



Coffey Break

Rotary
District 9670



Monthly Newsletter of District Governor 2018-19



**Happy New Year to all the members,
their families, and friends of
Rotary District 9670**

I hope that the Christmas break has been a pleasant one for all. Many clubs have worked so hard in their local communities over the Christmas period to make other people happy, from the aged care visits, to providing gifts and food to the less privileged, to the wonderful fundraising from the various raffles – and then lets not forget the “Santas” out there sweating it off to get a smile from a happy person.

We have reached the half way mark of the Rotary year, and I must say some impressive milestones have been achieved by Clubs and the District. Carol and I have enjoyed the journey, being invited to clubs on special occasions and welcomed at every club on our visits. Being able to engage so openly with members has been enlightening and rewarding.

The friendly reception by each club was first class, with Carols ‘Lift the Lid on Mental Health’ project receiving some marvellous generosity, at a time when 50% of clubs are also engaged in drought relief activities.

Thank you for just doing what Rotarians do best.

On 10th December, Carol and I, had the honour of attending a very special milestone - the 100th birthday of Neville Chant from the Rotary Club of Waratah.

It was a memorable and well organised event to celebrate Neville’s milestone. Congratulatory messages were received from many dignitaries including a letter from Rotary International President, Barry Rassin.

Neville joined the Waratah Club on 2 April 1973 and has already notched up an impressive 45 years of Rotary service.

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In this edition of 'Coffey Break' I reflect on some of the District activities addressed during the first part of the year and identify the opportunities that will require our attention during the next six months.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

When we set out from our early training meetings with Presidents, we sought each Club's assistance in completing the 'Club Effective Planning Guide'. This document was considered as a cornerstone to development of a Club specific strategic plan that could be used as a roadmap for the year ahead.

"What may well be a first for the District, we received 100% of completed Effective Planning Guides!!!"

The Assistant Governors were exceptional in ensuring the Planning Guides were completed on time. As District Governor, I listened to the Presidents and passed on to DGE Graeme and the Training team your concerns and suggested improvements. The District is listening and acting for your benefit by assessing options to make planning and performance monitoring easier and more relevant. I believe we will see a much streamlined and more practical process introduced in 2019, aligning with the new Rotary International Strategic Plan for 2019-22.

The new strategic planning process will focus on 4 areas; to increase our impact, expand our reach, enhance our Rotary experience and adapt to inevitable changes. In saying that, it is not too late to update your club's 2018-19 Strategic Plan on 'My Rotary' by inputting goals that will help focus your Club's efforts over the next 6 months.

Perhaps, an easy pick up point on your strategic plan, is the area for identifying your clubs' demographics; if you have 60% of club member birth dates recorded in 'My Rotary' it is a milestone in the Strategic Plan.

The startling effort by clubs to address this has been pleasing. We commenced our term with 71% of birthdates unknown, as of the end of December we are down to 24%, with most clubs at, or hovering around the 100%.

These clubs are Belmont, Cessnock, Cobar, Dubbo Macquarie, Dubbo West, Dungog, East Maitland, Greenhills, Kurri Kurri, Maitland, Merriwa, Morisset, Mudgee, Mudgee Sunrise, Myall Coast, Nelson Bay, Newcastle, Newcastle Enterprise, Newcastle Sunrise, Raymond Terrace, Rylstone Kandos, Salamander Bay, Scone, Singleton Sunrise, Toronto, Toronto Sunrise, Wallsend Maryland, Waratah, Warren and Williamtown – a magnificent difference from the years start.

While we cannot force members to submit their DOB's, it is a tool very much needed by the District and individual Clubs to help identify risk and target growth areas.

AGM

A big thank you to all the clubs that either turned up in person or attended electronically via 'Zoom' to the AGM. We needed 16 clubs for a quorum and had 27 in attendance. For those who attended in person we shouted some Christmas drinks which made an enjoyable social aspect to the event.

REDISTRICTING

This subject is still on the table and the DG, DGE and DGN from D9650 and D9670 met in Gloucester to talk about the possibility of amalgamating. We will be holding similar talks with the D9700/D9710 amalgamation to help understand what other mutually beneficial option(s) could be available.

MARGARET ILLUKOL TRUST

District 9670 has now received funds for the Trust and these have been invested.



Margaret Rose Illukol
Died February 2015

We have a Scholarship Team and an Investment Team in place to guide us. Other personal property of Margaret's estate has now been sorted and we are considering the most viable method of sale.

RAWCS EASTERN REGION CONFERENCE

District 9670 hosted a RAWCS Conference at Dubbo during October; some very good local people, including Geoff Smith (RC Narromine) filled us in on the drought and Rotary's response during the informative sessions and dinner.

We also picked up one new Rotarian for Dubbo West after booking into a local motel. Victor, who was working at the motel at the time, asked us how to join.

2018 NEWCASTLE SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING CHALLENGE

PDG Brian Atkins (RC Waratah) Regional Chair & Paul Griffiths (RC Williamstown) Deputy Chair extend their gratitude to the sponsors, committee and volunteers who work to make the Science and Engineering Challenge a success.

In its 19th year the Science and Engineering Challenge continues to inspire Year 9/10 students to consider future STEM careers. The 2018 NSW State Final Super Challenge was hosted, organised, coordinated and funded by the Newcastle committee. The team comprised of Rotarians, Newcastle University staff and community representatives.

The Newcastle event saw 46 high schools represented by 1032 students compete; supported by 73 teachers, 9 guests and 179 event staff from the University, Rotary, partners and volunteers.

Winning schools were Hunter School of Performing Arts, St Joseph's Maitland, St Marys Gateshead, St Pius Adamstown, Merewether High and ASC St Peters Maitland.

The State final was held late August at Newcastle University with 24 schools from NSW competing – 850 people (683 students) diverging on the campus. The winning schools were Keira High, Danthonia School and ASC St Peters Maitland; however, on points Keira High Wollongong went through to the National final in Darwin on October 26, which was won by Launceston Christian School Tasmania.

PDG Brian and his team are extremely grateful for the commercial, government and Rotary sponsorship – ensuring that Newcastle remains the epicentre of the National Challenge Program.

2019 CLUB VISITS

During 2019, Carol and myself intend to visit as many clubs as possible a second time round - this time as a visiting Rotarian, or I am happy to be invited as a guest speaker and provide 'My Rotary Journey' to you. I delivered this to the Australian Rotary Conference in Hobart and have now been asked to do the same again at District Conferences in Hobart, Broken Hill, Armidale and 2020 in Geelong. I had to knock back Adelaide due to opening the D9685 Conference in Newcastle.

Clubs should now be in the process of updating their committees on Club Runner.

If you are having any issues please contact AG Chris McGrath (RC Waratah), he is more than happy to help you get it right the first time around.

ROTARACT

We have interest and enquiries to start Rotaract Clubs up in Lake Macquarie and Maitland, hopefully these will hit their straps soon.

CONFERENCE UPDATE



Preparation for the 2019 D9670 Conference is now all but finalised; we have sponsorship, speakers, menus, entertainment all locked in and we are quietly confident of providing a wonderful experience for you. Ticket sales are exceptional with over 240 tickets booked in; the breakfast package deal is the best way to start each day – sumptuous hot and cold breakfast with wonderful guest speakers – all only a short walk down the hallway to the Conference Room.

MEMBERSHIP SEMINAR

Unfortunately, our District 9670 membership continues to slowly slide (December losses are typical), despite many new members being inducted – let's hope we can turn things around as these members sense the pride, value and friendship afforded by being a Rotarian.

"The big news for February is that we are having a 'Plug the Leak' membership seminar with a difference."

This is not a training day; it will be deliberately thought provoking; maybe even confrontational as highly recommended speaker Mark Huddleston from SA will give a wakeup call to clubs. Our high performing Clubs in membership retention will be invited to share their reasons for success, while others have agreed to highlight failings that have led to membership loss.

Various members will be asked to share why they joined, why they stay, or what would make them leave. We believe the format will be interesting, challenging and provoking with a very diverse group of members asked to share their thoughts.

The event will take place at Kurri Kurri Bowling Club on Sunday 10 February from 9.30am – 12.30pm with lunch afterwards.

ON THE VERGE OF A MALARIA VACCINE

Many of you would know of our own soldiers waging a fight against Malaria – Steve and Doreen Carroll (Rotary Club of Newcastle Harbour). A victim and sufferer, Steve candidly speaks nationally about this deadly disease that claims almost 450,000 lives each year - mostly children and pregnant mothers.

There are around 216 million cases of malaria reported annually.



From day one, Steve has been a great supporter of Professor Michael Good's promising vaccine PlasProtecT® created at the Institute for Glycomics at Griffith University Gold Coast. Four Rotary clubs on the Gold Coast supported by Rotary International District 9640 set out to raise \$1,000,000 for the Institute for Glycomics to enable the research to go ahead.

A Rotary Australian Benevolent Society (RABS) tax deductible project was started and endorsed by Rotarians Against Malaria (RAM). In less than 2 years, the Project has raised more than AUS \$500,000 – some attributed to our own Steve Carroll's effort. The result of this incredible effort is that the human clinical trials to test the efficacy of the vaccine PlasProtecT® have now begun in Queensland. There will be 36 subjects in all and the trials are expected to be completed by mid-2019.

The success of these trials will enable clinical trials to be conducted in endemic countries like Uganda, Kenya, and Papua New Guinea where they are so sorely needed. We are half-way to our target that could change the world in some of the most marginal regions on our planet. Imagine if Rotary can be part of saving half a million lives, on top of what we have done with Polio!

Rotary is 'Ordinary People Doing Extraordinary Things'.

For more information visit
www.malariavaccineproject.com

DROUGHT RELIEF

Spurred on by the \$250,000 from the Channel 9 National Farmers Appeal, many rural folk have benefited by Rotary's efforts. Over the past 3 months it is estimated that approximately \$500k has been raised and distributed by clubs in D9670. These funds have come from club's own fundraising, sponsorship from other District Clubs, interstate sponsors, Clubs NSW and the National appeal funds.



Thank you to the clubs who made application and have successfully helped those in need. Also, special thanks to DGE Graeme and his small project team, who assessed and arranged funds for the clubs through RAWCS Australia. We received \$534,000 in applications from clubs and to date, \$245,000 has been allocated and acquitted. With additional donations into our District RABS account the District will continue to assess and process applications.

DROUGHT RELIEF - Federal Grant

The Commonwealth Govt has announced a further grant of \$6.5million to RAWCS Australia for distribution to drought-stricken families to assist with family living costs. Rotary was one of only four Charities identified as being recipients.

District 9670 has been allocated \$1million for distribution in debit cards and vouchers. Procedures are currently being put in place and clubs will be notified soon, or those in drought areas can request the information from me if you have not been contacted.

Monies will only be for those clubs in drought impacted areas, which is most of our District except Lower Hunter, Singleton and Dungog, and only for bona fide rural persons/families. Clubs in those areas are in the best position to prepare lists of potential rural property farmers, farm workers and contractors that could benefit from this support. And yes, Rotarians, that meet the criteria, are eligible to receive this one-off grant.

Each farmer can only receive this grant once, and it can be made even if they have already received some financial aid from Rotary or other sources over the past few months.

ROTARY DOWN UNDER (RDU) NEWS

Rotary Down Under advise they have sold the 2 floors that we own in RDU House Parramatta, well above the valuation, to an international developer. RDU and the Rotary International South Pacific and Philippines Office (RISPPPO) are likely to be co-located in the future; whether a purchase or lease is undertaken is still to be decided.



RDU recently wrote about the potential demise of the RDU magazine. This is a topic that will be debated at the upcoming Council on Legislation. If optional subscriptions are enacted with the monthly magazine, there is likely to be a subscription increase of \$8 per year. Only 18% of subscribers currently receive the magazine electronically. Letters of dissent to RI can be sent up until February 14 at:

https://rotary.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3z84O8VkGe5J1oV

In this edition of "Coffey Break" we will take a glimpse at some of our Clubs and Rotarians bringing the 'Spirit of Christmas' to their local communities. In addition, we take a peek at various District 9670 Clubs enjoying their own end of year celebrations.

Yours in Rotary, Brian

MEN'S HEALTH EDUCATION RURAL VAN (MHERV)



Adrian Payne (RC Warners Bay), District 9670 MHERV Chair, has compiled a comprehensive report on the value that this service provides not only in D9670, but in neighbouring areas. We had some sponsorship setbacks, but that has not halted the exceptional service provided to men and women in the rural communities with donations of \$85,000 from RFBI, Clubs in D9670, 9650 and 9640, NSW Health, and Electrodry for replacement of the tow vehicle.



in Memoriam

*Sadly, during December we have been made aware of the loss of
Dungog Rotarian and Past President (twice),*

Jim Olsen , aged 85

who passed away on Sunday 2nd December.

Our thoughts are with wife, Judy, family and friends .



Rotary Club of Newcastle Sunrise

Linda, Sue & Wendy gift wrapping at Westfield Kotara. Donations go towards 'Got Your Back Sista' in support of 'I Say No to Domestic Violence' campaign.



Rotary Club of Kurri Kurri Sunrise

Club & family members distribute 82 Christmas cards and ginger bread men to residents of Kurri Kurri Nursing home.

Sharing the Joy of Christmas



**Rotary
District 9670**



Rotary Club of Wallsend-Maryland

The Tree of Joy and Food Drive brought in goods to the value of nearly \$50,000 which provided a helping hand to 724 local families over the Christmas period.



Rotary Club of East Maitland

DG Brian moonlighting as Santa at Largs Village with Noelyne Hanks and a 103 year old client of the village.



Rotary Club of Singleton Sunrise

Santa's Sunrise helpers with gifts all wrapped for the hospital visit on Christmas Day



Williamtown Rotary Club



Kurri Kurri Rotary Club

Bringing the Community Together

Thank you to all the Clubs that organised and supported Christmas events for their communities.

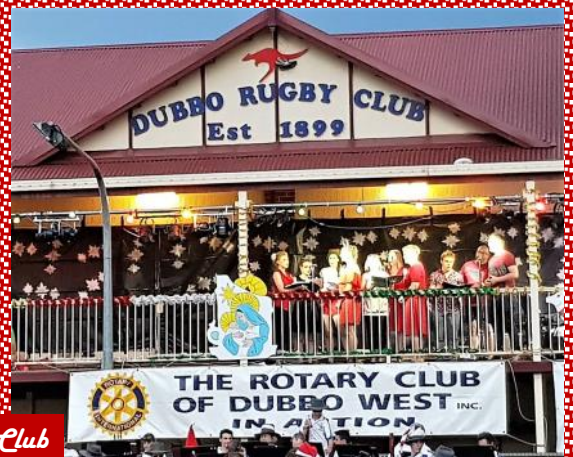
Collectively, 10,000 people attended the five events showcased on this page.



Rylstone Kandos Rotary Club



Dubbo West Rotary Club



Combined Mudgee Rotary Clubs





District 9670 Governors (past and present)



Wallsend - Maryland Rotary Club

**“Celebrations are
the Footprint
of Achievements”**



Great to see our
Clubs taking ‘time-out’
to celebrate their
fellowship and
achievements over
the past year.



Nelson Bay Rotary Club



Warners Bay Rotary Club



Salamander Bay Rotary Club



Raymond Terrace Rotary Club



Mudgee Sunrise Rotary Club



Singleton Rotary Club



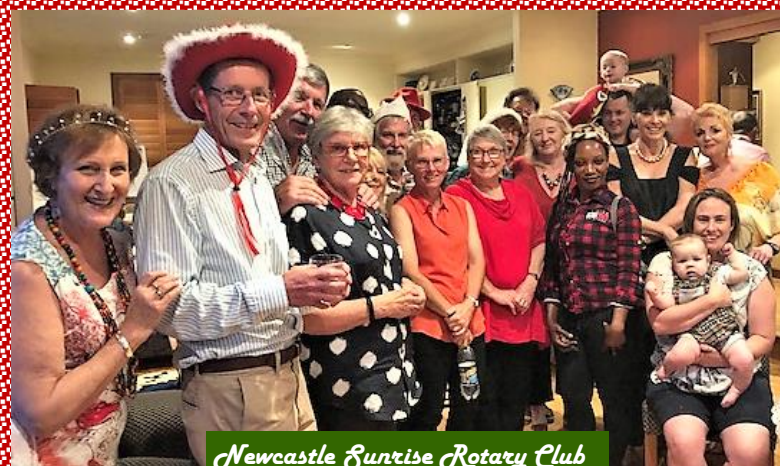
Lessnock Rotary Club



Mudgee Rotary Club



Muswellbrook Rotary Club



Newcastle Sunrise Rotary Club



Maitland Sunrise Rotary Club



Newcastle & Hunter Valley Region

Supporting Local Farmers & Communities Campaign **UPDATE**

With the drought continuing to have a devastating impact on Farmers and their Communities across the state, support is still needed to help these Communities to survive and rebuild once this drought finally breaks.

At the recent ClubsNSW Regional Meeting held in Cessnock, the **ClubsNSW Newcastle & Hunter Region** campaign to support Local Farmers & Communities was launched in partnership with Rotary. Rotary Clubs throughout the state from the Hunter Valley to Dubbo and Cobar to Bourke are supporting Farming Communities by providing Farmers with debit cards so that they can continue to support local community (businesses) with their regular business.

ClubsNSW Newcastle & Hunter Region has agreed to support this campaign and are also encouraging Clubs in our region to consider any support they might have available under their ClubGrants programs.

To date the following donations have been pledged towards the campaign:

\$5,000... ClubsNSW - Newcastle & Hunter Region
\$5,000... Belmont 16's
\$5,000... Singleton Diggers
\$5,000... Cessnock Leagues Club
\$5,000... Toronto Workers
\$25,000... donated to date!

This campaign will conclude at our March 2019 meeting where a final tally will be announced. Clubs in our region are encouraged to consider supporting this very worthy campaign. Clubs who are able to assist will be acknowledged throughout the campaign.

Clubs interested in supporting this campaign are encouraged to contact Paul Cousins on 0403 054 890 for further information.

Paul Cousins

State Councillor | Newcastle & Hunter ClubsNSW Region

Presidential message - January 2019



BARRY RASSIN
President | Rotary International
2018-19

Vocational service can be hard to define, but it is easy to describe: It is simply the point where our Rotary lives and our professional lives intersect. When we put our Rotary ideals to work through our work, that is vocational service.

When I returned to the Bahamas after many years working in health care administration abroad, I realized that my country badly needed a modern health care facility. The resources we had at the time were out of date and inadequate, and people who were unable to travel abroad for care often did not receive the care they needed. Without the experience I had gained in the United States, I could have done nothing to change the status quo. But since I did have that experience, I was in a unique position to have an impact. I knew I could turn my professional path to good and make a career out of improving Bahamian health care.

As Rotary became part of my journey, I discovered that the words of Paul Harris that became the basis of Rotary — that shared effort knows no limitations — were also true for my vocation. I could not bring modern health care to the Bahamas alone. But through partnership, both with the doctors who eventually became my partners in

Doctors Hospital and with all the dedicated staff members who worked in the hospital over the years, we could change everything. My goal became a shared goal — and then it became reality.

Rotary emphasizes the dignity of every vocation and the worth of every calling. Remember that the four founding members included no doctors or peacemakers — just an attorney, a mining engineer, a coal dealer, and a printer. From the beginning, the diversity of those vocations gave Rotary a special strength. And that diversity is reflected in our classification system, which aims to ensure that each club represents the full range of businesses and professions that serve each community.

Paul Harris put it this way: "Each Rotarian is the connecting link between the idealism of Rotary and his trade or profession." It was true when he said it and should be equally true now. We only spend an hour or two a week at our Rotary meetings, but most of us spend most of our waking time at work. Through Rotary, those hours are also an opportunity for service: a chance to **Be the Inspiration** to those we work with, those who work for us, and the communities we serve.



Attendance & Community Service (hours)

Compiled by Ray Davies, Membership and Volunteering Officer



OCTOBER 2018

NOVEMBER 2018

Club	Members	Attendance %	Hours
Belmont	29	89	89
Cardiff	NR	NR	NR
Dubbo	26	78	46
Dubbo Macquarie	22	78	54
Dubbo South	57	74	95
Dubbo West	39	82	269
Dungog	12	76	143
East Maitland	37	79	151
Kurri Kurri	NR	NR	NR
Maitland	41	71	318
Mudgee	28	70	237
Myall Coast	24	76	185
Narromine	NR	NR	NR
Nelson Bay	49	63	890
Newcastle Enterprise	30	55	136
Newcastle Harbour	NR	NR	NR
Rutherford Telarah	40	52	699
Toronto Sunrise	27	80	138
Wallsend-Maryland	21	80	238
Waratah	22	86	146
Warners Bay	44	60	482

Club	Members	Attendance %	Hours
Belmont	29	82	48
Cardiff	11	75	100
Dubbo	26	78	85
Dubbo Macquarie	NR	NR	NR
Dubbo South	58	81	135
Dubbo West	39	100	318
Dungog	12	80	158
East Maitland	39	78	245
Kurri Kurri	20	52	155
Maitland	41	71	320
Mudgee	29	75	131
Myall Coast	24	62	150
Narromine	NR	52	40
Nelson Bay	NR	NR	NR
Newcastle Enterprise	30	65	142
Newcastle Harbour	21	73	70
Rutherford Telarah	40	60	797
Toronto Sunrise	NR	NR	NR
Wallsend-Maryland	NR	NR	NR
Waratah	23	87	106
Warners Bay	47	60	514

NR = Not Reported

Rotary Designated Months

Rotary has designated months to help clubs develop meeting agendas, projects, or public image campaigns based on these special occasions.

JANUARY IS VOCATIONAL SERVICE MONTH

"Rotary's greatest strength will always be the individual Rotarian. No other organization has such powerful human resources."
Past RI President Glen W. Kinross 1997-98

Rotary TAKE ACTION: Engage Rotary. Change Lives

During this period, clubs highlight the importance of the business and professional life of each Rotarian. Special activities promote the vocational avenue of service.

FEBRUARY IS PEACE AND CONFLICT PREVENTION/RESOLUTION MONTH

"Imagine all the people living life in peace..."
John Lennon

Rotary www.rotary.org

This month focuses on the underlying causes of conflict and the action being taken through Rotary's service projects, peace fellowships, and scholarships.

MARCH IS WATER AND SANITATION MONTH

"Clean water, the essence of life and a birthright for everyone, must become available to all people now."
Past RI President Glen W. Kinross 1997-98

Rotary www.rotary.org

This month focuses on life changing improvements that we can make through projects to provide a more readily available and healthy supply of water to all people.



District 9670 Conference 2019

Join us in
Forster

March 15th - 17th, 2019

Click Here
TO **REGISTER**



During December we smashed through 200 registrations for our 2019 District Conference. By month end we were closing in on 250 registrations with representation from almost 70% of our Clubs. Our immediate goal is to reach 300 however, we can easily cope with many more.

Book now and enjoy the time with so many positive people

"This is an unbelievable achievement. Members have responded and I thank them all for their faith and support."

DG Brian Coffey

Rotary  INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION
HAMBURG, GERMANY 1-5 JUNE 2019



For more information and registration [CLICK HERE](#)



Important deadlines

31 March 2019: Last day for preregistration discount
30 April 2019: Last day to request to cancel registrations or tickets
5 June 2019: Last day for online registration



If your Club has **Inspirational** stories or press articles, that you believe will be of interest to other clubs in our District, then we are keen to include these in future editions of the "Coffey Break".

**we LOVE
Photos.**

Please forward a photo and brief description to :

The District Newsletter editor
(PP Graham Taylor - Mudgee Rotary Club)
districtnewsletter@rotary9670.org.au

Deadline for submitting articles for the next edition of this newsletter is
Monday 28th January

Rotary
District 9670



Click Here to
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