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OPPORTUNITIES FOR LIFE.

NOMINATIONS FOR THE FIRST RYPEN CAMP OF 2015 ARE NOW BEING ACCEPTED. DO YOU KNOW ANY TEENAGERS READY TO DEVELOP THEIR LIFE SKILLS?

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FOLLOW THE YELLOW BRICK ROAD

ARE YOU TAKING YOUR CARAVAN TO THE CONFERENCE? WHY NOT FIND OUT HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED IN THE FESTIVITIES.

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6

LAST CHANCE TO SUPPORT TRF.

IT'S YOUR LAST CHANCE TO GET ONBOARD AND GRAB YOUR TICKETS TO SUPPORT THE ERADICATION OF POLIO FOREVER!



○ No. 9

○ MARCH

○ 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...*



district9670
AUSTRALIA

It is **literary month** and it is with pleasure that I tell you about a book written by Past District Governor Bart Richardson. He **tells the story** of his time in the army from 1936 to 1945 and he will have his book for sale at the **upcoming conference** later this month.

It is great to know that a number of the clubs within our district go to schools to **help with reading** and they need to be applauded, especially this month.

We said **farewell** to Joy Walker last month. Joy had been the supervisor for the Club and District Support since 2006 and she sends this message to Rotarians: *"I would like to take this opportunity to say **thank you** and farewell to all the wonderful Rotarians that I have had the pleasure of working with over the past eight years. It has been wonderful to see the **great work** that Rotary has done at the local and global level, through the efforts of individual Rotarians.*

*Rotary is an **amazing organisation**, but it needs to continue well into the future. The world would be a much more unpleasant place without it, and the work you all do as you put **'Service Above Self'**. It is also comforting to know that I am leaving you all in the capable hands of your CDS*

*team at SPPO which will now be headed by **PDG Jenny Coburn**. I will be taking many fond memories with me."*

The big function last month was the **Lantern Walk**. We had 206 volunteers working with 166 Rotarians and Rotaract members from **16 clubs assisting on the night**. Thanks to Newcastle Club President, Graeme Clark and Maree Gleeson from this club who were the main coordinators of the event who were ably assisted by many, many Rotarians and other organisations.

The restaurants around Honeysuckle did a roaring trade with most doing two sittings and the Silo Restaurant doing three on the evening. Police congratulated the organisers on the **crowd behaviour** and were very complimentary in their feedback. There were 1500 people who took part in the walk from Nobbys to Honeysuckle with **around 500 carrying lanterns**.

The **Marching Koalas** came from Carrington into Honeysuckle with another large following of people. It was my honour to read a letter from Rotary International President Gary CK Huang with his message to **"Light Up Rotary"** at such a significant community event.

The feedback I received from some of the Rotarians was that **Rotary was the winner on the night**; which was one of fellowship with Rotarians walking side by side with families and children in a night filled with joy, peace and harmony. We certainly did **"Light Up Newcastle"** with my congratulations to everyone involved.

The Rotary Club of Lake Macquarie was chartered on March 7th and one of the most pleasurable tasks any District Governor can have is the **chartering of a new club**. This is a young club, a breakfast club, consisting of mainly **young professionals** and they are already planning some innovative community events. They plan to meet three times a month and on the last Friday of every month they will have a **family meeting** which will be a social gathering for families, which is what Rotary is all about.

Two other successful events over March have been the **Paddlefest** at Toronto, which Rotary Club of Toronto play a big part; and the other function was the ever successful **Loop the Lake** which is presented by a number of Rotary Clubs who work together to bring this spectacular event to Lake Macquarie.

I attended the **Rotaract** Club of Hunter Valley and it was pleasing to see 5 Rotaractors not only register for the District Conference but also offer assistance to the conference committee.

(Continued on Page 2...)

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Yvonne and I had the pleasure to attend their AGM where we were in awe of their **enthusiasm and energy**. Three people nominated for president, three people nominated for vice president which reflects the spirit of this group. I wish I could **bottle this energy and take a big swig** – I think every Rotarian could take a dose of what they've got.

Speaking of the **District Conference**, I am looking forward to another wonderful event and thank the experienced organising committee for their diligence in putting together **a valuable program**. This is a wonderful opportunity for Rotarians and friends of Rotary to enjoy **good fellowship**, to be **inspired** by the formal program and **interaction** with other Rotarians and to **celebrate** the success of your District's many activities and initiatives. Yvonne and I are looking forward to seeing you all there at Forster.

I have received a request from one of the Rotary Clubs for a resolution to discuss a **Gap Year Exchange Program**. This has come about because of changes to the long term youth exchange program (i.e. students are now required to go back to school after their exchange). The district will **look at the possibility** of Rotary sponsoring the gap year and District Governor Elect Adrian Roach will

set up a small committee to **explore the possibility** for a gap year for school leavers. More on this later...

I am starting to receive dates for the **Club Changeover Dinners** in June and July. I ask clubs to notify me of these dates as soon as possible so I can coordinate a representative at their changeovers. I have been delighted to receive a number of invites from clubs already and I'll will endeavour to get to as many of these changeovers as possible.

District Governor Elect Adrian is also arranging dates for his **training and president elect training** and also district assembly training. As I will be passing the baton onto Adrian at the end of this Rotary year, I encourage his team and clubs to attend these **important club training days**. Even if you have attended this training three or five years ago, it is worthwhile coming along again because there are **new messages and innovative ideas**, particularly around increasing membership and ensuring the sustainability of Rotary so that our communities are enriched by the work of Rotary into the future.

Notable dates are:

- ☆ **18 April** – Presidents-Elect Training including district budget session – 9am to 4pm at Singleton.

- ☆ **19 April** – District Assembly for Presidents Elect and Club Directors – 9am to 3pm Singleton.

- ☆ **2 May** – Presidents-elect Training including District Budget session – 9am to 4pm at Dubbo.

- ☆ **3 May** – District Assembly for Presidents – Elect and Club Directors – 9am to 3pm Dubbo.

For further details on these events contact wilmasimmons@hotmail.com

Yvonne and I would like to thank all the people who have **continued to support us** and, with just a few months to go, I reflect on the opportunities I have had as your District Governor. I hope you all have a great time at the conference and we will **continue to engage** with as many clubs as we can as we draw close to the June 30th end of the Rotary year. We have been made to **feel very welcome everywhere** we have gone and I thank you all for that.

And in the words of Rotary International President Gary CK Huang may you all *"Use your **hands** to help, use your **head** to make sure you are helping in the right place and use your **heart** to make sure it's sincere because without your heart, nothing else matters"*.

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: \$230 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 their 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>

FOLLOW THE ROAD TO FORSTER...

A CHALLENGE FOR CARAVANING ROTARIANS

This is your opportunity to fly the flag for Rotary by attending the District 9670 Conference at Club Forster from Friday 20 to Sunday 22 March 2015.

For your chance to be the Inaugural Winner of the

DISTRICT 9670 CONFERENCE "BEST DRESSED"

CARAVAN COMPETITION

Why not try...

- ☆ Light Up Rotary by decorating your caravan
- ☆ Extra marks for demonstrating the Conference theme and the 2014-2015 Rotary theme on your caravan
- ☆ Let the residents and visitors to Forster know the Rotary Conference is happening in town
- ☆ Share the Rotary spirit with your fellow Rotarians

Judging will take place on **Friday afternoon 20th March** at the Caravan Park

Remember the Judge's decision is final and the competition rules are "The Four Way Test"

So, how do I Enter?

All you need to do is register your name at Club Forster either at the Conference Registration Desk or with the D9670 PR Team IPDG Brian Atkins & Madeleine during the Thursday evening BBQ .

How Much Does it Cost?

Your conference registration name tag covers the entry fee

What Do I Win?

Bragging rights and a "Rotary" prize





Dear District Governors, District Rotary Foundation Committee Chairs, District Scholarships Subcommittee Chairs, and District Grants Subcommittee Chairs:

The Rotary Foundation and UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education, which are working together to tackle the world's water and sanitation crisis, this year will award a limited number of [scholarships](#) for graduate students at UNESCO-IHE's Delft campus in the Netherlands. The partnership aims to increase the number of trained professionals who can devise, plan, and implement water and sanitation solutions in developing areas. The scholarships also are designed to promote long-term productive relationships between Rotarians and skilled water and sanitation professionals in their communities.

Scholarship applications, for studies in 2015-17, can be submitted [online](#). Please see the [overview](#) for more details. Additional information also is available in the [application tool kit](#), the [club/district application](#) and scholarship [terms and conditions](#). Applications are due by **15 June** (an extension from the original deadline of 15 May).

If you have questions or concerns, please contact grants@rotary.org.

Sincerely,

Abby McNear
Rotary Grants Manager
Tel [1.847.425.5656](tel:1.847.425.5656)
www.rotary.org

⇒ **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



Alliance for Smiles—Gazipur BANGLADESH

Global Grant 1526940 VTT

Rotary Districts 3281 3590 6760 & 6910

Our team of 16 volunteers came from Holland, Pakistan, Belize, the Philippines, China, United States of America and Australia.

We were Christians, Jews, and Muslims; Rotarians and Non Rotarians.

The political situation was a Hartal (civil disobedience) in place and our safety was questionable. Our accommodation was at an Agricultural Research Institute Compound; with 24 hour police protection to and from the hospital.

The first day of clinic day was chaos, as our interpreters had a poor command of the English language. Although most of the patients had been screened, there was a huge misunderstanding of what was to happen. We saw 100 patients with another 26 during the mission. All patients were photographed, vital signs recorded and accessed by surgeons, anaesthetists and a paediatrician for surgery.

Our operating theatre was small—with 2 tables, lots of old equipment, poorly trained but friendly staff and annoying mosquitos. Our anaesthetic machine, steriliser, consumables and instruments are all brought over from the USA, at a cost. The concept of sterility was very foreign at the Shahid Jajuddin Ahnand Medical College Hospital.

We repaired 76 cleft lips and palates free of charge. Our oldest patient was a 59 year old lady who said her husband loved her the way she was; but she for once wanted to look normal.

There are 25,000 babies born in Bangladesh per year with these abnormalities in a population of 160 million

Alliance for Smiles is a Rotary-based, not-for-profit-organisation that repairs cleft lips and cleft palates of disadvantaged patients across the globe.

The mission in 2015 was to Bangladesh and focused on providing smiles to 76 Bangladeshi patients by repairing their cleft lips, cleft palates and lips.



people. There was a lot of media and Rotary interest in this mission as there will be another team in June this year and two next year to train local doctors to do these procedures themselves.

I was lucky enough to be the guest speaker at the all female Rotary club of Dhaka Rose Vale where I demonstrated the Days for Girls kits that are made for girls in the developing world. These ladies are now going to make these kits in Bangladesh for schoolgirls, in conjunction with their sanitation project which provides toilets for schools. So far they have built 276 and the goal is 1600. They are a very active group.

The Rotary clubs in Bangladesh gave us a great insight to their activities; looked after us; were great hosts; and very astute about our safety. It was a great mission and I certainly would be happy to do another mission.

Project Manager in D9670 is Lyn Thorpe OAM, Rotary Club of Adamstown New Lambton. Her email is dkthorpe@bigpond.com.



4 reasons to buy a raffle ticket



WIN \$3,000

worth of travel credits from
EscapeTravel, Toronto



WIN \$1,200

worth of electrical appliances from
Andrew Robertson The Good Guys,
Warners Bay



WIN \$100

worth of electrical appliances
from Andrew Robertson The
Good Guys, Warners Bay

**Proceeds from this
raffle will support
Rotary Foundation's
work to eradicate
polio ... forever!**



Polio continues to infect and paralyse children in developing countries, robbing them of their future and compounding the hardships faced by their families. For as long as polio threatens even one child anywhere in the world, children everywhere are at risk.

After 20 years of hard work, Rotary is on the brink of eradicating this tenacious disease, but a strong push is needed now to wipe it out forever.

Your generous contribution will help fund urgent Rotary immunisation campaigns.

Tickets \$2.00 each

Competition Drawn at District 9670 Conference, Forster 22 March, 2015 - Tickets to be returned by 2 March, 2015 CFN Authority 22975

District Membership & Community Involvement

Looks like 2015 is off to a great start...**Peter Sivyer, District Attendance, Participation and Contributions Chair** reports on how District 9670 tracked for the second month of 2015 and looks forward to receiving more information from each club, each month, over the Rotary year.

CLUB STATISTICS - FEBRUARY 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	27		89.5	2
Belmont	26		89.4	3
Cardiff	12	12	83	6
Cobar	14	11	79.17	9
Dubbo	21	32	75	11
Dubbo Macquarie	25	119	91.3	1
Dubbo South	58	50	51.28	20
Dubbo West	46	52	64.2	16
East Maitland	39	44	60.97	18
Kurri Kurri Sunrise	22		68	15
Maitland	40	97	56.1	19
Merriwa	19		85.5	4
Myall Coast	30	233	80	4
Nelson Bay	54		85	5
Rutherford -Telarah	36	200	69.9	14
Salamander Bay	34		64	17
Singleton	39		75	11
Wallsend Maryland	32	46	72	13
Waratah	20		79.4	8
Williamstown	21	346	78	10

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!



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 29th. March, 2015.

VENUE: Toronto Railway Station
Victory Parade,
Toronto.

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

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

**Limited numbers so book early.
Phone Anne Anderson 49594107 or 0401208503.**

 **The Rotary Club of Toronto Sunrise
supporting Westlake Youth Driver
Assist Program in 2015.**



18th President Elect Training (PETS)
Singleton
9:00am—4:00pm
Wilma Simmons
Ph.: 0407 579 253
wilmasimmons@hotmail.com

19th District Assembly for Presidents Elect and Club
Directors
Singleton
9:00am—3:00pm
Wilma Simmons
Ph: 0407 579 253
wilmasimmons@hotmail.com

30th RYCAGS Dinner
Geoff Smith
(02) 6889 5447
rycags@rotary9670.org.au

RLI – Exploring Rotary

Guest Speakers



Are you looking for guest speakers at your Club?

The RLI Team has Facilitators from the program who would like to visit with you and your members to let you know what the RLI Program is all about.

Team members are ready to travel to your club to provide a presentation at a time and place to suit you.

Want more information about the program, or to arrange a guest speaker?

Contact Bob Main from the RLI team at:

Email: robhel4@bigpond.com

Phone: (02) 4960 1982

Mobile: 0432-398-737

All correspondence on

District 9670 matters to be sent to:

PO Box 348, Singleton, NSW, 2330



district9670
community strength and values

