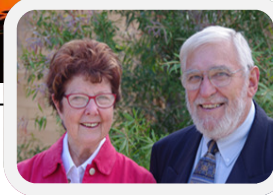




Janette and I would like to wish you all the very best for Christmas and the New Year



REDISTRICTING

During the week commencing 12th December, the G-train from each Australian District has been invited to meetings with R.I. Director Noel Trevaskis and G-train members from Districts within the same state.

At those meetings, it is expected that Director Noel will outline the clubs which may change from one District to another, and consider what reaction, adverse or positive, there has been to the suggestions. While one of the early suggestions was that District 9670 take in the Forster/Taree area and Gloucester and Quirindi clubs, it now seems that they will probably stay with District 9650. However it seems increasingly likely that the previously mentioned northern and western clubs within District 9700 will come into District 9670. It is still a case of "watch this space" – there may be more to report in the January newsletter.

PASSING OF MARY SEMMLER

It is with sadness that I advise that Mary Semmler, wife of PDG Brian Semmler, of the Rotary Club of Dubbo West, died on 3rd December last.

Brian was District Governor in 1981-82 and fulfilled many other roles following his year of service as Governor of the District. He has always been a great fount of Rotary knowledge, and a person with a great amount of common sense. Mary was ever-present and was herself a person who encouraged and assisted the partners of the various Governors over the years. Her counsel of and to those partners, and as a participant in the events of the Rotary Club of Dubbo West, will be sadly missed. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Semmler family and particularly with Brian at this time of grieving, yet celebration of her life.

NEW DISTRICT CONSTITUTION

A Special General Meeting of the District took place at Denman on 19th November last, at which a new Constitution was approved by District Clubs. Thirty-one clubs were represented at the meeting, almost two-thirds of the District's clubs, which was an excellent representation.

The process of revising the existing constitution was commenced at the District Conference in Warren in 2012, when a motion was passed to establish a review committee. For various reasons not much occurred in 2013 or 2014, but early in 2015 a draft of a new constitution was circulated among the review committee and meetings occurred with reasonable regularity from then until September 2016 when consensus on a final draft

DISTRICT DIARY

December - 2016

11 Sun - The Rotary Foundation Meeting

February - 2017

08 Wed - Last months attendance and community hours emailed to District Attendance Officer, Peter Sivyer on ppsivyer@bigpond.com.

10 Fri - Presidents, AGs and Chairs Meeting - East

11 Sat - Presidents, AGs and Chairs - West

23 Thu - Rotary's 112th Birthday

24 Fri - AGs training

25 Sat - 26 Sun - 2017-18 AGs and Chairs Training

March - 2017

05 Sun - Clean Up Oz Day

08 Wed - Last months attendance and community hours emailed to District Attendance Officer, Peter Sivyer on ppsivyer@bigpond.com.

16 Thu to the 19 Sun - District Conference, Dubbo

April - 2017

01 Sat - PETS West

02 Sun - District Assembly West

08 Sat - Last months attendance and community hours emailed to District Attendance Officer, Peter Sivyer on ppsivyer@bigpond.com.

29 Sat - PETS East

30 Sun - District Assembly East

May - 2017

08 Mon - Last months attendance and community hours emailed to District Attendance Officer, Peter Sivyer on ppsivyer@bigpond.com.

12 Fri - Presidents, AGs and Chairs meeting East

13 Sat - Presidents, AGs and Chairs meeting West

26 Fri - 27 Sat - MUNA, Muswellbrook

July - 2017

01 Sat - District Changeover

08 Sat - Last months attendance and community hours emailed to District Attendance Officer, Peter Sivyer on ppsivyer@bigpond.com.

Any changes will be up-dated.

What
in the
world
does
Rotary
do?

We're helping to eradicate polio worldwide, we're providing disaster relief, improving literacy locally and globally, and we're doing so much more...

was achieved. It was this draft which was circulated to Clubs on 20th October, 2016 with the notice of the special general meeting.

The new draft had to be submitted to Rotary International through the Rotary Office in Parramatta. Despite our attempts to ensure that everything would be acceptable, two minor anomalies were found and we were advised if they were corrected to accord with Rotary International policy it would not be necessary to obtain formal approval from Rotary International for the new constitution.

The Review Committee is considering this advice and will decide whether to make the modifications required and then ask the District Clubs to ratify those changes at the Resolutions Session of the District Conference in March. If we take this course we will be able to comply with the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act to notify a change of the constitution to Fair Trading NSW within 28 days after the resolution for the change is passed.

The new Constitution will not come in to effect until 1st July, 2017. In the meantime, Regulations which will provide the machinery for the Constitution to operate are being drafted by another Committee. Those Regulations will be published and District Clubs will also be asked to resolve to adopt them at the Resolutions Session of the District Conference in March.

I would like to publicly thank all those who have served on the Constitution Review Committee for their involvement and perseverance. The District Legal Officer, Scott Lewis, has been the Chair of the Committee and the other members have been PDGs Ken McDonald, Alex McHarg, Gerard McMillan and Adrian Roach, and in the later stages, DGE Helen Ryan and DGN Brian Coffey. I also threw in my tuppence-worth. I also thank the Rotary Club of Denman for being prepared to make the necessary arrangements so that the special general meeting could be held as advertised.

ASSISTANT GOVERNORS

INTERIM CHANGE OF RESPONSIBILITIES

AG Terry New has, for health reasons, resigned as Assistant Governor for Zone 6. Rather than appoint a new AG for a short period of time, DGE Helen Ryan and I have agreed that it is more appropriate to ask some of the other AGs to look after one or more additional clubs, and those Assistant Governors nominated below have agreed to assist.

With effect from 1st January, 2017, the following arrangements will apply –

Zone 2, AG Lyn McDonald, Responsibility for Dubbo, Dubbo Macquarie, Dubbo South, Rylstone-Kandos and Wellington.

Zone 3, AG David Roach, Responsibility for Dubbo West, Mudgee, Mudgee Sunrise and Muswellbrook.

Zone 8, AG Phil Gorton, Responsibility for Cardiff, Newcastle Enterprise, Toronto, Waratah, Maitland and Greenhills Maitland

Zone 9, AG Denis Hyland, Responsibility for Charlestown, Newcastle, Newcastle Harbour, Wallsend-Maryland and Paterson.

Zone 10, AG Earl Heckman, Responsibility for East Maitland, Kurri Kurri, Maitland Sunrise, Nelson Bay, Rutherford-Telarah and Dungog.

I, and no doubt my predecessors, do thank Terry for continuing to fulfil the role of Assistant Governor for as long as he has done in rather trying personal circumstances.

SUBSTANTIAL BEQUEST TO DISTRICT 9670

Margaret Illukol was born in Uganda and as a child was attacked by a hyena leaving her with very substantial disfiguring of her face and head. Through the intervention of Rotarians, she came to Newcastle for treatment. She underwent on-going surgery, commenced secondary education and subsequently trained as a nurse and became an Australian citizen. She returned to Uganda from time to time, but always returned to Australia. She was grateful for the encouragement and support she was given by Rotarians in the Newcastle area. She died in Newcastle in February 2015.

She left a will, but had informally altered it in a couple of ways. Because of this, her Executor applied to the Supreme Court of New South Wales for directions as to how he should distribute her estate, which was valued at a little less than one million Australian dollars. The decision of the Court was given recently, and the effect of it is that Rotary International District 9670 Inc. is to receive the remainder of the funds after the administration costs are paid. The Court has indicated that the District is "to establish a fund in the name of the deceased to be used for the purpose of service in the community within the geographical boundaries of the district, such service being confined to activities which are charitable in nature".

The District Governor and Legal Officer are currently considering the terms of a Trust Deed to administer the generous bequest left to the District by the late Margaret Illukol.



DISTRICT CLUBS DIARY

January - 2017

- 01- Nelson Bay Australia Day celebrations at Rotary Park, Nelson Bay Rotary Club and Salamander Bay Rotary
- 28 - "Country Music Train," The Rotary Club of Maitland

February

- 22 - Combined Service Clubs Dinner, Rotary Club of Singleton Sunrise
- 26 - Paddlefest, Rotary Club of Toronto Sunrise

GSE TEAM

We are pleased to announce the GSE team to represent our District to D4905 in Argentina in May 2017.

Team Leader: Denise Parkes - Rotary Club of Charlestown

Team Members:

- Anthony Raines - Coal Logistics - Sponsored by the Rotary Club of Muswellbrook
- Emily Pfeiffer - Human Resources - Sponsored by the Rotary Club of Singleton
- Emily Riley - Public Health Research - Sponsored by the Rotary Club of Scone
- Grace McLean - NFP Management & Support - Sponsored by the Rotary Club of Warners Bay

Thank you to all Clubs who supported applicants for both the Team Leader and Team Member positions. We had a huge response and a fabulous pool of applicants.



YOUTH PROTECTION MATTERS

Partly because of greater awareness of responsibilities to young people engendered by the Royal Commission into Child Abuse, Rotary International's commitment to creating and maintaining the safest possible environment for all participants in Rotary activities and the efforts by insurers to try to limit exposure to risk, efforts are being made to develop a youth protection policy to apply generally within the District to achieve all these aims but at the same time be a workable solution to a quite complex problem.

The G-train has met with the District Child Protection Officer and together they have drafted a District Policy which is now at the stage of being polished prior to being released.

It is confidently expected that as a result the responsibilities of Clubs and District Committees will be made much more clear and that everyone will be able to work within it. I am hopeful that before the next District Governor's Newsletter is published, the District Policy on Youth Protection Matters will have been released.

CHRISTMAS TIME AGAIN

Yes, it seems that it was only yesterday that we finished celebrating Christmas in 2015, but here we are in the middle of December 2016, and Christmas Day is a little more than a week away!



It's a time when we celebrate many things. For those to whom Christianity is important, it is a time for celebration of the birth of Jesus of Nazareth. For those of other religious persuasions, there are different celebrations. For some it is a holiday period and a time when scattered families can come together for something other than a wedding or a funeral.

For others, it is an opportunity to get things done because everyone else is on holidays. In Rotary, there is often a "Christmas slowdown" when formal meetings give way to less formal ones which are often held at a member's residence or in a park or sometimes on a riverbank. But it is a time of fellowship, and of giving.

One is reminded of the adage that it is better to give than to receive. It is a time to remember those less fortunate than ourselves, and to be altruistic and give something to someone without expecting anything in return.

PDG Janette and I thank all of you for the way in which we have been received as we have visited the clubs in the District, for the enthusiasm you have shown for the projects in which you are engaged, and for being prepared to get in there and just do it!

Whether it is cleaning up rubbish along a stretch of road, or building or painting a house, or being a member of a RAWCS team going to some remote place to do things to improve the lot of the local population, it is all important and it is you giving something of yourself.

We do wish you a Merry Christmas, a Happy New Year, and hope that you have a stress-free time during the Christmas-New Year period, continuing through into 2017.

Yours in Rotary

Stephen





Rotary District 9670 Bowelscan Committee.

Chair: Dan Thompson, Ph 6572 4835
 Secretary: Geoff Smith, Ph 6889 5447
 Treasurer: Ian Mackay, Ph 4981 8589

24 November, 2016

ANNOUNCEMENT

After 27 years of service to the towns and suburbs of District 9670, the District Bowelscan Committee has decided to terminate this service.

Declining sales over recent years, lack of interest by Rotarians and District clubs, competition from other commercial companies, including the Federal Government, increasing lack of interest from some pharmacies, have all contributed to this decision.

All pharmacies that supported Bowelscan in recent years have been advised of this decision. All clubs actively involved in the 2016 program are also aware of the decision.

Most of the District Bowelscan Committee have been with the program for over a decade and their "use by date is up". Despite several appeals over the last 5 years to attract people to the committee, the response has been poor.

The committee is grateful to all Rotarians who have worked in some capacity on the Bowelscan program.

There is no doubt that many lives have been saved due to the simple test promoted by Rotary.

Our District is not alone with the issues listed above. Most of the Australian Districts have the same problems and additional Districts will cease their programs this year.

Geoff Smith
 Secretary
 Rotary District 9670 Bowelscan Committee
gsmi2709@bigpond.net.au

	MEMBERSHIP NUMBER	ATTENDANCE %	RANK	COMMUNITY HOURS
Belmont	24	89.9	2	ns
Cardiff	13	75	17	51
Charlestown	48	82	10	60
Denman	18	74	19	106
Dubbo	25	77.38	14	256
Dubbo Macquarie	21	82.8	9	68.5
Dubbo South	64	83.45	8	148
Dubbo West	42	76.08	16	130
Kurri Kurri Sunrise	22	85	6	104
Maitland	37	71	22	248
Maitland Sunrise	29	86	5	76
Merriwa	31	77.7	13	145
Myall Coast	25	64	25	179
Narromine	12	73.36	20	24
Nelson Bay	49	86.13	4	ns
Newcastle Enterprise	29	65	24	190
Newcastle Harbour	17	82	10	25
Raymond Terrace	21	86.25	3	355
Rutherford Telarah	37	80.6	12	371
Salamander Bay	30	67	23	160
Toronto Sunrise	30	73.3	21	38
Wallsend Maryland	33	64	25	397.5
Waratah	21	93.2	1	27
Williamtown	21	77	15	522
	OCTOBER			2016
Kurri Kurri Sunrise	20	85		93.5

the working with children check

Clubs are reminded to send their member lists with **Working With Children (WWC)** numbers to the District Secretary, who will create an archive for the District.

This information is required **urgently** for new Insurance and Protection purposes.

Please send your list to habrotary@gmail.com.

So far only 20 clubs have responded out of 51!!

Please organise someone to do this very important check.



"If Rotary ceases to be a responsibility and becomes a mere relaxation or pastime, its usefulness will cease."

Paul Harris' message to the 1914 Convention at Houston.

