



Welcome to the New Year!

We trust you had a Happy Christmas, enjoyable New Year celebrations and that the rest of 2017 is kind to you!

District Conference

There are of course many Rotary events in which you can participate, not the least of which is the District conference to take place in Dubbo between 17th and 19th March. Every Rotarian within the District who has an email address listed in Clubrunner should have received recently a letter from the Chair of the Conference Committee, Andrew Graham, giving substantial detail of what is in store for participants.

Registration procedures are explained, early Bird booking dates have been extended, detail is given of the speakers and their subjects, and accommodation details have been included. It is up to each individual Rotarian to follow these through and make appropriate bookings!

Youth Exchange

The Youth Exchange Students who have been overseas for the best part of 12 months are now returning. No doubt some will have been sad to leave their "temporary" homeland, and some may find it hard to fit back into Australian society. There will be a debriefing for them following their year away at Merriwa on 4th February.

This year's outbound students are just about to step on the aircraft for their experience of a lifetime! The first of them left for Finland on the 14th January, and the remainder for their ultimate destinations on 20th January – 3 to North America, 4 to various parts of Central Europe and Scandinavia, 4 to other parts of Europe and one to Japan! Incoming YEP Chair David Roach and Amanda are travelling with some of the students. We wish them all safe flying!

Australia Day

There will of course be various celebrations for Australia Day on 26th January. Many Clubs are involved in local events taking place in their area, and Australia Day Ambassadors are invited to give a message to those attending. The ceremonies are usually pleasant events with musical performances, sometimes there is a citizenship ceremony, and often the awarding of recognitions to various citizens for their activities within the locality. Take a couple of hours out to take part, even if only as part of the audience – see what is happening in your local area!

District Governor

Rotary Activities for the District Governor resume in earnest early in February. Certainly there have been various things occurring during December-January, but it has been a bit less hectic than the first 5 months of the current Rotary year. There are a couple of return visits to clubs, one initial visit because the originally notified date was found to be unsuitable, and we have various District meetings to arrange and attend. Elsewhere in this Newsletter you will find an Events calendar for the remainder of the year.

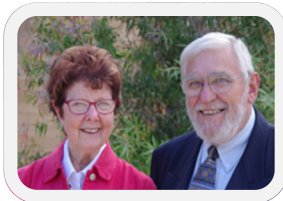


GROUP STUDY EXCHANGE - SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

Sponsorship by Bengalla Mining Pty. Limited

Farewell to GSE Teams

A farewell to the GSE teams is to take place at Toronto Yacht Club on Monday 10th April. It will be a joint farewell, to say thanks to the Argentinian Team who will be leaving to return home later that week, and a "bon voyage" to the District 9670



DISTRICT DIARY

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

- 03-05 Fri-Sun - RYPEN camp
- 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.
- 10 Mon - GSE Farewell
- 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.



team who will be leaving about 3 weeks later – they are to be in Buenos Aires on 5th May.

Since GSE ceased to be part of The Rotary Foundation and to be funded by it, those Districts which want to continue with the program are forced to find funding to cover the costs. As you know, we have arranged a GSE with Argentina. The cost of airfares is quite high – between \$1600 and \$2100 per person per return seat, depending on the day one travels.

Two of the team members are employed by Bengalla, or more correctly by Bengalla Mining Company Pty. Limited, based in Muswellbrook. A suggestion was made that the company might be prepared to provide some sponsorship for the GSE team and after an application was lodged, and terms of the grant were agreed upon, the District has received \$6,600 towards the costs of sending the team!

BENGALLA

The sponsorship terms are not onerous, and can easily be complied with. Essentially, we are to acknowledge Bengalla's interest by displaying their logo in our GSE advertising and promotional material, on the team's informal uniform (such as by a sleeve patch) and in the District Conference Program. The District is extremely grateful to Bengalla for this very generous sponsorship!

Inbound Argentinian Team Personnel

We have received scant information about the recently selected Argentinian GSE team who will visit around the time of our District Conference,

What we know so far, see to the right



No doubt further information will be forthcoming in following weeks.

REDISTRICTING

I said in the last Newsletter that there might be more on this in the January Newsletter. Well there is a bit more. At the conference in Sydney on 12th December, various suggestions were put forward. The main suggestion was that Districts 9670 and 9650 should merge, and Districts 9710 and 9700 should merge resulting in the formation of 2 Districts out of 4. A second suggestion was that Districts 9710, 9700 and 9670 should merge and make one large District out of 3. And the third suggestion was the one originally proposed, that is, that clubs in District 9700 north of Young join with District 9670 and those to the south join with District 9710, making two Districts out of three.

As to the first suggestion, a merger between Districts 9650 and 9670, District 9650 was not represented in Sydney – their representatives went to Brisbane because they thought their major interests lay to the north rather than the south. That meant their opinion could not be obtained on the day. Subsequently, however they indicated they were not interested in joining with District 9670, so option 1 could not be sustained.

The second option, to create one large district out of the three, became the favoured option, although it was realised that the resultant district would be massive in area and very difficult for a District Governor to manage under the current administrative arrangements. While this option was supported, it is fair to say that it was only done so with reservations. That meant the third option had to be considered. That option however meant splitting a district into two, something which was not considered to be very palatable to those in that District. Nevertheless it is a viable option.

Director Noel is making a report to the Districting Committee of Rotary International which I understand will give the first option as the District 9710, 9700 and 9670 merger, and the second option as the division of District 9700 into two with the northern part being added to District 9670 and the southern part to District 9710. We might hear more of this in April next.

Inbound Argentinian Team



TEAM LEADER -
ALEJANDRO TOPORKOV is the President of Rotary Club of La Plata Sur, and former GSE member to Australia. He holds a Masters Degree in Public Finance, a University Degree in Economy and in Accountancy.

GROUP MEMBERS



Gloria Carolina Alvez, sponsored by RC Cañuelas is in the final stage to obtain her University Degree in Public Translation and the University Degree in English Language Teaching.



Evelina Lamothe Coulomme from RC San Miguel del Monte, is an English Language Teaching Professional, graduate at Teacher Training College and teaches English at both Secondary Schools and Higher Education.



Verónica Elsa Vescio, from RC Berazategui, holds an Engineer's Degree in Chemistry.



Ayelen Melisa Gil, Sponsored by RC Ciudadela South, is a Lawyer.

HUMOUR

Wow, I think you went too far with the plastic surgery!



GSE TEAM 2017 ANNOUNCED

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 and 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.

HUMOUR



DEATH OF FORMER EXCHANGE STUDENT

On December 14th last, a former District 9670 Rotary Exchange Student to Poland, Jennifer Bates nee Phelan died following a tragic traffic accident at Wickham in Newcastle. She was riding her motor scooter to work when a vehicle struck the scooter and pushed it into a fence. The injuries Jennifer suffered were serious and she died either on the way to or shortly after arrival at hospital. The driver of the vehicle left the scene but later surrendered to Police. He has been charged with dangerous driving causing death and failing to stop and render assistance.

Jennifer was the daughter of a former President of East Maitland Rotary Club, Ken Phelan and a former President of the Rotary Club of Maitland Sunrise, Kathryn Bennett. Jen was born in Coventry, England, but the family came to Australia when she was quite young. She was the first exchange student nominated by the Rotary Club of Maitland Sunrise. After her year in Poland, Jennifer returned to Australia and studied architecture.

She was employed as an architect by NSW Public Works at the time of her death, and had recently been promoted to be a team leader. She was a member of a group named Beyond Zero Emissions, which attempts to reduce the greenhouse gas footprint in the atmosphere.

Jen had worked with underprivileged people in the Philippines. She married Jordi Bates in 2011 and in 2014 they went to Bhutan, the land of the Thunder Dragon, for 12 months while Jordi completed an assignment with Australian Volunteers for International Development. Jen also did volunteer work and became quite interested in Bhutanese Architecture.

Jennifer was to be a speaker at the forthcoming District Conference in Dubbo, talking about the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, but obviously her death means that will not occur. Who is to replace her, and what the subject might be, has yet to be decided.

The District extends its heartfelt sympathy to Jennifer's wider family on the loss of this vibrant and energetic young citizen.

WORKING WITH CHILDREN.

The District has now established a policy in relation to checks for people who work with children. It is based on the extent of the unsupervised contact likely to occur between any Rotarian or family member and a young person.

The greater the possibility of unsupervised contact, the more stringent the screening or checking needs to be, but the corollary is that if there is little likelihood of such contact, then the checking can be significantly less stringent.

The policy document, and a form which those in the "full screening" category will be required to complete, is contained in information sent to each President and Secretary in the last few days as part of the Friday Notices. Those Club Officers should make arrangements to either send to, or print and distribute a copy of the policy document and form, to those members likely to be in the "full screening" category. It will do no harm if every member of the club becomes aware of the policies and procedures involved.

The first page of the document contains a Quick Reference Recommendation, and while it is a start, it should **not** be read in isolation, indeed the whole document really needs to be read.

What is most important, though, is that each Club or District Committee appoints a Child Protection Officer, part of whose function is to verify the Working with Children Check status of each club member or committee member. Further detail of what is required is contained in the policy document. While it is not a "big brother" situation, clubs and members should be aware that the NSW Office of Children's Guardian is auditing compliance with this process.

Kind regards to all,
Stephen Jackson
District Governor



Speakers planned for the District Conference



Leila Abukar



Andrew Johnson
Today's youth



Len Kanowski
*Effective partnerships
in dealing with mental
health*



John Harper
Mate helping Mate

Kevin Hollingsworth – Polio



Mathew Dickerson
*Social media to help
Rotary serve humanity*



Pip Job
*Resilience of rural
women*



Mark Horton
Aid versus development

District Conference Registration

Early bird registration for the 2017 District Conference, '9670 Serving Humanity', is now available. You can register via <https://www.123tix.com.au/events/502/2017-rotary-district-9670-conference>

By registering now, you can save 10% off your registration.

Early bird registrations extended to **Friday, 3 February, 2017**. There is a paper version of the registration available. However, you will have to get a member from your club to process the registration online.

More information can be found at www.rotary9670.org.au and will be updated when available.

DISTRICT CLUBS DIARY

January - 2017

28 - "Country Music Train," The Rotary Club of Maitland

February

4 & 5 - Annual Book Fair, Rotary Club of Toronto Sunrise

11 - Special Dinner, Rotary Club of Nelson Bay

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

25 - 50 Years for Warren Rotary Club - Warren Rotary Club

26 - Paddlefest, Rotary Club of Toronto Sunrise

26 - Golf Day - Rotary Club of Maitland Sunrise

ROTARY DISTRICT 9670		December		2016
CLUB NAME	MEMBERSHIP NUMBER	ATTENDANCE %	RANK	COMMUNITY HOURS
Belmont	24	88.1	6	-
Cardiff	13	50	24	30
Charlestown	48	84	8	155
Denman	18	84	8	107
Dubbo	25	74.6	19	228
Dubbo Macquarie	21	92.86	3	101.5
Dubbo South	63	97.08	2	222
Dubbo West	42	91.59	4	210
East Maitland	33	86	7	90
Kurri Kurri Sunrise	20	100	1	78.5
Maitland	37	69	21	200
Maitland Sunrise	30	81	10	29
Merriwa	31	77.75	15	-
Myall Coast	28	75	18	190
Nelson Bay	49	80.39	11	tba
Newcastle Enterprise	28	72	20	67
Newcastle Harbour	17	79	13	30
Raymond Terrace	21	76.67	17	325
Rutherford Telarah	37	79.31	12	10
Salamander Bay	30	66	22	100
Toronto Sunrise	30	65.6	23	22
Wallsend Maryland	33	76.8	16	72
Waratah	21	90.7	5	96
Williamtown	21	79	13	146

SMILE

Police officer: "Can you identify yourself, sir?"

Driver pulls out his mirror and says:
"Yes, it's me."

"I'd like to buy a new boomerang please.

Also, can you tell me how to throw the old one away?"