



D9670 District Governor
Amanda Roach

Issue 1
July 2021



SERVE TO CHANGE LIVES



From the DG's desk ...

It is an honour to be your last District Governor for D9670.

We have many tasks ahead, before transitioning to D9660

in July 2022 – both exciting and daunting! The preparation of our District is a primary focus for the Management Team 2021-22. I ask all Rotarians to be brave and compassionate in working with us as we refine our operations to take OUR very best practice into this new adventure. I believe that we are positioned very well to showcase the strengths of our District to complement those from D9650 as we create a new future, a new Rotary history!

I welcome contribution, creativity, broad thinking, innovation, imagination as we bravely reinvent ourselves to be the New Rotary of our future world. Please examine YOUR place in that Rotary world – what do you value and enjoy about being a Rotarian? What excites you about being a member of this organisation, your club? Service? Fun? Fellowship and friendship? Meaningful connection and relationship both inside and outside the club? Creating a vision of possibilities?

Everyone this year, more than ever, needs to examine what Rotary means to them - clubs will benefit from checking if club life meets member expectations. Reinvigorating our membership

satisfaction, building more fulfillment in the Rotary experience is more important, I believe, than just increasing numbers for the sake of it. A happy, purposeful club is more attractive to everyone! Our clubs are a microcosm of the communities they embody, so represent them well.

I have continued my choice of "Yarnings" for the DG newsletter title. "Yarnings" is founded on communication, connection, building respectful dialogue and relationships, listening to others, learning together, sharing knowledge, inclusivity, accountability/responsibility and trust.

I have good reasons for making this choice. An issue which has bothered me for a few Rotary years is now rearing its head in some of our clubs' interactions. I am stating now: disruption, bullying, controlling behaviour, harassment, intimidation, prejudice and exclusion will NOT be tolerated in District 9670! Everyone in our District Management Team is united in our stand on this issue.

I could interpret this undercurrent as perhaps an over-reaction to change – which is impending, and I know many fear. Yet this niggling behaviour has been evident in clubs for some time. Let's, nip this in the bud, ensuring our Clubs are vibrant and friendly places to meet, doing good work.

We all have responsibilities, even though we are volunteers and not EMPLOYED in service to our communities. I believe

it is even MORE important to set a good example as a volunteer, as we are respected and held in good stead simply by being Rotarians. Do not sully our collective reputation by this kind of undesirable behaviour.

We have a responsibility to be our BEST selves, to act dutifully, respectfully towards the club members and to the wider community. We are all regarded as leaders, but you do not have to be a CEO, high level professional or financier to be regarded as a leader. One leads by example.

Our guiding principles are "ordinary people, doing extraordinary things", putting "Service Above Self" - please remember that! Let's reflect on ourselves to represent our own important role as part of a civil and caring society. Let's start by our behaviour towards one another in our clubs.

David and I are working in this tandem role for a two-year period to ensure best District support towards flexibility, change, transition to the Rotary of a new future.

We are delighted, excited by changes clubs make due to the transformations thrust upon us in the current world. BRAVO, you are so courageous – taking chances to modernise, meeting the needs of clubs and communities!

I've retained the same wonderful team to work with this year – a big undertaking on the part of individuals involved. I also

welcome those who have accepted the invitation to the table, to step into new roles as they have arisen! We have some great foundations to securely build our future.

We are hugely indebted to our family and our Rylstone Kandos RC family, giving us their support to embark on this journey, accommodating essential elements to fulfill this important role, but sometimes neglecting THEIR needs. This is not just my journey, or David's, but one involving the commitment/co-operation of many. A big thank you to all!

Over the next year the plan is to develop the role of our Area Governors further – what a delight it has been to work with this crew! We are now looking at assistants to mentor in these roles, and identifying local champions to develop understanding or practice in key Rotary programs.

Learning opportunities include regular on-line, zoom and area meetings, available to club executive and ordinary members. Knowledge is power, which can only lead to better outcomes for our Rotary practice. We will continue to work with clubs to "give up the silo", have co-operative projects with each other and other agencies, share ideas, maximise workforce and community impact.

Access our terrific District team to assist you; have a friendly chat or debrief; seek support to develop/improve ideas and outcomes. PLEASE, ask for support as you require it – OUR willingness

is certainly available for you. We're approachable, we all want the best for our district!

I'm very excited about what is ahead, what is possible – but it takes every one of us to participate in the vision. Be brave – come on board!!! Let's continue our great journey as we continue to "Serve to Change Lives".

Cheers

Amanda

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Deadline for next issue:
23 July 2021

Email articles to: Elizabeth Friend...
elizabethjoyfriend@gmail.com

Jessie Harman Rotary International Director Elect visits Singleton

Jessie Harman Rotary International Director Elect visits Singleton and addresses students from St Catherine's

Students from Singleton's St Catherine's Catholic College gave a warm welcome to the soon-to-be zone leader of Rotary, Dr Jessie Harman, former governor of Rotary district 9780 from 2010-2011.

She attended an assembly at the school today, where she spoke about Rotary and what they do; how to get involved and the importance of volunteering.

A group of young primary students then performed a song about Rotary that they had written themselves.

There are 38,000 Rotary clubs worldwide, each of them committed to helping others and utilising the power of volunteering to give back to communities in need, often by building playgrounds, parks, planting trees, donating equipment to schools, hospitals and community centres, supporting young people, running charity fundraisers, running soup buses, fighting disease, building water wells, educating people, volunteering their own time, talents and money to make the world a better place.

This year, Rotary Australia celebrates 100 years of giving back to the community.



Dr Harman mentioned during her talk how volunteering locally is important and inspiring, it allows you to develop life skills while giving back to your community.

But you have to volunteer for yourself.

Pick a cause that interests you, research and talk to others in your community, school and family, find a friend to do it with you.

"Big or small get involved," she declared.

"Do it for you."

When asked what direction she was planning on taking Rotary in the future?

"I would like for rotary to become more modern, welcoming and inclusive," she concluded.

"I would like for Rotary to continue being an international organisation promoting positive change, international peace and goodwill."

Source: *The Hunter River Times*

Transition to D9660 – Update

Early In this new Rotary year, the new **D9660 Constitution and Bylaws** will be distributed to clubs across both D9670 and D9650 for comment.

At this time, it will be important for clubs to give considered feedback during the consultation period, as the Constitution and Bylaws will provide the governance structure for the new D9660.

The Transition Committee will welcome this feedback to help shape

our new governance structure and it is anticipated that D9660 Constitution and Bylaws will be presented at our AGM later in the year and, around the same time, to D9650 for adoption.

It is necessary that the same documents are presented to both Districts so this consultation period is essential to the collaborative adoption of these documents.

Working with Children Check Applications and Renewals

Important information about delays in processing Working with Children Check applications and renewals:

People who engage in child-related work in NSW are required to have a Working with Children Check (WWCC).

Checks last for 5 years and then need to be renewed. The NSW Office of Children's Guardian email applicants 90 days before their Check is due to expire.

The length of time to process and finalise a WWCC application or renewal can range from a few hours to several months.

Checking process

When a person has no criminal history and no adverse employer information, the clearance is usually issued automatically within a matter of hours. During this time, the system is undertaking a background check via the National Police Checking Service to look for any records on a person's criminal history.

Delays in processing Checks

Since May 2021, the National Police Checking Service has been experiencing significant delays in the processing of Checks. This has affected many Check applicants, including those who have no records.

Rotarians who are due to renew their Check, **should renew as early as possible** to ensure their clearance does not expire.



Jessie Harman Rotary International Director Elect – Immortal

Past District Governor Alex McHarg presented Rotary International Director Elect – Dr Jessie Harman with an Immortal badge and certificate. Alex gave \$100 to the International Endowment Fund on her behalf.

The Rotary Foundation created the Endowment Fund in 1982 to give future generations of Rotarians the additional resources they need to design and implement sustainable projects year after year.

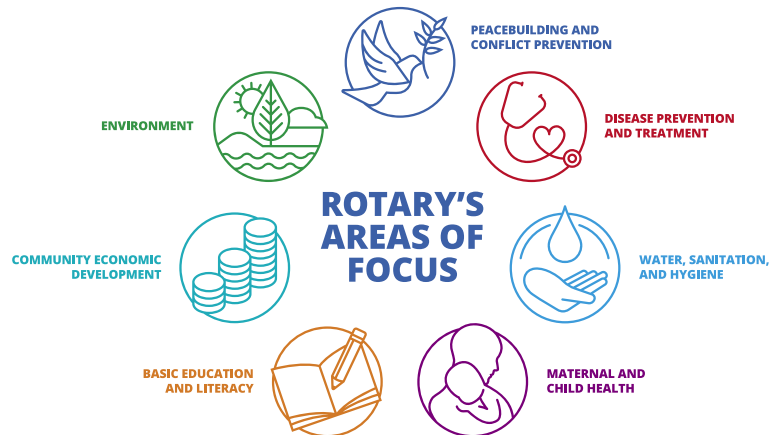
While a gift to the Annual Fund helps people live better lives today, gifts to the Endowment Fund support the same life-changing programs forever. Contributions to the Endowment Fund are invested and professionally managed to provide each year a source of funding to support Rotarians' local and global philanthropic work.

This year, the Endowment provided funding of \$17.6 million in support for the work of the Foundation. This funding provided Rotary Peace Fellowships, contributed to global



grant projects around the world, and enabled districts to address the needs of their own communities through district grants. As the Endowment grows, so does the good that Rotarians can do in the world.

Thank you, Alex, for your generous donation on behalf of Jessie.



“Our Club” ...in 100 Words...

Rotary Club of East Maitland

June was a big month for the Rotary Club of East Maitland, as we celebrated 60 wonderful years of service to the local community and abroad.

The RCEM is a dynamic and vibrant club of 38 members, where we are constantly looking at opportunities to be of service within the local community and abroad.

Some current projects are the **Hands of Hope** putting toilets and water into villages in Cambodia, **Bags for Brains**, (backpacks for school children) and the **Maitland Healthstays** within the new hospital grounds.



We also love socializing and enjoying each other's company every opportunity we can get.



Mudgee Sunrise RC

In conjunction with the evening Rotary Club in Mudgee, we provide volunteers to run the monthly movie weekend, and together we organise the Christmas Carols event each December.

We collaborate with the local Business Chamber in organising the Mudgee Clock Awards which is a celebration and acknowledgement of the achievements of local businesses and their staff.

With a new Board and new positions of Public Image and Membership Directors we are preparing to raise our profile in the community and attract new members.

As well as service to the community over 25 years, we value friendship and fellowship.



Combined Singleton Rotary Clubs – Centenary Celebrations

Amanda and David were pleased to be part of the combined Singleton Rotary Clubs Centenary Celebratory dinner held in June.

This was a great occasion, where Rotarians from across the District gathered to listen to Rotary International Director-Elect, Jessie Harman, speak about the foundations of what Rotary has achieved and how we need to change into the future.

This was an impressive event with over 100 in attendance.



Photo: DG David Roach, DGE Amanda and Jessie Harman RI Director Elect

Zone C Area Governor Report

A Report of Congratulations and Appreciation!

I would like to congratulate all the Zone C clubs for their very positive efforts of serving their communities during the challenging times of the current Covid 19 pandemic. All clubs have risen to the challenge and have certainly met the Rotary International theme of 'Rotary Opens Opportunities' by exploring many new avenues of community service.

These have ranged from mask making, donation of school back packs, sewing of blankets for the homeless, donation of dignity bags for victims of domestic violence, cupcake and coffee voucher thank yous for emergency service workers, second hand furniture deliveries for the less fortunate in our communities, cooking of meals for our elderly citizens and the continuance of monetary donations to many local and international communities to assist those most in need, just to name a few!

My thanks to all Zone C Rotarians for your selfless efforts.

Also, congratulations to the District Virtual Conference Committee on the presentation of a very interesting and informative District Conference this year. Even though I was unable to join in as I was in the Kimberley Outback, I was most heartened to note the conference attendance by Zone C clubs, often joining together to watch the conference and share fellowship at a different level to previous years.

On my return in late May, I had the wonderful opportunity to share the delight of attending the Rotary Club of Paterson's Fireworks Evening. What an exciting event, with nearly 4000 in attendance to enjoy a great fireworks display complete with children's activities, delicious food, excellent music and great community participation.

Congratulations Paterson Rotarians you have raised the bar for a



community event and I look forward to returning to the fireworks in 2022.

My first Change Over Dinner visit was a very special occasion as it was not only a changeover of the Board for the Rotary Club of East Maitland but also a celebration of their 60 years Anniversary.

A wonderful evening of recognition for their brilliant service to the community but also an opportunity to reflect on the club's history and honour previous leaders and club members contributions. I was delighted to attend and share in the celebration of a very moving evening and recognise that Rotary is in very strong hands in their local community.

I know that Zone C club members will move into the new Rotary year and continue to **'Serve to Change Lives'** throughout the 2021-22 Rotary year.

Chris Walmsley, Area Governor



Zone D Area Governor Report

The time has come to welcome the new Club Presidents and be ready to provide assistance.

Although there are three who will take on a second year and others who are not strangers to the role of President, there are those who are entering into it for the first time ...so for those people in particular, remember that I'm here to help!

I've already done a bit of work with Sue Hooper, Incoming President of Morisset and I attended a meeting at Toronto last week to help with some future planning.

I'm certainly impressed by how much work has continued in spite of the huge interruption caused by the pandemic.

Clubs have found ways to get out into the community and make things to go overseas and fundraise to support

projects and do whatever it takes to keep that big wheel in motion.

It's most helpful to receive newsletters from clubs as I can read about what's happening and keep a record of who does what.

I'm looking forward to getting around and visiting with fewer restrictions imposed than the same time last year.

I have enjoyed working with DG David and DGE Amanda and look forward to another year as part of their team.

Thank you to Pam Dean-Jones for your valuable help and for often being places when I can't be there.

I am looking forward to working with clubs again as they **"Serve to change lives"**.

Craig Henningham

Zone B Area Governor Report

Well, as the Rotary year draws to an end, we must look back over the past 12 month and see what we have all achieved.

It has been great to see clubs come together socially and on projects over the past few months, from the virtual conference representation, the meeting in Singleton with Jessie Harman, to planting of trees and gardens for the environment.

Some clubs have reached milestones, like Denman Club celebrating 50 years of service to the community.

As we start the changeover season, all clubs should be proud of what they have done during what was a difficult year which has seen clubs have to move venues to having their major fundraiser quashed and having to readjust to keep going.

It has proven that Rotarians can adapt and move forward.

I would like to thank the president of each club for their support over the past 12 months and look forward to working with the presidents and their boards in the future.

Regards

Phil Gorton



"It has been the way of Rotary to focus thought upon matters in which members are in agreement, rather than upon matters in which they are in disagreement."

Phil Gorton

Rotary

Since my last edition, I was so happy to see Bob the Dog, when IPDG Graeme and Sue took me to Mudgee on a couple more of their road trips. Bob the Dog and his mum collect bottles and cans and love going walkies. But one day they came home with a stray that stayed, and they named him, Hope.

The bush telegraph also relayed that Vera in Dubbo had been busy on her mum's shop counter teasing loose coins from passing pockets.

And so another Rotary year fades away. For a few pup years now though, us pups have been working so hard and the fruits of our labours are nearing reality. Oh, so many

memorable adventures and a hearty thank you to Rotarians and friends for partaking in the spirit of mateship and being so generous along our journey.

Everyone always made me feel so welcome including special puppy bickies which were always so yummy with a little bowl of water to quench the thirst on those really hot summer days.

But there comes a time when we do need to put our little paws up for a rest. Although we're now into retirement, we're not self-funding retirees. A little bit of help along the way will always be ever so much appreciated to keep us cosy and comfy, fed and watered.



Bob, Hope & Isda with dunny money box



Isda's Column

The lovely Katrina can rest her keyboard a little bit too. But gee, she's been just the best!

I'll be sure to let everyone know when all their hard-earned cash is transformed into helping a veteran / first responder who suffers PTSD.

Be sure to keep up with DG Amanda's newsletter for news of a possible puppy reunion at her conference next year.

Love



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.



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SERVICE DOGS AUSTRALIA

District Awards

This year, the District Trophies were voted on by the Area Governors from across our District and I thank them for their efforts and congratulate the following winners:

The Doug Matthews Trophy and the Furthering the Object of Rotary Award

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

Awarded to East Maitland RC

The Rotary Club of East Maitland promotes and fosters the ideals of Rotary and Rotary service in its community through a variety of ongoing programs and activities that supports the advancement of goodwill and understanding.

These programs include the regular support of community organisations through the voluntary provision of BBQ catering at events and functions at no cost to the organisations, enhancing the community environment through the club's Graffiti Removal program and participation in the Clean Up Australia Campaign, making and providing blankets for the Homeless, continued



support of the Sims/ Cambodia International Project and great member involvement in the local Centenary Celebrations to promote Rotary to the wider community.

Congratulations East Maitland

The Jim Henderson Trophy

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

Awarded to Morisset RC



Throughout this year Morisset Rotary Club has produced an outstanding bulletin - Marg's Manuscripts during Margaret Johnson's presidential year. It has been developed into a clean, modern and easy to read publication which updates the reader on the club's activities. Pictures and graphics are a feature of its presentation. There are useful links embedded into the bulletin and the page turning function is most impressive.

Congratulations Morisset.

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.

Awarded to Newcastle RC



Congratulations to the Rotary Club of Newcastle on winning the Australian Rotary Health Trophy for the largest contribution to ARH over the past twelve months to May this year.

Newcastle Rotary Club have been strong supporters of Australian Rotary Health, who are celebrating their 40th birthday this year. Many clubs have contributed to ARH this year, despite the reduction in fund raising due to the Covid pandemic.

Some of the mental health scholarships awarded over the years, have produced very positive results, and programs have been developed to support this research. Organisations such as Lifeline, Beyond Blue and the Black Dog Institute are now implementing these programs to assist their clients. It is vital to keep this research funding going.

Clubs are always advised a new campaigns such as - Lift the Lid Mental Health Day which will be released soon.

It will provide clubs with the ability to interact with their local communities, provide funds to ARH and the opportunity to promote Rotary to possible new members.

Well done Newcastle RC and all the other clubs who have contributed to Australian Rotary Health.

The Preserve Planet Earth Award

Awarded to the Club which has had the best environmental program for the year.

Awarded to Dungog RC



The Rotary Club of Dungog has actively supported the enhancement of their local community environment by working with the Dungog Common Land Management Committee and Riverdene Nurseries in planting 200 Grey Gum tree tube stock as koala food for the next 100 years. So 100 trees for the years past and 100 trees for the next century. A park bench will also be installed at the Common for members of the Dungog community to observe and enjoy the koalas in the decades to come. An important environmental project undertaken by a Rotary club small in numbers but large in vision.

Congratulations Dungog.

The Shirley Stanley Memorial Trophy and Ted and Anne Lewis Award

Awarded to the Club/s which is most involved in promoting and pursuing youth and young adult programs.

Awarded to Dubbo West RC

The Rotary Club of Dubbo West has a strong engagement with the Youth Exchange Program and prior to COVID has hosted many exchange students. Two of the club members are also part of the YEP Committee.

The club has supported Aboriginal boys involved in the Clontarf Foundation - Delroy Academy by collaboratively planting trees around parkland near Delroy shopping centre; cooking BBQs for their annual super training event which involves 150 boys from the region; in addition to this the club has cooked breakfast/lunch for boys as they pedalled around No.1 oval raising money for White Ribbon.

In addition to the Clontarf program the club supports the Girl's Academy at the Delroy High School Campus which involves mentoring of Aboriginal girls at school. The club has worked alongside the girls catering for previous District PETS sessions. The club has also donated hats for their excursions (embroidery depicted partnership between Delroy Girl's Academy & Dubbo West Rotary).

The club has also been an active supporter of the annual Science & Engineering challenge held in Dubbo for a number of years.

Two members of the club have mentored students in a leadership role at the



District Awards, contd...

Dubbo Senior Campus. They modelled meeting procedure & public speaking.

The club has a strong partnership with Dubbo Opportunity Hub which helps local Aboriginal youth reach their potential during schooling & beyond. The club also delivers donated backpacks to children transitioning to school and supports beginner drivers to get their required hours pre licencing.

The club also has a partnership with Ume Clinic, West Timor and has sent 90 backpacks to West Timor for students at a local primary school.

PDG Don Stevens, has organised the annual Dream Cricket gala day. Club members support this program by

promoting, catering & leading groups of students with disabilities develop skills.

The introduction of RYPEN WEST involved 2 club members visiting RYPEN EAST to investigate planning and programming. The outcome of the visit was the creation of RYPEN WEST. The committee met for several months prior to COVID & had planned to hold our inaugural camp at Lake Burrendong in August 2020. RYPEN Out West is supported by other Rotary clubs from Dubbo & Wellington.

Ladies and gentleman Dubbo West Rotary Club are worthy winners of this award.

Congratulations to all our District Award winners today.



Changeover of District 9670 and The Rotary Club of Rylstone Kandos

The Parklands Resort in Mudgee was the venue of both the changeover for the Rotary Club of Rylstone Kandos and, more significantly, the final District changeover for Rotary District 9670 before it becomes a part of the new 9660 District in 2022.

The introductory welcomes and toasts reminded us as of the message of "friendship and service".

Rotary Club of Rylstone Kandos, President David Fuller highlighted the achievements, challenges and encounters of a small club, whilst affected by COVID restrictions,

remained active in a community that is still recovering from the ravages of drought and fires.

A Paul Harris Fellow was awarded to Rotarian Robyn Oakes, in acknowledgement for her outstanding service to the Rylstone Kandos communities.

Induction of the Rotary Club of Rylstone Kandos club president for 2021-2022 David Connell was completed and was followed by him identifying that his plans for the future of the club would be built on the solid foundation that IPP David Fuller had established through the compliance of Rotary protocols and requirements, thus allowing him to concentrate on the club once again having a community focus.

DG David Roach undertook the distribution of District Awards to those clubs who have excelled in specific areas of service.

Report and reflection on his year as District Governor, David Roach once again highlighted the worldwide change to Rotary caused by the COVID pandemic. He acknowledged the attitude of flexibility by clubs,

embracing technology, to ensure that they were able to continue their "Do-Goodery" on local, national and international fields of play. He recognised District support and thanked the management committee, club representatives, district leaders and individuals for their leadership and forward thinking.

District Governor Elect Neville Parsons addressed the assembled members identifying that he was delighted to lead the task of bringing two districts together.

Incoming District Governor Amanda Roach acknowledged the honour she felt to be the final District Governor for D9670, recognising that whilst this transition would require a lot of work, it has the capacity to assemble the combined best practise principles, actions and service of both districts to create a formidable District 9660.

She posed the question "What do you value/enjoy about being a Rotarian", encouraging all to use this question to create a vision of possibilities to reinvigorate our membership, stamp out issues of disruption, bullying or prejudice and operate by the guiding principle that Rotary is made up of "ordinary people doing extraordinary things" in their Service Above Self.

In closing, Rotarian Helen Fuller made connection between new RI President Shekhar Mehta's theme of "Serve to Change Lives" and Dr Suess' quote: "Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot; nothing is going to get better. It's not." As Rotarians we have the magic change lives!