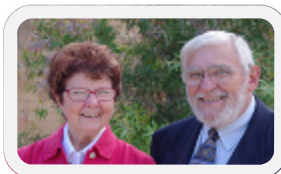


RE-DISTRICTING AND MEMBERSHIP

Welcome to the April Newsletter and Conference report.

The original redistricting proposal was to split District 9700 with part coming to 9670 and part to 9710. However Districts 9700 and 9710 have come to an agreement that they will merge and form one District.



The Sydney area Districts were redistricted a couple of years ago, and subject to further comments below, it is unlikely that there will be any revision of those Districts in the short term. When the re-arrangement of District which would have affected District 9670 was first mooted, District 9650 decided they did not want to join with District 9670, and this is still the case.

Essentially that leaves District 9670 out on a limb with nowhere to go. Our current membership is 1143. If we lose members and get down to 1100 members or less, Rotary International will become involved and will reallocate our area whether we like it or not. That could mean the northern parts going to District 9650, the southern parts east of the Sandstone Curtain going to the northern Sydney District, and the western parts to the new joint District.



The Answer is ...

The only way to stop the emasculation of District 9670 occurring is for this District to gain 150 members or more. If we have over 1300 members we will be "safe" from redistricting for some time. However Rotary International is moving towards Districts of not less than 75 clubs, with a total membership of not less than 2500 members, and the projected date for this to occur is 2020-2021. That means that Clubs need to think about, but more particularly, DO something, to get new members. It's a case of "Get your ASK into gear".

Look at those in your community who might be potential members! How long since your Club has done a Classification Survey? Look at the index to the yellow pages phone book, and then at the locals who advertise in it. Look at the pages in the local newspaper where local businesses advertise. Draw up a list of potential members and have members of your Club approach a number of them – but train the members first as to what to say and do. Think about doing a mail box drop in your local area to advertise what Rotary is and what Rotary does. We have to get rid of the "old, male, pale and stale" image and show a vibrant and effective image, one of responsible people with a social conscience doing something worthwhile in the community.

We need to become involved with social media and have a Facebook page, a Twitter account, maybe a LinkedIn page and subscribe to or adopt one of the other social media sites. We need to have an attractive Club website to which we can refer potential members. And we can think seriously about starting a satellite Club, having corporate membership of our own club, having family membership where a family pays one fee only, with the second member being subsidised by the Club through its financial arrangements.

We have to overcome the concept of a need to attend a meeting every week. Certainly we must have a regular involvement, but it does not mean, for example, that every Wednesday is a "Must Attend Rotary" situation. And can I urge you to look at the Club Confidential pages in the March edition of Rotary Down Under – not only the stories but the advertising example and take some action.

DISTRICT DIARY

April - 2017

18-23 Tue-Sun - RYLA
29 Sat - PETS East
30 Sun - District Assembly East

May - 2017

07 Sun - RLI, Eastern
08 Mon - Last months attendance and community hours emailed to District Attendance Officer, Peter Sivyver on ppsivyer@bigpond.com .
12 Fri - Presidents, AGs and Chairs meeting East
13 Sat - Presidents, AGs and Chairs meeting West
21 Sun - District Youth Summit and Training Session
22 Mon - Shelterbox Information Night
26 Fri - 27 Sat - MUNA, Muswellbrook
28 Sun - - RLI, Eastern

June - 2017

14 Wed-17 Fri - Science and Engineering Challenge, District West
30 Sat - YEP Assessment, Outbound Students

July - 2017

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

Any changes will be updated.

Howard Brian Grigor

I regret to announce the death of Howard Brian Grigor, OAM, PHF and holder of the RI Service Above Self Award`

He was born with the ability to change people's lives and he lived his life with that thought in mind through Rotary. Last Friday, our Howard was released from his recent pain and suffering, he passed away peacefully at the Mater. Our thoughts are with Lyn and his family.

Darcy Geale,
President, Rotary Club of Salamander Bay

SPECIAL DISTRICT CONFERENCE EDITION - 2016-17

The 2017 District Conference was held in Dubbo between 17th and 19th March last. Over 500 Rotarians, Partners, Exchange Students and visitors attended various sessions over 3 days.

The Conference started with a golf tournament on the Friday morning. Later in the day there was a Rotary Foundation Seminar. This was followed by a short memorial service to recognize the life and contribution to Rotary and other community causes of the late PDG Bart Richardson, who died on the previous Saturday.

A somewhat subdued District Governor's Cocktail Party then took place, and the conference really got under way on the Friday evening when registrants attended Old Dubbo Gaol for an informal evening of entertainment and fellowship.

Rotary International President John Germ apologised for not being able to attend the Conference, but appointed Past District Governor David Rands of Beecroft Club in Sydney to be his Personal Representative.

After the introductions on the Saturday morning at the Dubbo Regional Theatre and Convention Centre, including a welcome to country, PDG David passed on President John's wishes and spoke of the President's goals for 2016-17, firstly the eradication of poliomyelitis from the world, hopefully sooner than later, and also of the need to increase the membership of Rotary.

We were blessed with a bevy of speakers, some of whom had a similar theme or thread, but in other ways quite dissimilar. Leila Abukar told us of her escape from Somalia and her migration to Australia, where she continued with education and is now involved in disability support and conflict resolution. During a break in the Saturday evening entertainment she told us a little more about her family, some of whom are also in Australia. She was followed by Andrew Johnson, the NSW Advocate for Children and Young People, and he told us how he tries to work with young people and not be seen as working against them.

Len Kanowski has been involved with

Australian Rotary Health and is a mental health worker and related some of his experiences of work in that field, particularly with indigenous people, and he referred to the need for respect. John Harper continued the mental health awareness theme, but at a very local level, with his Mate helping Mate talk, and engineered a demonstration using some Youth Exchange Students to bring a person in need of help to someone who could give that help.



It was more than just asking "Are you OK?" – it was doing something positive about it to ensure that someone was OK or got help. Mark Horton spoke about Aid as opposed to Development, and the tension between helping and empowering people on the one hand, and creating a welfare mentality on the other where the "havenots" come to expect help without doing anything for it.

On the Sunday, Pip Job spoke about resilience in country people and businesses, among other things pointing out the need for succession planning if families and businesses are to continue to thrive – a lesson we in Rotary might learn.

Mathew Dickerson spoke of social and digital media, and pointed out that although we might not like it, these communication methods are here, are used by younger people and if we do not embrace them we, and Rotary, will be left behind. David Ward also spoke and told us that it was not necessary to trash the land to grow food – that there are ways of producing crops which are economically, environmentally and socially sound. He also referred to a sustainable agriculture Rotary Action Group

operating in Tasmania.

In addition to the keynote and major speakers there were breakout session speakers. Kevin Hollingsworth has lived with poliomyelitis since age 11 months. He led a full life nonetheless but is happy to remind those who have not experienced the disease to maintain the effort for its total eradication.

Gargi Ganguli of the Rotary Club of Dubbo spoke about the 1000 Toilets project in India – Project Dignity – which has been funded by the Rotary Club of Dubbo and others with the aid of a Global Grant from the Rotary Foundation.

Members of the Rotary Club of Dubbo South spoke of their club's Destination Outback project which operates every second year and raises considerable funds to enable the club to carry out its humanitarian work including support of the Royal Flying Doctor Service.

Col Stanford from the Rotary Club of Murrurundi (the District's smallest club in number terms) advertised the Murrurundi Model Train Festival in October and sought support from District clubs.

Members of the Rotary Club of Salamander Bay publicised the Spacim Picinini contraceptive project co-ordinated by one of their members in New Guinea which limits the increase in population and gives a significant boost to child and maternal health outcomes.



Youth Exchange students were obvious by their presence this year. Not only did they take part in the opening Parade of Flags, a number of them thanked the speakers for their presentation and presented them with a gift. In addition, they took part in a musical skit on the Saturday Evening and their presence at the dinner was certainly noticed. They also retrieved their country flags at the end of the Conference.

The Conference Committee decided on a change of format by moving the District Resolutions Session to the Sunday morning instead of holding it on the Saturday afternoon. This meant that conference attendees were able to have a bit of a look around Dubbo if they wished, or push up a few zeas if that mood overtook them.

Later that evening the District Governor's Dinner was held. Early on there were presentations of awards, some from the Rotary Foundation to Clubs which had made significant contributions, and then awards presented by the District Governor to Clubs which had done well in various fields during the year.

A list of the awardees appears elsewhere. But after the meal, the evening's entertainment commenced. The Youth Exchange students performed, and then the Big Band came on. They were simply marvellous. With 3 singers, they wowed the audience. The music was light, suitable for dancing, not too loud (or so the seniors tell me!) and most enjoyable.

DISTRICT CLUBS DIARY

May

- 6 Sat - Dinner Dance Fundraiser,
Wallsend-Maryland Rotary
- 8 Mon - Golf Day - Charlestown Rotary
- 20 Sat - Charity-ball, Muswellbrook
Rotary
- 22 Mon - ShelterBox Information
Night, Belmont Rotary
- 25 Thu - Movie Night Fundraiser,
Wallsend-Maryland Rotary

June

- 03 Sat - Changeover, Rotary Club of
Mudgee

It was a great evening!

As noted the Resolutions Session was held on the Sunday morning. A quorum was established, and what is hoped will be the final changes to the District Constitution were passed. The names of Assistant Governors who will be Club Representatives on the 2017-2018 District Board were announced.

The ballot to elect the District Representative and Alternate to the Triennial Council on Legislation/Council on Resolutions was declared. Further details of these appointments appear elsewhere. Under the Chairmanship of District Legal Officer Scott Lewis, this Resolutions session was completed in 34 minutes!

The conference resumed in the Dubbo Regional Theatre and Convention Centre with an In Memorium session recognizing those members who had died since the last conference. During the course of the morning, the visiting Group Study Exchange Team from Argentina was introduced and gave its presentation. Our team to visit Argentina in a few weeks time was also introduced.

Towards the end of the Conference, the District Governor for 2018-19, Brian Coffey and his wife Carol were introduced. Then next year's District Governor, Helen Ryan and husband Mike were introduced. Helen played a video advertising the Nelson Bay area, where the conference will be held in 2018. She introduced a couple of "surf lifesavers" who demonstrated a rescue using a lifesaving reel. I did not know until then that the "rope" used on the reel is in fact electrical cord!

MC Sally Bryant had done a sterling job keeping the program on time - that is, until the District Governor had his final say. He thought it was a great conference, and said so.

He had a number of people to thank, and a number of comments to make, so despite Sally's hovering in the background, he had his say. It seems he said the things the President's Personal Representative wanted to say, and left

little time for PDG David to do so. But at the risk of saying it again, I do extend my thanks to those who contributed to the success of the conference.

I thought it was good, and from the remarks made to me, obviously so did many others.

APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS

The new District Constitution is to come into force on 1st July, 2017. It provides for a District Board or Committee of 9 persons including in the first year 3 Assistant Governors chosen by the District Governor to represent the Clubs. In collaboration

with DGE Helen Ryan, Assistant Governors Stephen Cowley, Brian Oakley and Sharon Chambers have been selected and appointed as the

Club representatives on the Committee. In following years there will be an election for the positions of club representatives.

A ballot to determine the District Representative and Alternate for the Council on Legislation/Council on Resolutions for the triennial 2017-2020 was held in association with the District Conference Resolutions Session.

PDG Don Stephens was elected as the

HUMOUR

A priest was invited to attend a house party. Naturally, he was properly dressed and wearing his Priest's Collar.

A little boy kept staring at him the entire evening. Finally, the priest asked the little boy what he was staring at.

The little boy pointed to the priest's neck. When the priest realized what the boy was pointing at, he asked the boy; "Do you know why I am wearing that?"

The boy nodded his head yes, and replied, "It kills fleas and ticks for up to three months".



District Representative, with PDG Adrian Roach as the Alternate.

Congratulations to those appointed and elected to the respective positions.

DISTRICT AWARDS.

The Immediate Past District Governor, the District Governor, the District Governor Elect and the District Governor Nominee have reviewed the various trophies and awards made by the District each year. They decided that some no longer had any relevance and will therefore be discontinued.

Some other awards were given for very similar reasons, so they have been merged as one award. One award has had its name changed to reflect a more modern approach. Still others will be continued, but were not awarded this year.

The awards presented at the Conference were –

The Doug Mathews and Furthering the Objects of Rotary Award.

Now a joint award given to the Club which most fosters the ideal of service in the community and the advancement of goodwill and understanding, and which promotes the ideals of Rotary within and beyond its community.

Presented to the **Rotary Club of Raymond Terrace.**

The Jim Henderson Trophy.

Awarded to the Club having the highest standard and/or improvement in its bulletin.

Presented to the **Rotary Club of Charlestown.**

The Australian Rotary Health Trophy.

Recognises the Club which makes the most significant contribution to Australian Rotary Health from one District Conference to the next.

Awarded to the **Rotary Club of Charlestown.**

The Preserve Planet Earth Award.

In the absence of any nomination for the best environmental program of the year, the District Governor made the award jointly to the **Rotary Clubs of Mudgee and Mudgee Sunrise** for their efforts directed towards regeneration and rectification of the environment and support of affected residents following the Sir Ivan and Kains Flat fires to the north and north-east of their area.

The Shirley Stanley and Ted and Anne Lewis Award.

Another now joint award, given to the Club most involved in youth and young adult programs and engaged in extensive youth work in the community.

Presented to the **Rotary Club of Rylstone-Kandos.**

The Social and Digital Media Award.

The District Webpage Award has morphed into this award. The Judges said the website was clean, not crowded, easy to navigate and information relevant. The Facebook page showed the club in a positive light and did not portray Rotary stereotypes.

The award was given to the **Rotary Club of Singleton.**

The District Governor's Recognition for Exemplary Service.

There seems to be no criterion for this award. However the Club to which it was awarded was a contender for almost all of the earlier awards.

For this reason it was given to the **Rotary Club of Williamtown.**

Congratulations to all these Clubs.

ROTARY DISTRICT 9670				
CLUB NAME	MARCH, 2017			
	MEMBERSHIP NUMBER	ATTENDANCE %	RANK	COMMUNITY HOURS
Belmont	24	94.8	1	n/a
Cardiff	13	93	4	213.5
Denman	20	70	18	78
Dubbo	25	79.76	11	185
Dubbo Macquarie	20	90.48	5	220
Dubbo South	64	93.97	3	280
Dubbo West	41	80.8	10	153
East Maitland	33	84.72	7	56
Maitland	36	65	20	146
Maitland Sunrise	30	77	13	229
Merriwa	29	77.9	12	195
Myall Coast	22	55	25	143
Narromine	12	66	19	23
Nelson Bay	45	73.75	16	n/a
Newcastle Enterprise	27	71	17	118
Newcastle Harbour	20	62	21	10
Raymond Terrace	21	82.5	8	275
Rutherford Telarah	35	75.12	14	315
Salamander Bay	31	86	6	240
Toronto	19	60	24	76
Toronto Sunrise	29	61.2	23	80
Wallsend Maryland	33	61.61	22	162
Waratah	21	94.12	2	43
Williamtown	21	82	9	340

The Month of FEBRUARY				
Maitland Sunrise	30	75		194
Toronto	19	60		76



9670 DISTRICT CONFERENCE PHOTO ROUND-UP



We wish to thank
Henk Tobbe
Photography for
allowing us to use
these photos

