



D9670 District Governor  
Amanda Roach

Issue 5  
November 2021



SERVE TO CHANGE LIVES



## From the DG's desk ...

G'day to all!

Another month has passed – hard to believe isn't it? Now we prepare for more freedoms within our Covid world, adjusting our Rotary life to meet and work within Health and LGA advice. It feels so good to have the prospect of giving support within our communities again – also a little scary though. We want to "do it right"! Hopefully we may all be able to get back to near normal by the start of 2022, with some lucky Clubs being ready to do so already.

November is The Rotary Foundation Month. I know many clubs have some plans afoot to do special TRF work this month (including movie release evenings for "The Duke"), others will continue projects started for End Polio Now, of course others will embark on some Learning and Development about Rotary's own charity. Can I encourage everyone to perhaps join the Clem Renouf End Polio Now Club? At \$10 each year, this is an easy but very effective way to make an affordable contribution for on-going "good work".

Hearty congratulations to all those who applied for roles on the new D9660 management team! It's great to see so many Rotarians taking the plunge to be part of shaping our Rotary future. If you are still interested in being part of a team, please feel free to contact DGE Neville Parsons as he is happy to have good representation across this vast District.

By far the most important task for us all this month is the **District 9670 AGM**, to be held **Friday 26th November at 7pm by zoom**. As you know, all documents have now been circulated to clubs for consideration, and importantly we will be voting to accept the adjusted D9660 Constitution and Bylaws as a matter of priority. Thank you to everyone who took the time to read and comment so that Maurie Stack and Patrick Healey could consider and adjust as practicable. The documents have been to RI again, now needing to be accepted by 2/3 (that's right, **approximately 33 YES votes from Clubs in our District**) as well as the same percentage from

D9650, to be able to accept these documents, ready to submit again to RI to register as the Constitution and Bylaws of new District 9660. These must also be lodged with the Dept of Fair Trading so we can operate from 1st July 2022.

I am asking **ALL Clubs** now to **PLEASE register** with District Secretary Glenda Kos your Club representative for the AGM to vote – with phone contact....as well as a second representative with contact details. If we continue to haggle over details, there will be a prolonged to-and-fro which we do not have time for given proximity to the proposed start date for D9660. If accepted as is, the YES vote from 33 Clubs in our District (and the same percentage from D9650) will allow us to get "over the line" to start the new District, thereafter allowing the usual opportunities allowing members of a District to follow procedures for Resolutions within a District.

Our review of the Trusts continues in preparation for management as we transition to the new District.

From now on you will notice an increase in advertising for the **last District 9670 Conference in Newcastle next March**. I hope to see as many of you there as possible to help celebrate our wonderful past while looking forward to shaping a great future! Clubs should now be working on their "Club Snapshot" for the History room at conference (contact Bernie Kos for more information), as well as submitting your photos and stories for "Beyond the BBQ". The Conference Committee has secured some outstanding guest speakers, great food, interesting seminars Friday and some surprise activities.

Looking forward to starting some face-to-face visits to Clubs this month.

See you soon – enjoy November!

Cheers

*Amanda*

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Deadline for next issue:

**23 November 2021**

Email articles to: Elizabeth Friend...

[elizabethjoyfriend@gmail.com](mailto:elizabethjoyfriend@gmail.com)

## Transition to District 9660 Update

As you would be aware, the Transition Governance Focus Team prepared and distributed the draft D9660 Constitution and Bylaws for club feedback throughout September.

Thanks to every club who took the time to consider and/or comment on these documents – all suggestions were forwarded to this committee for consideration.

All clubs should now have received the updated draft D9660 Constitution and

Bylaws which are part of the D9670 AGM package sent to Presidents and Secretaries.

I urge each and every club to attend the D9670 AGM and support the resolution to ratify these documents.

It is a Rotary International requirement that we have 66% of the clubs within the District support this resolution to adopt the D9660 Constitution and Bylaws. We need some 33 clubs supporting the resolutions sent to

each club late last month which will be voted on at the AGM.

Please register your club representatives with our District Secretary that you will be attending via Zoom for the D9670 AGM on Friday 26th November at 7pm. This is the most important AGM that this District has held and we look forward to your attendance at this important AGM meeting.

*IPDG David Roach*

## Pilot Regionalisation Initiative Update

On the third Sunday of each month the District Regionalisation Representatives from across Australia and New Zealand meet with the Pilot Regionalisation Committee.

In October, we were able to view a draft PowerPoint which is being prepared for presentation to the clubs across Zone 8.

Our feedback was sought regarding this presentation before it will become available for me to deliver to clubs. It is essential to remember that this is only a proposal at this time and will be voted upon by the clubs of Australia and New Zealand in May next year – at this time a decision as to the way forward will be evident.

The PowerPoint will give an explanation as to why the pilot is being proposed and possible structures which will be implemented to support Rotarians and clubs to better engage with the good work that we perform. I will keep you updated each month with further developments.

*IPDG David Roach*

## District Conference Newcastle 18-20 March 2022



### 2022 District Conference

### Bookings Now Open

Click [HERE](#) to view the flyer and  
**BOOK EARLY**

## November: Rotary Foundation Month



### Our Foundation Locally

The Rotary Foundation (TRF) is our charity and while we do fabulous projects around the world, TRF also allows us, as local Rotarians to do great things close to home. Donations made from individuals and Clubs in the District to the TRF Annual Fund are invested and in 3 years we get 50% of the donated funds back to the District. These funds are made available to Clubs through District Grants.

In the recent round of District grants, four Clubs have been awarded funds for local projects: purchase of new beds for cancer care lodge, building materials to assist in the renovation of a community family support cottage and placement of peace poles within a local school.

Each of the projects met at least one of the seven areas of focus (Image 7 areas of Focus).

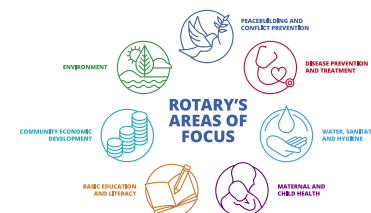
Applications for 2022-2023 District Grants will be open in March 2022.

Consider the projects your Club would like to implement in the 2022-2023 year. If they fit into the TRF areas of focus, then look out for the opportunity to apply for TRF funds to make it a reality.

Throughout November, take the time to learn more about our charity – **The Rotary Foundation** – and the great

way we can all serve to change lives locally, around Australia and the world.

*Christine Roach, TRF District Chair.*





## Rotary & Interplast • A Good News Story



Fifteen-year-old Rashmi dreams of being a doctor.

When Interplast last met the Sri Lankan schoolgirl, she was busy studying for her Ordinary-Level examinations, undertaken in the final two years of high school.

Aiming to enrol in a biology stream for her higher studies, Rashmi's goal was to become a doctor and help others, as she has been helped over many years.

Born with a congenital facial dysmorphic condition, Rashmi is certainly no stranger to the medical profession. Since her early childhood, the brave schoolgirl has undergone multiple reconstructive surgeries performed by local surgeons in Sri Lanka.

Rashmi's mother, Ruhi, was told by another patient of the work of the Interplast team at the National Hospital in the country's capital, Colombo.

Dropping her two siblings off at school early, Rashmi travelled with her mother for the two-hour round trip from Kalutara in Sri Lanka's Western Province, where the family live, to reach Colombo's National Hospital and meet the Interplast team.

Led by Interplast volunteer surgeon Dr Charles Davis, with assistance from a local surgeon, Rashmi underwent a successful eye socket and nasal reconstruction, the fourth procedure in her surgical journey.

Ruhi was pleased with the significant improvement in her daughter's condition, noting that Rashmi's confidence and self-esteem had improved and that she was doing well at school.

She was no longer subjected to any stigma or negative behaviour, nor made to feel different because of her condition. Grateful for the opportunity

for her daughter to undergo the surgery, Ruhi offered her blessings to the Interplast team, saying she hoped other people in her nation with similar conditions to Rashmi's would have the same chance as her daughter.

Rashmi with her Mum, Ruhi believes that awareness programs are critical to enable others living in peripheral areas like her family, to become aware of the opportunity Interplast could provide, thereby reaching more people in need.

Following the surgery, Dr Davis recommended to the family that upon turning 18, Rashmi would need to undergo further surgery, something both she and her family welcomed. Rashmi is hoping that the Interplast team will soon return to complete her treatment, enabling her to fully focus on her academic pursuits, and to give back to others.



Rotary donations have contributed to training Sri Lankan surgeons, so that patients like Rashmi can live a life free from disfigurement and stigma. Donations are especially welcome during the pandemic and will help train surgeons remotely.

For more information, please contact your Interplast District Chair, or Interplast Rotary Coordinator, Janette Etherington, on [janette.etherington@interplast.org.au](mailto:janette.etherington@interplast.org.au)

## Martin McGreavy

During DG Amanda's zoom club visit to the Rotary Club of Charlestown on Tuesday September 28th, IPDG David recognised Martin for his outstanding contribution to our District.



In addition, Charmaine, Martin's wife, was acknowledged for being supportive of Martin through the countless hours of preparation work which he has done, allowing visitors to her home during the Virtual Conference and her patience and understanding for the stress associated with Martin's production work for our District.

Martin's video production work supporting our District spans over several years inclusive of a mherve video which received national Rotary recognition at the 2020 Virtual Alice Springs Institute. Martin also produced a video of the Newcastle to Dungog Charity Bike Ride, which raises funds for the Hunter Medical Research Institute and organised by the Newcastle Rotary Club, and a video celebrating the contribution of a member of the Rotary Club of Newcastle.

Martin led an outstanding team in the development and production of our best-ever D9670 Virtual Conference in May 2021. Martin's exceptional commitment starting in October 2020 through to May 2021 ensured an outstanding Virtual Do-Goodery Conference of the highest standard. Most of the work on this project was conducted 'in house' and we are indebted to his skills and expertise.

On behalf of D9670 and its members, we publicly acknowledged Martin's and Charmaine's contribution to D9670 and awarded Martin with a PHF+2.

*Congratulations Martin.*

# New Maitland Hospital Accommodation Project of The Rotary Clubs of Maitland

In early 2022 a new \$470m hospital will open in East Maitland replacing the aging current Maitland Hospital.

It will provide new and existing services not only for the Maitland Community but for patients from well beyond the Maitland Local Government area.

The new hospital does not have any overnight accommodation on site for outpatients who might need to stay for treatment or for their loved ones and carers. Some may require accommodation for one night or for ongoing daily treatment such as chemotherapy and need an extended stay over several weeks.

The **Rotary Clubs of Maitland Sunrise, Maitland, Green Hills and East Maitland** have combined to work to provide affordable, financially self-sustaining, quality accommodation in a caring environment for New Maitland Hospital patients and their carers from outside the Maitland LGA.

Similar accommodation facilities are provided at many hospitals across NSW including Port Macquarie, Lismore and Dubbo, to name a few.

*All these similar accommodation facilities have been set up by Rotary Clubs, other service clubs and volunteers from their local communities.*

With pro bono assistance from law firm Clayton Utz, a separate charity has been established, a company limited by guarantee named **Maitland HealthStays Limited**.

Clayton Utz have also organised registration as a charity with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) with full Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO).

Bernadette Bilney from Hunter New England Health Lower Hunter Sector (HNEHLHS) has joined the team as an advisor and as a link to the executive at the hospital.

Graham Burns, Chief Executive of the major Hunter Valley land development company, Hunter Land, has also joined the management committee and has already provided valuable advice and has organised pro bono input into our concept plans by Becerra Architects.

We have also gained in principle, pro bono support from Chris Boswell's Information Technology (IT) company, Strategic Group for our future needs for Cloud Storage and website design.

Hunter New England Health's Infrastructure, Planning and Sustainability section and Health Infrastructure NSW are keen to have this patient/carer Accommodation facility as a convenient service to patients and carers at a difficult time in their lives.

They have assigned land on their master plan for the remaining land on the large new hospital site. **Maitland HealthStays** is working with them to put in place the infrastructure needed to build and operate the facility.

Each of the four Maitland Rotary Clubs, along with the Rotary Club of Nelson Bay, have generously provided significant donations to **Maitland HealthStays** that will allow it to cover any expenses that will be needed to further progress this project.

This money along, with the abovementioned pro bono support, has not only allowed us to make excellent progress but also given us a tangible indication that this plan has strong support not only from Rotary Clubs but also the local community.

Once the land tenure is established and our business plan finalised, we will be able to apply for infrastructure building grants from both Federal and State governments, as well as sponsorship support from businesses, philanthropists and other potential avenues.

It is anticipated that the project will cost between four and five million dollars.

This is a large, ambitious project that will not only provide support for patients and carers who need accommodation at the hospital at a difficult time in their lives, but will be a quality example of local Rotarians serving people in need.

*Trevor Lynch*

PP Rotary Club of East Maitland  
Director Maitland HealthStays Limited



Above: The New Maitland Hospital  
<http://newmaitlandhospital.health.nsw.gov.au/>



Our House, Lismore  
<http://www.ourhouse.org.au/>



Rotary Lodge Port Macquarie  
<http://www.rotarylodge.com.au/>



Macquarie Home Stay Dubbo  
<https://www.macquariehomestay.com.au>



## Zone A • Area Governor Report

On the 11th of October 2021, NSW Health orders were partially eased and after a complete state-wide lockdown to combat the Delta Variant of the Corona Virus, Rotarians were allowed to meet again and enjoy fellowship.

This was the 2nd lockdown in western NSW since the virus entered the country in February 2020. Both lockdowns affected all clubs in Zone A to varying degrees and coupled with other outside factors such as Licensed Premises Restrictions, meeting venues being sold, and in one case burnt down with limited alternatives in that small town. Other challenges faced by Rotary clubs were poor or no internet connections, minimal computer skills, delayed access to vaccines and hesitancy to return to mass gatherings.

In chatting with the hard-working Presidents/Secretaries in Zone A, I asked them if they were able to participate in a short survey on how 18 months of Covid-19 has affected their clubs to date.

The simple questions were as follows:

1. What was your meeting format in the lockdown in 2020?
2. What percentage of members engaged with these meetings in 2020 and how?
3. When did you return back to normal meeting format?
4. What percentage of members engaged when meetings returned in 2020?
5. What was your meeting format in the lockdown in 2021?
6. What percentage of members engaged with these meetings in 2021 and how?

7. When are you returning back to normal meeting format?

Notable points concerning the data gathered is as follows:

- Up until March 2020, most clubs enjoyed normal meetings with attendances between 50% to 80% but after this lockdown all but 3 clubs ceased meetings altogether until they could organise alternatives.

- 4 clubs held no meetings at all until partial easing in Oct 2020 with all clubs meeting face to face by December 2020.

- At various stages up to 8 clubs zoomed and even after partial lifting of restrictions up to 4 of these clubs continued to support zooming for their members who did not wish to face to face yet. One club continues to zoom as of Oct 2021, not only to members, but guest speakers as well.

- All clubs reported that in lieu of face to face meetings, they checked on the welfare of their members by ringing around, regular emails, and in the case of one club they had a "Phone-A-Friend" roster but that in itself had a hiccup as their roster was in alphabetical order a husband and wife had to check on themselves. I wonder if that meant a tap on the shoulder late in the evening?

The roster was a great success as it forced members to talk to other club members that they might not normally converse with in a normal club setting.

- Two clubs reported they dropped back to fortnightly zoom meetings.

- Most clubs reported a slight drop in engagement with members during their zoom meetings but 2 clubs

enjoyed 100% attendance after restrictions were lifted.

- The clubs that considered zooming to meet with their members employed various strategies and activities ranging from virtual meetings with previous exchange students, overseas Rotarians and in one case a virtual farm visit in the UK. Trivia Nights were plentiful throughout the district as well as Magic Nights. Several Presidents asked their members to give a short talk to re-introduce themselves.

- Only one club reported a loss of some members and after speaking with this club, other factors contributed to this, and could not be blamed on COVID.

- Surprisingly, 2 clubs reported an increase of membership and they attributed the effect of COVID for these new members wishing to join Rotary.

As of October 2021 there is still some hesitancy to return to face to face meetings and mass gatherings for community activities, although as State restrictions are eased even further, all Presidents have an optimistic view leading into this Christmas.

All clubs reported they continued to support their local communities and commit funding for those projects.

In summary, all clubs weathered well, some more than others but overall, it opened up many opportunities that will continue to be used long after COVID restrictions are finally eased altogether.

*Peter Judd, Area Governor*

## "Our Club" ...in 100 Words...(i)

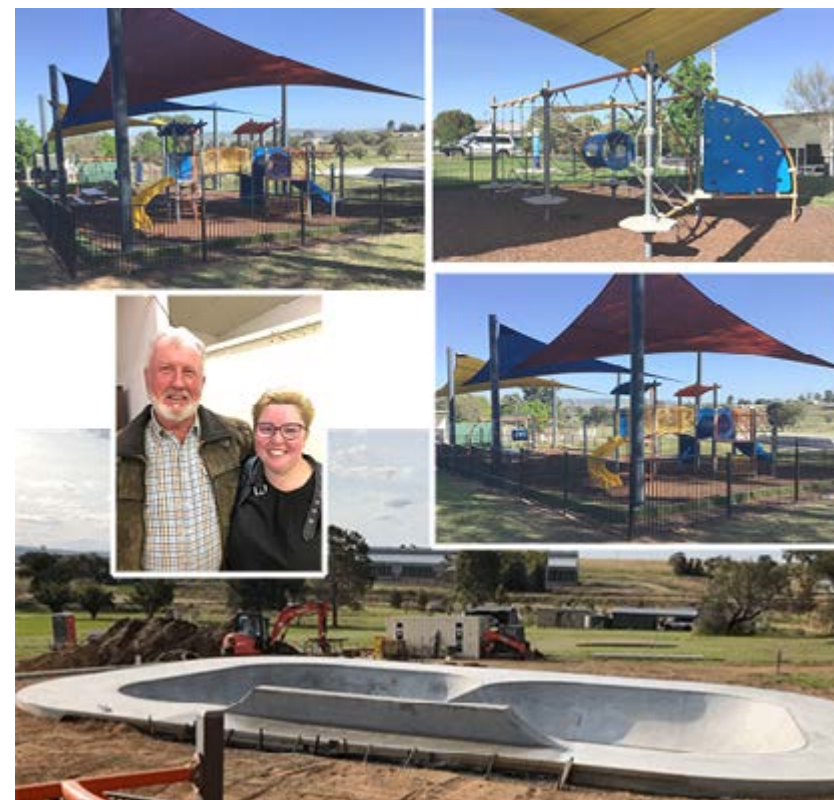
### Rotary Club of Merriwa

Merriwa Rotary Club is a little over 50 years young and they have seen years of diverse achievement.

Our club built a Helipad to service our hospital, facilitating transfer of patients to major centres when necessary. We have provided our town with a complex of children's playgrounds, adult exercise equipment and skate facilities.

We are very much a Student Exchange Club, having hosted students from Asia, the Americas and many European nations and sent many Merriwa students to far-away places. Often former students thrill at hosting their former Rotarian hosts when the latter visit them in their home countries.

Also, we provide an annual scholarship to assist students going on to tertiary studies.





## Zone B • Area Governor Report

As we all start to get back on track after lockdown, the challenge we all face is where do we meet and what can we now do.

The clubs in the Upper Hunter, Merriwa, Denman, Muswellbrook and Scone have been approached by Rotary Australia World Community Service (RAWCS) to carry on working on drought relief.

This program is a Federal Government project of identifying farmers, farm workers or contractors who are eligible for a \$500 gift voucher to help with day to day living expenses. This also flows onto rural communities which helps to employ locals in many fields.

It is great to see a project that both Kurri Kurri and Kurri Kurri Sunrise, together with the community, have worked on over the past few years coming to reality: the **Pit Pony statue** that will be placed in the **Col Brown Rotary Park**.

Singleton on Hunter have been hard at work on the **Salvation Army Sensory Garden** as well as their roadside clean up and they will be manning the gate at the Open Gardens around Singleton. The club is also evaluating

the recently completed Singleton Art Prize.

Singleton Sunrise have been back meeting and catching up with locals who have been presented with Pride of Workmanship Awards. They have continued with their Lids for Lilly and the Rota Kids from St Catherine's are also helping on the project. They are also planning a Drag Queen bingo night at the Singleton's Digger. There are a few tickets left if you are interested.

Merriwa Rotary is back meeting in person and have taken to opportunity to be part of organising of the upcoming End of Lockdown Party on the 6th of November. They are trying to re-engage with the community along with trying to meet new community members,

Cessnock club is also out and about continuing with their weekly community BBQ's for the needy. Also, the club is securing sponsorship to help them with ongoing projects.

Singleton Rotary Club is also out and about refurbishing the local Rotary Park in Munro Street Singleton.

Hoping everyone stays safe.

*Philip Gorton, Area Governor*





## Zone C • Area Governor Report

I know that all Zone C clubs will be looking forward to resuming face to face meetings over the coming weeks, while abiding by the present Covid restrictions. Already Medowie/Williamstown, Nelson Bay, Dungog, Maitland and Salamander Bay Rotary Clubs have resumed or started their planning for a return to near normal meeting routines. Fingers crossed that we will be able to continue in this mode as we move forward into the 2022 Rotary year.



Pam Wellham (Assistant Area Governor) and I have appreciated being able to still meet with clubs via zoom and enjoyed our recent zoom meeting with Nelson Bay Rotary. Through creative thinking club members have continued to support the community through the Yacaaba Centre and exploring opportunities to work with the Port Stephens Council on community projects.

As usual, zooming in with East Maitland Rotary is always a most enjoyable and interesting experience with great guest speakers and lots of lively discussion and feedback on club projects. This is a very collegial club who think outside the box in their club planning and have FUN high on the agenda for all club activities. No wonder their membership numbers continue to grow!

At last, I was able to enjoy a meeting with the members of Rutherford/Telarah Rotary this month. It may have been a small zoom meeting, but the reporting of their club activities demonstrates how well they are continuing to support Rotary in their community. Keep an eye out for updates on Chit Chat on their 'Bunker to Back' Bike and Run event in November for HMRI. If you are a cyclist, you may like to enrol in this event and support this great fundraiser. Also, their upcoming Christmas Raffle in aid of "Lift the Lid" and in support of local businesses is again well worth supporting when tickets become available online.

This week, Maitland Sunrise Rotary welcomed as their guest speaker, Todd Sheldon from East Maitland Rotary to update the club on the Calamity Toy and Gift Drive which his family began

in 2015. Last year 4,500 gifts were distributed to those in need in the community through the team effort of Rotary and Business partnerships. Maitland Sunrise is looking forward to assisting in this year's project.

Last month, I was invited to a zoom meeting by Raymond Terrace Rotary with the Rotary Club of Terrigal to learn about their **Shelter Bag for the Homeless Project**. It was great to see other 9670 Clubs join the meeting as well and recognising the need to support the homeless in their local communities. Maitland Sunrise Rotary has begun to develop their own 'Shelter Bag for the Homeless project' and has set up a RAWCS account for member, community or business donations to fund the purchase of the bags which will be distributed through local charity organisations.

*Chris Walmsley, Area Governor*

### Rotary Club of Dubbo South

During the lockdown the Rotary Club of Dubbo South has not been idle. We met by Zoom on some weeks with a flexible agenda allowing most of the time for members to talk of their experiences managing in lockdown. On alternate weeks, a roster of members was drawn up for members to ring one another and check on how each other were going. Our major

## "Our Club" ...in 100 Words...(ii)

### Rotary Club of Dungog

#### *More Fodder for Farmers*

Today the Rotary Club of Dungog, with assistance from RAWCS, completed its 2021 delivery of hay and silage to local dairy farmers following on from the successful 2020 program. The program was again managed by Past President Bev Irwin.

As a result of the extended drought in previous years there is still a residual shortage of fodder to support spring feeding in our LGA. The Club identified a further five dairy

operations that would benefit from our support and as a result 110 standard bales of hay and 60 round bales of silage were delivered by a local transport company.



## "Our Club" ...in 100 Words...(iii)

projects, Destination Outback and Tour d'OROC, were both postponed until next year with TDO rescheduled to March next year. Fund raising had been going well for this event with over \$80K already in the account.

We continued to support Macquarie Homestay with catering for dinner on the first Thursday of the month. We became aware of the need to support LeaderLife as this organisation was

supplying meals to about 30 families in the Apollo estate who were needing to quarantine because of COVID infection. Members supplied meals on successive Fridays over several weeks. Several of our members volunteered to help Meals on Wheels over this time as the strain on their volunteer workforce was causing problems in maintaining the service. RCDS has now resumed regular meetings at South Dubbo Tavern.



## Zone D • Area Governor Report

Another month gone and finally we're starting to have some freedom returned. It's good to see that clubs are gradually returning to face-to-face and hybrid meetings.

The Rotary Club of Belmont arranged a Zoom meeting with Warners Bay where 9660 DGE Neville Parsons addressed both clubs and answered questions. Each club then moved on to their respective meetings. It's encouraging to see clubs joining together because this will be the way of the future in such a big district.

The state police awards are postponed so our Belmont's local awards will also be postponed until next year

Charlestown Club had their DG Visit via Zoom late last month. A meeting with the board before the main event allowed several questions to be addressed, some discussion from which flowed on to the main meeting.

The official changing of the guard at Toronto Club had been postponed due to COVID restrictions but took place via Zoom on 18 September. Melissa Trigg reported on the Club's activities

before removing the presidential collar and presenting it to Dennis Trigg, who must hold some sort of record for holding office. Congratulations to both.

Warners Bay managed to get some of their members together for an **"End Polio Now" Picnic** at Speers Point Park on 24 October. Those present managed to draw a bit of attention with their distinctive red shirts but unfortunately it was quite chilly so a lot of them were covered up for some of the time. This event ended a busy weekend for them after they were given a last minute opportunity to run a Bunnings BBQ on the Saturday. They resumed face-to-face meetings (with a zoom option) on 25 October (Hat Night) and welcomed three transferring members, all of whom are PDGs. PDG Janette Jackson, PDG Steve Jackson and PDG Graeme Hooper have all moved to Warners Bay club and I'm sure will be made most welcome. An interesting address on Mental Health First Aid from Adele Cushion who is a Mental First Aid Trainer.

Wallsend-Maryland met face-to-face on 26 October for their DG visit with DG Amanda and IPDG David zooming in. Members heard about the latest news and the importance of voting at the District AGM. They also received an update on re-districting and the regionalisation proposal.

PDG Brian Coffey who was also present, gave a bit of a run down on what to expect at the last 9670 Conference. We heard about some of the excellent things the club is doing. Following is a link to an article regarding one of their recent guest speakers: [Local History: Unravelling the Mysteries of "A Moment in Time"](#).

Please remember – I am here to help.

*Craig Henningham, Area Governor*

