

THE BUSH NEEDS YOUR HELP.

- CAN YOU ASSIST OUR DROUGHT-
- RAVISHED NEIGHBOURS IN THEIR TIME

digest COMMUNITY, STRENGTH AND VALUES



Its upon us already... the 2015/2016 Rotary Year! District Governor Adrian Roach welcomes us all to another exciting year of Rotary where we will need to work hard to "Be a Gift to the World". This year, D9670 is asked to focus will be on building stronger membership, broadening understanding within our communities, generating greater flexibility and connecting between our clubs...

#### Welcome to 2015/2016!

What a great start to the new Rotary Year. The District Changeover, attended by almost 200 people, was a wonderful event with great food, fellowship and fun! That reflects the **commitment** and **strength** Rotary has within District 9670. I thank those in attendance at the Changeover for their sup**port** in my appointment and also to the many people who could not attend but took the time to offer me words of encouragement-it is genuinely appreciated.

This, my first message as your District Governor for 2015/16, is an opportunity to embark on a expedition that I hope will conclude with even stronger membership; a broader understanding within our communities of what Rotary is about; greater flexibility within clubs; and connection between **clubs** to further advance the great work we do.

The role of District Governor is one of tremendous honour and something I feel extremely privileged to be doing, but the most important component of Rotary is each individual member. Without your dedication to the philosophies of Rotary and your commitment, clubs would not be able to achieve their goals.

Without clubs working together, Rotary would not be able to achieve the great work it is already doing locally, nationally and internationally. We need each and every one of you to put your hand up, work for your club and turn to your communities. If a Rotarian sees a need in the community, we are fortunate to know we have the capacity, like no other organisation, to do something about it.

I don't take my position lightly and intend to work hard and to do my very best in the name of Rotary. I have a great team of District Chairs who are "at your service". Please do not hesitate to call on them for assistance.

Ideally, I would like to assist clubs in their growth and strategic planning. Succession planning is another important issue we all face. How do we take Rotary to the future? Rotary International membership has been stagnant at 1.2 million members for the past 20 years and it is a fact that our membership is ageing. This issue must be addressed and flexibility on meeting options is an answer. I am keen to hear any suggestions on how this issue can be addressed. We are currently looking at New Club opportunities at different times and for different durations. One hour "Happy Hour" Clubs are working well in other Districts and I think they will work well here for Members who are time poor and watching their dollars.

I am also looking for strategies on how we can support our neighbouring clubs better. Can we work together on Projects and share the funds. It all goes back to the community after all.

I sincerely thank the diligent work by our Past DG Gerard McMillian and his partner, Yvonne, for their great Rotary year. Gerard brought his gift of

(Continued to Page 2...)



(...Continued from Page 1)

Administration to Rotary and a big thankyou goes to him and his Treasurer Bob Wood for ensuring the books were balanced. We are fortunate to have Bob as Treasurer this year as well.

I want to thank the incoming assistant governors and club administrators who I know I will be relying on throughout my term. These people help clubs connect and this connection is something I hope to further enhance.

As is tradition, the partner of the DG is given the opportunity to focus on a specific project and many have asked about **Christine's** project... **The Rotary Foundation - Our Charity**.

"In this environment of unlimited

options to donate our hard earned money, I know that the Rotary Foundation allows all of us to invest in the good work of rotary worldwide and within our district. This is why promoting the Rotary Foundation is my chosen project for this year.

Funds donated into the annual fund are **invested** and in 3 years, 50% of what we invest comes back to our district to be **available for eligible projects**. This year we have \$25,000 available to clubs to support their projects.

How much we have in 3 years' time depends on what we donate this year. Let's **invest in our own future** and give today."

I know that you will all be supportive of Christine's project and ensure it continues to do this **much need-**

ed work.

RI President-elect K.R. "Ravi" Ravindran chose "**Be a Gift to the World"** as his theme for 2015-16.

Ravi urges Rotary members to give the gifts of time, talent, and knowledge to improve lives in communities across the globe. "Through Rotary, we can take these gifts and make a genuine difference in the lives of others and in our world."

We have only **one chance** at our lives. And we will have only one chance at this **new Rotary year**. **This is our time**. **Let us grasp it**. Let us all *Be a Gift to the World*!



## Shoe donation to benefit...

So have any of our Rotarians out there had a clean-up of the shoe cupboard lately? **Glennis Armstrong, Secretary of the Rotary Club of Adamstown New Lambton** updates D9670 on a great new project that a Dad and Daughter of the Club are undertaking. If you think those shoes are not worth keeping or you feel like a change, why not drop Lindi and Gerhard Beukes a line...

By Mark Connors

The Newcastle Star

1 July 2015

ALMOST 200 pairs of donated shoes will be sent off to the Kimberley this month to help a remote community.

Lindi Beukes and her father, Gerhard Beukes, from the Rotary Club of Adamstown New Lambton, have collected 157 pairs of shoes, as well as 25 pairs of football boots.

Ms Beukes has been working as a podiatrist in the Kimberley's for eight months, a firsthand witness of the health problems of not wearing shoes.

She said foot problems were a common complication for locals living with diabetes, which affects the blood system, slowing the healing process.

Burns and blisters are also a major problem, with temperatures reaching 45 degrees in the summer.

Ms Beukes said the shoes would be put to good use, especially the football boots.

"A lot of people living in the Kimberley's don't have access to the same facilities as we do here," she said.

Many pairs of the shoes donated have barely been worn.

The local club, the Wirrimanu Tigers from Balgo, will benefit greatly from donations from the Gosford Rugby Club members.

"AFL is really big over there. I live in a

community of about 500 people but we have a team in the East Kimberley Football League that's sitting second on the ladder."

Shannon Bond, from Select Transport, will transport the shoes for free at the end of July





#### What We Give Through Rotary Becomes A Gift To Us.

Rotary Down Under, Issue 574, July 2015

We in Rotary aspire to do great deeds. We admire those who gave great gifts to humanity: Abraham Lincoln, who gave the gift of human dignity to the downtrodden; Mother Teresa, who gave the gift of compassion to the forgotten; Mahatma Gandhi, who gave the gift of peaceful change to the oppressed. Their very lives became gifts to the world.

We can be inspired by their example. We can be inspired to ask, "How can I become a gift to the world?" As I considered my theme, I thought of the lessons I have learned through my Hindu faith. I thought especially of the story of Sudama.

Sudama was a poor child and a bosom friend of Krishna, who was born in the royal line as an avatar – an incarnation of the divine. As the two boys grow up, they drift apart, and while Krishna becomes a military leader and a King of great repute, Sudama remains a humble villager.

The years go by and Sudama's poverty deepens. Finally, he lacks even food to feed his children. His wife reminds him of his childhood friendship with Krishna. Perhaps it is time to go to the mighty ruler for help. Reluctantly, Sudama agrees, but resolves that he will not go empty handed. He gathers together a few handfuls of rice – all the food his family has left – and wraps them in a piece of cloth as a gift for his friend.

When Sudama enters the palace, he is overwhelmed by the grandeur and by Krishna's gracious welcome. His meagre gift seems a humiliating reminder of his poverty. Krishna embraces Sudama, who hides the hand holding the rice behind his back. Krishna asks what he is holding.

Far from being disdainful, Krishna accepts the rice with gratitude and consumes it with joy as the two sit and talk together, Hours pass, during which the pleasures of their rekindled friendship push all thoughts of his desperate plight from Sudama's mind. When evening falls, Sudama sets out for home – and only then realises that he has neglected his task. He is returning with nothing, and Krishna has eaten his family's last grains of rice.

Sudama steels himself to return to his hungry children. But standing before his gate, as dawn begins to break, he sees that the hut he left yesterday has become a stately home, and waiting to greet him is hos own family; well dressed and well fed by the baskets of food that appeared in their kitchen as Krishna sat and ate each grain of Sudama's rice.



Krishna understood what Sudama had bought him: everything he had to give. In return, Krishna gave him everything he needed. Just as Sudama's gift to Krishna became a gift to Sudama, what we give through Rotary becomes a gift to us. And we all have a choice; whether to keep our gifts to ourselves or give them to others and *Be a Gift to the World*.

Ravi Ravindran









## Another year of Rotary Service...

By Bob Aitken

Rotary Down Under

Issue 574, July 2015

Be a Gift to the World...what countless opportunities this inspirational Rotary theme presents to Rotarians and Rotary Clubs as we herald the arrival of another exciting and challenging Rotary year in 2015-16.

Around our world, almost 35,000 new Club Presidents and Rotary Clubs are launching the carefully nurtured programs and projects they have planned during the past six months. Add a further 536 new District Governors to the "mix" and one begins to understand the expertise and depth beyond the vast amount of Rotary service provided for our "global village" every year.

The theme - Be a Gift to the World - has a wonderfully humble message for all Rotarians...let's all make ourselves a gift to the world in our com-

mitment to personal service.

Our new Rotary International President, Ravi Ravindran, provides a fine example of the continuing quality of senior leadership within 110 years of Rotary history.

A Rotarian since 1974, his Rotary journey has taken him in almost every possible position at Club, District and International level. It is also interesting to note that the Ravindran's are Level 4 Donors to The Rotary Foundation. They are indeed "a gift to the world".

What makes Rotary International truly great is the spectacular commitment to service does NOT start and end with the top election of senior leadership in every Rotary Club and District, there are dozens of men and women similarly committed to outstanding levels of leadership and service.

President Ravi has indicated that top

priority for us this year is to grow membership. He suggests that one way we will do this is through an exciting new program, which is launched on July 1. This program is called Rotary Global Rewards. It will allow Rotarians to connect online and via their smartphones with hundreds of businesses and service partners around the world. The companies will offer Rotarians discounts and concessions on the everyday business you do. And in some cases, not only will you benefit, but our Foundation will as well, by receiving a contribution with each transaction. Sign up now for My Rotary at www.rotary.org

And don't forget to share the stories of Rotary's success. The average new member prospect wants to be part of a winning culture. Good public relations ensure the general public receives a clear message that Rotary Clubs are winners!





## Math's a declining interest.

In our modern day world of technology and everything at our fingertips, has mathematics become that subject that Australian students longer enjoy? Sof Lee, Member of the Rotary Club of Mudgee asks for the help of all Rotary Clubs in D9670 to get involved and encourage young people to take up mathematics. What can you do to be involved in this years big event...

Having a background in engineering and computing science, I am very concerned about the declining interest in Mathematics among young people.

The widespread perception that Mathematics is not needed, is untrue. There are numerous occupations requiring high level mathematics, especially in science, engineering, health and other high-tech areas, which we as a country cannot fill, and thus such occupations have gone overseas.

Consequently, those jobs do not exist in Australia anymore. We often only know how to operate equipment, but do not know how to built or invent it.

Visiting a hospital provides proof-do we ever ask if any X-ray, Tomography and MRI machine are made in Australia?

Another issue of concern is that it is dif- **Initiatives:** ficult to find young people with skills that can replace the older generation and we continue to rely on recruiting experts from overseas, particularly in the areas of high tech research, teaching mathematics, data analysis/statistics and robotics, to name just a few.

From my own experience, most students in the relevant fields do not possess the required level mathematics to grasp the technical details in these areas.

The illustration shown below was published in the Australian Financial Review 7th June 2014, suggests a declining interest in Mathematics in the last 20 years. There are many similar articles in the media recently.

- In the last six months I have been campaigning to reverse this trend and have tried to establish a local maths club in Mudgee.
- Last year, the Rotary Club of Mudgee provided awards to local students who excelled in Mathematics and also provided a start-up fund for the maths
- In the PETS training in May 2015, I have met a number of Rotarians from our region who had provided some feedback and ideas.

#### <u>Awards</u>:

The Young Mathematician Award is an excellent medium to encourage young people to take up Mathematics. This involves a set mathematical challenge given to participants in the following age groups:

- Up to year 9: First, second and third prize.
- Year 10 to 12: First, second and third

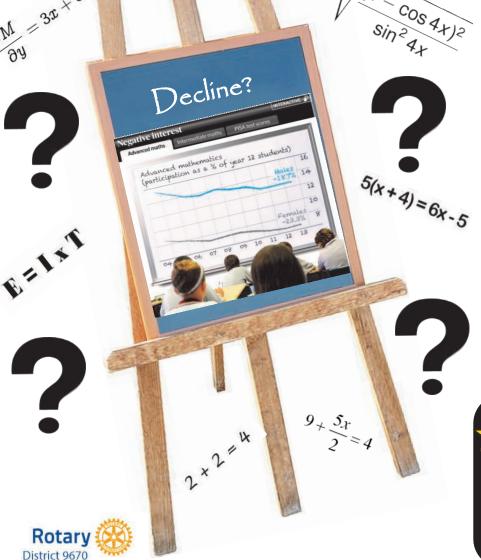
I propose the first challenge to be conducted in Mudgee in early December 2015. Students from our region will all be invited to participate.

#### Funds and event management:

I would like to encourage Rotarians to support this initiative. Let's help young people from our region reach their potential.

For this, I am encouraging the generosity of each club to make a donation towards the prizes and event related costs. The members of the local maths club in Mudgee will volunteer their time in organising the

I would also like to encourage Rotarians to join the committee for this initiative.



Would like more information on this great project?

Why not contact Sof Lee from the Rotary Club of Mudgee at sofl@telstra.com or on

ph. 0431-942-367.

# Ightning Ridge Rotary Club WE NEED YOUR HELP!

The Rotary Club of Lightning Ridge would like to help about 50 families in the Lightning Ridge area who are struggling on the land due to the current 10 year drought. Although we had some small falls of rain recently it will take years for these families to get back on their feet. They need help now to pay the bills and put food on the table. Sometimes all they need is some time away, so perhaps a few days holiday away could help save someone's' sanity.

Over the past 12 months we have been involved in multiple hay drops, we have handed out bags of Dog Food, and we have handed out "Pamper Packs" to the wives who have been grateful for the thought and the products. We have had numerous requests from clubs as to how they can help and we think this is it.

We are now asking every club in District 9650 (and beyond) to dig deep and make a donation to our Drought Relief Fund.

Our aim is to assist each family with a gift of cash to ease their financial situation.

Please forward cheques made out to <u>Rotary Club of Lightning Ridge - Drought Relief Fund</u> OR consider a direct deposit to our Drought Relief account (details below).

Bank: Westpac

Branch: Lightning Ridge

Account Name: Rotary Club of Lightning Ridge - Drought Relief Fund

BSB: 032561 Acct No: 209839

Postal Address: PO Box 1029, Lightning Ridge, NSW, 2834.

We would be grateful if you would forward this email to any Rotary Club outside District 9650 you may have contact with.

Can you or your Club help out this with this fantastic project in our neighbouring District? If you want to know more, drop Neroli Bevan, Secretary of the Rotary Club of Lightning Ridge a line on 0438 528975 or <a href="mailto:nbevan01@gmail.com">nbevan01@gmail.com</a>





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#### COMPANIONSHIP FOR INDIVIDUALS, A CLUB OR CORPORATION

Companion - \$5,000 Gold Companion - \$10,000 Ruby Companion - \$20,000 Emerald Companion - \$50,000 Diamond Companion - \$100,000

## Improving the health of Australians, contact Australian Rotary Health

Ph: 02 8837 1900

E: admin@australianrotaryhealth.org.au PO Box 3455, Parramatta NSW 2124



## www.australianrotaryhealth.org.au

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## RLI smiles all around...

Introducing the newest bunch of RLI graduates. **RLI Team Member, Bob Main** updates us on the successful RLI program completed late in the 2014/2015 Rotary Year. We take the time to congratulate all of those involved in the interactive program that explores the world of Rotary. For those who are interested, the 2015/2016 course are not too far away...



Above: The proud graduates! District 9670's newest RLI bunch proudly display their certificates of completion. Well done team.

A very successful Rotary Leadership Institute program was completed in June at East Maitland Golf Club.

The smiling group of successful graduates proudly display their certificates of completion (see left).

Rotarians in the program hailed from clubs across the eastern side of the District and enjoyed the learning experience of Exploring Rotary. DG Elect Adrian Roach and DG Nominee Steve Jackson were there to present the certificates and pins.

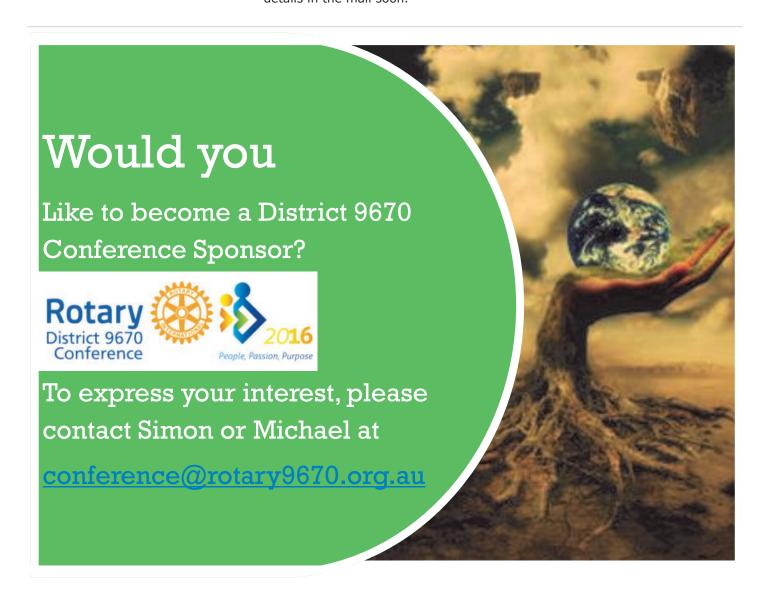
The next RLI course commences in September at both Dubbo and East Maitland locations. Registration will be available from your Club's Secretary shortly—so look out for all the details in the mail soon.

The RLI Facilitators are also ready to come along to Rotary Clubs as guest speakers to talk about the benefits of the course to Rotarians and their Clubs.

If you would like more information on the course or to book a guest speaker, contact Bob Main at <a href="mailto:rob-hel4@bigpond.com">rob-hel4@bigpond.com</a>.

Cheers from the RLI Team.

Are you interested in developing your leadership and knowledge of Rotary? Why not consider putting your hand up for the next RLI course...





Rotary Oceania Medical Aid for Children (ROMAC) is a Rotary-based, Australian and New Zealand initiative that harnesses the assistance from medical experts, hospitals, nurses, physiotherapists, pathology and radiology services, airlines, sponsors and other supporters to provide medical and surgical services to disadvantaged patients across developing nations of the world.

ROMAC patient Esperanca Marcal Dos Santos 17 arrived in Newcastle 10th June for operation 15th June at Newcastle Private Hospital. Her carer and guardian is sister Teresa 22 years . Two beautiful girls from the mountains 100 kilometres from Dili East Timor . They only speak Tetum.

On consultation with Orthopaedic Spinal Surgeon, Dr Rob Kuru, it is revealed that Esperanca's spinal curvature is much greater then the initial photos and x-rays presented a year ago. The MRI showed that she now has a 120% curve and her lung function is compromised.

Esperanca's operation has now been cancelled until further tests are done. She no longer can have her operation at the Newcastle Private Hospital as she will require six (6) days in ICU in an induced coma. Esperanca's only options are now the John Hunter Hospital (after negotiations), a Sydney hospital or forgo treatment altogether. Esperanca also faces the option of maybe being sent home so she can return at a more convenient time and have the best outcome possible.

For Esperance, no treatment means eventually a wheelchair and a short life expectancy. Esperanca was to be our second patient (as we thought her operation would be straight forward), and Dulcia our first patient (who's story was in the May 2015 edition of the District Digest) was thought to be more urgent and complicated. Dulcia sailed though her surgery without any problems.

Esperanca and Teresa are two sweet young girls who are very bewildered at what is about to happen and





we rely wholly on a mature aged student couple to host and translate for them during their stay.

This Thursday the girls went to Sydney for a break with a Tetum-speaking family. ROMAC has purchased the girls a phone so they can keep in contact with their family. They are the 2 youngest of 6 children; their father is deceased; and they survive as subsistence farmers and working on coffee crops.

The girls are distressed at the moment as they feel they are needed at home as its coffee-picking time.

As soon as further tests (i.e. cardiac-echo and lung function tests) are done, Dr Kuru will decide the best course of action for Esperanca's treatment.

Hoping that some of the Rotarians in our district may involve these girls with a family activity or outing. And remember, a smile and kind gesture needs no words.

Please donate to romac.org.au

For more details, ROMAC Chair in D9670 is Lyn Thorpe OAM, President of the Rotary Club of Adamstown New Lambton.

Lyn's email is <u>dkthorpe@bigpond.com.</u> or phone 0428-011-056



## District Membership & Community Involvement

And that's a wrap doe the 2014/2015 year... Peter Sivyer, District Attendance, Participation and Contributions Chair thanks District 9670 for another great year and looks forward to receiving more information from each club, each month, over the new Rotary year.

### **CLUB STATISTICS - JUNE 2015**

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l <sup>R</sup>	ROTARY CLUB	MEMBERS	HOURS	%	RANK
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.	Adamstown New Lambton	26	11	94.4	1
	Belmont	25		86.1	5
	Charlestown	48	420	94	2
	Denman	16		85	7
	Dubbo	23	86	84.48	8
	Dubbo Macquarie	25	12	88.7	4
	Dubbo South	59	40	66.79	21
	Dubbo West	45	12	79.34	13
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 ppsivyer@bigpond.com	East Maitland	42	175	81.9	10
	Kurri Kurri Sunrise	22	40	68	19
	Maitland	40	239	71	18
	Merriwa	22		77	15
	Muswellbrook	27	80	60	22
	Myall Coast	29	123	75	17
	Narromine	12		50	23
	Nelson Bay	51		80.65	11
	Newcastle Harbour	15		77	15
	Rutherford -Telarah	42	369	83.59	9
and we will add them to our next edition.	Singleton	39		80	12
S	Singleton on Hunter	30		67.5	20
V	Wallsend Maryland	32	228	85.2	6
V	Waratah	20		91.81	3
V	Williamtown	23	151	77.18	14 /

## 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 <u>districtnewsletter@rotary9670.org.au</u> 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.



## ROTARY CLUB of MYALL COAST

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by

Maitland and Port Stephens Toyota





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Drawn on 26 January 2016 or when all Tickets Sold

All proceeds donated to local community and charitable organisations

To Purchase a ticket Contact:- Jim 0409 467 272 or Paul 0439 485 097



As of July 1, Rotary International has launched the

### Rotary Global Rewards Program.

This program offers Rotary club members discounts on products and services for travel, entertainment, and merchandise.

Make sure to promote this in your district when you are visiting clubs and talking to Rotarians.

Every active Rotarian is automatically eligible to participate, and the program can be accessed at <a href="https://www.rotary.org/myrotary">www.rotary.org/myrotary</a>.

Please encourage your Rotarians to register immediately to take advantage of this most innovative program.



REWARDS

#### **Paterson**

## Giant Car Boot Sale

Sunday 30th August 9am till 2pm

100 Market Stalls Hot Food Jumping Castle Entertainment

Turn your Trash into Ca\$h! Craft, Plants, Bric a Brac, New, Old, Clothes, Art - Anything!

35 Maitland Road Paterson, Adjacent to Tucker Park

Register at www.prcevents.org





Rotary Club of Paterson





5th Rotary Fundraiser—Mary Poppins

Rotary Club of Newcastle Enterprise

Merrie How

Ph.: 0498-970-140

merrie@dragnet.com.au

7th Presidents & District Chairs Committee

Meeting

7:30pm-9:00pm

East Golf Club (downstairs meeting room)

8th Presidents & District Chairs Committee

Meeting

1:30pm-3:00pm

Dubbo RSL Club (Jacaranda Room)

8th Movie Night—Fantastic Four

6:15pm (for 6:30pm start)

Rotaract Club of the Hunter

Event Cinemas, Glendale

https://www.stickytickets.com.au/28156

30th Paterson Giant Car Boot Sale

9am to 2pm

35 Maitland Road, Paterson

Rotary Club of Paterson

www.prcevents.org

All correspondence on
District 9670 matters to be sent to:

11 Kilpaine Road, Lambton, NSW, 2299



