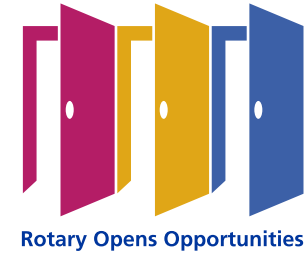


Roach Rattlings

D9670 District Governor
David Roach

Issue 11
June 2021



From the DG's desk ...

Rotarians and Friends,

This will be the last *DG Roach Rattlings* and I would like to acknowledge the support of the Newsletter Editor, Katrina Henningham from the Rotary Club of Warners Bay – a huge vote of thanks from myself and the District for your editorial skills and presentation of such an informative monthly newsletter.

My thanks to the Face to Face/Virtual Conference team led by Conference Chair Area Governor Phil Gorton. My appreciation and thanks to you all for the commitment and innovative response to our ever-changing

Covid-19 environment. To Martin McGrevy from the Rotary Club of Charlestown for his months of work in creating the Virtual Conference I am truly indebted to you and on behalf of the District thank you. To Charmaine, Martin's wife, we owe you a huge thanks for the sacrifices you have made to ensure this production came to life.

Thank you to the current District Management Committee for your support and commitment throughout the 2020-21 Rotary year. This has not been an easy journey and I applaud the professional way in which you have managed the District.



Currently the Club representatives are Western – Nicole Shanks (Dubbo West RC), Central – Christine Walmsley (Maitland Sunrise RC) & Eastern – Phil Gorton (Wallsend - Maryland RC). The only change to the Club Representatives for 2021-22 is that Brian Oakley (Newcastle Sunrise RC) has been elected and is replacing Phil Gorton. Thanks to Phil for his time and Rotary Service as the Eastern Club Representative. It is at this time appropriate to acknowledge the development of By-law 4 which enabled the voting for the Club representatives using a telecommunication process. Our thanks to Steve Jackson District Public Officer for his time and the development of a very workable process.

At the Conference Resolution Session / District Legislation Meeting held on Friday evening 21st May via zoom the Operational Budget for 2021-22 was adopted and the 2021-22 District Levy was set at \$115.28 plus GST per club member per annum paid half yearly. Authorization was also approved for the use of reserves for the expenditure outlined in the documentation.

The meeting also endorsed the Notice of Motion from the District Committee that authorised a transfer of all assets and liabilities pertaining to the **mherv**



project to the Rotary Club of Warners Bay provided that those funds are held separately and used solely for the purpose of administering the project. This motion was endorsed unanimously by the clubs present.

To everyone who undertook District roles and responsibilities my thanks for your commitment to Rotary and serving the community. Each of you have contributed significantly to positive outcomes and enhancing the well-being of our communities.

To all the clubs I wish you well for the upcoming Rotary year and ask that you follow the new Rotary theme of '**Serve to Change Lives**'.

My thanks to Amanda for her support throughout the year and I wish her well in her year as District Governor as we move the District to the formation of D9660.

David Roach

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Deadline for next issue:
23 June 2021
Email articles to:
yezfidar@outlook.com

Yarnings



A Challenge from “the other half”

So... Where are they??????????

Where are all the amazing people we send off to our Rotary programs year in, year out?

Do our Clubs keep records? Do we remember who they are? Are they in our Clubs? In our Communities? If they aren't living where they once were, are their families still about?... and are THEY involved with our Rotary Clubs?

These are questions I ponder – and query – as we move about visiting the District Clubs with DG David, when someone asks the inevitable: “How do we get young and new members?” Well – what are YOU doing about it?

Every year, for many years, we have supported young folk to participate and benefit from the wide range of programs Rotary has to offer. Then they complete the program, and MAY be back to report on their experience ... never to see them again. SO, who might be the problem here?

I'm suggesting WE are the problem when it comes to potential new members – often these programs are opportunities lost. We are “pretty bad” it seems at keeping accurate, updated information about these young leaders of tomorrow (and of today actually – it's been going on for a while!) Especially with young folk; what do we do to keep in contact with their families, perhaps capturing

their support for our volunteer work or even become possible members too? Who are the members of our present Clubs who have come from any of these inspirational (and aspirational) programs?

You know who I'm talking about; we send them to programs such as:

- RYPEN • RYLA • Youth Exchange
- GSE • NGSE • MUNA • RYAG
- RYCOT • RYCAG • Driver Ed
- Honeywell • NYSF • Peace Fellows

So many – and more could be listed here – so many are opportunities lost for these Alumni to have on-going contact with our District and Clubs – sharing their enthusiasm and knowledge, to be trainers for the “next batch” coming through; guest speakers for our meetings and Area groups (even by Zoom, and even from abroad!) ...sharing with us where they have gone in their careers, their lives. Giving us all a sense of pride in their development in the citizenship we value and want to nurture.

COME ON BOARD District 9670! It's time to look at what is in front of us, take responsibility to grow our connections, remind ourselves about the wonderful people we have chosen to support, and continue to be creating the sense of belonging in our Rotary Family.

Why am I saying this? Because membership is not one person's problem, it is one we ALL have a vested interest in. Be part of the solution, not expecting someone else to fix it. It is not RI's problem to fix up. It is not District's problem to fix. The entire membership needs to be part of the solution. We harbour immense talent to be able to do this! You heard the same message from RI Director Elect Jessie Harman at our Virtual Conference. We need to adapt and change to encourage connection, volunteering, collaboration – and perhaps extending our membership.

Look around you, investigate, ASK! It is our responsibility to ask others to be involved in any way possible with the good work we do. Partnerships with other Clubs! Partnerships with Interact, Rotaract – and now Rotakids! Partnerships with Councils, training providers and businesses! Partnership with families and Alumni. Don't be precious... for Rotary to grow and be even more significant into the future, we have to stop being precious and appreciate that **Rotary is for all people**, that it is a reflection of all folk! Be diverse, inclusive, equitable when you do your work and meet people who can potentially volunteer, assist, complement or even become members.

It costs about \$5 a week to be a member of Rotary each year – the price of a cup of coffee. If you are one of the members or Clubs worried about the high cost of Rotary, think again. Generally speaking, this “high cost” is about the weekly, embedded price of meals. That being the case, do some self-examination of how YOUR Club may be able to reinvent itself, such as:

Cheaper venues; A meal of choice rather than an organised meal; Change the time of day to lunch/ morning tea/afternoon tea/cocktails; A BBQ in the park; a meal for those who choose, followed by meeting time – or – meeting time followed by a meal. There are Clubs who are trying these alternatives and thriving, reinventing themselves to meet current lifestyles. FLEXIBILITY is alive and well! Frequency and days or times of meetings can all be changed, varied.

The important thing of course, is that your Club needs to be attractive to current and future members. Do that “Club Health Checklist” you've talked about – find out what members really think and want. Be friendly and welcoming – HAVE FUN!!!! Do service, be seen – it's not all about raising money. Rotary meetings and service should be a place you want to be with friends.

Take a chance and try something new – BE BRAVE!!!! There is a constellation of training and ideas out there to start your journey.

We have great people in our District to support you – Carol Coffey, PDG Brian, Wilma Simmons – all from the District Membership team. Your Area Governors: Peter Judd, Phil

Gorton, Craig Henningham, Christine Walmsley, Pam Dean-Jones. You would be surprised what they can do to assist you! And they are ready and willing! We already have new types of Clubs bubbling under the surface – interest in change and modernised flexibility is gathering a growing interest, so be ready!

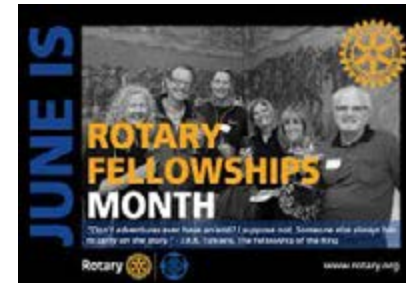
And lastly, but certainly not least, I'm back to the **Alumni**. Glenda Briggs from the RC East Maitland is our new District Alumni Chair. Her brief this year is to build those lists of people we've assisted, making connections – so I want Glenda to be “a relentless bloodhound” in her pursuit of asking you all and accumulating the information needed for us to go boldly into the future, armed with the knowledge that can help our Clubs and organisation to grow in richness. We are a fantastic asset for our communities, for our world. Let's find and engage the best people out there to help us do just that.

A glimpse of your Rotary year to come... Yes! It's challenging, but I know we can all be part of taking our best selves, our best Clubs, into a fantastic future!

Amanda



Rotary Theme: June



Rotary clubs indulge in fellowship activities, thanksgiving or acts of gratefulness and the like. Such as:

- Inter-Club meetings or social gatherings
- Circulating “Rotary Fellowship” literature
- Promoting RFE (Rotary Friendship Exchanges) – and invite speakers to share their experiences of RFE.

Virtual Conference Report

The first and the best D9670 Virtual Conference has now concluded – what a success as indicated by comments on our Facebook page including: ‘Fantastic – congratulations to all. We had a really enjoyable and inspiring day’, ‘Congratulation’s and well done it was a great conference’, ‘Technology is amazing at times. Looks like it has all come together’.

My thanks to everyone who worked over the last two years to bring this Conference to ‘life’ managing the change from face to face to Virtual. This was mostly achieved ‘in house’ My gratitude and thanks go to the leadership team around this planning and implementation of the event. To Martin McGrevy from the Rotary Club of Charlestown words cannot express our indebtedness for his hours of work and guidance through this process and the production on the day was **OUTSTANDING** from the central commentary position in Martin’s home. To Charmaine, Martin’s wife, a sincere thank you as the journey started last November has occupied every minute of Martin’s life since the first days of filming.

To an amazing team which demonstrated the flexibility and innovation to present to our District the first Virtual Conference simply – **THANK YOU.**

To the 296 Rotarians and Friends who registered for a free Conference and to the donations you gave it will possibly equate to around US \$11,000 when you include the 2 to 1 Bill and Melinda Gates contribution. Another step closer to our goal of **END POLIO NOW.**

To the individuals and clubs who gathered in central meeting points to view the conference and to enjoy each other’s fellowship we hope it helped cement positive relationships within your club and with other clubs.

To the lucky draw winners:

- Peter Bentley-Howard (Belmont RC) a BBQ & gas bottle;
 - Tony Mackenzie (Newcastle RC) a fire pit;
 - Lindy Hunt (Scone RC) a gas butane stove;
 - Nanette Hardy (Belmont RC) an outdoor table/chairs;
 - Judy Hicks (East Maitland RC) 4 camp chairs;
 - Ann Patricia (Cardiff RC) 4 camp chairs;
 - Steve Crane (Kurri Kurri RC) an 8 can esky;
 - Peter Debus (Dubbo South RC) 2 garden pots;
 - David Roach (Rylstone-Kandos RC) Pope garden hose and reel;
 - Gerard McMillan (Singleton Sunrise RC) a Newcastle Monopoly game.
- Lucky Club Draw** for those who attained a hamper. The winners receive a Newcastle Monopoly game – Mudgee RC, Wellington RC & Singleton Sunrise RC.

The successful bidder for the **Catherine Hill Bay Wharf painting** was Neil White from the Rotary Club of Singleton. The money goes to Sue Hooper’s ISDA project.

The successful bidders for the **online silent auctions** were:

- Anita White (Singleton RC) – Mala Retreat
- Neil White (Singleton RC) - Weber BBQ, gas bottle & tools

Pam Wellham (Belmont RC) – Biraganbil Cottage 2 nights accommodation.
The money raised through these auctions goes equally to ‘End Trachoma’ and R100 Centenary Project ‘Every Child a Future’.

Thanks for a great Conference and incoming DG Amanda looks forward to seeing you at the 2022 Conference in Newcastle 18 – 20 March.

From a Proud DG David

From across the District, Rotary Clubs joined the Virtual Conference from their homes and from local venues.



The Combined District 9670, Rotaract & Rylstone Kandos Rotary Club Changeover

The combined District 9670, Rotaract & Rylstone Kandos Rotary Club Changeover will be held at Parklands Resort Mudgee on Sunday 27th June.

Please note registrations will close on Sunday 20th June
– so register now.



[Rotary District 9670 Change Over / Rylstone Kandos Rotary Club Change Over Lunch Link](#)

Doors open at 11:45am for a 12:30pm start.

‘Fight For Survival’

When the going gets tough, we need to act fast to quickly assess the situation and implement a survival plan.

Last month, I highlighted a turnaround plan that I was engaged in with RISPPPO (Rotary International South Pacific & Philippines Office) for 18 months.

We did not come with a model and requirement to tick boxes, instead we worked with the club to identify the issue, causes, options and opportunities with flexibility.

In saying that, it is accepted in business management that a turnaround plan should consist of seven key elements, that I have related to an organisation such as our clubs:

1. Stakeholder management – this is the most vital aspect:

- It is important to engage all stakeholders in the process with clear, consistent and predictable information and communication to ensure stakeholders support and have confidence in the turnaround plan.
- 2. Crisis stabilisation**
 - Take control of the identified issues – set a date.
 - Cost cutting is a key strategy here – with free volunteering options, our membership needs to be more efficient. Are fines, raffles, unnecessary fees and meals needed?
- 3. New leadership**
 - Management changes can have a dramatic influence on a club. Management sends the strongest message of confidence to the members
- Committees, strategies and culture may need a brutal shake up
- Interference can be minimised and the leaders can focus on the objective
- 4. Strategic focus**
 - Perform a strategic review of the club – how did we get to this point?
 - Management team making strategic decisions about growth, succession, flexibility, technology, mentoring, advisory boards
 - Invite external bodies to observe the club’s functioning
- 5. Critical process improvement**
 - Become more efficient in any area – meetings, projects, fundraising, donations.
 - Can we share resources with neighbouring clubs?

6. Organisational change

- Culture and operational changes – improving communication and engagement strategy.

7. Financial restructuring

- Appropriate financial management and sound management reporting

In any organisation, if an effective strategic plan is not implemented and reviewed, failure will follow. Move rapidly from strategy to execution by preparing action plans, estimating costs (financial and membership) and benefits and tracking and celebrating key milestones.

The biggest mistake a club can make is to take short-cuts, undervalue your members, time and budgets, do things slowly or to under-estimate what is ultimately required.



What worked, or you got away with once, may not work today – members are prepared to challenge, move on or the committed may even start a club to suit their needs (not that this is necessarily a bad outcome).

Article by Carol Coffey, District 9670 Membership Chair

Perfect Weather for Charity Golf Day

The Rotary Club of Nelson Bay held its 29th Annual Charity Golf Day on 23 April at Nelson Bay Golf Club. The weather was perfect and 130 players enjoyed this Ambrose event.

More than \$20,000 was raised thanks to the support of players, volunteers and sponsors. Port Stephens Toyota has been a loyal supporter of this event for over a decade and supplied a Toyota Yaris, valued at \$26,000, as a major hole-in-one prize, which was not won. Port Stephens Council was also a major sponsor. Many of the sponsors entered teams for the event.

Proceeds from this year's Charity Golf Day will enable the Rotary Club of Nelson Bay to provide further funds to HMRI (Hunter Medical Research Institute) for Associate Professor Kelvin Kong's project for more efficient Indigenous ear diagnosis and many other Rotary community projects. Kelvin Kong, a local Worimi Man, grew up in Nelson Bay and in the past 12 months has received a number of community awards, including the prestigious Menzies

Medallion and was honoured as the City of Newcastle Citizen of the Year 2021. He has had a long association with the Rotary Club of Nelson Bay which has already given \$20,000 and the success of the Charity Golf Day provides an additional \$10,000 to meet the Club's initial commitment. The Federal Government is also supporting Kelvin Kong's important project.

After the game, participants gathered in the clubhouse for the awards, auction and raffle. Due to the generosity of local businesses and individuals, all prizes and items had been donated.

Rotary Club Director and Charity Golf Day organiser, Arja Levonpera, once again did an outstanding job coordinating sponsors, players and activities. The Rotary Club of Nelson Bay is currently celebrating its 66th year of serving the local community and the Charity Golf Days have returned in excess of \$300,000 back to the local community.

HMRI team with their professional titles.



From the Archives

Report of the **Annual Conference of 32nd District Rotary International**, held in Newcastle 21 -23 May 1955.

PDG Gerald Digby – Golden Anniversary Chairman said: *'what Rotary had accomplished in the past was insignificant to what it could accomplish in the future if only the wheel was kept turning. The life of Rotary depends on the individual actions of its members. What a lesson in service we learnt in the recent flood disaster (Maitland floods). If ever the Rotary motto of 'Service above Self' was carried to the uttermost, it was during the past months of tragedy and desolation – by Rotarians and non-Rotarians alike.'*

I would like to echo Gerald's sentiment that now is the time for Rotarians to **keep the wheel turning** as we face the challenges before us.



Gee whiz ... this retirement stuff is going to be so welcome so us pups can put our soft little paws up for a well-earned rest. Can you remember I told you about our retirement plans in my last column?

Did you see me in the movie at DG David and DGE Amanda's "Do Goodery" Conference? Were you listening to Big Boss Ben from Canberra?



... sniff sniff ...
...no sign of any puppy tucker in here ...



Isda's Column

Our money tin savings are going to make a big difference and more has trickled in since he and Digger and his furry friend, Linda, were movie stars. Rotarians and their friends are such lovely folk. Always stepping up to the mark and beyond.

Apart from making movies, I've been out and about around local fairs and markets adding to my very own money tin. I had such a lovely time chatting to folk and the little ones are so cute. So many folk don't know what us pups can get up to, to help our veterans live better.

You can still add to our money tins. Just remember to put "ROTARY" with your name so your generosity is recorded in the right place. The lovely Katrina – she's been so good for all these puppy years putting the details at the end of my column.

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.



Zone D Area Governor Report

Zone D – Craig Henningham

The much anticipated Autumn Fair held at Speers Point Park, on the 1st of May was a great success. The weather was kind and an estimated 6,000 people came through during the day. There was plenty to see and do and the event was a credit to the organising committee and the clubs that participated. Not only was it a fun, family day, it was a great opportunity to put Rotary out in front of the community. I was given the opportunity to represent D.G David and share the stage with Lake Macquarie Mayor Kay Frazer, Federal MP Pat Conroy and State MP Greg Piper at the opening ceremony. As well as passing on DG David's congratulations to the organising committee, thanks to the sponsors and outline the great achievement of clubs working together, I was able to talk about the 100 years of Rotary in Australia, the seven areas of focus and some of Rotary's achievements including the progress made in eradicating Polio. All

of the games and activities were fun and popular but the one that caught the eye of Mark Rourke, the 2NURFM announcer broadcasting from the site on the day, was Morisset's Dunny Roll Toss. It certainly drew a lot of interest and made a second appearance at the Lake Macquarie Up in the Air Festival only a few weeks later.

A busy week of visits accompanying DG David and DGE Amanda to the four Newcastle clubs. It's great to see how different four clubs in the same area can be. But all are doing great things in their community. Between the clubs, the Newcastle area has, among other things, local clean-up, Rotary Peace Pole, graffiti removal, tree planting and weed removal and of course fundraising to support other important community services. I enjoyed the conversations I was able to have with some of the members and hear about some of the ideas they have for future activities. I look forward to assisting with some of these, particularly when it comes to

getting a number of clubs working together. DG David had me present each club with their copy of Humanity in Action.

The Rotary Clubs of Cardiff and Wallsend-Maryland combined their resources again this year to support the Cardiff Fire and Rescue station 251 and Minmi Fire and Rescue station 377 at their annual community open day. The day was full of community activities including for children. The fireies answered questions from curious minds big and small. A few Rotarians even enjoyed trying their hand with the fire hose.

A new member information evening was held at Warners Bay recently. Carol Coffey (and PDG Brian) came along to offer support and it was fortunate that the evening coincided with a visit from Sue and Graeme Bell. Sue spoke about her involvement in vaccinating children against Polio in India. I think that Sue's story was a real eye opener for the visitors and inspired them to want to be involved.

Finally, I was invited to speak to Morisset Club this week about the progress of re-districting. At the risk

of delivering a history lesson, I was able to talk about how long "Districting and the problems attached thereto" has been going on and that we're not treading new ground. We were able to have a positive conversation about progress thus far, the district structure and the timeline for the new district. It was pointed out, quite rightly, that we should not just accept declining

membership as the norm and should be proactive in growing our numbers into the future. Of course we know that some creative thinking and new club structures are necessary to see a turnaround in this regard.

Thank you to those clubs that continue to send your regular newsletters.



Zone C Area Governor Report

Zone C – Chris Walmsley

As we move closer towards the end of this Rotary year, all Zone C clubs have been organising their Boards and plans for the 2021-22 Rotary year. As part of this organisation the clubs are also preparing their Change Over Dinner functions and I am looking forward to sharing their celebrations in what has been a most challenging year.

During the past 4 weeks, I have had the pleasure of attending the District Governor's visit to East Maitland Rotary Club and shared their ANZAC Day ceremony, complete with the last post and a most interesting guest speaker from the armed services. This meeting was well attended by members of the local Returned Services League.

The following evening, I again joined DG David and DGE Amanda when we visited the Rotary Club of Paterson for a most enjoyable evening of fellowship and sharing of plans for their upcoming Cracker Night on June 5th at Tucker Park. There was a great buzz in the air and lots of constructive ideas shared amongst the members as they progressed their planning for their first major fundraiser since Covid impacted on the area. I look forward to joining them for this exciting event and encourage other Rotary clubs to support this event as well.

In early May, I was finally able to join the members of Dungog Rotary and present them with their District membership flag. They have certainly been busy since my last visit conducting a successful Grocery

Trolley Dash with a most deserving community winner! Also, to celebrate our Rotary Centenary, the club organised for the planting of 200 tube stock trees, as koala food for the next 100 years. Their centenary commemorative flag is also proudly flying on Hollywood Hill, courtesy of the Chamber of Commerce. Another small club supporting their community.

Mother's Day Flower Stalls are very popular in Maitland and both Greenhills and East Maitland Rotary were up early over the Mother's Day weekend selling beautiful arrangements for the Mothers of the Maitland Community while raising much needed funds for their community projects. I thoroughly enjoyed assisting Georgia from the Greenhills Club on the Saturday while sharing goodwill with the local community.

Raymond Terrace Rotary saw their many months of planning reach a successful conclusion with the King Street Heritage Festival conducted last Saturday. What a huge effort by the members in organising a visit by the William the Fourth Paddle Steamer, complete with street parades, a variety of entertainment, street stalls including 'Polly' from the Polio Eradication Project and many more attractions. Well done Raymond Terrace Rotary, you certainly raised the profile of Rotary in your community last weekend!

This week, the five Rotary Clubs of Maitland received a Community Recognition Statement from the Parliament of NSW, Legislative Assembly acknowledging and thanking the 5 clubs for the planting

of 100 trees at Telarah Lagoon to celebrate the 100 years of Rotary. Together with Maitland City Council, this celebration of the centenary also recognised Rotary's passion for community service with the determination to make a positive change to the lives of many.

