



D9670 District Governor  
Amanda Roach

Issue 7  
February 2022



SERVE TO CHANGE LIVES



## From the DG's desk ...

G'day to all!

### Well ... we're back!

I know some clubs have already resumed meeting (in person or by Zoom), including service or social events. Some of course are reticent about meeting in person due to the on-going COVID situation; however, clubs are readily taking up Zoom or a mixture of in-person and Zoom (a "hybrid meeting"). We have become very proficient and flexible at doing this switch quickly now. I have contacted clubs about plans to complete my DG visits before the end of June – and of course the method of meeting is entirely at the discretion of the President and club board (and can be quickly accommodated for changes).

Despite COVID and the restrictions clubs experience, it is wonderful to see that we are inducting **new members across our District**. Speaking of District, hearty congratulations go out to members or their families who were privileged to be nominated or awarded either National, State or Council awards during this year's **Australia Day Awards**. What a wonderful recognition of people doing great work in their communities here and abroad, often over very long periods of time. Let's celebrate with them and let them know of our support – many of them

appear on Rotary and Club Facebook pages and in local publications.

With pride, too, I was thrilled to be informed that two of our clubs have recently been **mentioned in parliament** for their tireless and continued work during the most difficult times of COVID. These clubs are RC East Maitland, and RC Narromine. Congratulations to both presidents and their clubs for being given this broader acknowledgement by their Local Members for their contributions to community. Any club receiving these or other accolades, please let me know so that we can make sure it is advertised in either the weekly *"Chit Chat"* or the monthly *"Yarnings"*.

The Rotary theme for January was **"Vocational Service"**, with February's being **"Peace and Conflict Prevention/Resolution"**. I realise that clubs have been less able to do much promotion or work in these areas, but it is good to see these themes are being circulated and promoted on social media, and some acknowledgments are emerging in communities with, for example, photos and articles about Peace Poles in schools or parks which Rotary Clubs have donated or erected. Well done! I also note that lately there have been a number of **Paul Harris Fellows** awarded around the clubs – and note with

interest that some clubs have enormous amounts of Paul Harris points that they are clearly not using! Vocational and Community service are wonderful ways to acknowledge members within our communities who are doing great work – how about using some of these well-earned PH points to bring recognition to these community folk, and club members who are the "quiet achievers"?

In January an inaugural Zoom meeting was held to determine whether we have interested people who would like to be part of a **Diversity, Equity and Inclusion** working party to develop processes for this important focus in our Rotary future. I was very pleased to have some very enthusiastic Rotarians willing to work with me in establishing this, which we will take into District 9660 for implementation in July 2022.

Our congratulations go to RIPE Jennifer Jones on the release of her Rotary Theme for 2022-2023 **"Imagine Rotary"**. What an appropriate and wonderful theme for our District as we become D9660 – I have emphasised to you all many times that this is a great opportunity for capturing the talent and creativity of two great districts moving forward, indeed imagining what the possibilities can be for a district with great vision. Of course, Jennifer Jones has an important focus

on *"Diversity, Equity and Inclusion"* so it is timely for us to develop this focus ourselves – let's look at how our own Clubs can reflect our communities and be truly representing our area as we take on board this important message for our future.

In this month's edition of *"Yarnings"* I am also requesting information for a couple of new projects which I hope to take forward for the upcoming Transition to D9660:

- 1) **"Where are they now?"** and
- 2) **"Where are our Emeritus Members?"**

So, look out for the information included in this newsletter to assist us in identifying people we know who fit these groups about whom we are also collecting information as part of our District History.

Interested in future Rotary leadership? I remind you all nominations are now being accepted for the **District Governor Nominee 2024-2025 for D9660**. You will find the application available as a link in the weekly *"Chit Chat"*.

In *"Chit Chat"* there will be information about how clubs or individuals can support the **RAWCS Tongan relief project**. RAWCS already works with many local entities on the ground there, so this is the best way for us to lend a hand. As you are no doubt aware, it is

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Deadline for next issue:

**22 February 2022**

Email articles to: Elizabeth Friend...

**elizabethjoyfriend@gmail.com**

## From the DG's desk, cont...

becoming increasingly obvious that the impact has been much greater across the islands than was originally thought, so it is best to work with local agencies who have the most relevant knowledge. Please also remember other fund-raising for groups that have had to cancel, their bigger events for much needed donations to provide important services. One of note is "Heaven Can Wait" out at Lake Macquarie near Toronto, which is

a cancer support program. Donation links are also available in "Chit Chat".

On the issue of leadership, training for the first D9660 Management Team will commence soon, along with "PETS" and other Board position education. This is an exciting time as we move forward. Information will be circulated to clubs, with dates for the District Training already booked.

**FYI:** the journey with transitioning the three Trusts - Margaret Illukol, Lotte Thorkilgaard and John H Algie - is all going well in terms of moving to a new model of management. Shortly I will release information about this in a more formalised way, as well as advertising when our Conference Resolutions Session/Meeting will be held to finalise the necessary issues around this proposed structure.

Thank you to all who have contributed to this process.

It was with a heavy heart that our committee made the decision to **cancel the face-to-face Conference** in Newcastle this coming March. Obviously the current COVID situation played largely into this decision, with implications of extremely low uptake for registration by our Rotarians. But never fear!!! We are currently working very hard on a new

model for having conference activities on-line and in gathered groups, as well as plans for an opportunity at some date this year to say our in-person farewell to D9670, meet up with old friends and **CELEBRATE** our history. There will be further information available very soon.

Until next time

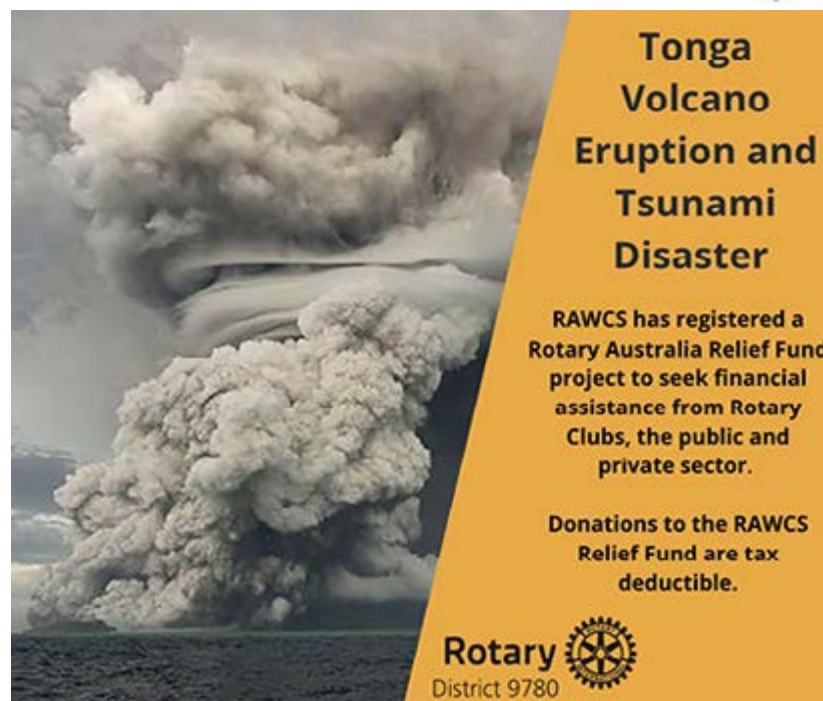
*Amanda*

## January: Vocational Service



Image: Rotary Club of Geelong East

January: During this period, clubs highlight the importance of the business and professional life of each Rotarian. Special activities promote the vocational avenue of service.



Rotary Australia World Community Service (RAWCS) will be working with Rotary New Zealand World Community Service (RNZWCS) and Rotary Club of Nuku'alofa (Tonga) in providing aid and assistance to the affected communities and restoring their livelihoods.

Donate:

<https://directory.rawcs.com.au/42-2021-22>



## February: Peace & Conflict Resolution / Prevention



**Imagine...**  
**Rotarians building a world beyond war**

February's Rotary focus is on projects and activities that increase understanding, tolerance and acceptance across nations and cultures.

Each of our 7 areas of focus helps build peace goodwill and understanding however, The Rotary Foundation (TRF) also supports specific projects to build peace and help transform conflict in our communities around the world. This includes Youth education initiatives, training and specialist services to help integrate vulnerable groups such as at-risk youth, refugees, and those affected by conflict and violence.

The Foundation also supports Peace Fellowships and funds global Peace Centres – including one at the University of Queensland.

Every Club has the power to shape the next generation of peace leaders by seeking out and nominating suitable candidates to become [Peace Fellows](#) by studying for [a master's degree in peace and conflict resolution](#). However, it must be noted that *Master's Fellowship recipients may not study at a Rotary Peace Centre in their home countries.*

Rotary also supports an ongoing Peace Pole program. Since 1955 more than 200,000 Peace Poles have



been erected world-wide as a visible reminder to think and act in the spirit of Peace. The message "May Peace Prevail on Earth" is written in four (nominated) languages on each side of each square Peace Pole.

In 2021 Australian Rotary clubs partnered with 100 local schools to erect numbered Peace Poles to mark 100 years of Rotary. Once the Peace Poles were installed, each School is invited to participate in the United Nations World Peace Day Ceremonies on the third Tuesday in September each year.

Rotary also has an [Action Group for Peace](#) and they have a great 5-minute video on our Peace building initiatives that you might share with your club this February.

The District would love to know about what your club's done to support global peace.

**Glenda Briggs**

District Peace Fellowship Chair



## Our Fellowships

**The Rotary Peace Fellowship** is designed for leaders with work experience in peace and development. Our fellows are committed to community and international service and the pursuit of peace. Each year, **The Rotary Foundation** awards up to 50 fellowships for master's degrees and 80 for certificate studies at premier universities. The Master's degree programs study peace and development issues with research-informed teaching and a diverse student body. The programs last 15-24 months and include a two to three-year month field study, which the participants design themselves.

The Professional Development certificate program is a one-year blended learning program, whereby experienced peace and development professionals with diverse backgrounds gain practical skills to promote peace within their communities and across the globe. Fellows complete field studies and the also design and carry out a social change initiative. This program is intended for working professionals.

*The 2023-24 Rotary Peace Fellowship application will be available in February 2022.* Every year, districts must submit their endorsed applications to the Rotary Foundation by 1 July. Review district endorsement instructions.

### Our Approach

We see peace not as an abstract concept but as a living, dynamic

expression of human development. Peacebuilding is a cornerstone of our mission as a humanitarian service organisation and it is one of our seven areas of focus – the channels of activity through which our members make their mark on the world. Our programs, grants and fellowships focus on creating environments where peace can be built and maintained. Rotary believes that if concerned citizens work together to create peace locally, lasting change can happen globally.

**Today...** Over 70 million people are displaced as a result of conflict, violence, persecution and human rights violations. Half of them are children.

We refuse to accept conflict as a way of life. Rotary projects provide training that fosters understanding and provides communities with the skills to resolve conflicts.

By carrying out projects and supporting peace fellowships and scholarships, our members take action to address the underlying cause of conflict, including poverty, discrimination, ethnic tension, lack of access to education and unequal distribution of resources.

Our commitment to peacebuilding today answers new challenges: how we can make the greatest possible impact and how we can achieve our vision of lasting change. We are approaching the concept of peace

with greater cohesion and inclusivity, broadening the scope of what we mean by peacebuilding and finding more ways for people to get involved.

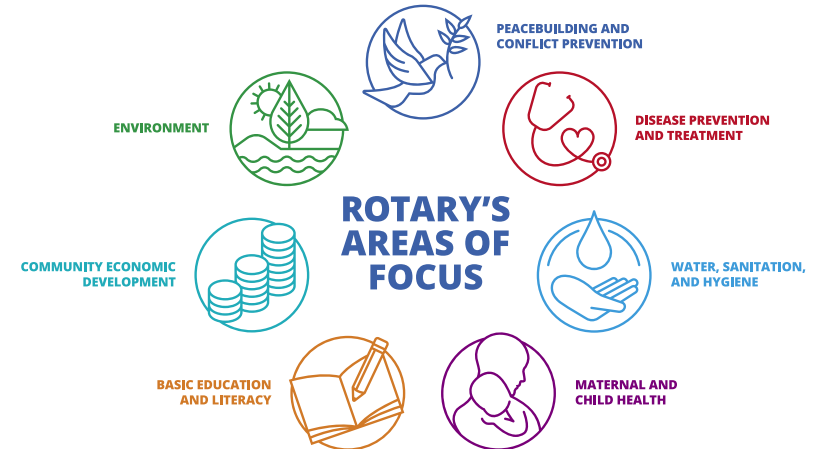
*Rotary creates environments where peace can happen.*

### Rotary's Four Roles in Promoting Peace

Rotary and its members are:

- **Practitioners:** our work fighting disease, providing clean water and sanitation, improving the health of mothers and children, supporting education and growing local economies directly builds the optimal conditions for peaceful societies.
- **Educators:** our Rotary Peace Centres have trained over 1,300 Peace Fellows to become effective catalysts for peace through careers in government, education and international organisations.
- **Mediators:** our members have negotiated humanitarian ceasefires in areas of conflict to allow polio vaccinators to reach children who are at risk.
- **Advocates:** our members have an integral role as respected, impartial participants during peace processes and in post-conflict reconstruction. We focus on creating communities and convening groups that are connected, inclusive and resilient.

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## Drought Communities Outreach Program

In September 2021 DG Amanda requested that the District Natural Disasters Relief Committee participate in the ongoing DCOP Program operating from RAWCS.

The Committee accepted the challenge to roll out the program to provide a total of 200 x \$500 debit cards to Farmers affected by drought or recovering from drought in the 9670 District.

The Committee identified 17 Clubs in the District that were in drought affected areas and encouraged those Clubs to participate in the program.

A total of 5 Clubs in the District opted to support this project to assist the farmers

The Committee were able to distribute the project details and Application forms to these Clubs and following some active work by the participating Clubs the Committee received some 103 applications from Rylstone - Kandos, Cobar, Dungog, Mudgee Sun Rise, and Scone Clubs.

The Committee were assisted with this project by Carol Coffey and Georgina Anderson who took care of submitting the completed Farmer Applications to RAWCS and Brian Coffey and Peter

Comino who assisted the Committee with their extensive knowledge of the ongoing DCOP Project.

Sadly, despite widely advertising the program both local club level and at the District Level we were not able to use the 200 cards offered.

RAWCS had requested that we halt the program in December 2021 so that They would be able to consolidate funding and look at further options for this project.

The District Natural Disaster Relief Committee is now looking to encouraging Clubs in the District who experienced flooding in their areas prior to Christmas to reach out to local residents who have been affected by the floods to see if they would like some support from Rotary.

The Committee still has funds available to support resident affected by this flooding if necessary.

Interested Clubs can contact the Natural Disaster Relief Committee members Gordon Hill [chair], Phil Gorton, or Luke Hancock for further information regarding flood relief...

*Gordon Hill*

Chair, District 9670 Natural Disaster Relief Committee

## Our Fellowships contd...

### Rotary Action Group for Peace

The **RAGP** gives Rotary members resources and support to advance peace efforts and turn ambitious ideas into life-changing realities.

<https://rotaryactiongroupforpeace.org/>

### Looking back – moving forward ...

**Rotary Day at the United Nations pushes peace from concept to reality**

*By Geoff Johnson*

*Photos by Monika Lozinska*

On the 99th anniversary of the end of World War I, more than 1,200 people gathered in Geneva, Switzerland, for Rotary Day at the United Nations.

Representing 87 countries, they convened on Saturday, 11 November 2017, at the Palais des Nations, originally the home of the League of Nations, and dedicated themselves to the theme introduced by Rotary President Ian H. S. Riseley: **"Peace: Making a Difference."**

Rotary International honoured six champions of peace at the United Nations on 11 November.

"The advancement of international understanding, goodwill, and peace have always been among Rotary's primary goals," said Riseley. "It is past time for all of us to recognise the potential of all of our Rotary service to build peace, and approach that service with peacebuilding in mind."

For the first time in its 13-year history, Rotary Day at the UN was held outside of New York.

Rotary Day concluded Geneva Peace Week, during which John Hewko, general secretary of Rotary International, noted the "close and longstanding ties between Rotary and the UN in (their) mutual pursuit of peace and international understanding."

Rotary members "can transform a concept like peace to a reality through service," said Ed Futa, Dean of the Rotary Representatives to the United Nations. "Peace needs to be lived rather than preached."

During a Rotary Day highlight, Hewko introduced Rotary's 2017 **People of Action: Champions of Peace**. He praised them as "an embodiment of the range and impact of our organisation's work," and saluted them for providing "a roadmap for what more peaceful, resilient societies look like."

Rotary honoured six individuals, who each made brief remarks. They were Rotary members or Rotary Peace Centres alumni who have done outstanding work for peace, professionally or as volunteers.

Later, the six honourees participated in workshops devoted to sustainability and peace, as well as a workshop on education, science, and peace designed by and for young leaders in

which Rotaract members from around the world played a prominent role.

Dr. Michel Zaffran, the director of polio eradication at the World Health Organization, provided an update on efforts to eradicate polio. They noted the tremendous progress made by Rotary, WHO, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and other partners in eliminating 99 percent of all global incidences of polio.

Returning the focus to peace, Zaffran said: "This same international relationship (that's eradicating polio)," he said, "can be used to achieve world peace."

Zaffran was joined Her Excellency Mitsuko Shino, the deputy permanent representative of Japan to the international organizations in Geneva and co-chair of Global Polio Eradication Initiative's Polio Partners Group.

In his keynote address, Riseley made a similar observation. "The work of polio eradication, has taught us . . . that when you have enough people working together, when you understand the problems and the processes, when you combine and leverage your resources, when you set a plan and set your targets — you can indeed move mountains," he said. "And the need for action, and cooperation, is greater now than ever before."



**Go Wage Peace**

## “Our Club” ...in 100 Words

### Rotary Club of Denman

The Rotary Club of Denman was Chartered May 31, 1971. Our Club celebrated our 50th Anniversary at our Changeover in May 2021 which was attended by a number of former members & Official Guests.

Over those 50 years the Club has been instrumental in many projects,

most notably Merton Court Nursing Home which has gone on to be a major employer in Denman, expanding to all aspects of aged living & care under the name of Merton Living.

The complex has a resident's Community Hall aptly named Rotary Hall in recognition of Denman Rotary's contribution over many years.



## Our Emeritus Rotary Members

Help us with collecting information about our Emeritus Rotarians. We continue to collect information about important issues for our District. We want to know about the Rotarians who have long and outstanding membership, the members who have provided the foundations for our District as we know it.

Whether they have spent their whole Rotary life in this District, or in fact

have moved here with an enriched background from being members of other Rotary Districts, we want to know about the Rotarians who have continued their membership for 50 years or more.

Let's celebrate the contributions of these Rotarians who have made an impact on our Rotary work! Of course, there are those who are nearly at that

magic 50-year mark too – we want to know about them too.

So, if you are, or you know of, someone who fits this description (and we know that there are a few of you out there!), please submit a photo and a summary biography of up to 150 words so that we can include this in our District History we are now developing.

***We want to Celebrate • Don't miss this Opportunity!***



## Where Are They Now?

Are you, or do you know of, someone who has participated in a Rotary funded program such as:

- Rotary Youth Exchange (both long-Term and Short Term) - YEP
- Rotary Youth Leadership Award (RYLA)
- Rotary Youth Program of Enrichment (RYPEN)
- National Youth Science Forum (NYSF)
- Adventure In Citizenship (AIC – Canberra)
- Murray Darling Freshwater Program (MDFP)
- Model United Nations Assembly (MUNA)
- Group Study Exchange (GSE) or New Generations (NGSE)

And others not mentioned here?

*We want to know how Rotary has influenced your life because of your participation in one of our programs – and give you a chance to reconnect with your Alumni.*

### **So ... where are you now?**

Would you like to provide us with a photo of yourself, a bio of about 100 words – if you believe it helped you with your life choices.

For years, Rotary clubs have been assisting young people to participate in what we HOPE will make a difference in their life. Lots of preparation goes into getting you ready and ensuring you can participate – BUT we rarely follow-up our connection with you over the years.

We would like to set up a social platform so you can reconnect with others.

### **CAN YOU HELP?**

Would you like to help us collect the history of our programs? ...helping us help you reconnect with others you may know.

Please help us to reconnect the individuals who we have supported, and to reconnect with Rotarians who often wonder:

***Where are they NOW?***



# Australia's newest club launches with a BBQ in the park

**North Lake Mac Rotary Satellite Club of Warners Bay**, was founded to attract new members who prefer a less traditional style of club.

The nine members, made up of new and existing Rotarians, celebrated their launch by having a BBQ at Edwards Park in Booragul on Lake Macquarie.

Chair, Craig Henningham explained that Satellite Clubs have been in

existence since 2013 and are good for people who desire an alternative to the traditions of other local Rotary Clubs. That might mean more flexible meeting times or locations or meeting the needs of current members whose circumstances may have changed.

Craig thanked District Membership Chair, Carol Coffey for her assistance, advice and encouragement, and Warners Bay Club President, Glenys

Tomkins and other Warners Bay members who have supported the development of the club and Glenda Kociszewski who has worked tirelessly through the development process.

Apologies and greetings were received from DG Amanda Roach and PDG David Roach. There were four Past District Governors in attendance: PDG Janette Jackson, PDG Steve Jackson, PDG Brian Coffey and PDG

Graeme Hooper who has chosen to join the Satellite Club.

Craig closed his brief launch speech by saying *"God bless this club and all that sail in it"*.

North Lake Mac  
**Rotary**  
Satellite Club of Warners Bay



*Pictured right:* RC Warners Bay President, Glenys, welcoming the Club's newest member, Justin. He was thrilled to be accepted into the Rotary Family – his wife was overheard saying, "I am so proud of him".



*Pictured above:* The North Lake Mac Rotary Satellite Club – aims to always have family friendly occasions – our new friends of Rotary and the children enjoying the park's facilities.

*Pictured right:* Inaugural North Lake Mac Rotary Satellite Club of Warners Bay members – Graeme, Justin, Glenda, Katrina, Kate, Craig, Les, and Bernie, with District Membership Chair Carol Coffey. Unfortunately, Susanne was unable to attend on the day.

*Pictured left:* Club launch BBQ attendees – plus PDG Brian & Carol Coffey behind the cameras.





## Zone A • Area Governor Report

December enabled Clubs to come together, in a COVID-safe setting, to celebrate and reflect on what a year it has been, with fellow club members and their families through their Clubs' Christmas parties. As the COVID situation died down, and before Omicron reared its head in the country areas in a big way, clubs were able to meet face-to-face in a COVID-safe setting at their meetings or conduct small fundraising projects.

Rotary Club of Dubbo held another successful **"Santa-Paws"** event,

where our family pets could have photos taken with Santa.

Rotary Club of Dubbo Macquarie manned the gates of Dubbo Rotunda Markets, and checked the patrons COVID vaccinations, and took the gold-coin donation of those who attended. The donation money was being given to the Rotary Club, which is going towards their fundraising projects. Also at the Markets, the Club conducted their ham-wheels, which is highly anticipated by the

community, has provided them with extra fundraising money.

Rotary Club of Mudgee Sunrise conducted a successful community **"Carols By Candlelight"**, as well as drawing their online raffle, with the funds going to Macquarie Home Stay accommodation in Dubbo.

Cobar Rotary Club travelled to Louth, which is about 130 kilometres north-west of Cobar, and delivered presents to the children in that community. From all reports, there were plenty of smiling faces from both adults and children.

Due to the COVID situation in December 2020, Dubbo West Rotary couldn't hold the **"Community Carols by Candlelight"**. However, the club came together, followed the local council and health regulations and came up with a highly successful, COVID-safe, event in 2021.

The club members were on the gates, ensuring that the patrons checked in, and showed their vaccinations, to gain entry to the event. Hand sanitisers were dispersed throughout the venue, and marshals were walking about, ensuring that families gathered together and there was plenty of space between each family.

A new screen placed at the oval enabled the COVID-safe rules to be displayed and reinforced to the public at all times. The public was coming through the gates with smiles on their faces, along with donating money to the club (which contributes to the cost of the event).



16<sup>th</sup> December 2021

Mr John Sinclair  
President - Rotary Club of Narromine  
31 Meryula Street  
NARROMINE NSW 2821

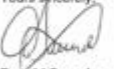
Dear John,

I had the opportunity to speak in the New South Wales Legislative Assembly on 13 October 2021 about the remarkable fundraising efforts of the Rotary Club of Narromine during COVID.

A Community Recognition Statement allows an individual Member of Parliament to acknowledge, before the House, the achievements of a resident or group within the Member's Electorate. This notice is then adopted by the House.

I was honoured to be able to speak in Parliament about the club. I have enclosed a copy of the extract from NSW Legislative Assembly Hansard and Papers for your information, and ask that you share it with your fellow Rotarians. Thank you again for everything you do in the community.

Yours sincerely,

  
Dugald Saunders  
Member for the Dubbo Electorate

 [rotaryclub@rotary.org.au](mailto:rotaryclub@rotary.org.au)  
 [www.rotaryclub.org.au](http://www.rotaryclub.org.au)

 02 6962 2071  
 1/116 Tallenger Street (PO Box 1127), Dubbo NSW 2880

  
for Regional NSW

The patrons were happy to have the event back on the calendar - even if it meant abiding by these rules, which they did with no problems. The Club believes that it was one of the biggest crowds attending **"Carols By Candlelight"**, that they have ever had.

Dubbo West also continues to support **Meals on Wheels Dubbo**, by delivering frozen meals to the elderly community members, in a COVID-safe manner, by wearing masks.

As the Omicron strain has affected the western communities and to keep the members safe, clubs have either decided to meet over zoom again, meet outdoors, or extend their Christmas break. However, it all depends on how the individual clubs are feeling, to ensure that everyone remains safe.

We hope that everyone continues to remain safe and vigilant.

Nicole Shanks,  
Assistant Area Governor



# Zone C • Area Governor Report

At the beginning of December, I was invited to attend a special meeting of the Medowie/Williamstown Rotary Club.

It was very pleasing to share in their excitement as President Graham Giddey's wife Joanne was presented with a Paul Harris Award for her outstanding continuing support of the Rotary Club of Medowie Williamstown's fundraising projects over many years. A well-deserved award for a great Friend of Rotary.

One of the special meeting opportunities in December for an Area Governor is being invited to attend their Christmas Functions.

I was most fortunate to attend The Rotary Clubs of Nelson Bay, Maitland Sunrise and Maitland to share in their Christmas celebrations with much goodwill, great food and Santa visits to enjoy and celebrate their wonderful festive spirit.

December is also a hectic time for clubs as many conduct their Annual General Meetings during this period.

It was my pleasure to assist both the Rotary clubs of Raymond Terrace and Paterson by conducting their AGM's to ensure the confirmation of the 2022-23 Club Board positions for the next Rotary year and to share initial discussion of their plans for the next 6-12 months, hopefully with less COVID interruptions as both clubs have strong community projects ready to begin in the new year.

Both Assistant Area Governor Pam and I also enjoyed attending DG Amanda's visits to the Rotary Clubs of East Maitland and Salamander Bay during December.

A District Governor Visit is a highlight of the Rotary Club's calendar as it gives each club the opportunity to meet face to face with the DG and share important information about their

own club whilst also learning about our Rotary District and the District's current merger developments.

An important chance, also, for club Rotarians to ask questions of the District Governor in a collegial and informal setting.

Both Pam and I look forward to working with and assisting Zone C clubs as we move into the second half of this Rotary year.

It is pleasing to note that even at this early stage in January, clubs are meeting informally, conducting BBQ's to support community projects and providing much needed assistance in upgrading community facilities demonstrating most ably our Rotary motto: "Service above Self".

*Chris Walmsley, Area Governor*





## Zone D • Area Governor Report

The Santa Suit is packed away until 5th November (just over 9 months away) and the first month of 2022 is almost over already. Rotarians are already busily working in the community and making a difference. Just a couple of examples are:

- Wallsend - Maryland have continued feeding the homeless even during this difficult period with COVID.

- Morisset have been raising funds for Mental Health with the Return and Earn scheme.
- Representative from Cardiff, Morisset, Toronto and Toronto Sunrise and Warners Bay are getting on with plans for the 2022 Lake Macquarie Autumn Fair.
- Warners Bay cooked a sausage sizzle for members of the public at the Lake Macquarie Festival last weekend and the brand-new North Lake Mac Rotary Satellite Club of Warners Bay (of which you can read in a separate article) ran a book stall at the twilight markets at the same event.

At the time of writing, I heard that the Supercars event due to be held in Newcastle in March has been moved to a time later in the year, so it's not just our District Conference that's had a major shift due to the most recent COVID outbreak. I've noticed that some clubs in this area that had been intending meeting face-to-face are moving back to Zoom for the moment.

Stay safe, keep well and remember that I'm here to help!

*Craig Henningham, Area Governor*

