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GET ALL THE DETAILS ON HOW YOU
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DISTRICT CHANGEOVER.

○ No. 12

○ JUNE

○ 2014—2015

District digest

COMMUNITY, STRENGTH AND VALUES



*And just like that it's the end of the 2014/2015 Rotary Year...and what a year it has been! **District Governor Gerard McMillan** updates D9670 on all the wonderful opportunities he and his First Lady, Yvonne have had the great pleasure of participating in this year. DG Gerard leaves us with the task of asking ourselves are we proud to be Rotarians 100% of the time...*

Where has the year gone?

I started this Rotary year as **District Governor** hoping to finish the term leaving the District in a better position with a focus on **membership**. I have been privileged to see membership increase, in particular witnessing the charter of the **new Rotary Club** of Lake Macquarie. I also witnessed, during my official visits to Clubs, the induction of new **members** and with this comes the promise that the legacy of Rotary and its ability to **enhance our communities** will continue.

I carried with me throughout my term the messages of immediate past Rotary International President Ron Burton who suggested we all '**Enhance Rotary and Change Lives**' and that of current Rotary International President Gary CK Huang to '**Light Up Rotary**'. In taking both these actions and remaining flexible and innovative, I believe Rotary will continue to be **relevant** today and in the **future**.

There are clubs quite happy **doing what they do** and getting the same results while other Clubs are willing to be **innovative** and to try **new things** which is often met with success. I challenge Clubs and Rotarians to **step out of their comfort zones** and try new things, you never know what you are **capable** of until you try.

Holding the role of District Governor was never a position I took lightly. I was **deeply humbled** to be selected

for this role that holds such **responsibility** and I hope I have lived up to expectations of those who gave me this **incredible opportunity**. I have been very happy to have served at the highest District level.

Some of the things RI President Gary CK Huang asked from us was to **increase our humanitarian services** and when I look at the 51 Clubs within our District, I am amazed at the **diversity of the work** we do. Just recently at the Changeover of the Rotary Club of Dubbo South, Rotary Club President Damian Mahon announced, amongst other contributions, a **donation** of \$100,000 to the Royal Flying Doctors Service in one year alone. This is a **massive amount** from just one club in just one year. Over the years, the Rotary Club of Dubbo South has donated \$1million to the service.

A few days later, I received an email from Rotary Club of Dungog President Bob Humphreys who told me his small Club donated \$2,000 to the Rotary Foundation. Given this area was savagely hit by the **April storms**, with much demand placed on this community, it is **inspiring** to hear Dungog Rotarians were able to **look beyond their own adversity** and still support the Foundation, Rotary's charity.

It gives me **great satisfaction** to hear stories such as these and makes me **very proud to be a Rotarian**. I am equally proud of all the work Rotarians are doing in the **District** and by high-

lighting these actions, this is one opportunity to Light Up Rotary to the **broader community**.

This year marked the **110th Anniversary** of Rotary and it again was wonderful to see a number of Rotary Clubs joining together to give Newcastle a function that will long be remembered with the **Lantern Walk**. Activities such as these enhance the **public image** of Rotary.

Telling your **Rotary story** is another opportunity to light up the work of Rotary. Everyone has a Rotary story and at a recent changeover dinner, during the toast to Rotary International, the Rotarian proposing the toast to Rotary International concluded the toast by saying how proud he was to be a Rotarian. I ask you, are you? I question **how many of the 1,238 members of District 9670** are proud to be Rotarians, to wear their Rotary pin, not just on Rotary nights but seven days a week? Are we Rotarians in everything we do, **every moment** of the day and in every action that we take?

We have also been called upon to **strengthen our clubs** and one sure way of doing this is through the **Rotary Leadership Institute**. I am delighted to announce my ongoing commitment to our District, that I have established 10 **Rotarian Leadership Scholarships** that will be provided each year in the names of two very dedicating, inspirational and passionate Rotarians in PP Wilma Simmons and PP Pam Wellham. Both these Rotarians **work tirelessly** on the District Learning and Development Committee and in many other areas

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of Rotary. They are truly deserving of this recognition.

Some other highlights of the year was witnessing the **work of Rotaract** and their **willingness to serve** on District Committees such as The Rotary Youth Leadership Award (RYLA), Rotary Youth Program of Enrichment (RYPEN) and Model United Nations Assembly (MUNA). We also had Rotaracts assist with the conference, serving on the registration desk and I was delighted to see them among the 350 people who attended the District Conference "**Waves of Change – Oceans of Opportunity**".

One goal I set myself as District Governor was to find an applicant from District 9670 to apply for a **Peace Scholarship**. With the support of Past President Allan Moir, I'm extremely confident that an application will be lodged shortly and I wish this applicant every success. If this person is successful, it will be the first Peace Scholarship recipient from District 9670 which is a **fantastic achievement** for our District and this individual.

The current **Group Study Exchange Team** is in Germany now and I am receiving regular reports from Team Leader Wolfe Semner on what they are doing and that they have been **wonderful ambassadors for their vocations**, Australia and Rotary.

It has been a demanding year on Yvonne Palmer as well as her partner's project of the **MHERV Van**. She is convinced her choice of the MHERV Van was

the right project when she hears stories of the van's achievements. Recently the van attended Cobar Show and some 38 gentlemen went for **health checks** during that visit. Of the 38, three were sent immediately to hospital to have their health attended to. The MHERV Van is a **wonderful District asset** and I know if we save just one life it is worth it.

I would like to thank my **Eleven Assistant Governors, District Committee Chairs and Club Presidents** for the way in which they have carried out their tasks and make the District the success it is. I would also like to especially thank my **personal support team**, particularly District Secretary Graeme O'Brien, District Treasurer Bob Wood, Past District Governor Alex McHarg and PP John Bennetts.

Finally, it would be remiss of me not to give a special tribute to Kellie Hunt who has been the editor of the District Digest for the past two years. At times this has been a challenge for Kellie, but I really appreciate her stewardship to rise above the challenge and deliver a **wonderful District Newsletter**.

I wish to convey my **congratulations and best wishes** to District Governor Elect Adrian Roach and Christine. I know they are in for a **whirlwind experience**. They are about to embark on a wonderful journey, one full of new experiences that I know they, like Yvonne and I, will reflect on these experiences for many years to come.

One experience I will reflect on involves **my own Rotary story**. I have spoken many times about a family I visited when Singleton Rotary Club President. Their young child had a number of **life-limiting disabilities** but during that visit, my attention was drawn to the child's nine-year-old sister. She was carrying a photo that I first thought was of the young child but, sadly no. The photograph was of **another sibling** with the same disability who had already died from the condition. I was most heartened recently to hear this proud, big sister is **living happily** in Singleton, holding down a good job and even entered the Singleton Showgirl competition.

As for my own future, my focus will be on **my family and my little grandson Taylor**. (his story elsewhere in the Digest) I am fortunate to be in a position to support Taylor and his family and it will be a **great privilege** to be more involved in his precious little life.

In closing remember it is **Rotary Fellowship Month** and I end with a quote from Richard Brooks: 'He who sows courtesy, reaps friendship'. Rotary, my friends, is all about **friendship**. Yvonne and I appreciate the courtesy shown to us and treasure your friendship.

Thank you.

Yours in Rotary

Gerard McMillan

DISTRICT INSURANCE RENEWALS

Rotary International District 9670 Incorporated's suite of insurance policies **expires** on 30th June, but will be renewed.

A certificate of currency for coverage under the General Liability policy which covers Public Liability and Products Liability will in due course be issued in the name of each of the District clubs and incorporated associations. However, these certificates are often not available until about the **third week in July**.

If your club or entity is holding an event during the first 3 weeks of the new Rotary year and you have been asked to provide a certificate of currency valid for a date within that period, special arrangements can be made.

If you need such a certificate, you should contact the incoming District Insurance Officer,

Rotarian Margaret Raynor, mlraynor@bigpond.com.au to so advise.

If another entity, such as a local government council, or the owner of land on which you are holding some function has requested that its interest be noted on the certificate, this should also be advised so that appropriate certificates can be obtained.



MUNA does it again...

Ever wondered what MUNA is all about? **Phil Warren from the D9670 MUNA Committee** updates us on the one-day event which gives an opportunity for secondary school students across the District to debate contemporary international issues and even represent the District at a national MUNA congress. Congratulations D9670 MUNA Committee on another great year!



Above: Team Germany awarded for excellence. The Premier debating team Jake Rexter and Lena Payne of Kotara High School with DG Gerard McMillan and Yvonne Palmer.

Below: Showing a commitment to world peace, Team Italy Marnie Bullen and Cameron Abbott of Mount View High School with DG Gerard McMillan and Yvonne Palmer.



District 9670 Model United Nation Assembly (MUNA) was held at Muswellbrook Council Chambers on Saturday 23rd May. It is a special event, as the young people from high schools that are sponsored by a local Rotary Club, have the opportunity to debate resolutions that are focussed on contemporary international issues.

Counsellors prepare, advise and support the students prior to and during the event. In 2015, fifteen teams from fourteen schools competed for two (2) awards.

The Rotary Club of Muswellbrook was outstanding as the hosting club, with a fine MUNA dinner on the Friday night at the Muswellbrook RSL club. Rotarians also provided catering at Saturday's assembly. Muswellbrook RSL Club and Muswellbrook Nissan were this year's major sponsors with additional support from The Hunter Melanoma Foundation and The Greater Building Society.

Kate Cavanagh (from Hunter Rota-ract) was the Secretary-General, ably guided by our own DGN Stephen

Jackson.

The success of the event is underpinned by the respective high schools, the teachers and the many Rotarians. In 2015, we also had the assistance of members of the Rota-ract Club of the Hunter who were involved in the planning and conducting the actual event.

Team Germany from Kotara High School, sponsored by the Rotary Club of Charlestown, was judged the premier debating team at MUNA 2015. They received the Excellence Achievement award. This team will be sponsored by District 9670 to attend the MUNA Nationals in Canberra in August 2015.

The second award is given to the team that demonstrates a commitment to the concept and promotion of world peace. In 2015, Team Italy from Mount View High School, sponsored by the Rotary Club of Cessnock, was awarded the Peace Prize for advocating issues related to world peace.



SUPPORT HAT DAY FRIDAY 9th OCTOBER 2015

With 1 in 5 people affected by mental illness, we're flicking the switch to shine a light on mental illness through research.

Hat Day is on 9th October and what a way you can get involved to show your support for people affected by depression, anxiety, schizophrenia, anorexia and many other serious conditions.

Every cent raised goes directly to mental health research



facebook.com/hatdayevent

WWW.HATDAY.COM.AU



More than one in a million...

*Every once in a while we come across someone so special and unique we think they are one in a million. However, **District Governor Gerard McMillan** can do one better than that...as his grandson Taylor is one in seven billion +. Why not read on to see the brave and amazing story of Taylor Lojszczyk...its an amazing one that shows you just how very special one little boy can be...*

He's always been unique, but now we know how rare Taylor truly is...

Taylor and his family recently returned from Adelaide where further testing and appointments were attended to, in the hope of being able to provide more answers on Taylor's condition.

This latest journey bought some good news; no immediate skull surgery is required and further appointments are able to be carried out in Sydney rather than Adelaide. But the one question Taylor's family wanted answered is "what is Taylor's diagnosis?"

Distance for Diagnosis was a successful fundraiser that covered the Adelaide mission and this is all because of the generous donations made by those supporting Simply Loving Taylor Incorporated.

Unfortunately, Professor David in Adelaide and Care for Rare researchers in Canada has advised that there is no none syndrome that fits Taylor's

condition and have excluded mutations in known genes. This means Taylor will be known as having an "Undiagnosed Complex Syndrome". Taylor's condition has now been researched in Sydney, Adelaide, USA and Canada. Until medial research improves technology to test every single gene in the entire body, it is unlikely that a diagnosis can be determined.

He is the only person in the world to be living with his condition. We thought he was one in a million, but its been confirmed he is one in 7 billion +. Because of this, Taylor's family are unable to access typical funding associated with ongoing medical costs as he is undiagnosed. This puts a lot of strain in the family but the help of the incorporation is now imperative. The Lojszczyk family is overwhelmed by the support of friends, family, strangers, locals and those far away and would like to say *Thank You*.

Without your ongoing support and

generous donations, Taylor would not be able to receive the medical attention he requires. When you make a donation, buy a raffle ticket, or attend a social event to support Taylor, you are actually contributing to more than you could imagine, and we here at Simply Loving Taylor are deeply humbled by the ongoing donations you provide.

We have some exciting events in the pipeline and plan to communicate these fundraisers to you when everything is underway. Please stay tuned and continue to follow the journey of Taylor and his family.



ROTARY RELEASES \$40.3 MILLION FOR POLIO IMMUNISATION ACTIVITIES

Rotary are releasing \$40.3 million in grants to support polio immunisation activities within 10 countries, including Afghanistan, Nigeria and Pakistan, three countries where the disease has not been stopped.

The funds will help build on gains Rotary and its partners have been making in the fight to eradicate polio. Nigeria hasn't seen a polio case since 24 July and the World Health Organisation could remove it from the list of polio-endemic countries as soon as September if no cases are reported. Nigeria would have to go another two years without a case to be certified polio-free.

But the progress is fragile, and much work remains to reach the goal of a polio-free world. Rotary funds announced this week include \$9.9 million in Nigeria; \$12.2 million in Pakistan; and \$2.3 million in Afghanistan. In addition, the money will support immunisation activities in the countries still at risk including Cameroon, Chad, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Niger, Somalia and South Sudan.

To read about the latest in polio grants check out rotary.org.au/myrotary/en/news-media/rotary-releases-403-million-polio-immunization-activities

District Membership & Community Involvement

Well it's already the second last month of the 2014/2015 year... **Peter Sivyer, 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 new Rotary year.

CLUB STATISTICS - MAY 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 ppsivyer@bigpond.com and we will add them to our next edition.

ROTARY CLUB	MEMBERS	HOURS	%	RANK
Adamstown New Lambton	26	12	83	9
Belmont	26		88.1	4
Charlestown	48	320	88	5
Cobar	12	98	100	1
Dubbo	21	65	84.48	8
Dubbo Macquarie	25	177	87.5	6
Dubbo South	59	235	72.17	17
Dubbo West	44	55	74.79	15
East Maitland	42	282	n/a	n/a
Maitland	39	97	68.9	19
Merriwa	22		82	10
Muswellbrook	27	80	71.5	18
Myall Coast	29	149	80	13
Narromine	12	40	63	21
Nelson Bay	51		86.75	7
Rutherford -Telarah	42	421	78.98	14
Salamander Bay	34		63	21
Singleton	39		81	11
Singleton on Hunter	31	20	73.4	16
Toronto Sunrise	29	77	66.4	20
Wallsend Maryland	32	259	81	11
Waratah	19		88.89	3
Williamstown	23	171	89.13	2

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!

ROTARY CLUB of MYALL COAST

Car Sponsored
by
Maitland and Port Stephens Toyota



2015

**JUST
\$50**
a ticket



ONLY
*500 tickets
to be sold*

1st Prize
2015 Toyota Yaris 5 door Automatic
*with 12 months NSW Rego, 3 years warranty and
first 6 services at a capped price*

OR

\$13,000.00 cash

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*

FLUTRACKER

If you are interested in helping researchers from the University of Newcastle track influenza activity across District 9670 you can join a weekly online survey that takes less than 15 seconds to complete.

Flu-tracking monitors for early warning signs of severe influenza outbreaks or pandemics and provides participants with a weekly report and a link to maps of influenza activity.

For more information on the project go to www.flutracking.net

This project is being conducted by researchers from Hunter New England Health and the University of Newcastle.



4th D9670 2015-2016 District Changeover
Club Maitland City
DGE Adrian Roach
www.trybooking.com/135961

11th Rotaract Club of Hunter
2015-2016 Changeover
Merewether Golf Club, Merewether
Gabby Brand
hunter.rotaract@gmail.com



Invitation

**2015-2016**
District 9670 &
Rotary Club of Greenhills-Maitland
Changeover

When:	Saturday 4th July 2015
Time:	6.30pm for 7.00pm start
Where:	Club Maitland City Arthur Street, Rutherford
Cost:	\$35.00

Bookings and payment on-line:
<http://www.trybooking.com/135961>



**All correspondence on
District 9670 matters to
be sent to:
PO Box 348, Singleton,
NSW, 2330**

