



# Roach Rattlings

## From the DG's desk ...

Rotarians and friends

Welcome to our Virtual Conference month. An article about the Virtual Do-Goodery Conference is included in this month's Roach Rattlings but I would like to again acknowledge the outstanding commitment by the Conference Committee to the creation of the first Virtual Conference held by D9670.

In particular, I acknowledge and highlight the tremendous efforts and passion of one individual Rotarian who has enthusiastically demonstrated the core value of 'Service Above Self'.



Martin McGrevey of the Rotary Club of Charlestown has created and shaped the presentations you will view during this Conference. Martin's countless hours of work and organization are a testimony to his professional approach to this task.

Please take the opportunity to register now for this Virtual Conference and be a part of this unique event.

As Amanda and I have visited clubs during the last few months, we are impressed with the positive relationships which are evident within our clubs. We also appreciate the friendly welcome we receive and

the positive atmosphere during the meetings.

It is evident that clubs are now starting to engage again with their local communities through activities they are organizing and supporting. Many clubs now have a dual emphasis on fundraising activities and service within the community. Congratulations on your club commitment to your community and beyond.

There have been many events happening across the District inclusive of Rotary Centenary activities. There are articles included in this edition highlighting such events. Well done to everyone!

We are fortunate in Australia, that we are not subjected to the continued Covid-19 transmissions that are occurring across the world. I would like to emphasize that it is important to look after yourself and maintain a healthy club which can support your local community.

In the years ahead, our health and well-being as individuals and clubs will be fundamental to our ability to help others less fortunate in our own and the wider world community.

As you may be aware we received notification from Rotary International that all Youth Exchange Programs are suspended until at least 1 July 2022.

D9670 District Governor  
David Roach

Issue 10  
May 2021



## In this issue...

Yarnings.....	2
Rotary Theme: May .....	2
Announcing an Extraordinary Gift to the Rotary Peace Centers .....	3
...and the Winner Was! .....	4
Which Way? .....	5
Isda's Column.....	5
Zone D Area Governor Report.....	6
Zone C Area Governor Report.....	7
From the Archives.....	7



This is inclusive of international, state to state or 'bubble exchanges'.

There is one exception to this embargo as Virtual Zoom Exchanges between countries are acceptable – much like the pen pal concept except via Zoom.

Amanda and I are meeting in Tamworth this weekend (1st May) as part of the Transitional process to D9660. I will update you with more information in the next and last Roach Rattlings.

The Area Governor for your zone is always happy to assist your club in any way possible, so please use their skills and knowledge to work productively with your club.

Best wishes and I hope that you can make the Do-Goodery Zoom Virtual Conference on Saturday 22nd May at 10:30am.

*David Roach*

Deadline for next issue:  
23 May 2021  
Email articles to:  
[yezfidar@outlook.com](mailto:yezfidar@outlook.com)

## Greetings from the May "Yarnings"!

DG David and I have had such a great welcome and interaction with the Clubs visited during April.

We are very much looking forward to our "May Dates", as we visit the majority of Western clubs and those within Newcastle itself.

Thank you for sharing so many of your stories and activities as we've moved about from Club to Club so far, as well as allowing us to participate in some special events celebrating the 100th Birthday of Rotary in Australasia.

May is Rotary's **Youth Services** month. While our traditional Youth programs are in hibernation, there are opportunities aplenty to be investigated as to how Clubs might support youth projects or services in their own communities which may benefit from additional support, interaction or member ability to lend a hand in some ways. There are some fantastic programs already happening in our District with young people in mind – from preschool preparation for kindergarten next year, to reading programs, mentoring of high school students, books for babies, **Days for Girls** groups, mental health programs for young folk, support for those in out-of-home-care, assisting kids living on the street, Youth Centre interactions, supporting schools who wish to do some kind of specific program such as **RotaKids**, donating **Peace Poles** to schools, assisting students who may wish to have **Shelterbox** as a fund-raiser to focus on, **Bags for Brains** – the list, essentially, is endless and I am very happy to provide further information for you to connect with other Clubs successfully engaged in these.

Sharing is a great way to connect with others and strengthen the successful implementation of expanding our good works.

Information is being distributed about two important Rotary recognition projects: **RESCA (Rotary Emergency Services Community Awards)** and **RIWA (Rotary Inspirational Women's Awards)**.

Thank you to the individual Rotarians in our District who have accepted my offer to be part of the committees involved with these important projects. Members are representative from across our whole area, which is very pleasing. I'm so honoured that those Rotarians asked have said yes, reminding me that many people jump into that new space primarily because somebody finally asked them to.

Sometimes we are unaware of the talent, capacity and willingness we have "in our own backyard" so to speak – so if you need something done, just ask! You are likely to get a "yes"!



# Yarnings A Conversation from "the other half"

Sue Hooper will also have her final fundraiser for **Integra Dogs (ISDA)** during the Conference by way of a silent auction of a beautiful painting of Catherine Hill Bay Wharf.

All proceeds raised via this Conference opportunity are going to support really worthwhile Rotary projects.

Another 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...

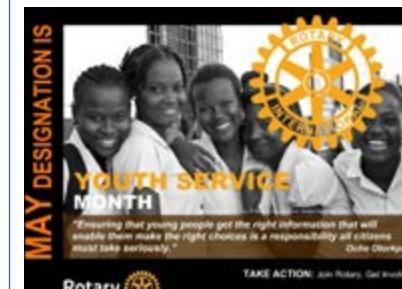
Cheers, Amanda

## Rotary Theme: May

### May - Youth Service

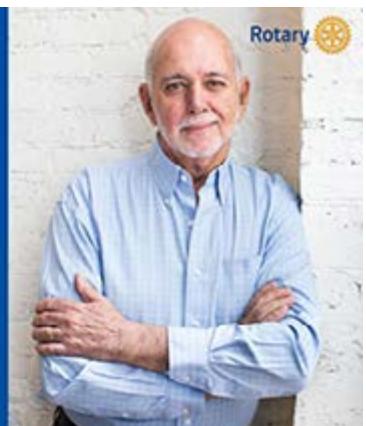
Rotary clubs of the world give special emphasis to the many Rotary-sponsored programs which serve children and young people.

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



**"Rotary's PROGRAMS FOR YOUNG LEADERS extend our ideals of service, friendship, and leadership development beyond the doors of our clubs. And when we serve with and for them... it brings out the BEST IN ROTARY."**

–Barry Rassin, Past Rotary International President (2018-2019)



# Announcing an Extraordinary Gift to the Rotary Peace Centers



How fortunate The Rotary Foundation is to have people who believe in our causes and are willing to use some of their own resources to support our work.

There's no question that our Foundation would have come to naught if not for the sustenance that so many provide, and it's so gratifying to note that there are now more who are striving to emulate them.

It's for that reason that I want you to learn of the extraordinary gift — a pledge of \$15.5 million — that the Otto and Fran Walter Foundation has made to The Rotary Foundation so that we can establish one of our Rotary Peace Centers in the Middle East or North Africa.

It's long been a stated desire of many Rotarians to establish a peace center in this region. Mainly because of three elements — water, oil, and religion — the

Middle East has often been a cauldron of conflict. We believe that with social understanding and political goodwill, there's still hope for peace and harmony in the Middle East. This is one way that Rotary can make a tangible contribution.

I am pleased to share the story of Otto and Fran Walter, the extraordinary people whose generosity made this possible.

The new center will be named the Otto and Fran Walter Rotary Peace Center. We hope to open it in 2026 and will begin the site selection process shortly.

I express our deep appreciation to the Otto and Fran Walter Foundation for this exemplary and hugely generous gift. I also want to record with sincere gratitude the efforts of Past District Governor Martha "Marty" Helman and her spouse, Frank, whose singular efforts brought this gift to fruition.

Warm regards,  
K.R. Ravindran  
Trustee Chair, The  
Rotary Foundation,  
2020-21



The Otto and Fran Walter Foundation has pledged \$15.5 million to The Rotary Foundation to start a Rotary Peace Center in the Middle East or North Africa.

The new center will offer a professional development certificate program focused on peacebuilding and development issues in the region. This generous gift from the Walter Foundation, which is based in Boothbay Harbor, Maine, USA, will fund the center's startup costs and operating expenses, as well as an endowment that will provide peace fellowships in perpetuity for up to 40 students to study there each year.

"Rotary has, for a long time, looked at how we can make a tangible contribution to the one area of the world where the element of peace has seemed so elusive," says Rotary Foundation Trustee Chair K.R. Ravindran. "Now that opportunity has come our way, thanks to the immense generosity of the Otto and Fran Walter Foundation. We will take full advantage to create a center where we can inspire our peace fellows to give flight to their spirit and equip them to be able to support action that will bring about peace and goodwill in a troubled region."

The Rotary Foundation will select a partner institution to host the Otto and Fran Walter Rotary Peace Center in 2024, and the first Rotary Peace Fellows are expected to start studying there in January 2026.

Otto and Fran Walter established their family foundation to promote peace and other charitable causes, and their mission lives on even after their deaths. Otto was born in Germany in 1907 and worked as a lawyer there. When totalitarianism arose in Europe, the Nazi government enacted the Nuremberg laws, which pushed Jewish professionals out of their jobs. Summarily disbarred,

Otto worked briefly as a law clerk before emigrating to the United States in 1936. He and his parents settled in New York.

His law degree wasn't recognized in the U.S., so Otto improved his English and started professional training. He earned a license as a certified public accountant and opened an accounting firm. But he never stopped believing that he could work as a lawyer again. Eventually, he sold his accounting firm and entered law school at New York Law School, graduating in 1954. The next year, he started a law firm which, with the support of his wife, Fran, steadily grew to employ 40 lawyers.

Through his legal work, Otto helped promote peace and improve relations between Germany and the U.S. After the Nuremberg laws were repealed, he became licensed to practice law in Germany and served as an adviser to the German Ministry of Finance during the negotiations of a 1954 U.S.-German income tax treaty. Otto and Fran focused on their philanthropic foundation later in their lives, becoming personally involved in the grants that they were able to fund. Otto became a member of the Rotary Club of New York City.

After Otto and Fran both died in 2003, Rotarian Frank Helman, a law colleague and friend, became president and director of their Foundation. He and his wife, Martha "Marty" Helman, the current president of the foundation, helped shepherd the \$15.5 million gift to The Rotary Foundation. The Helmans are both members of the Rotary Club of Boothbay Harbor.

"The Walter Foundation can imagine no better way to remember Otto and Fran and their legacy than through a Rotary Peace Center in the Middle East — a part of the world that has been torn by conflict," says Marty, who also serves

as chair of The Rotary Foundation's Peace Major Gifts Initiative Committee.

"The Walter Foundation is a small family foundation; we needed the partnership with Rotary to create a world-class peace center."

Since the first Rotary Peace Fellows began their studies in 2002, the Rotary Peace Centers have trained more than 1,400 fellows who now work in more than 115 countries. Many serve as leaders in government, nongovernmental organizations, the military, education, law enforcement, and international organizations like the United Nations and World Bank.



Otto and Fran Walter started their foundation to address hunger prevention and peace. Their foundation has pledged \$15.5 million to The Rotary Foundation to start a Rotary Peace Center in the Middle East or North Africa.

*Photo courtesy of The Otto and Fran Walter Foundation*

# ...and the Winner Was!

Saturday April 10 was a very special day for Rotary in the Port Stephens area; all 4 clubs gathered at Murray's Brewery for a very informal lunch and celebration of Rotary's Centenary in Australia. We were delighted to have the District Governor, David and Amanda join us as well as PDG Greg Bevan, the District Chair of the End Trachoma programme.

The Rotary Clubs of Nelson Bay and Salamander Bay had combined to run a Raffle to raise funds for the **End Trachoma** programme. The financial result was in excess of \$3500 and these funds will be used to make Toiletry kits for the children in the western and central parts of Australia; as well as the kits, Rotary will be educating the children about good hygiene, providing mirrors and clean water.

The winner of the End Trachoma Super Raffle was David Fisher, a member of the Medowie-Williamtown Rotary Club.



Our centenary banner was standing tall and as you can see from the photos so were the Presidents of the 4 clubs.

Working together on this project has been both a pleasure and a real opportunity to cement relationships and enjoy the fellowship as well as being able to work towards the Foundation's second Avenue of Focus; Disease Prevention and Treatment.

PDG Helen Ryan



# Which Way?



The journey to Dubbo from Raymond Terrace was to be a straight forward task. My eldest brother's wife had passed away and a funeral service had been planned at a Central West location.

To get there should present no difficulties. So with bags packed it was time to go.

Limited knowledge seemed to present no challenges but it didn't quite turn out that way. A new highway had been built whilst the old way raised new questions.

New questions to old answers sought to point the way ahead.

Fortunately, a service van was parked nearby and its occupants were an oasis of knowledge to the question, "Which Way to Dubbo?" Fortunately these two workers were tremendously helpful.

Confirmation that we were on the right road to Dubbo eased the slowly creeping anxiety level along with the fact that these roadside "Good Samaritans" had the assistance of a GPS meant that all was well..... well not quite. It didn't quite work out that way.

Pulling our Mazda CX5 to the side of the road meant that extra information would be required.

Suddenly our Good Samaritans saw yet again our dilemma and parked their service vehicle in order to come and offer further assistance.

"Just follow us" was their challenge so off we went again. Sure enough a hand signal and the pulling off the main road onto the Golden Highway was all the information required.

Not only did these two workers allow for rays of sunshine to creep into darkened minds but also illuminate the way ahead. With a cheery wave our unknown Good Samaritans were on their way again.

Dubbo was no longer an obstacle course. This inland metropolis awaited our presence.

Sometimes life's shadows can negate any positive aspects. On other occasions, sunshine can permeate and brighten the day.....as John Denver would sing: "Some days are diamonds. Some days are stone."

This day must have been our lucky one.

Rotary also seeks to make life brighter and richer by its involvement.

Enjoy the ride.

Yours in Rotary,  
Ron Elliott.

**"Lest we forget".** Our very special one day in the year, ANZAC Day, has been and gone for another year, but we never forget the sacrifices our veterans make to keep us safe.



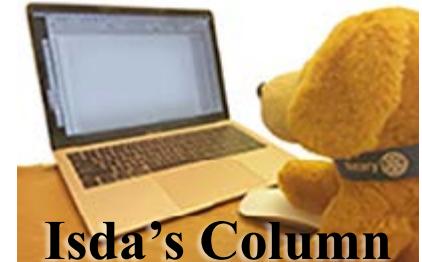
This is me doing sentry duty on our deck

And so now we're nearing the end of our amazing journey and, along with all my furry friends around the District, us pups are beginning to consider our retirement options from Club duty. Although some things didn't quite go according to plan, we still worked so hard through drought, fire, COVID, and flood, that we soldiered on because we want to make a veteran's life more meaningful.

To help with our retirement plans, us puppies will be very happy to be adopted out to new homes. But as we puppies are not going to be self-funded retirees, our retirement plans need to be carefully sniffed out. Perhaps your Club could raffle or auction each of us off amongst your members and friends at your Changeovers? The proceeds will ensure we stay cosy and comfy,



Here I am admiring all the beautiful floral tributes following our local Toronto service



## Isda's Column

fed and watered. And we've all been vaccinated too because McTavish made sure of that! Gee Whiz ... we could go on loving and giving for as long as our pup years will let us.

If your Rotary Club puppy has not yet put something in my money tin, there is still time. Remember to add "ROTARY" to your 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



### Donations to Integra Service Dogs

Australia can be made, either direct to ISDA: [www.isda.com.au](http://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

Katrina and I had the pleasure of attending the launch of "*Humanity In Action, a history of Rotary in Australia and Island Neighbours*".

A lovely reception, at Government House, was hosted on 8th April by His Excellency the Governor General David Hurley and Mrs Linda Hurley.

In his speech, His Excellency spoke of the many activities involving Rotary at the time, including having presided over the opening ceremony for the Aussie Peace Walk and unveiling the 100th Rotary Peace Pole. He went on to say that he and Mrs Hurley were delighted to be Ambassadors of the Rotary Centenary Year and in a position to shine a light on its outstanding contributions to many societies.

*"Humanity in Action is beautifully presented, meticulously researched*

*and incredibly informative – all credit to the Rotary Institute History & Archives Committee. It's a commemorative book for the ages. The book also provides a superb coverage of what Rotary 'is' and 'plans to be' in the future. The inspiring projects and topics – international, regional and local – reflect every avenue of service from caring for communities to lifting vocational ethics and working for world peace".*

Other speakers included PRIP Ian Riseley, PDG Bob Aitken, the second Editor of Rotary Down Under and Past RI Director Noel Trevaskis. During the speeches it was acknowledged that the production of the book was completed in Australia by Australian manufacturers.

During a dinner following, a number of acknowledgements were made to those who had contributed to the creation of the book.

A copy of the book will be given to every Rotary Club in Australia. Further copies can be purchased for \$25.00 plus postage by sending an email to Harry Durey at [hdurey@bigpond.com](mailto:hdurey@bigpond.com). Postage costs may be reduced if several people order for one delivery.

At the time of writing, there is only a week to go before the *Lake Mac Autumn Fair*.

It's amazing how many different activities will be there on the day and the committee has done a splendid job in bringing it all together. Apart from being a magical day for families, this is our opportunity to showcase what Rotary has done in the last 100 years and will do into the future. Please come along and be ready to talk about Rotary to anybody who'll listen!

Katrina and I had the pleasure of accompanying DG David and DGE Amanda to visit Toronto and Toronto

Sunrise Clubs. Both clubs are doing impressive things in their community and have joined forces to complete projects such as providing a new roof for the Scout Hall.

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 did me the honour of allowing me to present a copy of "Humanity In Action" to both clubs.



# Zone C Area Governor Report

## Zone C – Chris Walmsley

April has been a very busy month for all clubs in Zone C as they worked individually or in partnership with neighbouring Rotary clubs in planning their Rotary Centenary events.

The 4 clubs from the Port Stephens area, celebrated the centenary with a great lunch at Murray's Brewery. Port Stephens Centenary Coordinator PDG Helen Ryan and her able committee organised their celebrations and with the assistance of Port Stephen's Council a centenary pull up banner was donated to each club, a very smart and useful promotional resource for the clubs. At the lunch, PDG Greg Bevan shared some interesting information about the Fight Trachoma campaign and drew the combined clubs End Trachoma raffle. A very lucky David Fisher from Medowie / Williamtown Rotary was a surprised and appreciative winner.

Centenary celebrations in Maitland brought the 5 clubs together, over many zoom planning meetings and productive discussions. Working closely with Maitland City Council and with the assistance of a Community Grant, a series of events were planned beginning with the hanging of our great Centenary Banners in the Maitland CBD which have really promoted and recognised Rotary as a service organisation in the Lower Hunter.

Each club also organised a display of their club's history or community programs in their local library or art gallery to demonstrate the strong community service that Rotary has performed locally over many years. A Baton Relay was held at the new Maitland Athletics Centre and was well attended by members of the 5 clubs, our District Governor David and DGE Amanda as well as local politicians, who all participated in assisting each of the 5 clubs achieve their goal of 100 laps for 100 years of service. To further highlight the centenary, two large Rotary wheels were spray painted in 2 local significant park areas again to promote Rotary and its commitment of service to the community. Our celebrations concluded last weekend with a combined club tree planting event at Telarah lagoon under the theme – “100 trees, 100 years, 100 Rotarians”. A boost to the local environment demonstrating our commitment to Rotary's 7th area of focus!

Centenary celebrations have seen the partnerships that have developed between clubs foster goodwill and the sharing of new ideas and skills.

Paterson Rotary Club conducted a working bee last weekend to clean up the Paterson War Memorial and garden, just in time for ANZAC Day ceremonies. Well done all, what an improvement and another great community service.



Tree Planting



Paterson Memorial Garden



Baton Relay memories



## From the Archives

Report of the *Annual Conference of the 32nd District* – Rotary International. Held at Newcastle **21-23 May 1955** (some 66 years ago and the same date as our Virtual Conference!)

**Host Club:** Newcastle

**DG:** Ces R Myers

The following is a short extract from the Conference Report.

The Conference was held at the City Hall in Newcastle, commencing with an official dinner held on the Friday evening with 313 Rotarians, Rotaryannes and guests at the dinner.

Seymour Shaw – PDG District 29 – addressed the Conference on '*Highlights in Rotary Development*' and stated there was no other organization or institution which appealed so much to what he termed 'commonality' of man. He went on to say '*I hope that Rotary and Rotarians, no matter how large the memberships of Rotary may grow, will never allow pomp and ceremony to take the place of the simple ideas and procedures and the outlook on life which Paul Harris taught and practised*'.

The first session on the Saturday ended with the screening of the Golden Anniversary film, '*The Great Adventure*'.

