

Roach Rattlings

D9670 District Governor
David Roach

Issue 9
April 2021



From the DG's desk ...

Rotarians and friends

I am pleased to announce that this week we were able to launch the registration process for the District's first Virtual Conference to be held on Saturday 22nd May commencing at 10-30am. The conference will have guest speakers until 12-30pm with a lunch break till 2-00pm and then conclude around 4-00pm. This will give you an opportunity to gather with friends, as a club or as a group of clubs to enjoy the conference and fellowship. Details of the registration process have already been emailed to you and appear on the District website, Facebook and will also appear in the Weekly Natter. Please take this

opportunity to be part of our District Conference and view the commitment of Rotarians who perform acts of Do-Goodery.

A reminder to those clubs who have not yet responded to my request to update their incoming executive for the Rotary year 2021-22 on Clubrunner, could you please make this a matter of urgency.

Could you also let me know the date of your club changeover and if you require a DG representative at this function.

Some information regarding the transition of our District. Currently the Transition Governance Team

are working on the draft D9660 Constitution and Bylaws. These will be sent to RI for their input and will then be sent to all clubs in D9670 and D9650 early in the next Rotary year for comment and feedback before being presented at the November AGM for ratification.

The promised tear drop banners are being distributed across the District and they are very impressive. Clubs are responding positively to this initiative. Don't forget if you have a function, please consider borrowing banners from neighbouring clubs. My thanks to both Carol Coffey – District Membership Chair for this initiative, and our good friend Andrew Carraro for the production of these banners.

A gentle reminder that clubs have until the 1st May to lodge their receipted claim form for the \$250 Club Membership Support initiative.

I am pleased to read in various club bulletins that clubs are inducting new members. This is great news and shows the ability of clubs to attract new members, so allowing clubs to continue and promote the great work of Rotary. Congratulations and welcome to each new member!



Could I please ask clubs to update Clubrunner with these new members so that they can receive Rotary news and updates.

A reminder that the provisional Newcastle Discovery Club is looking for members to enable them to Charter. If you know someone who would be attracted to this new look club please access information in the following ways: sent me an email and I will make contact with the key members of the club, follow up with your Area Governor, use the details in the recent Weekly Natter or make contact directly with key members of the provisional club.

Finally PLEASE register for our D9670 Virtual Conference.

David Roach

In this issue...

District 9670 Youth Exchange Program	
Debriefing	2
Yarnings.....	3
Rotary Themes: April & May.....	3
Who is He Fooling!?	4
Rotary International And The Gates Foundation	4
Rotary Club of Wellington.....	5
Isda's Column.....	6
Zone D Area Governor Report.....	7
Zone B Area Governor Report.....	7
Zone C Area Governor Report.....	8

Deadline for next issue:
18 April 2021

Email articles to:
stacy.jacobs1@det.nsw.edu.au
Stacy has accepted the role of
gatherer & collator of
DG David's newsletter articles.



District 9670 Youth Exchange Program Debriefing

What were the experiences of D9670 Outbound students 2020???

2020 was not a great year for Rotary Youth Exchange as the pandemic meant that none of our Rotary Outbound Exchange students had a "normal" exchange. Gone were the summer holiday trips (Euro Tour, tour of the Amazon etc), the frequent activities with other Rotary Exchange students in hosting Rotary Districts, the explorations of the local host Rotary District and even normal attendance and learning at the school. But the returning students still found many positives in their experiences during their Exchange year overseas – what an extraordinary group of teenagers!!!

With the permission of District 9670 Management Committee, at Merriwa, the Youth Exchange Program committee held the YEP Debriefing for those Outbound students of 2020 on Saturday, 6th February. Eleven of the thirteen students and their families were able to attend the function. Unfortunately Charlotte Danson (Denmark – sponsored by the Rotary Club of Mudgee) had already started her school year in Melbourne and

Hartley Lucas (Poland – sponsored by Rotary Club of Mudgee Sunrise) was ill so could not attend Merriwa.

The format for the day allowed students to make a presentation to all those who were assembled – 8 minutes for each student to describe their year, to show some highlights and share their experiences with a host Rotary Club in a host Rotary District. What a brave and resilient group of students!

Students and their parents had the opportunity to talk about the positives and negatives associated with the YEP. The purpose of the debriefing is to allow people to share with each other and importantly the District 9670 YEP Committee so that improvements can be made to YEP in the future. The YEP committee was very thankful that they had established a good rapport with students and their parents so everyone was able to speak freely about this unprecedented Rotary Exchange Year. The comments will ensure that the next YEP year will be even better than 2020.

Thank you to the Rotary Club of Merriwa for catering for our Debriefing Day, under safe covid-19 conditions!

I encourage sponsoring Rotary Clubs, and actually any Rotary Club, to invite the students to talk to your Club members about their experiences on the 2020 Student Exchange year. They will be pleased to share their time away with you. Just contact me for any details that you may need.

What is the future of Rotary Youth Exchange?

Rotary International has recommended the suspension of the Rotary Youth Program for the 2021-2022 Rotary Year. This means in D9670 we will not be sending any students overseas in January 2022 – nor will we be accepting any students from overseas in July 2021.

The pandemic situation here and overseas, even with the possibility of vaccinations, is not secure and controlled enough to allow such an exchange to occur. Whether we accept students in July 2022 is still a conjecture – but I will keep Rotary Clubs informed as we know anything in this regard.

At this stage, the YEP Committee is hopeful that we can send students overseas in January 2023 but we will



Group photo of YEP students after their presentations

not know until sometime in 2022. So I am hopeful that Rotary Clubs will not forget Rotary Youth Exchange and will, when called upon, be happy to support both the Outbound and Inbound student programs. Details will be publicised when the situation is clearer.

You will realise from the proposed date of the continuation of the program that the students will be going overseas as part of Rotary District 9660 YEP – so this proposed cohort will be the first for our new District 9660.

Thank you for your support of the Rotary Youth Exchange program in District 9670 in previous years. I hope that you will continue to see the benefits of the program to the students and to Rotary Clubs as a whole.

Pam Wellham
Chair, Youth Exchange Program
Rotary District 9670

Photos of students sharing their YEP (l-r):
Sophie Holle – RC East Maitland – travelled to Germany; Olivia Andrews-Klowss – RC Warners Bay – travelled to Norway; Joey Butler – RC Newcastle – travelled to Finland

Photos of group discussions (l-r): Ella Bales – RC Toronto – with her parents, Tim and Kylie, with YEP Nikki Cousins; Debriefing in Merriwa Anglican Church Hall



Welcome to the April greetings from "Yarnings"!

DG David and I continue to visit Clubs across the District, having enjoyed the hospitality shown as well as great friendship and discussion. Thank you very much to every Club for sharing their stories (including the mouse plague!!!), projects and fun.

At this moment in time, I'm sure all Rotarians are thinking about the aftermath of devastating floods across our District. What a tough few years we have had with drought, fires, pandemic and floods – amazing how resilient our communities can be; but this recent disaster highlights that Rotary remains as important as ever in assisting people in need. Apart from those in immediate need of support, there are also folk who have on-going need for assistance due to homelessness, domestic violence and disadvantage. Let's be mindful of this in the way we assist our community. These people are often the 'unseen' folk who are placed at even greater need as resources are focussed on those in immediate need, which complicates their lives more deeply.

So please, look at ways your Club may be able to support residents, communities and businesses in the aftermath of this array of challenges experienced – work with other groups, work with councils, work with other clubs. There are so many ways to be practical in our approach with community clean-up, sourcing resources, providing food to the needy, working with those who have stock and pets to account for, assisting schools and services. There are many financial and government resources which will be available to groups and businesses, so even assisting people

to apply for and access this may be a service you can provide. The list, no doubt, for Rotary support is limitless. And, as always, I stress that it is not just about money, it is about first and foremost our Rotary service. Every little bit each one of us can do helps!

The Rotary focus area for April is Maternal and Child Health. There are some great examples of this happening in our region, from the Rotary Club of Salamander Bay project "Save the Kuta Babies" led by Wendy Stein (a RAWCS project): to Rotary's "Give Every Child a Future" which is a Centenary Project supported by many Clubs across Zone 8. Another great project to support is "End Trachoma" – our District contact person for this is PDG Greg Bevan. Please take the time to check these out on the internet and our webpage.

Of course, locally there are so many other projects that are running which are worthwhile – you may even investigate your own community to see about practical initiatives Club members could participate in, from breakfast clubs to preschool packs, to mothers' packs for newborns. IPE Shekhar Mehta has "Empowering Girls" as one of his goals for 21-22. This is a target which has on-



A Conversation from "the other half"

going impact as it improves the lives of the next generation of women who will be our workers, entrepreneurs and more importantly mothers of those yet to come. Educate a girl, and you educate a family! Education is not just about reading and writing, but also about health, nutrition, productivity, independence – so many things. And yes, this is a high interest and impactful focus for me as well. Check out these local and international ideas!

Soon Club Boards will be receiving the Club Planning Guide for 2021-22. Your Area Governors and District Management Team will have these as well to be able to assist Clubs in this very important process. It looks a little different to previous years, and I hope that it will help in having a practical vision for your Club for today and the next few years in line with RI strategies/goals.

Chair Carla Pittman (Training Team) and I hope soon to be releasing the training schedule for Boards and Rotarians interested in taking on Club roles. It is an exciting time with the opportunities to learn and grow Rotary to be even more helpful into the future both nationally and internationally. And of course,

anything you learn also influences what you do as an individual person and citizen. It's all worthwhile!

Just a reminder to "save the date" for the District Changeover which will be a luncheon at Parklands, Mudgee, on Sunday 27th June. We have made this a luncheon so that people can travel during daylight hours if they

choose, or perhaps "make a weekend of it" staying in this beautiful regional destination.

Further information for booking will be available soon.

Until next time...

Cheers, Amanda



Rotary Themes: April & May



April - Maternal and Child Health

This month also includes the birthday of Paul Harris on 19th April.

During this month, clubs highlight the importance of maternal and child health in their own communities and globally. Special activities could include:

- Address the issue of malnutrition in children and pregnant women
- Develop a Hygiene Education Program for school-going children
- Conduct awareness seminars
- Provide low-income, under-insured women with the knowledge, skills and opportunities to improve their diet, physical activity, and other life habits

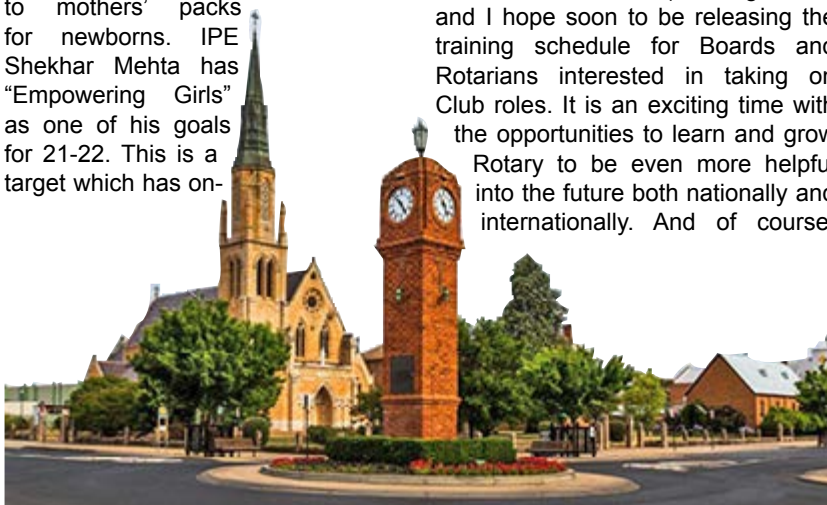
to prevent, delay, or control chronic diseases

- Promote school health
- Promote the adoption of physical activity in early child care centres, schools and work sites

May - Youth Service

Rotary clubs of the world give special emphasis to the many Rotary-sponsored programs which serve children and young people.

- Sponsor New Interact / Rotaract Club
- Organise Drawing / Painting / Elocution competition in schools
- Awareness campaign about problems & need for survival of Future Generations



Who is He Fooling!?

The radio and television networks would relay that one of the world's great Dutch entertainers was coming to town. Andre Rieu had fashioned an industry of great appeal focused on Strauss music.

The impact of this was heart felt and his brand of music was warmly accepted by a worldwide audience. The impact of this Dutchman's musical skills embraced a legacy inclusive of Strauss's Blue Danube along with the popularity for the evergreens of waltz music.

Added to this was the bringing of Andre Rieu's amazing group of support artists, gaily attired in eye catching period costumes, along with a host of singers, dancers and instrumentalists.

Yet it was his promise that it never rained on his outdoor concerts that gave keen credence to his encouragement to purchase tickets for the glorious evening of entertainment. The concert tickets had become highly sought-after doorways to a night of beautiful haunting and upbeat music.

The cheaper tickets covered seating a long way from the stage but under cover, whilst the more expensive tickets placed the spectator closest to the stage but out in the open.

Guess what?

It did rain heavily, and ponchos were the order of the night. However, the rain didn't dampen the spirit of the occasion nor the calibre of music.

I left the concert, thoroughly drenched but deeply satisfied with the night's wonderful entertainment and deeply

moved by the beauty of composer Strauss's music. Somehow, I could image him smiling down on the evening's programme at Sydney's Olympic Stadium closely followed by Andre Rieu's grin.

However, Andre Rieu may have been a magnificent musician, but he left a little to be desired with his weather forecasting.

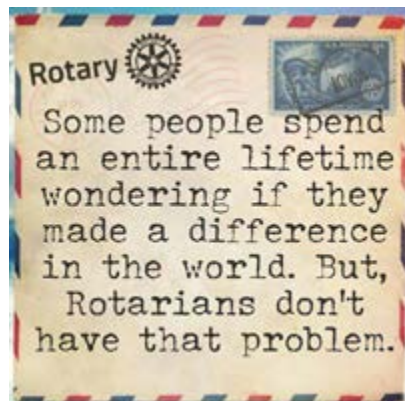
The moral of this story. "Don't tangle with the meteorological department. It has a mind of its own." Sometimes the forecast is accurate whilst on other occasions it can be wide of the mark.

It's safest to take some wet weather gear just in case. I am sure this Dutch ambassador of music and goodwill would concur.

Rotary also knows the perils of weather forecasting when its sausage sizzle at Bunning's became a splash for cash with not too many customers.

Here's to blue skies.

Yours in Rotary,
Ron Elliott.



Rotary International And The Gates Foundation *A Winning Partnership!*

Rotary International and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation have a long-term fundraising partnership, which generates US\$150 million annually for polio eradication.

Rotary is committed to raising US\$50 million per year, in the knowledge that the Gates Foundation will match it 2:1 for a total of US\$150 million.

In the last couple of years, Rotary has been perilously close to not making its US\$50 million commitment so it is absolutely essential that Districts, Clubs and individual Rotarians increase the current funding level to Rotary's Polio eradication program to avoid jeopardising the agreement that we have with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

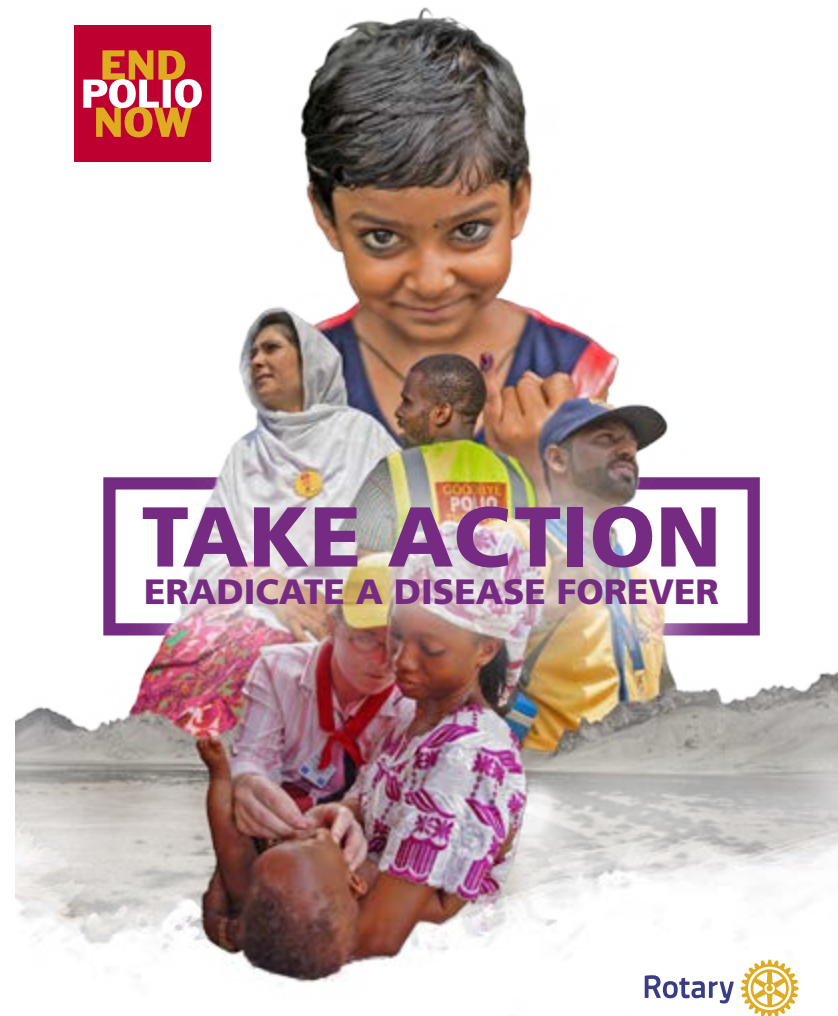
RI President Holger Knaack requested all Club's to strive for a donation of US\$1500.00 to **END POLIO NOW** as one of his goals for the year, it is acknowledged that not all Club's will be able to reach that goal but it is very important that all Club's support the **END POLIO NOW** program as best they possibly can.

Individual Rotarians can help by contributing \$10.00 per year to join the "**Clem Renouf Club**" in honour of one of our greatest leaders.

Simply use the following link to make a contribution to Rotary's priority project and help maintain the arrangement with the Gates Foundation.

<https://www.endpolio.org/donate>

**END
POLIO
NOW**



Rotary Club of Wellington

Vintage Fair & Swap Meet

The Annual Rotary Club of Wellington Vintage Fair and Swap Meet, held on March 6 & 7, was a massive day for our club and a terrific weekend for our community.

It attracted thousands of people from all over the state.

We could not have delivered the event this year if it wasn't for the generous support of our volunteers, and in particular, The Rotary Club of Charlestown.

They brought an entourage of 28 people from the coast, with the express purpose of reaching out to a country club. We had a few days of frenetic fellowship and many friendships were forged.

The main day of the event, held at the Wellington Showgrounds, highlighted antique and vintage static and moving steam engines, beautiful cars, tractors and motorbikes.

There was a massive swap meet, market stalls, tractor pull, dry stone walling demonstration, music, entertainment for the kids, and loads of delicious food.

**Our next
Vintage Fair is on
6 March 2022**





...oops! Page!

Isda's Column



I think Bruce wanted to chair the meeting

In March, I visited my birthplace at Newcastle Rotary Club and I had a really nice little bow wow with my mate, Bruce Nobby Lunar.

After that, I was back on the road again with IPDG Graeme and Sue. This time our travels took us to south of the border. Gee it was a long time snuggled up on the back seat of the jalopy. I had so, so many puppy naps.

We went way, way south but no way was I going for an exercise walk on

the beach by the Great Southern Ocean - would have frozen my little paws right off!

On the way home, I had a very special treat. I got to visit the Ex-Prisoners of War Memorial in Ballarat where I paid tribute to Sue's uncle. Over 36,000 Australians became prisoners of war and are honoured on this really long wall. You can learn more about this incredible memorial from this link: <https://www.powmemorialballarat.com.au/>

"Lest we forget" Our very special one day in the year, ANZAC Day, is coming up real soon too. We're allowed out of the barracks this year, which is really good news, but so long as we do puppy social spacing for gatherings at services. You can click here for more info: <https://www.rslnsw.org.au/commemoration/anzac-day-2021/>

I hope all my furry puppy friends will be looking their best and remember

to send me pics and stories of their big day to: governor2019-20@rotary9670.org.au

Perhaps you might like to help my mates by contributing to my money tin. Please remember to add "ROTARY" to the name to ensure your generosity is recorded in the right place. The lovely Katrina always has the details at the end of my column.

Love



The six stone obelisks in the background bear the names of countries where Australians were held as Prisoners of War • The fallen stone honours all those men and women who died as Prisoners of War



My little paws needed to pause after the long 130m walk from one end to the other and back again!

Donations to Integra Service Dogs Australia can be made, either direct to ISDA: www.isda.com.au

...with your Club name or Surname + "Rotary"

...or, via direct banking: Bendigo Bank BSB - 633 000 Account no - 167718972 with "Rotary" as transfer description; will really help all my friends.



INTEGRA
SERVICE DOGS AUSTRALIA

Zone D Area Governor Report

Zone D – Craig Henningham

Earlier in the month, Katrina and I had the pleasure of accompanying DG David and DGE Amanda to visit Belmont Club. Members were updated on things happening around the district and specifically, the upcoming redistricting, 2021 and 2022 District Conferences and the District Changeover. DG David also handed over the banner that all clubs in the district are receiving. It was also good to hear of all the great things that this club is doing in the community and beyond.



Things are really hotting up with regard to the Lake Mac Autumn Fair on 1st May. Organiser Barry Knowles (President, RC Warners Bay) and his team are really moving forward with activities, entertainment and food and drink. It promises to be a great event and on top of everything, our opportunity to showcase Rotary and celebrate Rotary's 100 years in the antipodes.

Speaking of the Rotary Club of Warners Bay, this club has formed a partnership with The Warners Bay Community of Schools to run an annual **Stage 3 Public Speaking**

Competition with a focus on **building positive peace**.

As part of this initiative, Peace Poles, which also celebrate 100 years of Rotary in Australia, are to be installed in the schools. The first of these has already been installed at Valentine Public School.

At the time of writing, **Graffiti Removal Day** is fast approaching. It's good to see clubs in the zone, (Belmont and Wallsend-Maryland and no doubt others) gearing up to be involved. I notice the event is getting some wide exposure with PDG Bob Aitken spreading the word on radio news this morning.

I'm very much looking forward to attending the launch of our **Centenary Book Launch** in Canberra next month. I believe all clubs will receive a copy of **Humanity in Action**, but if you would like to order your own copy, details are available on page 27 of the March issue of RDU.

VPS Principal and students installing the Peace Pole and surrounding garden.



Zone B Area Governor Report

Zone B – Philip Gorton

This month has seen the DG's visits continue across the area.

Kurri Kurri Club: Have been out and about working hard in the community with BBQ's and the continuing of their "Bags for Brains" roll out across the local primary schools in the area.

Kurri Kurri Sunrise: After the DG's visit in their venue some club members, along with David & Amanda, went to the Masonic Village to look at the computer games system the club recently donated. The club members are also out selling tickets in a trolley dash.

Merriwa Club: Are working hard within their community, joining in on a wide range of community committees



RC Warners Bay members with the first installed Peace Pole



to see how they can assist. They recently catered for the Variety Club rally as it passed through town.

Singleton Club: Has started their fundraiser **Singleton Community Challenge**, with club members undertaking a wide range of activities. Some club members have been working in a community garden.

Singleton Sunrise: Recently had a sorting afternoon for the projects **"Lids 4 Lily"** and **"Operation Uplift"** a great evening of service and fellowship. The next morning the club hosted DG David & Amanda, who met at the local Catholic school to plant a tree and listen to Gerald & Vicky talk to the children about forming a Rotakids Club. It was pleasing to see the enthusiasm of the children.

Singleton on Hunter: The club has started a new fundraiser by running raffles at the local Albion Hotel on Friday evenings. Members have been involved with the local Salvation Army Centre laying turf and garden projects. They have been back

at Bunnings cooking up a storm. Members have also been involved in donating men's hygiene packs to the local Neighbourhood Centre.

Scone Club: Members of the club have been out collecting goods for their recent garage sale. Recently, the club has been catering at several clearance sales. They have also been negotiating with the local council to upgrade the Rotary Sign. The club is working with the local council to upgrade the local Rotary Park.

Muswellbrook Club: The club has been working with community groups working on Mental Health for farmers and the wider community. They also recently hosted the **mherv** van. Members are working hard on many local projects.

Denman Club: The club has also hosted the **mherv** van recently and are working hard on their 50th Year Celebration of serving the local and international community. The celebration dinner will be held on the 27th of May.

RC Merriwa receiving their Rotary Banner



Zone C Area Governor Report

Zone C – Chris Walmsley

By the end of February, it was a pleasure to be able to join with DG David and DGE Amanda to visit the Rotary Clubs of Raymond Terrace and Maitland Sunrise. We were very pleased to witness the induction of 2 new members at Raymond Terrace, both gentlemen bring new skills and enthusiasm to the club and it was a most enjoyable meeting learning about the community activities that Raymond Terrace have planned for the coming months.

Maitland Sunrise welcomed both DG David and DGE Amanda by a return to our previous venue Maddie's of Bolwarra, where we all enjoyed a delicious breakfast while DG David presented an update on the District Transition process, the upcoming District Virtual conference and the importance of strategic planning for the district and clubs.

In early March another morning club visit to Salamander Bay Rotary, where their members enjoyed welcoming our DG and DGE to the club and sharing information about the recent opening of their Sensory Garden project in partnership with the Salvation Army, a great asset for the community.

Back to Port Stephens to visit Nelson Bay Rotary 2 days later was a perfect opportunity to present President Liz with their new Rotary banner as well as being a keen observer in their group planning survey for the coming year. Groups engaged in proactive discussion to determine club priorities in areas of service, international, youth and vocational programs.

The Board of the Rotary Club of Greenhills held a planning afternoon session which I was very fortunate to be able to attend to assist in facilitating discussion on the development of club plans for the 2021-22 Rotary year. It was very gratifying to be able

to participate in the discussion and sharing of ideas from committed and passionate Rotarians.

My first visit to the Rotary Club of Rutherford / Telarah this year was a special occasion where President Gillian inducted a new member while welcoming Kerrie's family to the greater Rotary family, a heart warming member induction. With Graffiti Removal Day on the calendar this month, club members have their program well organised under the leadership of PP Bob Parsons, which greatly will benefit the local community.

I have been looking forward to catching up with the Rotary Club of Paterson and the presentation of the new Club banner, funded by District membership funding gave me the opportunity to visit on Wednesday evening. The club meeting at Vacy welcomed guest speaker Erica Henley from Toronto Rotary who

gave an excellent presentation on the Operation Hope project. A pleasant evening of fellowship with members enjoying meeting face to face again.

Preparation for the centenary celebrations in Maitland and Port Stephens is well in hand and I greatly appreciate the manner that the clubs have been developing strong partnerships to celebrate and promote Rotary in our communities.



Rutherford Telarah member Induction



Nelson Bay Rotary Banner presentation



Paterson Rotary Visit



Salamander Bay DG Visit



Raymond Terrace Rotary Induction



DG visit



Greenhills Rotary Planning Day