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RIDING FOR A CAUSE.

2015 HAS SEEN THE VERY SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF LOOP THE LAKE FOR THE 18TH YEAR IN A ROW



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A PICTURE SAYS A 1000 WORDS.

WERE YOU AT THE D9670 CONFERENCE IN MARCH? CHECK OUT IF YOU APPEAR IN THIS MONTHS EDITION...



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RLI...KEEPING ROTARY FUN.

SEE HOW RLI CAN BRING FUN BACK TO YOUR ROTARY AND WHAT YOU HAVE TO DO TO BE INVOLVED...

○ No. 10

○ APRIL

○ 2014—2015

District digest

COMMUNITY, STRENGTH AND VALUES

*This month has shaped up to be one of the most exciting months in D9670 Rotary! With a variety of events showcasing the diverse work that Rotary does, **District Governor Gerard McMillan** updates us on the excitement that has swept across D9670 this month. With our District Conference looming there is even more fun in store this month...*



I cannot start this report without mentioning the devastating impacts of the **flood event** so many in our District experienced firsthand in recent days. I received many phone calls from fellow Rotarians keen to **offer assistance** but one of the first people I felt compelled to speak to was Rotary Club of Dungog President Bob Humphrey, whose home town was struck by severity of the flood and is now living with the tragic loss of life.

Through Bob's efforts, Dungog residents were able to **access laundry services** through support of Harvey Norman stores who provided washing machines and dryers. The local aged care service also opened their commercial laundry for **use by the general public**, which allowed so many people to do their washing.

Rather than Rotary setting up their own disaster fund, we will **support those organisations already offering support** to those affected. Organisations such as the Salvation Army have strong experience in these relief efforts and it is these organisations that we should be **providing secondary support** to.

It is also a time to reflect that out of disasters such as this recent event, comes the **strength of humanity** and it is of great comfort to see how this little town is binding **together as a community** in this time of intense adversity. Our thoughts are with all af-

ected.

Our annual conference at Forster in March, **Waves of Change – Oceans of Opportunity**, was a huge success on so many levels and I know all 350 Rotarians, partners and their friends who attended experienced **fellowship, stimulation, inspiration and fun**. A survey revealed this is what attendees had hoped for and I know we ticked all the boxes.

I was deeply humbled to have **District Governor Dr Hans von Dewall** from Germany in attendance. Hans flew in on the Wednesday to spend a week in Australia, primarily to attend the conference. In addition, he had three activities he was hoping to experience: **visit the vineyards, swim in the ocean without getting bitten by a shark and to climb the Sydney Harbour Bridge**. As well as going to the conference...he did all three.

We also had **District Governor Greg Moran (D9650)** in attendance, another special guest, who spoke about the **Shelterbox project**. Greg has been on quite a number of deployments and spoke about his first-hand experiences helping people throughout the world **during times of disaster**.

In keeping with the theme of the conference we then had Paul Lyons, a registered psychologist, who spoke about **how the world is changing**.

Professor Noah Bassill is a lecturer in politics and international relations and gave an insight into **regional and national power relations** that have emerged following the Arab uprisings.

Past District Governor Neville Parsons spoke about **membership** and being the month of Anzac Day, it was appropriate to listen to **Col. Andrew Lowe** whose words were brilliant. On a personal note, Past District Governor Bart Richardson, who has recently released a book about his **war experiences**, sat next to Col. Lowe at a the conference dinner the night before his talk and the two were able to reflect **on their own experiences** which is an opportunity I know Bart really appreciated. When Col. Lowe spoke the next day he referred back to Bart which was another gesture I know Bart appreciated as did the audience.

Liz Gerard spoke on the **role of female doctors** during World War One which again, reflected on Anzac Day.

Andrew Hughes spoke about **human potential** and I am pleased to announce this won't be the last time you hear from him. Andrew will be the master of ceremonies at next year's conference which is to be held at **Mudgee**. Refer to the website for all available details for next year.

Two things we did a little differently this year was the **'Walk-In' of Past District Governors** to recognise their service to Rotary and we also had all the district trophies on display.

(Continued on Page 2...)

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It was decided to give plaques to trophy recipients and to **retain the trophies together** as a collective to be displayed together at appropriate times.

Unfortunately, **due to bad weather**, the walk across Forster bridge had to be cancelled but it was a great idea an opportunity to **"Light Up Rotary"**.

It is traditional at conferences for Rotarians to receive a gift and due to generous sponsorship I was able to **make a \$45 donation** on behalf of every Rotarian in attendance to the **Rotary Foundation**, Rotary's charity. It is worth noting that less than 10 per cent of money gets gobbled up by administration costs by the Rotary Foundation which is a credit to those responsible when you consider administration costs associated with other charities. Sadly, our donation figures to the Rotary Foundation are **currently down by 34 per cent** compared to this time last year so I ask all clubs to **consider making a donation** now if you can.

Thanks must go to the **following sponsors** for enabling this donation: Singleton Diggers, Len Ainsworth, TJS Services, OAS Technology, Russell Gardner, Gary Freeman, Ian Thomson, Victor Campbell, Banktech, Dayle McNulty, Schweppes, Newcastle Permanent Building Society, AON Insurance, Sharp Elec-

tronics, David Martin, and CMS – Warren and Mary Deaves.

Many Rotary Clubs throughout the district were involved in their **Anzac Day activities** and when I think of Anzac Day, it is not about glorifying war, it is a **time of national pride but also great sorrow**. While many lost their lives in this great battle, not many **returned without injury**, be it physical or emotional. They returned with demons on their back and with it came many cases of post-traumatic stress that not only affected individuals but also family and friends around them.

I also wish to thank everyone who is supporting my partner Yvonne's project, **the MHERV Van** and particularly Pam McHarg who quilted a beautiful piece and also to the Rotary Club of Morisset who donated two bottles of port. All three were **auctioned at the conference** with proceeds going to MHERV.

I would also like to mention the work of Clarice Hamling of the Rotary Club of Wallsend-Maryland with **Donate Life**. Clarice highlights that the NSW RMS organ donation program attached to the driver's licence is now invalid and does not recognise proof of an individual wanting to donate an organ.

Donate Life **forms now need to be completed and taken to Centrelink**. Every member of Clarice's club has done

this and Clarice says it **only takes two minutes** to fill in but has the potential later to add weeks, months or even years to the life of an ill person. Clarice is happy to come along to your club to speak about the program and **encourages all the clubs in District 9760** to join together and show the public what **Service Above Self** can also stand for.

I encourage Presidents, President Elects and other interested Rotarians to attend either **President's meetings** on May 29 at East Maitland Bowling Club and May 30 at Dubbo. The meeting will only go for about 90 minutes but **invaluable information will be shared**. See the website for further details.

The months of June and July are going to be a busy time with **changeover dinners** and again, I encourage Rotarians who can, to attend the District Changeover and to come along and support **District Governor Elect Adrian and Christine Roach** at Maitland on Saturday, July 4. Adrian will then lead us forward for the 2015/16 Rotary year with the Rotary theme **"Be A Gift To The World"**

Yours in Rotary

Gerard McMillan



"Teenagers grow when they have opportunity to develop life skills"

Rotary District 9670 RYPEN Committee is pleased to announce that nominations are now being accepted for the RYPEN Camp to be held on the weekend of **May 1st, 2nd and 3rd 2015**.

D9670 Camp

Dates: 1st to 3rd May 2015

Venue: Myuna Bay Sport & Recreation Camp

Cost: \$130 per participant

Download nomination forms from the [District Website](#)

Contact RYPEN Committee Chairperson—Zoey Kirwan

Mobile: 0410 664 224 Email: zoey.kirwan@gmail.com

What do participants say about the RYPEN and Rotary experience...

"There has never been a camp that has wowed me this much, an experience I would love to relive and share with everyone."

"Every activity was absolutely amazing! I would do this over and over again especially if it was with the same people, the best group of people I have ever met."

More information can also about RYPEN can be found on the district website and our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/RYPEN9670>

Loop the Lake 2015 wows riders

2015 has seen another stellar year for Loop the Lake attracting 1,700 enthusiastic cyclists from all across the State. **Mary O'Neil** from the Rotary Club of Warners Bay updates the District on the ride and its 18th year of operation...



Above: What a great event! Lake Macquarie Mayor, Councillor Jodie Harrison (left) and President of Warners Bay Rotary Club, Kerry Hayes (right) launch the successful ride.

Below: Looking good! Loop the Lake Riders Bruce and Ian Hilliar put on a show.



The 2015 Loop the Lake event held on 8th March has been hailed as an outstanding success.

Kerry Hayes, President of Warners Bay Rotary Club, said "our club sponsors this event and planning started way back in November 2014. Teamwork is critical, to pull off an event like this and our club has it in spades".

"It was a great joint effort; with the Mayor of Lake Macquarie, Councillor Jodie Harrison launching the ride, other Rotary Clubs in District 9670 and organisations such as Crest Communication, Ulysses Motor Bike Club, St John Ambulance and Lake Macquarie Police all providing valued services.

As a result of our combined efforts, we will be able to donate substantial funds to the John Hunter Children's Hospital, the Royal Institute for Deaf and Blind Children and other worthy causes.

We had around 1,700 cyclists from far and wide, enjoying the ride around Lake Macquarie on such a perfect autumn day. Off course, without our loyal cyclists, there would be no event, and we are grateful to them for their participation. The feedback again this year has been excellent", concluded Ms Hayes.

A recent rider survey found that 57 per cent of riders were local, 25 per cent were from Sydney, 13 per cent from the Hunter and 5 per cent from other areas. Riders rated the event 9 out of 10.

A comment from one of our riders of this year's event was:

"Good on the Rotary Club of Warners Bay for organising a truly fabulous event and thank you to all the other contributors. This is a very well organised event and I wouldn't change a thing. VERY WELL DONE!!!"



District & Club Insurance Policies

Rotary International District 9670 Inc. arranges insurance for the District, District entities and District Clubs in a number of categories.

The suite of Rotary policies includes –

- * Industrial Special Risks coverage for property,
- * Personal Accident and Travel for Rotarians and partners
- * General Liability for personal injury or property damage to others,
- * Associations Liability for Clubs and entities,
- * Crime as a result of internal or external events, or thefts.

The District is currently arranging for the renewal of these policies. The cost of coverage is included in the fees Clubs pay to the District through the Annual Fees.

There is an additional policy available covering trailers and caravans owned by Clubs or District entities. District does not pay a premium for this policy, but it is available to such bodies upon request and payment of the assessed premium.

Clubs and District entities are issued with a certificate of currency for the General Liability policy, usually late in July of the new Rotary year. If any Club or organisation is planning to hold an event in the first three weeks of the new Rotary Year, contact should be made with the District Insurance Officer at an early date to request that the certificate be issued in time for the event. If another body, such as a local Council or an owner of property on which an event is to be conducted, requests that its name be included in the certificate, the District Insurance Officer needs to know this.

Club Presidents, Treasurers and Boards need to remember that the premium for the Insurance Policies is payable immediately upon issue of the invoice by the Insurer. It is essential that Clubs pay their District Fees immediately upon receipt of their invoice so that District is in a position to pay for the insurance coverage arranged.

More information about District Insurance is available on the District Website, www.rotary9670.org.au Go to the Members Only section, log in and access the Insurance information presented there.

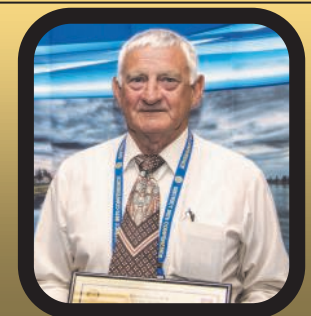
Until 30 June 2015, the District Insurance Officer is Stephen Jackson Phone 4990 3964 or 0439 903 964 Email governor2016-17@rotary9670.org.au

After 1st July 2015, the District Insurance Officer will be Margaret Raynor Phone 4958 8992 or 0414 282 220 Email mlraynor@bigpond.com.au



A Picture Says 1000 Words...

Check out some of the highlights from the 2014/2015 District Conference







District Governor Gerard McMillan, Chairperson Wendy Mason-Jones and the
Conference Committee

Express sincere thanks to all who have assisted in the preparation and presentation of the

District 9670 Waves of Change—Oceans of Opportunity Conference.

Special thanks to the Board of Directors, Management and Staff of Club Forster.

The conference was generously supported by

Platinum Sponsors

Singleton Diggers

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Ian Thomson

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David Martin

CMS—Warren & Mary Deaves



From RI Director Elect Noel Trevaskis

Over the last two years Rotarians have been asking when we were we going to have another Rotary Success Conference. It is going to happen this September! I would urge you to register now for what I am sure will be a great conference. I would like to invite all Rotarians to the 2015 Rotary Success Conference and Youth Summit which will be held at the Hellenic Club, Canberra on 5–6 September 2015. This conference is an affordable conference as the price of \$120 per person covers, morning teas, lunch, afternoon tea and the Saturday night dinner. It will commence at 8.30am on the Saturday morning and conclude at 12.30pm on the Sunday.

All attendees will be able to have input into the conference breakout sessions over the weekend. It will be a conference that everyone will get something out of.

Who should be attending? All Rotary Leaders, Presidents and Presidents Elect, PR Chairs, Membership Chairs and Future Rotary Leaders and Rotarians who want to be involved in the continuing success of Rotary in Australia. At this conference you will be able to participate in breakout sessions on various topics such as Membership Retention, Membership Recruitment and Extension, Diversity in Rotary, Flexibility and Innovative Clubs in the Future, Leadership, Public Image and Media, and more. As well, people will find out what has been successful for some clubs in growing and getting stronger. Social media will also be explored with Rotary Public Image Coordinator Wendy Gaborit leading the discussion. Wendy has a great grasp on social media and how it can work for clubs and getting engaged with the local community.

There will be presentations about a number of new innovative ideas on a wide range of topics, all practical ideas that you can use in your club.

The program will consist of mainly breakout groups enabling everyone to be able to participate and interact over the weekend in a practical, worthwhile and meaningful way.

Coupled with the Rotary Success Conference this year will be a Youth Summit for people under 40 years of age. The Youth Summit will be an opportunity for people to put forward ideas and practical thoughts on how Rotary clubs can interact with younger people ... how and why Rotary clubs need to become more involved with Rotaract and Interact.

This Conference will be focussing on the future. We are positive that every Rotarian will gain practical knowledge and new ideas to take back to their Clubs and Districts from this Conference. You will meet Rotarians from across Australia and be able to share with them your ideas and hear their ideas; it will be a great experience for everyone.

Register now at: <http://www.rotaryd9710.org.au/success-conference.html>

RLI...keeping Rotary fun...

District Governor, Gerard McMillan, has stumbled across a real gem...previously published by one of our region's PDG's on Rotary and the FUN that RLI brings to Rotary. As a focus for the current Rotary year from RI President Gary Huang, we need to remember that Rotary should be FUN and the way that RLI can ensure we have it...

"The Rotary Leadership Institute"

By PDG Cathy Roth, International Vice-Chairman (ANZO Region) RLI

"It is fun! It is fast-paced! It is totally inter-active!

What is it? It is the Rotary Leadership Institute (RLI). With introduction to, and expansion on, Rotary topics ranging from Membership to Leadership to Service Projects, Rotarians complete the facilitated sessions over three one-day sessions across a Rotary year.

Each group of ten to fifteen Rotarians, from different Clubs across the District—and sometimes the neighbouring District—fast become friends as they share experiences and knowledge, through the facilitated topic discussions. Structuring of the courses is comfortable for participants, feeling familiar to participants, since they reflect and are geared to-

wards busy, professional business, trade and community leaders.

Group after group complete the course, and each time, Rotarians go back to Clubs re-invigorated, excited and impatient, keen to apply their learning to Projects and Club activities and too savour their expanded Rotary experiences. Many gain the confidence to take on more responsible roles, including leadership roles within their Club. Many also comment that the skills gained have been useful in their professional development as well as their Rotary development.

Over 365 Districts, across almost 200 countries and territories, are conducting RLI sessions. The six Districts in New Zealand and the Pacific Islands are all utilising the RLI to educate and inspire Rotarians. In Australia, 19 out of the 21 Districts are running RLI sessions. Although not a specific program of Rotary, the RLI has the enthusiastic support of Rota-

ry International, and that support translates into wisdom with many current, past and future RI Presidents and Directors part of the RLI Senior Advisors' Board, including our current Rotary International President, Gary Huang.

With the future of Rotary, and the local and international service we give, dependent on strong Clubs with knowledgeable Rotarians and excellent leadership, the RLI is an excellent way of providing the underpinning for Club success."



⇒ 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 Membership & Community Involvement

Q1 of 2015 is already over...**Peter Sivyver, District Attendance, Participation and Contributions Chair** reports on how District 9670 tracked for the third month of 2015 and looks forward to receiving more information from each club, each month, over the Rotary year.

CLUB STATISTICS - MARCH 2015

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	12	80.4	9
Belmont	26		85.2	6
Cardiff	12	64	87.5	4
Charlestown	47	340	84	8
Cobar	13	29.5	75	12
Dubbo	21	73	88.24	3
Dubbo Macquarie	25	125	84.35	7
Dubbo South	59	288	70.94	19
Dubbo West	44	90	69.38	22
East Maitland	43	200	80.4	9
Kurri Kurri Sunrise	22	342	67	23
Maitland	39	766	72	15
Merriwa	20		90.85	1
Muswellbrook	28	98	78	11
Myall Coast	29	94	65	24
Narromine	12	82	55	25
Nelson Bay	51		86.59	5
Rutherford -Telarah	38	266	73.66	14
Salamander Bay	32		72	15
Singleton	39		72	15
Singleton on Hunter	30	200	70.3	21
Toronto Sunrise	29	257	70.4	20
Wallsend Maryland	30	143	72	15
Waratah	20		89.1	2
Williamstown	21	256	73.81	13

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!



Our thoughts and prayers go out to all of those Rotarians and their families that have been affected by the recent storms and floods.

We wish everyone safety in these difficult times.

If there is anything that Rotary Clubs within the wider District can do to help or provide support to you and those in need at this time, please don't hesitate to contact your Assistant Governor or DG Gerard McMillan

RLI – Exploring Rotary

Rotary Leadership Program



The RLI Team is offering the Rotary Leadership Program at two locations across the District commencing in April.

Why not join us to experience an exciting interactive program that explores the world of Rotary.

Dates and venues;

East Maitland: 17th May, 14th June.

Dubbo: 24th May, 21st June.

Simply fill out the registration form to become part of the movement to learn more about Rotary.

Contact Bob Main from the RLI team at:

Email: robhel4@bigpond.com

Phone: (02) 4960 1982

Mobile: 0432-398-737



1st to RYPEN

3rd Myuna Bay Sport & Rec Camp

Zoey Kirwan

Ph.: 0410 664 224

zoey.kirwan@gmail.com

2nd & President Elect Training (PETS)

3rd & District Assembly for President Elects

Dubbo

9:00am—4:00pm

Wilma Simmons

Ph.: 0407 579 253

wilmasimmons@hotmail.com

17th RLI—Exploring Rotary

East Maitland

Bob Main

Ph.: 0432 398 737

robhel4@bigpond.com

22nd— Model United Nations Assembly (MUNA)

23rd Muswellbrook

Megan Valentine

district9670muna@gmail.com

24th RLI—Exploring Rotary

Dubbo

Bob Main

Ph: 0432 398 737

robhel4@bigpond.com

All correspondence on

District 9670 matters to be sent to:

PO Box 348, Singleton, NSW, 2330



district9670
community strength and values

