



D9670 District Governor
Amanda Roach

Issue 3
September 2021



SERVE TO CHANGE LIVES



From the DG's desk ...

Happy September to you all!

We are indeed living in a changing world! Apart from the continuing global problems with the Covid-19 pandemic which has greatly impinged on our daily freedom here, we are also confronted by the images of the situation in Afghanistan which assaults us daily on all of our media.

What a terrible situation internationally, and particularly reminding us of the importance of peace and safety as we move towards that very important **International World Day of Peace on Tuesday 21st September**. Hold these people in your thoughts please.

We must all look both inwards to keeping ourselves safe, well and in good mental health; towards the same for our local and national communities, and outwards towards the situation internationally and how we may be able to continue to assist.

I am very mindful of the difference we can make to our neighbouring countries and further abroad by small acts of kindness such as sending masks made by clubs and their communities that are sent overseas (with collaboration of other clubs towards the cost to do so); keeping in contact with our Rotary friends, alumni

and families; being confident that even the smallest donations we make to The Rotary Foundation, ARH, End Trachoma and other helping organisations (Rotary or not) will contribute in a meaningful way to on-going improvement of lives across the world.

I also encourage, during these unusual and different times, to please ensure you continue with your own health-checks and follow-up. It is an enormously important point that we all need to safeguard our own level of good health so that we do not lapse into becoming a future burden on our healthcare system and our families because we are frightened to keep appointments, be vaccinated, explore support we may need or make good decisions for our own future.

Some important pieces of information and suggestions:

1. This month will see the launch of our campaign to attend the 2022 Conference in March next year, which will be held in Newcastle. Information will be distributed to Clubs, but also across all of our social media including the District website. Thank you to the great team organising the Conference – it's going to be great! Please assist each other to access and make a booking on Try-bookings.

2. A Transition Committee meeting was

held on 21st August '21 – IPDG David will give a brief report on how we are progressing towards amalgamation 1st July 2022 in this edition of Yarnings.

3. We have 4 Finalists in this year's Rotary Inspirational Women's Awards held across the State – congratulations to Melissa Histon, Justine Russell, Nadine Hickey and Gemma Campion. We can't wait to be a part of the Virtual announcements and Award Presentation Ceremony on Sunday 19th September!

4. We are coming up to World Polio Day on 24th October – what plan does your Club have to celebrate and educate about this important eradication project during the month of October?

5. Don't forget to submit comments about the following documents which were circulated recently: D9660 proposed District Constitution and By-Laws and 2 Youth Trusts held in our District. We are quickly reaching the cut-off dates for your submissions.

6. Glenda Briggs from RC East Maitland is co-ordinating all of the information-gathering about Alumni from our Rotary programs – please hold discussions and "chase up" information about the fine young folk your club has supported – where are they? What are they doing? What impact has Rotary had

on their lives? You may not know the whereabouts of each person you identify, but the families and friends often still reside somewhere in your community – be a detective and investigate!

7. Have a go at compiling an interesting but brief view of your Club (hopefully having impact and fun) for our regular article "Your Club in 100 Words" each month – share the vision and information that makes your Club unique! Photos most welcome.

8. BIG call-out to finalise your Club projects for the History component to be part of the 2022 District Conference in Newcastle. Contact co-ordinator Bernie Kociszewski from Warners Bay RC for more information and the contact details of your local helpful Champion.

There is always support available to assist clubs. I highly encourage co-operative practice between Clubs, of Rotary Clubs with other groups/schools/NGOs and incorporating expertise from our Rotaractors and members of our Newcastle Discovery Provisional Club. Don't let their skills and enthusiasm go to waste!

Involvement and inclusion creates more passion for Rotary service.

Until next month,

Cheers

Amanda

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Deadline for next issue:

23 September 2021

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

District Transition Update

On Saturday 21st August the combined D9670 and D9650 Transition Team met via Zoom to progress the transition process to D9660 on the 1st July 2022.

The Transition Team welcomed for the first time DGN Alyn Miranda from the Rotary Club of Wallsend Maryland.

The meeting confirmed the request for individual club feedback (via DG Amanda) on the draft D9660 Constitution and Bylaws by the 30th September as it is paramount that feedback be reviewed, amendments made as appropriate, RI approved and presented to both Districts by late October in line with notice for both AGMs.

Some minor alterations were made to clubs in the Area Governor allocations to align clubs to be in the same LGAs, removing Clubs who have terminated their Charters, changed their names and the inclusion of new Clubs. This is in line to have an accurate coloured map of geographical areas containing Clubs within each Area for our members' information.

Development of the D9660 Position Statement document continued teasing

out which positions will be a District role and responsibility, Club responsibility or an Information Co-ordinator to promote various Rotary and non-Rotary programs. Official terminology regarding the positions (title and roles) are in the ongoing development and refinement stage.

Finally all members of both D9670 and D9650 have been invited to attend two very important combined Zoom meetings; the first meeting is Monday 13th September at 7pm which is a D9660 General Information session; and the second Zoom meeting is Thursday 23rd September 7pm addressing D9660 Draft Constitution and Bylaws, a Q&A session. The Transition Team encourages every Rotarian of both Districts to zoom into these two sessions to update themselves on current developments and to engage in the transition process. You should have received your links to these meetings on Sunday evening 22nd August via email from Glenda Kos.

We hope to update you each month of any developments regarding the Transition to D9660.

IPDG David Roach

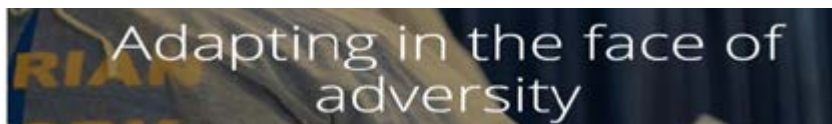
Guest Speaker Recommendations

Are you looking for interesting Guest Speakers during Zoom and beyond?

Here are a couple of DG Amanda's recommendations...

Our new **District Governor-Nominee, Alyn Miranda**, from RC Wallsend Maryland. Alyn will be the second District Governor of D9660 in 2023-24.

Assistant AG Pam Dean-Jones is a worthy guest speaker on her specialty topic of *Sustaining the Environment*, which is the 7th Area of Focus in *Rotary*. This is Pam's area of expertise professionally; she is also our District Co-ordinator/Chair for the Environment portfolio.



Shekhar Mehta President, Rotary International

This poem by the President was published in the July edition of Rotary Down Under

The biggest gift we are given is the power to touch a life.

To change, to make a difference in the circle of life.

If we can reach out with our hand, heart and soul, the magic will start to happen as the wheel begins to roll.

Let's turn the wheel together, so all humanity thrives.

We have the power and the magic to Serve to Change Lives



Introducing 2023-2024 District 9660 Governor Alyn Miranda

Rotary Club of Wallsend-Maryland Rotarian, Alyn Miranda, has been selected as our District Governor Nominee, to serve as District Governor for D9660 in 2023-2024.

Alyn Miranda (PHF+1) is a member of the Rotary Club of Wallsend-Maryland, in the Western Suburbs of Newcastle. As the second District Governor, Alyn will provide strong leadership skills and decision making to strengthen and support over 100 Rotary and Rotaract clubs in the newly formed district, which covers a substantial area of northern and western NSW. During his year in office (2023-2024), Rotary clubs will look to him with confidence for leadership, support, motivation, inclusion and diversity as they grow and carry out service, participating in Rotary programs across our communities, district and overseas.

Alyn Miranda has been a long-time business owner and floral designer for over 25 years, at present owner of "Everything Floral" florist in Wallsend. He is a mentor, trainer, board member, keynote speaker and counsellor, sitting on several business and community committees over the last 20 years in Forster/Tuncurry and Newcastle. He has been a valued member of the Wallsend Community for the last 7 years.

Alyn's previous Rotary service has included: Rotary District 9670 Communications and Marketing Chair, Rotary Youth Exchange Committee member, Conference Committee member several times, Rotary Youth Leadership Awards support member, District Sponsorship Coordinator and Assistant Area Governor – Zone B. He has also served in multiple roles at Club level, including Public Image



Director, Project Coordinator, Youth Director, Child Protection Officer, Secretary and Club President of the Rotary Club of Wallsend-Maryland in 2018-19.

He is single with 2 four legged children (cats) Chester and Garfield.

Congratulations, Alyn!

“Our Club” ...in 100 Words...

Rotary Club of Belmont

Meeting on Wednesday nights, The members of the Rotary Club of Belmont are always looking for ways to help our local community by, for example, recently removing graffiti around local businesses, running a local police awards program, assisting the men's health van when at Belmont and supporting Dementia Australia through fundraising luncheons.

Two projects, one long-term and one just commenced, illustrate this commitment.

The Morton Music award, supported by the Morton family and the club, has run now for 33 years, supporting talented school music students. The club auditions the applicants and hosts the awards night at Belmont Christian College, acknowledging gratefully the support of the school.

A new initiative is our support of the crisis pantry at the North Belmont Neighbourhood Centre.

Club members make street collections of non-perishables in the surrounding community, helping families in need in these COVID times.

Come and join our friendly club!



Top: Recent Morton Music Award Winners

Left: Club members enjoying the lake

Above Left: Helping with the MHERV program

Above Right: Hard at work – graffiti removal

Basic Education & Literacy Month



As this is Rotary Basic Education and Literacy Month, examine how your Club may be able to assist with this important foundation for a successful future.

Investigate some of the great RAWCS projects underway with which you can partner (national and international), local projects in schools and preschools, research some of the exciting collaborative across-district projects clubs are partnering in, as well as some I'm hearing about which are multi-district.

A big shout out to NOT forget that adult literacy problems in our country can be as big an issue preventing people reaching their individual goals and success, as much as this impacts our younger generation. Our support for these folk is vitally important in promoting a happy and satisfying life..

I'm sure there are opportunities in all of our communities and can be very impactful for the disadvantaged and indigenous communities within all of our reach.

DG Amanda



Zone C Area Governor Report

Well, here we go again, all of us in lockdown and doing what Rotarians do best, adapting to their new restrictions while we continue to serve our communities.

Fortunately, Salamander Bay and Rutherford Telarah Rotary clubs were able to conduct their Change Over Ceremonies in the nick of time and induct their new Board members for the 2021-22 Rotary year. What delightful occasions, an opportunity to celebrate their great efforts during a challenging past year whilst looking forward to sharing their club goals for this Rotary year. Congratulations and best wishes to both Club Boards.

An invitation to join Dungog Rotary Club and assist members in conducting a SWOT analysis to determine club directions for this Rotary year was a very constructive experience not only for members but also for this AG as I learnt a great deal about their considerable history

and community involvement. It was also an opportunity for Past President Bev Irwin to hand over the Presidency to new President Peter Dillon as the club moves forward to further their goals in supporting local Youth and Environmental projects.

My final zone Change Over was conducted via zoom with the Raymond Terrace Rotary Club and I congratulate President Tracy Jonovski and President Elect Adam Nicholas for their excellent planning and power point presentation of the past year's achievements which highlighted how well this Rotary club supports its local community while having fun and demonstrating great camaraderie! This week it has been a pleasure again to join them via zoom to assist club members work through a SWOT analysis focusing on 3 areas: club meetings, club membership and club projects to determine their goals for this Rotary year.

The versatility of being able to attend club zoom meetings and observe the growth of club's technology skills is perhaps a positive step forward during these Covid times. Recently while attending my own club, Maitland Sunrise, we utilised our zoom meeting to brainstorm how we can best serve our community during Covid. What a productive discussion with many positive ideas to pursue. Later that evening, I was invited to attend a zoom meeting with East Maitland Rotary. Their special guest speaker was District Governor Elect Neville Parsons, a most interesting and experienced Rotarian who will lead our new District 9670 in the 2022-2023 Rotary year, a challenging task but with his 40 years of Rotary experience, I know we can look forward to a strong future together.

Yours in Rotary

Chris Walmsley, Area Governor



President Peter North and the 2020-21 Salamander Bay Rotary Club Board



Zone D Area Governor Report

It's most unfortunate that the COVID restrictions continue to be necessary when visits are being postponed in the hope that we can have face-to-face meetings again soon. Thank goodness for Zoom which has allowed us to continue with as much business as possible.

Pam Dean Jones and I Zoomed in with Morisset early in the month to assist with the club's strategic planning. I was most impressed by the way President Sue went through the process in full consultation with the members. The meeting went smoothly and the outcome was most satisfactory.

Warners Bay had to postpone their Gala Changeover yet again due to the restrictions. It will be worth the wait though if the promotion for it is a good indication of what to expect.

The DG visit to Newcastle Enterprise was postponed also because of the restrictions. I decided to Zoom in with the club on the evening that had been set aside for the visit and was fortunate enough to hear a very interesting guest speaker. Matt from Top Deck Café spoke about the "Degustation to your door" service that his restaurant is offering. It's a great way to have a

virtual degustation dinner party where all participants have the same food and wine – not a bad idea during a time when we can't otherwise get together.

The DG Visit for Belmont went ahead via Zoom and, in addition to hearing about the great things happening, we were able to witness President Anne induct Ron and Steph Game into the club. I was pleased to hear that Ron and Steph have been given mentors to help them into the wonderful world of Rotary. Welcome aboard both.

On Tuesday 17 August I was able to Zoom in with Wallsend-Maryland due to my workdays being changed at the last minute. Although the meeting was relatively brief, it was enough to hear about how the club is continuing to be as active as they possibly can be under the current circumstances.

I was pleased to see quite a good representation from the Area at BETS this month. It was an excellent couple of sessions and I'm certain that everyone benefitted from attending - I know I did. Great work by Carla for organising it, Patrick and Des for their presentations and the attendees for being there.

Craig Henningham, Area Governor

RC Belmont – DG visit via Zoom



Zone A Area Governor Report

The western areas of D9670 now find themselves on hard lockdown as of the 11th of August and almost every club has now reverted back to Zoom Meetings that were prevalent in 2020. This has not diminished the great work that local clubs are continuing to do in their local communities. One such project is not only helping vulnerable families in lockdown, but also injecting much needed money into the local retail community in Cobar. A project of the Rotary Club of Cobar is providing "A School in A Box" with much needed school supplies to isolated schools in Hermidale and Louth. The 1st stage of the project will target hard pressed school-aged families forced into home schooling with limited income support in the Cobar township. All of the items are being sourced from a number of local suppliers and that of course helps the wider community.

The boxes consist of pens, pencils, markers, erasers, exercise books, A4

paper, scissors and other stationery items. In the case of the isolated schools, they will also receive specialised items such as paint sets and other tactile craft items. The overall value of the project is over \$2500 and is expected to be rolled out by the end of August 2021.

The 2nd stage of the project will involve a partnership with the Rotary Club of Penrith Valley which originally conceived the project. The Rotary Presidents of Dubbo Area have recently met via Zoom and will also be participating in a further rollout in their local areas as well.

It is anticipated that all supplies be acquired locally to support local traders and partnerships with the local Men's Shed are also being investigated to source handcrafted toys and activities for these boxes.

Peter Judd, Area Governor Zone A



**BASIC EDUCATION
AND LITERACY**

Literacy and Basic Education



Literacy in Port Stephens

With the month of September being Basic Education and Literacy, this Award, which was presented in Education Week to the Rotary Readers of Shoal Bay Public School, is both a timely reminder of the value and importance of reading and also a huge recognition of the work that Rotary volunteers do at the school.

The Rotary Club of Nelson Bay initiated the Rotary Reading Program in 2003 at the Shoal Bay Public School and over the years it has expanded very successfully to three primary schools in the local area.

We have been fortunate to have community volunteers work with us, many of whom are not teachers, but have a vested interest in ensuring that children can read. The joy on the face of the child when they master their reading is absolutely delightful and one that gives great pleasure to the volunteers and the teachers.

The three schools have greatly appreciated the Rotary Readers and we are thankful for their support and help in our education as well. Not all programs are the same, but the end result is the same, with the children being able to read, understand what they have read and progress to higher education knowing that they have mastered the art of reading.



The Rotary Reading Program certainly meets the theme for this year of Serve to Change Lives and Rotary International President Shekhar Mehta's goal of improving literacy.

*PDG Helen Ryan,
Rotary Club of Nelson Bay*



Also in Port Stephens...

The Rotary Club of Salamander Bay purchased five copies of the *Illustrated Encyclopedia Britannica* through a project established by the **Basic Education and Literacy Rotary Action Group (BelRAG)**.

Five local primary schools: Shoal Bay, Anna Bay, Soldiers Point, Bob's Farm and Tomaree; will each be presented with one of these beautiful encyclopedias.

Supporting education is one of Rotary's seven areas of focus – that expands and creates opportunities for addressing other socio-economic issues.

International Literacy Day – 8 September

Supporting education through The Rotary Foundation

International Literacy Day is 8 September. At a time when educators face extraordinary challenges in meeting the changing needs of their students, it's especially important to support their efforts. You can help empower educators to inspire learning:

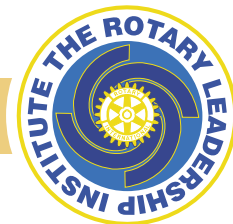
- [Donate](#) to The Rotary Foundation.
- **Share our impact on education** with your fellow members, friends, and family.

• **Create a fundraiser** to support basic education and literacy through Raise for Rotary. Raise for Rotary, our crowdfunding platform, is available in English and uses U.S. dollars. Individuals who make a gift through Raise for Rotary are eligible for donor credit and any appropriate recognition opportunities.

Together, we can support educators in making a difference in communities around the world.

Happy International Literacy Day!

RLI Online Ticks Many Boxes



Rotarians from our District have completed the first of the online courses offered to us by the RLI team in District 9685 and voted it a resounding success.

The weekend began with an introductory session on Friday evening, followed by 3 x 2-hour sessions on Saturday and Sunday.

Carol Cockerill-Wright, President of RC of Mudjee Sunrise had this to say about the weekend:

"District 9685's RLI Course #64 gave me a greater understanding of how Rotary and The Rotary Foundation works.

The course covered leadership, team building and communications; membership and public image strategies; the various types of grants. It provided useful tips on strategic and community service planning.

What I most enjoyed were the break-out, chat sessions which provided opportunities to interact with each one of the Rotarians doing the course and to brainstorm and problem solve many scenarios within small groups. Hearing other clubs' experiences was invaluable.

Overall, I felt my time was well spent and I would recommend the course to all Rotarians, whether new to Rotary or for those who have been members for many years."

The next online course, RLI #66, will run 5th, 6th & 7th November.

Clubs are limited to 2 participants and the total number of participants is limited, so early registration is suggested.

DG Amanda Roach has indicated that participation will be subsidised by District on production of a receipt (see screenshot sample).

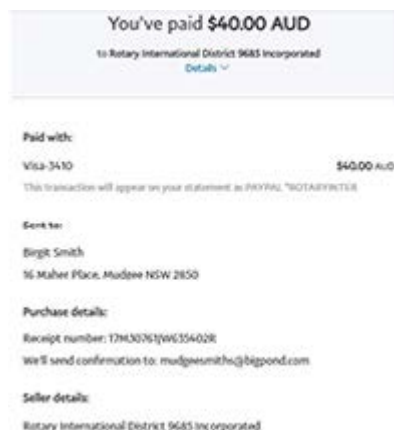
This is the link for registration for the course, which costs \$40.00.

[RLI Course #64](#)

More online courses will be held next year in February, April and June and dates will be advised on social media and in District bulletins.

Contact D9670 RLI Chair Birgit Smith for more information...

Birgit Smith
(Rotary Club of Mudjee Sunrise)
District 9670 RLI Chair
Email: rli@rotary9670.org.au



DAY 1 – SATURDAY		
Block 1: 8am-10am	Log on 7:45am	
	Intro and set up	15mins
Session 1	Insights into Leadership	40mins
Session 2	Vocational Service and Ethics	45mins
Block 2: 11am-1pm		
Session 3	Attracting and Engaging Members	120mins
Block 3: 2pm-4pm		
Session 4	Strategic Planning	60mins
Session 5	Club Communication	60mins
DAY 2 – SUNDAY		
Block 4: 8am-10am		
Session 6	Creating Service Projects	60mins
Session 7	Foundation II	60mins
Block 5: 11am-1pm		
Session 8	Team Building	45mins
Session 9	Rotary Opportunities	30mins
Session 10	Foundation III	45mins
Block 6: 2pm-4pm		
Session 11	PI and PR	60mins
Session 12	Effective Leadership Strategies	45mins
	Evaluation, Review and Graduation	15mins

If you are quite new to our District, *Isda's Column* in this edition of "Yarnings" is an update of my ambition to provide an assistance service dog to a veteran in our District who suffers from PTSD. This has been a project undertaken as the District Governor's Partner project 2019-20, Integra Service Dogs Australia. With the arrival of Covid-19 and blessings from DG Amanda, the project was extended into 2020-21.

Sue Hooper



Farrell – proudly modelling his Rotary sponsored Service Jacket



Been a long time in between puppy bones. *Gee Whiz* ... this covid thingy is really wreaking havoc. I hope all my puppy mates are safe in their retirement kennels in their new adopted homes.

Since my mates went into retirement and subsequently lockdown, as an essential service puppy, I have been working away at finding my "real" buddy for a veteran with PTSD.

I am so pleased and proud to say that "**Farrell**" was recently united with his soul mate in the Hunter Valley.

You will easily recognise *Farrell* when you see him out and about because he has a Rotary patch on his coat – but you must remember that he is a "working" dog, just like his cousins working with people who can't see.

If you come across *Farrell* and his mate, feel proud our Rotary District 9670 made it possible for his mate to have a much more fulfilling life, reconnecting him with his community and those closest to him.



Isda's Column

My Big Boss, Ben in Canberra, worked so hard over many many months to make the match happen, right up to overcoming lockdown obstacles to transport *Farrell* from Canberra to his new home. Thank you Ben for being so easy to work with.

And you know what else folks? Just a tad more little puppy work and we will have a soul mate for another veteran or first responder. All of us in puppy land are just so grateful for our Rotarians having faith in this project.

THANK YOU!

Until my next puppy update, stay well and stay safe...

With lots of puppy 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.



INTEGRA
SERVICE DOGS AUSTRALIA