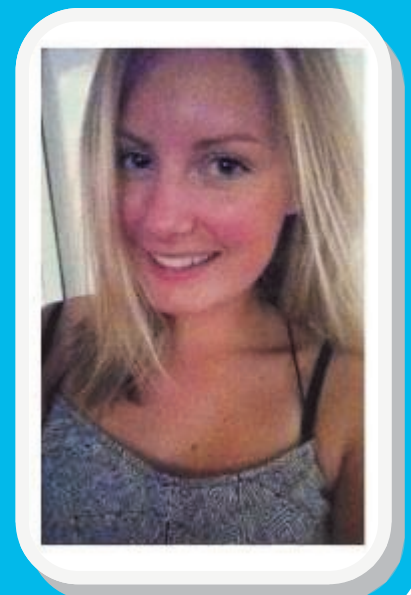
☆ HOST CLUB: Rotary Club of Dubbo West

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

I can't decide. I had so many good experiences so far, but I really enjoyed the one Weekend in Carinda. I had a typical bush experience: piggin, shooting, Lasso, farming...

☆ GETTING USED TO THE AUSSIE CUISINE CAN OFTEN TAKE SOME TIME...WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE TUCKER?

Pies, sausage rolls and Tim Tams.



# ROTARY TRAINING, LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT

Rotary District 9670 District Governor Elect, Gerard McMillan invites you to participate in **District 9670's Rotary Training, Learning and Development days**. The emphasis on each of these training and learning sessions will be on active participation and relevance.

## District Chair's 2014—2015

(with AG's)

Saturday 1st March

Singleton Community Centre

9:30am—3:15pm

Morning Tea & Lunch Included

## Presidents Elect 2014—2015 & Partners

(with AG's)

Saturday 15th & Sunday 16th March

Singleton High School

Saturday 12th & Sunday 13th April

Delroy Campus, Dubbo

9:30am—3:15pm

Morning Tea & Lunch Included



## Assistant Governor's 2014—2015 & Partners

Friday 28th February

Singleton Community Centre

5:30pm—9:00pm

Dinner & Accommodation Provided

## Club Assembly 2014—2015

(Directors, Boards, Interested Rotarians)

Sunday 16th March

Singleton High School

Sunday 13th April

Delroy Campus, Dubbo

9:30am—3:15pm

Morning Tea & Lunch Included

For further information or to nominate any topics to be included in these sessions, please contact Wilma Simmons on [wil-masimmons@hotmail.com](mailto:wil-masimmons@hotmail.com) or snail mail to: 11 Kilpanie Road, Lambton, NSW, 2299 no later than the **10th February**





# District Membership & Community Involvement

So how are we tracking for 2014? **Peter Sivyver, District Attendance, Participation and Contributions Chair** reports on how District 9670 has started for 2014 and looks forward to receiving more information of out each club this year.

## CLUB STATISTICS - JANUARY 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](http://www.rotary9670.org.au)

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

ROTARY CLUB	MEMBERS	HOURS	%	RANK
Adamstown New Lambton	26		80.5	4
Belmont	29		74.1	9
Cobar	15	6	61.54	22
Dubbo Macquarie	24		88.4	2
Dubbo South	46		64.13	20
Dubbo West	49		64.2	19
East Maitland	38		75.68	7
Kurri Kurri	18		89.2	1
Kurri Kurri Sunrise	24		70	12
Maitland	35	182	64.6	18
Merriwa	18		85	3
Morisset	20	105	70	12
Muswellbrook	27		62	21
Myall Coast	27	219	65	17
Narromine	12		60	23
Nelson Bay	55		75.72	6
Newcastle Enterprise	26	127	48	25
Newcastle Sunrise	21		75	8
Raymond Terrace	19		73.68	10
Rutherford -Telarah	30	152	72.22	11
Salamander Bay	32		56	24
Singleton	43		70	12
Toronto Sunrise	34	63	67.6	15
Wallsend-Maryland	18	28	77	5
Waratah	19		65.63	16
Williamtown	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](mailto: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!



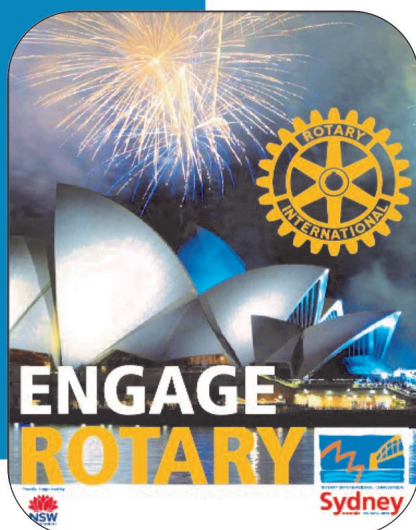
⇒ **EXCHANGE**  
⇒ **ENGAGE**  
⇒ **ENCOUNTER**

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](http://www.riconvention.org)

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



1st— Rotary Training, Learning & Development  
District Chairs & AG's 2014—2015  
Singleton Community Centre  
Wilma Simmons

8th **International Women's Day**  
Women in Rotary Brunch  
Zoofari Lodge, Taronga Western Plains Zoo  
Rotary Club of Dubbo Macquarie  
Glenys Mulholland  
0412-292-166

Empower Women—Change the World  
West's Nelson Bay Diggers  
Rotary Club of Salamander Bay  
Jo Windeyer  
0466-525-152

15th— Rotary Training, Learning & Development  
16th Presidents Elect & Club Assembly  
Singleton High School  
Wilma Simmons

28th— District 9670 Conference  
30th West's Club, New Lambton  
Ted Atchison

# Women in ROTARY

*Members of the Rotary Club of Dubbo Macquarie  
Invite you to join them in celebrating the contribution of women in  
"Inspiring change" at a brunch on International Women's Day*

**Saturday, March 8 at 10am  
At Zoofari Lodge,  
Taronga Western Plains Zoo**

A panel of four inspirational speakers will share their experiences:

Aileen Bell	Rotarian and tourism manager from Coonabarabran, will speak about the impact of 2013 Warrumbungle fires on her community.
Rebel Black	Lightning Ridge-based "socially conscious rural entrepreneur" will talk about community development and her involvement with community project the Australian Opal Centre.
Gargi Ganguly	Rotarian and community developer, will share the story of how escaping an abusive arranged marriage in her native India laid the foundation for her work to improve the lives of women.
Michelle Campbell	Taronga Western Plains Zoo veterinarian and passionate wildlife conservationist, will give some insight into her work with some of the world's most endangered species.

**Cost: \$40 per head**  
Numbers are strictly limited,  
so early RSVP and payment is recommended.

An early bird opportunity exists to join a behind-the-scenes guided tour of the zoo beginning at 9am, including up-close-and-personal encounters with some remarkable critters. Cost is an extra \$25 per head, numbers limited to 25 – so it's first in best dressed!

**RSVP:** Glenys Mulholland at [glenys333@bigpond.com](mailto:glenys333@bigpond.com) or 0419 292 166  
Numbers strictly limited - payment must be made to secure your place.  
Direct deposit: BSB: 932000; A/C: 100327424; Rotary Club of Dubbo Macquarie.  
Please use your surname and either "brunch" (\$40) or "plus tour" (\$65).  
For those booking the tour (capped at the first 25 people)  
Details will be forwarded once payment is made.

**All correspondence on District 9670 matters to be sent to:**

**PO Box 357, New Lambton, NSW, 2305**

