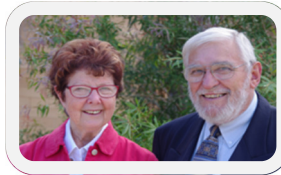




POLIO UPDATE

The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation is on record as commenting "We're awed by the teams of vaccinators who take risks to reach each child, and we're inspired by the infinite persistence of Rotary International. They were leading this fight long before we joined it, and they've just kept moving forward. They know that going from 350,000 cases a year to 37 (in 2016) is amazing, but success is zero."



If you've wondered why I seem to keep mentioning polio eradication, I say there are 3 reasons.

The first is that the world is now closer to seeing the elimination of poliomyelitis than it has ever been. After the last case of infectious smallpox was diagnosed in 1977, that disease was declared to have been eliminated in 1979. Another infectious disease, rinderpest, which mainly affected cattle, was declared eliminated in 2011. Poliomyelitis is another such infectious disease and we are being told that its elimination is "this close". So far this year, as at 22nd February 2017, just 3 cases of Wild Polio Virus Type 1 have been confirmed, 2 in Afghanistan and one in Pakistan. This is an incredible result.

The second reason is that the battle is not yet over. Samples containing the virus are still being found, particularly in sewage in poor countries.

While ever it remains, it poses a risk to the health of the population and particularly of children. Vaccination teams in Afghanistan and Pakistan, and also in Nigeria where there was an outbreak last year, have intensified their efforts to get into areas previously impossible because of ongoing conflict. Money is required to support these vaccination teams, and donations to give effect to this work are still being sought.

And the third is closely allied to the second. *End Polio Now* is the District Governor's Partner's project for 2016-17. As we progress towards the end of the year, Clubs may find that there are funds available which have not been allocated to local projects. Clubs which have such funds to spare are encouraged to send those funds to the District Treasurer as a donation to the Partner's Project. Clubs might even put on a special fundraiser to support the project!



ROTARY'S PARLIAMENT

I referred to the Council on Legislation and the Council on Resolutions in the last newsletter. Clubs were asked to nominate Past District Governors as the District's representative on the Councils. Four PDGs have been nominated, so a ballot to decide who will be the representative and alternate representative is required. Ballot papers to enable a vote to be taken have been distributed to Clubs. Votes are to be submitted at the District Conference, and will be counted after voting closes at 7.30pm on the Saturday evening. The result of the ballot will be announced during the Resolutions Session on the Sunday morning.

DISTRICT DIARY

March - 2017

17 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 updated.

VALE BART RICHARDSON

It is with great regret that I advise that Past District Governor Barton Dalyell Richardson OAM, universally known in the District as Bart Richardson, of the Rotary Club of Nelson Bay, died on 11th March, 2017, after a short illness.

Bart was a long-term member of Rotary and was the District Governor of the then District 967 in 1986-87.

At this time no funeral arrangements are known, but it is expected that those details will be published in the Newcastle Herald in the next few days.

BUSHFIRES

The whole of the State of New South Wales has recently been impacted by uncontrolled fires in rural areas, commonly called bushfires. One of the most disappointing things is that at least some of the fires have apparently been deliberately lit.

This District has been quite severely impacted by these fires. While there has been a sprinkling of fires right throughout the District, the most extensive were the Sir Ivan fire in Dunedoo area which spread east towards Cassilis, and the Kains Flat fire to the north-east of Mudgee which spread to the north. In the Sir Ivan Fire, some 55,000 hectares of land were burnt, and in the Kains Flat, about 7000 hectares were burnt. At this time it is known that 31 houses, 104 out-buildings, a church and a community hall were lost, but the count is still rising as landholders venture back into the central area of the fires. Only 3 houses in the small village of Uarby remained. There were huge stock losses, something in the order of 10,000 sheep and 2,000 cattle. As well as all that, in excess of 5500 kilometres of fencing was destroyed.

Many people are rallying to assist those who have lost almost everything. Some agencies are accumulating furniture and household goods, others obtaining donations of food, still others are searching out clothing. But finding suitable accommodation for the people who have lost their homes is not an easy task.

Blazeaid, a volunteer organisation which provides labour to assist in re-fencing after fires and floods, has established bases at Cassilis and Dunedoo. It expects to be operating in those areas for 6 months or perhaps longer. While it supplies labour it does not provide fencing materials. On my rough calculations, a basic 4-plain 1-barb fence on timber posts with steel Y posts and droppers between (OK for cattle but not sheep) would cost about \$1600 per kilometre with no allowance for gates. For 5,500km, that's \$8.8 million. Add to that the estimated replacement costs for houses, sheds, machinery, seed, fertilizer and other property lost and it is not hard to get to \$15 million.

The Rotary Clubs of Mudgee and Mudgee Sunrise have started an appeal for money. In some ways, this is a sensible way of helping because it means that people who qualify for assistance can use it to purchase what they consider is most important for them. Details of how to contribute appear shortly.

What follows is an edited version of a recent statement by Rotarian Margaret Barnes, Campaign Co-ordinator of the Rotary Central West NSW Bushfire Appeal and published in the Mudgee Guardian newspaper:

HUMOUR

My daughter came home from school one day complaining of stomach pains. I told her maybe its empty, so put something in it.

Later that evening my boss came by to pick something up and complained about having a headache. My daughter was standing there and told him, "that's because its empty, try putting something in it."

"The Mudgee Rotary fundraising campaign to help farmers, businesses and families suffering devastation from the recent bushfires has met with an overwhelming response. Rotary and other organisations from the Central West and as far away as Queensland and Tasmania are also responding to our call for help.

"We have been deeply moved by the level of support, with donations flooding in to various collection

Come play golf at the District Conference



Enjoy part or all of the beautiful 27 hole Dubbo Golf Course

Hit off any time between 8 am and 12 noon Friday 17th March.

Main hit off time 8.30 a.m.

Play 9 holes or 18 holes (There are 2 trophies).

Please indicate your interest by emailing to: PDG Don Stephens donjstephens@bigpond.com for an Application form

Youth Exchange Program for year 2017-2018



On behalf of District Governor Steve Jackson and the Rotary District Youth Exchange Program Committee, I would like to extend an invitation to your Rotary Club to participate in the Youth Exchange Program for the next Rotary year of 2017/2018.

The program requires careful advanced planning to ensure that an inbound student's arrival is positive and that your Club is prepared. To facilitate this, the District YEP Committee has information available for your Club to inform your Officers and Club members about the program for next year.

The YEP Committee appreciates that the decision to host a Rotary Youth Exchange Student is not something to be taken lightly and has to be made in the Rotary year before the student actually arrives.

Consequently, the decision to host a student has to be made by the existing Club Board in consultation with the incoming President and Board for the 2017/2018 Rotary year. As Club elections usually take place in December, the YEP Committee suggest that this matter be discussed with the incoming President and Board as soon as possible.

ROMAC COMMITTEE OPPORTUNITY

Rotary Oceania Medical Aid for Children (ROMAC) are seeking a D9670 member to assist us in attending a ROMAC meeting in Sydney.

The day will provide a broad introduction to ROMAC and the way we go about providing the necessary support to our children.

D9670 Chair Lyn Thorpe is not in a position to attend for personal reasons, but would be your first port of call for information. 0428011056 / 49425559.

The Rotary Zone 7B and 8 Australian and New Zealand District Governor Elect and District Governor Nominee ROMAC representatives happen to be our own DGE Helen Ryan and DGN Brian Coffey – both have PETS commitments that weekend.

We would appreciate you sharing this with any member you feel would be interested in joining this rewarding program.

Much of it is very low volume administration and promotion, if and when we get a child for our District, the heat turns up a notch.

Our last completed project was Charlie (2013), two more girls have arrived since for assessment and returned home deciding against the medical procedures – the workload is not demanding.

Eastern Region Meeting:

Date: 1 April 2017

Venue: Serenity Room, Ronald McDonald House, Barker St, Randwick

Time: 9am to 4pm

This is a good opportunity to provide an introduction to the ROMAC Program for those who may be interested in engaging with ROMAC and providing much needed support to Lyn.

The Agenda covers:

- ROMAC Structure, Roles, Policy, Procedures and Guidelines (otherwise known as the Manual of Procedures)
- Eastern Region structure and modus operandi
- Introduction of Eastern Region Medical Consultant Dan Sachdev and discuss his role
- Ideal District structures
- ROMAC eHR (Electronic Health Records) and support systems
- Facebook and Website promotion (ROMAC Marketing Consultant Chris Joscelyne to hopefully come along)
- Fund raising opportunities
- Club presentation material

points in our town and around the region. A special mention goes to the pupils of St. Matthew's School who used their Mufti Day to raise over \$1,100.

"There are many areas in which urgent support is needed, and those affected are currently being assessed by the Rural Financial Counselling Service. Based on their guidance, this week we will be releasing 60% of the funds raised to date to assist those who most urgently need help.

"We still have a long way to go if we are to make a real difference. It will take many months for those affected to rebuild their lives, so our fundraising efforts will continue for as long as help is needed." she concluded.

Anyone who wishes to make a fully taxable donation to the appeal can do it on-line at www.mudgeerotary.wordpress.com or www.portal.clubrunner.ca/9576.

CHARLESTOWN/NEWCASTLE APPEAL IN AID OF FIRE VICTIMS.

For those in the eastern part of the District, the Rotary Clubs of Charlestown and Newcastle are holding a dinner to raise funds to assist victims of the Sir Ivan, Kains Flat and other fires at CHARLESTOWN BOWLING CLUB, ON TUESDAY 21ST MARCH at 6 for 6.30pm. Cost \$40 per head.

Special Guest Speaker will be Scot McDonald, MLC, Parliamentary Secretary for the Central Coast and formerly The Hunter.

Those wishing to attend should contact Chris Lancaster, 0414 721 700 by 16th March next.

DISTRICT CONFERENCE

This event will be taking place in Dubbo, in the centre of District 9670 very shortly, but it's not too late to register! Information about how to do so is contained in the Weekly Notices issued by the District Secretary, and on the webpage www.rotary9670.org.au You can also find a draft program there, which will give you some insight of what is in store! The Rotary International President John Germ's Personal Representative will be Past District Governor David Rands, from Beecroft in Sydney. He and wife Anne will be with us during the whole of the conference period. Please make yourself known to him!

THANKS FROM MARGARET GEDDES

I recently received a telephone call from Margaret Geddes, whose husband PDG Bob Geddes died in January last. Margaret sincerely thanks all Rotarian families who offered their support during Bob's last illness including the final two months of his life. She was also very appreciative that a large number of Rotarians were able to say farewell to him by attending his funeral at Toronto.

Till next month,

DG Steve

MEET THE ARGENTINIANS

Date and Time : 23rd March
6pm for 6-30pm

Where : Muswellbrook RSL Club

Scone and Muswellbrook are holding a joint function at Muswellbrook RSL to showcase our guests, the Argentinian GSE Team. This will be an opportunity for surrounding clubs to meet with and enjoy the presentation of this multi talented group.

The evening including dinner will be \$35 per head.

RSVP - 16th March :
Grant Jupe 0405 294 910
grant.jupe@mbk.rh.com.au
Regards, John Vandine
Secretary, The Rotary Club of
Muswellbrook Inc.

DISTRICT CLUBS DIARY

March

12 - Loop the Lake - Rotary Club of Warners Bay

17 - Golf Day - Rotary Club of Dubbo

23 - Argentinian Group Study Exchange presentation night - Rotary Clubs of Scone and Muswellbrook

28-31 - Science & Engineering Challenge - Rotary Club of Dubbo Macquarie

31 - Trivia Night - Rotary Club of Waratah

May

8-Golf Day - Rotary Club of Charlestown

INSTRUCTIONS ON HOW TO REGISTER FOR THE 2017 DISTRICT CONFERENCE

Google "Rotary 9670" or go to www.rotary9670.org.au.

On the left hand side of the Home Page, under 'Site Pages',

click on "Rotary District 9670 Conference".

On the left hand side, under 'Links', click on "To Register".

This will take you to the Registration Page.

Indicate which sessions you want to attend and for how many people.

Click on "Continue".

Enter the details required.

Click "Continue".

PLEASE NOTE: At the bottom of the page, you will need to tick the box to acknowledge the "Terms and Conditions".

Once processed, you will receive the tickets via email, which you can print off, either straight away or at a later date.

155 Darling Street,
Dubbo, NSW, 2830,
Australia

17th March 2017 to 19th March 2017

ROTARY DISTRICT 9670		FEBRUARY, 2017		
CLUB NAME	MEMBERSHIP NUMBER	ATTENDANCE %	RANK	COMMUNITY HOURS
Belmont	24	89	1	n/a
Cardiff	13	75	9	52
Denman	16	72	13	71
Dubbo	25	66.67	22	106
Dubbo Macquarie	20	85.7	2	168
Dubbo South	63	80.26	7	193
Dubbo West	41	83.1	5	112
East Maitland	33	84.84	3	43
Kurri Kurri Sunrise	20	75	9	61
Maitland	36	70	14	129
Maitland Sunrise	30	75	9	194
Merriwa	30	77.08	8	112
Myall Coast	27	70	14	265
Narromine	12	60	24	ns
Nelson Bay	48	73.36	12	270
Newcastle Enterprise	27	64	23	113
Newcastle Harbour	20	83	6	20
Raymond Terrace	21	70	14	235
Rutherford Telarah	35	67.28	21	83
Salamander Bay	32	68	20	240
Toronto Sunrise	30	70	14	360
Wallsend Maryland	33	69.6	19	440
Waratah	21	83.33	4	76
Williamtown	19	70	14	151



ROTARY AUSTRALIA
WORLD COMMUNITY
SERVICE

9670 ROMAC COMMITTEE OPPORTUNITY

This event is open to all Rotarians, friends and volunteers to come along and hear a few of the RAWCS Projects of District 9670 showcased.

Saturday afternoon's informative session, which will be held from 2pm to 4.30pm is FREE, while the evening two-course dinner, which is 6.30pm for 7pm start, will cost \$40 per person.

Sunday morning sessions will be conducted from 9am to midday with members being welcome to the General Meeting.

This is a fantastic opportunity, where all the Eastern Region projects are summarised and you can find out about exciting Rotary projects throughout the world and contact with the managers.

Bookings will be available closer to the date.

FROM THE CONFERENCE

Conference is supposed to be finalised at about midday but it is usually the case that it goes a bit longer.

The committee decided against doing lunch, so if people left Dubbo at about 12.30, it would be possible to get to Merriwa by about 2.30.

Those who are travelling east planning to stop for a late BBQ lunch at Merriwa.

Sir Ivan Bush Fire Appeal at Merriwa Sports Club.

All proceeds raised toward those affected by the Sir Ivan Bush Fire.



Cake, Slice, Scone Stall from 10am.

Kids' activities from 10am

Entertainment from 4pm.

Face painting and jumping castle

BBQ Lunch 12noon

Auction from 2pm

**Des Snelgrove 0418275766
President**

**Merriwa Sports Club
19th March 2017**

Club 0265482028

All proceeds raised goes toward those affected by the Sir Ivan Bush Fire