



Coffey Break 2019 District Conference

Special Conference Edition

April 2019



With the 2019 District Conference behind us it is gratifying, as the District Governor, to reflect on the work of all those involved and the support of the members and friends of District 9670 to make it a success. There has been nothing but praise for the event.

Preparation started in 2016 with various venues visited in Taree, Tamworth, Newcastle, Maitland, Lake Macquarie, Cessnock and the Central Coast testing the criteria we had for selection. We discovered Newcastle and the Hunter Region are difficult to lock-in due to unpredictable, large concerts having understandable economic priority for venues and accommodation, while others could not meet our access, catering and accommodation needs.

Club Forster ticked all the boxes from the investment improvements in sound and audio, to the available space, cooperation, catering prices and sponsorship. The vast accommodation options could cater to members, who we were informed preferred to travel. It certainly paid off.

The assistance, cooperation, respect and friendship from Gina and the staff at Club Forster was a credit to their workplace culture.

Sponsors for the event were forthcoming (some had to be rejected due to duplication) with 28 being supportive; these generous sponsors realised that the exposure potential was 1100 members, partners, friends and family of the District from Newcastle to Bourke.

From the initial interest meeting we ended up with 41 willing workers chipping in for various roles and workloads to make the event work and flow as it did. PDG Peter Raynor organised a **'Meat and Greet' BBQ** on Thursday night hosted by our D9670 Recreational Vehicles Fellowship of Rotarians (RVFR) at the Big 4 Tuncurry.

It was immediately identified that this was the start of something big when an unprecedented 90 members registered for a sensational night of informal fellowship. All surplus funds went to The Rotary Foundation, in addition to the innovative **'virtual sausage'** fundraiser introduced by PDG Janette Jackson.



Above..... Club Forster

Below Thank You Gina (Event Manager) & Louise (Catering)



Continued page 2

Friday was the start of the real fun – with all the promotional material prepared and packed, equipment in tow, the team swung into action and transformed the upper deck into Rotary D9670 with House of Friendship and Registrations in full swing. The Registration team reported that Friday was the busy day with a constant stream of registrations, and again support from Club staff for administrative assistance.



Saturday registrations were reportedly slow, and Sunday was hardly needed.

The name tags (copied from Nelson Bay 2018) were again a hit. The Registration team were happy with their work and the cooperation of only 2 members to sort out errors.

A big thank you to the Clubs who also assisted in getting the voting slips in for the Division Club Representatives without any fuss.

We were overwhelmed with the Friday dinner registrations and we had the magnificent duo 'Angamus' entertaining us.



Unfortunately, the numbers and weather forced us into an adjoining room and many missed out on hearing the wonderful music. However, the volume of conversation and staying power of the crowd confirmed they were there for a good time and friendship. The food quality and quantity certainly stopped many in their tracks.

Saturday was the official opening of the Conference. After a hearty breakfast, again with large numbers listening to Amanda Gascoigne, who give us 5 business tips that are so readily transferred to any club situation, we headed to a darkened theatre. Many attendees reported goose bumps from the opening presentation of 'Sun Arise' as we rapidly toured across the District from the Myall Coast to Bourke and then onto the rich Australian nature and history.

The didgeridoo greeting by Elder Pastor Russell Saunders prior to the '**Welcome to Country**', was followed by another fitting rendition, accompanied by PDG Brian Beesley (D9650), to welcome the flags of the world to the country.



A mark of respect by 1 minute's silence for those who had passed in the New Zealand Christchurch mosque attack followed.

We then had the first real opportunity to see the amazing, youthful MC's Anna (D9675) and Liam step up to the plate – their first Conference as MC's! They astounded and entertained us all with their wit, knowledge and articulation.



Fortune was shining on us when I learned that we were to be graced with the Rotary International Presidents Personal Representative, James Wilcox and his wife Kathy, from Tasmania to open the Conference – and they did so with high expectations following on from the previous 2 days while being hosted by PDG Helen and Mike Ryan.

James and Kathy were very warm and welcoming as they mingled with Conference participants.

Some wonderful speakers then treated us over the weekend as we addressed the 6 areas of focus in Rotary, plus more. The speakers appeared with the hard hitting, Past Rotary International Director Noel Trevaskis, and into the dynamic breakout sessions with PDG Adrian Roach alerting us to opportunities outside the club, Alan Morrison and Safari (*Supporting Education*), Eleni Comino was wonderful with her inaugural Conference presentation on Morissets' RAWCS project (*Saving mothers and Children*), the ever entertaining District Treasurer Patrick Healey, and another newcomer in Matt Schultz (*Promoting Peace*). This session left the attendees wanting another opportunity to visit others they could not see.

A standing ovation for Keynote Speaker Ron Delezio was appropriate as he shared life changing challenges after the dreadful accident with Sophie. Dr James Charles had a hard act to follow, but certainly delivered with his Australian Rotary Health work to fight disease amongst Aboriginal communities suffering from foot abnormalities (*Fighting Disease*).

Dinner that night was a room of colour as members adorned their head in some fine and some exotic millinery to enjoy the magnificent meal and entertainment.



The music was provided by a magical Newcastle band – 'Love That Hat'.



Sunday saw some weary faces and eyes return for another huge breakfast choice and learn from Brian and Sue Morgan about their SIMS project in Cambodia (*Providing clean water, sanitation and hygiene, Supporting education and growing local economies*).

Members were as one as we were led by PP Judith Hicks to silently honour the 13 Rotarians who had passed in the last year. Their 'In Memoriam' recognitions came up on screen to an appropriate rendition of 'He A'int Heavy' and 'Wind Beneath My Wings'.

The Sunday session then burst back to energy as those members would have wished with Dr Peter Haertsch sharing his amazing Interplast stories (*Saving Children*) before getting another wakeup call from past YEP student Rebecca Bachmann (Norway) with her take on young people and Rotary. The final speakers were Nathan Johnston and Glenn Gorick (fresh from a Saturday Ironman event) who shared the challenges and triumphs of the blind Nathan in overcoming his adversity to rise to an elite blind athlete in the ironman competitions.

Not to leave a stone unturned, DGE Graeme showcased the **2020 D9670 Conference** set down for **Belmont 16's from 20-22 March 2020**. We are confident that the current Conference certainly provided a platform for Graeme and his team to gain continued momentum and support for next years event from the very enthusiastic audience.

In closing the Conference, the fact that James felt the Conference had spoken for itself was, personally rewarding for the hard work the team put in and graciously accepted.

Immediately after the Conference, 'The Rotary Foundation' had over 35 members in attendance to hear of various District 9670 projects, while providing accreditation opportunity for some clubs.

We set out with a theme of '**Positive People = Positive Action**'; from the feedback, we are humbled and proudly confident that it was delivered.

Heart most thanks from Carol and myself go to all those on the ride – not always smooth – but we got there; and the biggest thanks to those who were able to come and enjoy such a friendly weekend.

Yours in Rotary, Brian

District 9670 Conference

March 15-17, 2019 | Club Forster



**positive
PEOPLE**

= (equals)

**positive
ACTIONS**



BE THE INSPIRATION

*"With the 2019 District Conference behind us it is gratifying,
as the District Governor to reflect on the work of all those
involved and the support of the members and friends of
District 9670 to make it a success.*

There has been nothing but praise for the event."

DG Brian Coffey



Our dedicated 2019 District Conference team



Official party assemble for Opening Ceremony



YEP students ready for the parade of flags



320 Rotarians , family and friends gather for the Conference dinner



"Job well done"



SPONSOR RECOGNITION

In grateful appreciation for your generous donations
and community partnerships to enable and support
our 2019 Rotary District Conference

"We could not have done it without you!"

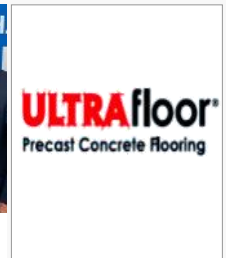
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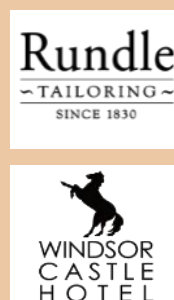
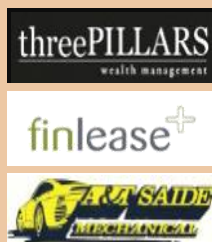
Gold



Silver



Bronze



Private Sponsors

Kath Botterill, Dal & Maurine Osbourne

Annual Trophies

As an integral part of the Conference, the following recipients of the District 9670 - Annual Trophies were announced. Congratulations to the successful Clubs.

Jim Henderson Trophy

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



and the winner is.....WARATAH

Preserve Planet Earth Trophy

Awarded to the Club with the best environmental program for the year.



and the winner is.....COBAR

The Australian Rotary Health Trophy

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



and the winner is.....DUBBO SOUTH

Promotional and Digital Marketing Award

Awarded to the Club that shows the most creative design and current information on their social media and web pages.



and the winner is.....WALLSEND - MARYLAND

Ted and Ann Lewis Memorial Award

Awarded to a Rotary Club in recognition of their services to Youth.



and the winner is.....NEWCASTLE ENTERPRISE

The Doug Matthews Trophy and Furthering the Object of Rotary Award

Awarded to the Club that most promotes and fosters the ideals of Rotary and Rotary Service in its community and the advancement of goodwill and understanding.



and the winner is.....NEWCASTLE SUNRISE

Shirley Stanley Memorial Award

Awarded to the Club most involved in activities for youth and young adults.



and the winner is.....Rutherford-Telarah

ANNOUNCEMENT

District Governor Nominee Designate 2021-22



Amanda Roach, a member of the Rotary Club of Rylstone-Kandos, has been announced as the District Governor Nominee Designate for 2021-22

Amanda joined Rotary in 2004 and has worked as a Senior School Counsellor and a Youth Mental Health Trainer. She has been President of her club, Rylstone-Kandos, on five occasions and has been recognised as a Paul Harris Fellow + Sapphire.

At a District level, Amanda has been the Youth Protection and Welfare Officer and a member of RANZE and YEP committees. Currently, Amanda is the Assistant Governor for Zone 3.

(photo above shows Amanda with DG Brian and Rotary International President's Personal Representative, PDG James Wilcox, following Amanda's announcement at the District Conference.)

Nelson Bay Rotary Club donates to ShelterBox Australian Rotary Health & Rotary Foundation

Nelson Bay Club made three donations to very worthy causes at the District Conference.

Firstly, (photo right) shows ShelterBox Ambassador, Chris McGrath accepting a \$5,000 donation on behalf of ShelterBox for its continuing work in helping people to rebuild homes and transform their lives after the chaos of disaster and conflict.



Carol Coffey (photo below) was thrilled to accept a \$6,000 donation for her DG Partner' project "Lift the Lid" to help Australian Rotary Health's continuing research into mental health within Australia.



The final donation of \$6,000 (photo below) was made to The Rotary Foundation to help the continuing objective to create positive change in communities at home and around the world.



ShelterBox recognises the outstanding support and dedication of our Clubs



Three of our Clubs; Nelson Bay, Waratah & Cessnock have been recognised with 'Bronze Champion Awards' for their with annual giving over three consecutive years.

The photo (far left) shows Chris McGrath (Waratah) and (near left) Kathy Rimmer (Nelson Bay) accepting their Club awards from DG Brian at the District Conference.



Amanda Gascoigne
*Five Ways to Stay Positive
in Business*



Pastor Russell Saunders
Welcome to Country



RIPPR PDG James Wilcox
*Official Opening &
Conference Closure*



PRID Noel Trevaskis
*Change; Rotary's Story,
Your Story*



PDG Adrian Roach
Rotary Opportunities



**Alan Morrison &
Safari Kimanathi**
*Maitland Sunrise's SEAK
Education Project*



Eleni Comino
*RAWCS
Morogoro Project*



Patrick Healey
*Unlock the Hidden Values
within your Club*



Matt Schultz
"Give Peace a Chance"



Andrew Marselos
RYPEN Success Story

**An outstanding program of inspirational speakers
who generously donated their time to help
deliver an amazing District conference.**



Geoff & Judy Hicks - In Memoriam



MC's Anna Hoyles & Liam James



Ron Delezio
*Understanding the needs
of the Community*



Dr James Charles
*Australian Rotary
Health Projects*



Brian & Sue Morgan
SIM's Cambodia



Dr Peter Haertsch
Amazing Interplast Stories



Rebecca Bachmann
Youth in Rotary



**Nathan Johnston &
Glen Gorick**
*Overcoming Adversity
Through Sport*



DGE Graeme Hooper
2020 Conference



Youth Exchange Program (Inbound Team) - Presentation

*Thank
you*

*A huge thank you to Henk Tobbe, Phil Smith
& George Koncz for capturing and sharing
such wonderful images of our 2019 Conference.*



"Thanks again for putting on an amazing Conference. It is a credit to the District."

"Outstanding speakers presented informative, inspirational and enjoyable presentations which were enthusiastically acknowledged by the appreciative audience."

"Congratulations to all; very good speakers, met the theme of Positivity and inspired all. Well done."

Nelson Bay

"Congratulations Team on a job well done and a very enjoyable Conference. Enjoyed meeting old faces, great speakers and the food and entertainment was really enjoyable."

Toronto Sunrise

"Huge congratulations on a most excellent Conference! It was more than obvious that the team had put in a tremendous amount of work to present a conference that was full of inspiring speakers and that flowed well."

Warners Bay

"Most of us were first-time Conference attendees. Learnt so much about Rotary."

Well organised and so inspired by the speakers who told their stories with such emotion. Will be back again next year."

Mudgee

"Thank you – great conference"

Rebecca Bachman

Your conference had a very professional and informative feel to it.

Ron Delezio

Thank you for all the comments that have been posted or forwarded to us regarding the Conference. We are pleased to share some of these comments.

Congratulations
to our Conference
organising team.



"We learnt so much, reconnected with old friends, and made so many new ones. We take our hats off to Rotary District 9670 for putting on such an amazing show!"

Newcastle Enterprise

"Congratulations on a fantastic conference"

"It was a fantastic conference great to see the sponsors come onboard to make it so good and to all the first class speakers thanks for your inspiration"

Kurri Kurri

"You Absolutely nailed it"

Toronto

"320 Rotarians from our District attended an excellent Conference.... We listened to many inspiring speakers."

"The annual Conference is an opportunity for all Rotarians to be inspired & share ideas with like minded people."

Raymond Terrace

"Great Conference. Glad to part of it."

Greenhills Maitland

"Anybody who can, should attend a conference and you will return, they are so rewarding."

Narromine

"The accolades for the conference are richly deserved and your team was awesome."

"Fantastic effort putting on this years conference. You deserved all the accolades handed out. Great venue, good atmosphere and unbeatable range of quality speakers."

Charlestown

"All went so smoothly with terrific speakers, good venue, well organised evening events and short sharp presentation sessions. The food and entertainment were also without fault."

"Congratulations to your hard working team in putting together such a great and Inspiring conference. The quality of speakers was outstanding."

Morisset

"What a fantastic job"

Rylstone Kandos

"The speakers were mind blowing, the food and service was great, the fact that no one left on the Sunday morning was truly telling of the interest there was in the speakers! Well done!!!"

Mudgee Sunrise

"Best Speakers. There were so many Rotary members, did not think I would find a seat."

"A great Conference and great people to work with."

Maitland Sunrise

Rotary District 9670 Conference 2020 20th 21st & 22nd March

In 2020 the Rotary District 9670 Conference will be held at The Belmont 16s, Belmont, NSW on the beautiful and tranquil shores of Lake Macquarie. The Rotary Club of Toronto Sunrise and The Rotary Club of Morisset, supporting DG Graeme and Sue Hooper, have created a program to inspire, entertain and educate. Come to hear how we will "Break Though Barriers" to set a forward vision for Rotary.



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